



Annual General Meeting 2014

President's Report

Gerry Maffre

The society's annual general meeting on 23 October 2014 welcomed approximately 60 members and guests. After a convivial hour spent chatting with former colleagues and new contacts, all settled in to an informative business meeting.

Having memorialized deceased members recognized in the past year's bulletins, President Michael Molloy introduced the special guests. These included Marie Chapman, Chief Executive Officer of the [Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21](#) and her colleague Carrie Anne Smith, and Patti Harper, Head of Archives and Research Collections at Carleton University.

We were also pleased to welcome faculty and graduate students: Marilyn Barber and Bruce Elliott of Carleton University; and Ravi Pendakaur, Steph Choerng, Dskshya Dhital, Angela Tiik, Catherine Cardwell, Karen Sleiman, Noelle Jaipaul, and Natacha Beabers of the University of Ottawa.

The President then went on to review highlights of the society's productive year. One was the [Indochinese boat people conference](#) held jointly with York University, with the participation of himself and board members Kurt Jensen and Peter Duschinsky. Another was the ceremony on World Refugee Day (20 June), at which Carleton University launched its [online archive](#) about the Ugandan Asian movement to Canada. Patti Harper spoke briefly about the archive, to which CIHS was instrumental in arranging a donation of many Canadian and international newspaper clippings from the time of the movement.

Editor Valerie de Montigny has introduced a new and more web-friendly look to the bulletin. As well, we are gradually adding key words from past bulletins to our website to increase the prospects that researchers will land on this key society communications vehicle.

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Keeping the website current and relevant is also taking much of our, and webmaster Dawn Franklin's, time. We have seen visits increase by 30 per cent and had some interesting enquiries, including from the son of a Canadian Pacific ship's captain whose personal papers included a report on his ship's rescue of some boat people. This memoir will find its way into the book on the Indochinese movement that continues to progress under the collective efforts of Mike Molloy, Peter Duschinsky and Kurt Jensen.



Patti Harper of Carleton University Library and President Mike Molloy

Molloy also talked about the continuing and, in many respects growing, work with various partners. The society is seeking to formalize its relationship with CIC's Research and Evaluation Branch, from whom we obtain hard data in return for interpretation and context. We are also at a very early stage of working with the Baha'i community to plan a conference in the fall of 2015. Also, collaboration continues with York University's Centre for Refugee Studies.

He concluded by saying that this past year underlines the need for more volunteer support. Some of that will come from Anne Arnott, the new vice-president, and Brian Casey, who has joined the board as a member at large. As well, Dianne Burrows has stepped forward to be the CIC representative on the board. New members to the board, of course, are always welcome.

Head of Pier 21 Gives Keynote Speech to Society

Gerry Maffre

Marie Chapman, Chief Executive Officer of Halifax's [Canadian Immigration Museum at Pier 21](#), was introduced to participants at the annual general meeting by the President. He recounted the connections between Pier 21 and the society, stretching back to the museum's founding. Chapman, who has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Mount Allison University, joined Pier 21 in 2003 as director of Marketing, Sales and Development. She was named Outstanding Fundraising Professional at the 2007 Maritime Philanthropy Awards and became the museum's chief operating officer in 2008.

In her remarks, Chapman talked about the role Pier 21 plays in telling the story of immigrants and immigration both through its collections, to which immigrants have contributed, and through its online presence. She also touched on the substantial renovations under way that will see the museum reopen in the spring at nearly double its current size.

The expansