

# Backspace



Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
Societe historique de l'immigration canadienne  
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## NEW IMMIGRATION APPROACHES



### Van Kessel Addresses CIHS

The Annual General Meeting of November 1996 was addressed by Gerry Van Kessel, Director of Europe for the International Service, Citizenship and Immigration. He outlined new approaches within the department to immigrant selection.

Van Kessel reported on the dramatic staff reduction in

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Canadian Immigration over the last five years. The number of Canada-based officers abroad fell from approximately 311 to approximately 211 in 1997, a reduction of 33%. At the same time, the workload volume showed no corresponding decrease. For instance, the deportation of undesirables has become increasingly difficult.

There are two types of immigration decisions; the easy and the difficult. As a result of severe staff cuts, new approaches are being adopted which give Locally Engaged Staff Abroad wider decision-making powers. This situation could represent a two-edged sword. Due to certain cultural imperatives in certain parts of the world, corruption could be a problem. However, this is the place for intelligent "risk management."

This reform is not simply a matter of cost. The Canadian public must have confidence in the system. It must feel that their immigration system functions as it should; that the right people enter the country and that the wrong people are kept out. Confidence would be seriously damaged by any serious incidence of scandal or malfeasance in immigration operations.

As a result, the department is initiating the New Immigrant Applicant Processing System, or NIAPS, to be implemented April 1, 1997. It begins as an attempt to match reduced resources to the workload. The challenge was to devise a system that dealt effectively, cheaply and swiftly with applicants. Money can no longer simply be thrown at problems; more imaginative solutions are required.

Van Kessel delineated the development of immigration over the last twenty-five years, including the various "homes" it has enjoyed. Usually it has been a small component in a larger department. Under Ms Campbell's government, it ended up in the short-lived Department of Public Security. Thirty years after the original Department of Citizenship and Immigration was split up and Immigration was joined to Manpower, the government has returned to the concept of citizenship and immigration (C&I). Individuals can again go from being visitors to immigrants to citizens through the same department.

C&I staff do not yet share a common corporate approach because they come together from various departments; domestic or Foreign Service immigration officers, doctors from Health and Welfare, and persons from citizenship or public security. These disparate backgrounds also create technical and systemic problems. Different computer systems cannot "talk" to each other. It is therefore not an easy task to put together a seamless system for dealing with clients.

The original steps towards melding these elements together were reflected in Peter Harder's Business Process Re-engineering. His team decided that each client would have only one electronic file for each step in the client's progression through the department. A perfected system would quickly identify visa seekers and undesirables. Requisite information, to be submitted by the applicant on the basis of application kits, is to be collected at the front end of the system. These kits, customized by country, will be available on C&I's website and can be downloaded by applicants, immigration lawyers or consultants. Considerable saving result from this new approach.

Pilots of this new system have been tried out with promising results in several major posts overseas. In

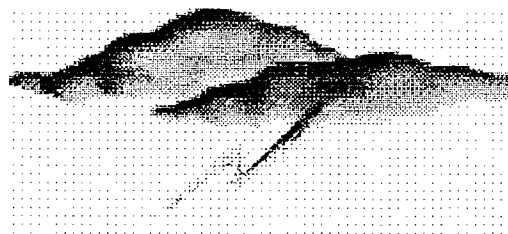
some cases, more flexibility must be shown. In China, for instance, a passport cannot be requested in advance of application consideration as this could lead to loss of employment or housing. Because of time lags in Buffalo, it is not practical to demand medicals, which are only good for twelve months. In Hong Kong, an individual cannot receive a police certificate. But these are exceptions to the rule. The burden of document acquisition and clearances lies with the applicant.

Family class applications have been streamlined so that the sponsor now manages the sponsored's case

The new applicant processing system relies on a diminished professional staff and a sophisticated technology to keep the system effective and efficient.

(Edited version of Bernard Brodie's synopsis)

Note: Attached are the minutes of the AGM



## VIDEO HISTORY REVISITED

[ This letter should have been printed in the last issue]

Dear Editor,

I finally found our misplaced copy of the first issue of CIHS Backspace. Congratulations on producing a good issue. It is always interesting to see the different perspective each editor brings to a newsletter.

The main reason for this letter, however, is to let you know that there were a few errors in the article entitled "CIHS Video History: Viggi Ring( p.7), which described

the video we made about Viggi. We would appreciate it if you would correct this in your next issue.

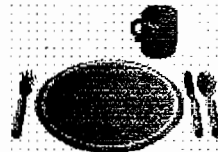
First of all, over the past two years we made a number of historical videos for CIHS. In addition to the two you mentioned - the ones on Viggi Ring and Edna Whiney - we also produced videos documenting the reminiscences of Al Gunn, Al Troy, Bill Barton and Jack Manion.

Secondly, a major misconception in your article is that our videos were made with the financial help of CIC. Actually the department played no part in the production of any of the videos we made. CIHS paid for the raw tapes we used and loaned us a few photos, the "star" of each video loaned us personal photos and/or items of interest to videotape, and we donated our time and expertise to make each video. We must add that we enjoyed the experience of documenting some of the experiences of Immigration overseas staff, and just want to ensure that the record is set straight. Perhaps you were confusing our videos with a video Tony Gallasso made on the Ugandan Asians which was paid for by CIC?

While we are writing, if any CIHS member would like to have a copy of the videos we made, please let them know we would be happy to make them one for \$10 a copy.

Thank you for clearing up the above points. We look forward to the next issue of CIHS Backspace and wish you and CIHS continued success with future issues of Backspace and with any projects undertaken by the Society.

Sincerely, June and Hal Coxon



## IMMIGRATION'S USE OF LANTERN SLIDES

In a recent issue (No. 111, 1996) of **The Archivist**, the National Archives of Canada's journal, archivists Ellen Scheinberg and Melissa Rombout have published an interesting article on how Immigration projected Canada's image by using lantern slides.

These fragile hand-coloured glass slides fit into the palm of the hand and functioned as the basis for "magic lantern shows" during the 19th century. The Department of the Interior under Sir Clifford Sifton, used these to promote immigration to Canada's West. Sifton described the ideal immigrant as "a stalwart peasant in a sheep-skin coat born on the soil, whose forefathers have been farmers for ten generations, with a stout wife and a half-dozen children."

Federal, provincial and transportation company immigration agents overseas employed the most sophisticated advertising methods of the time - posters, pamphlets, tracts and slide shows - to publicize the free land available in Canada. Lecture season for agricultural immigrants lasted from October to March and attracted up to 1,200 persons for slides shows on Canada. This form of mass entertainment served as an escape from the burdens of rural life.

Moving films were becoming available as well, but slide shows allowed agents to put their message across between or during slide projections and were less expensive to operate. During the first decades of the 20th century, the Department paid professional photographers in Canada \$3 to \$20 per slide to capture the beauties of Canada. These slides were employed as well after WW 1.

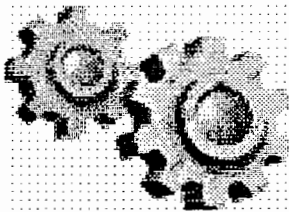
Harvesting scenes from western Canada portrayed bountiful crops, comfortable farms and healthy livestock. Canada appeared as a "mecca for the ambitious settler," full of large farms employing modern techniques and producing massive crops. Pictures of a tame, bucolic Canada counteracted other images of a wild West

populated in part by dangerous Indians. Images of snow, ice, Indians and other negative scenes were banned.

One lecturer in Britain did approach the topic of Canadian winters in the following fashion: "To my mind the winter of Canada has done an enormous good in keeping out the Negro races and those less athletic races of southern Europe. Nobody in good health feels any discomfort from the cold when properly dressed. The sun shines all day long, and although the thermometer may be pointing to several degrees of cold, it is felt very much less than the damp, foggy winter chill in England." (p. 17) Pictures of warm, calm, prosperous farms were meant to undermine the harsh Hollywood myths of a tough and rough wild West.

Lantern shows began to lose their popularity in the 1920s and dropped dramatically in the first depression year from 1,426 to 730 as immigration became more restricted and the land grant system came to an end. The publicity campaign was then stopped by the department.

This interesting article also contains many splendid examples of slide show photographs of the period depicting Canada as the land of milk and honey.



## THE ILLEGAL MAID

The following is a description of an illegal maid in Canada, whose employer - probably not Canadian-born herself - asked the Canadian immigration officer stationed in Trinidad to replace her illegal maid with another maid. Presumably, this description was sent to develop sympathy in the immigration officer for her request:

"1. She is of East Indian descent. Her parents are Muslim by religion. Does not know how to read or write except to write her name and may pick a few simple words by spelling, which she has been practicing.

2. Her English speaking is poor from point of view of grammar, (and knows very little of Hindi).

3. She is fair in complexion, has lightly dark spot on her cheeks, on which there are two moles on each side with few hairs parallel with tip of her nose. On her upper lip hair grown on it which she keeps removing by shaving or cream. Is about 5'1 inches tall and weighs about 130-140 lbs.

4. She wears an upper and lower denture. The upper denture does not properly cover the gum in front, and is easily seen when she smiles.

5. Wear a size six shoe, and seldom cover her head at home, or when going about, except on odd occasion with a scarf. The hair is black and the eyes dark brown. When the sun is bright she wears a sunshade.

6. She is plump, not fat, and is 24 years of age. She has wavy mark of both hips. Wears Playtex roll-on and reasonable thick eyelashes, which are black.

8. She is popularly called Teena"



## FROM SLOVENIA

Congratulations on your assuming the ungrateful role of Editor for Backspace. I am very happy to read that the main aim of CIHS remains as ever, e.i., "to publish immigration memories and history by members who saw the department in action." I was particularly pleased to read the "retort" from Dave Bullock - he did his homework well and straightening out anomalies or distortions should be practiced whenever and wherever it occurs. Roger St. Vincent

Minutes of the Annual  
General Meeting :  
6:00 p.m. Thursday  
November 14, 1996

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Randy Orr, the President of the CIHS, welcomed the eighteen members present to the Annual General Meeting.

**2. The President's Report**

Randy thanked last year's Board for their efforts, with particular reference to the ongoing contributions of Al Troy and Al Gunn. He mentioned the rather traumatic experiences of the last year - the re-organization of the department being key among them. He then spoke of the Society and its cross-Canada membership. He feels that the Newsletter is the key, and praised Carrie Hunter for her past contributions in this area and Bob Keyserlingk for his current work.

He also referred to the success of the Cocktail Party held in May at the Royal Canadian Air Force Officers' Mess in Gloucester Street.

Randy also mentioned that we had been sent best wishes for the coming year by Past President Joyce Cavanagh-Wood.

He also mentioned that we hoped to have seminar activity this year.

**3. The Treasurer's Report**

Al Try then tabled his report. He mentioned that the Society is in good shape financially, although the membership loss is a concern.

The year began with Al sending out reminders to 33 lapsed annual members. Some had died or become disabled, one resigned, and the Pier 21 Society were granted special status by decision of the membership. Of the balance, 18 renewed their memberships, but that still meant a net loss of 12 members, thus reducing our Annual Members to 77, in addition to our 88 Lifetime Members. Al urged members to recruit new potential members, in view of the demography of the Society and concerns for its future unless such recruitment occurs.

It was proposed by Wilf Greaves, seconded by Lloyd Dowswell, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

The President closed this session by thanking the Auditors for their annual audit of the books.

**4. Membership Report**

Al Gunn said that much of what he had to say had already been covered in the Treasurer's Report, but he wanted to underline our urgent need for working members to implement the Society's goals.

**5. Research and Publications Report**

Dr. Keyserlingk thanked those who had submitted articles for the Backspace and reminded members of the need for more of the same. The new Backspace should be out soon. He also mentioned that the June Coxon series of videotapes was available,

including interviews with members and former members such as Bill Burton, Jack Marion, and Joe Bissett, and the with those who had known the late Viggi Ring.

**6. Guest Speaker**

Dr. Gerry Van Kessel addressed the meeting. A separate report on this interesting talk is attached.

**7. Election of Officers**

Al Gunn stated that we had received Randy Orr's permission to renominate him as President. This was proposed by Al Gunn and seconded by Al Troy and was passed unanimously.

Al then turned to the election of the Board of Directors. We had received nine confirmations of preparedness to serve. These were from Al Gunn, Bernard Brodie, Jim Cross, Bert Cheffins, Bob Keyserlingk, Ian MacDonald, Bill Sinclair, Al Troy, and George Varnai. These were re-elected by acclamation. Unfortunately, a call for further volunteers did not yield any further candidates.

**8. New Business**

The only item of new business was a general consensus that the need to recruit new members is vital to the survival of the Society.

**9. End of the Meeting**

The President thanked all participants, and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Bernard Brodie  
Secretary, C.I.H.S.

## *Signs of the Times*

*In a restaurant window: Eat now, pay waiter.*

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*In another restaurant window:*

*Don't stand outside and be miserable, come inside and be fed up.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*At a planetarium: Cast of thousands. Every one a star.*

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*On a church bulletin board: This church is prayer conditioned*

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*In a gym: The world is in bad shape, must you be, too?*

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*In a real estate office: Get lots for little.*

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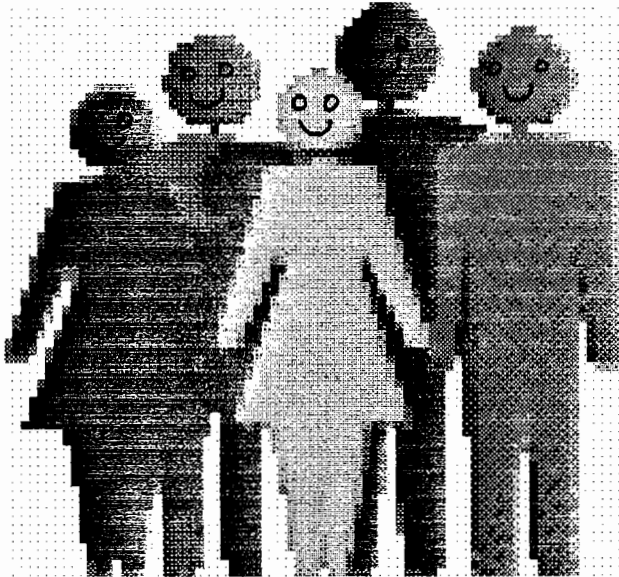
*In a cemetery: Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.*

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*In a reducing salon: A moment on the lips, an eternity on the hips.*

### **Murphy's Military Law**

1. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
2. No battle plan survives contact with the enemy.
3. Friendly fire ain't.
4. The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map.
5. The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
6. The buddy system is essential to your survival. It gives the enemy somebody else to shoot at.
7. The further you are in advance of your positions, the more likely your artillery will shoot short.
8. Incoming fire has the right of way.
9. If you advance is going well, you are walking into an ambush.
10. The QM has only two sizes - too large and too small.
11. If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap.
12. The only time suppressive fire works is when it is directed at abandoned positions.
13. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
14. There is nothing more satisfying than having someone take a shot at you and miss.
15. Don't be conspicuous. In the combat zone it draws fire. Out of the combat zone it attracts sergeants.
16. If your sergeant can see you - so can the enemy.



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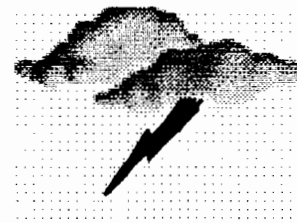
PO BOX 9502, STATION

“T”, OTTAWA, ONT

K1G 3V2?

HAVE YOU RENEWED

YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



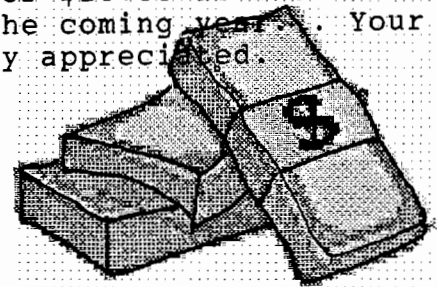
Members with the figure (6) on their address envelope need reminding that their Society membership expired on April 30, 1996 repeat 1996.. The new membership year for 1997/98 commences the end of next month and those referred to in the (6) category should send the Society a cheque for \$20.00 as soon as convenient i.e. \$10.00 for last year and \$10.00 for the coming year. Your attention to this relatively small matter would be greatly appreciated.

Alan Troy, Treasurer

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR

\$10.00 MEMBERSHIP

DUES TO THE



Our membership year 1996/97 commenced May 1, 1996. I would be most grateful if those members who have not yet paid their annual membership dues do so as soon as possible.

You can check the expiry date of your membership by noting the number after your name on the mailing envelope. For instance, a (6) means that you paid until April 30 1996. Or you can check the date of your membership card, which will also show your expiry date because a new card is issued on receipt of membership payment.

Unfortunately, a review of our membership shows that 16 members are behind by more than a year in spite of several reminders. As of now they have been taken off the membership roll.

This is sad as we can ill afford to loose any of our members. However, we have no choice but to do so as printing and mailing to each member costs from \$7.00 to \$8.00 a year.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/SUBSCRIPTION/ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM MAY 1 TO APRIL 30 !!!)

Please enter/renew my membership in the Canadian Immigration Historical Society or note my new address:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ [PLEASE PRINT]

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS ONLY [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FEE ENCLOSED: Life - 100.00 [ ] or Annual - 10.00 [ ]

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO :

The Treasurer  
The Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
P.O. Box 9502, Station T  
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3V2

March 11, 1997

I had prepared an up to date reminder for this issue of BACKSPACE but it evidently was misplaced so I have taken this notice from the file copy of issue #24 and included it for your information.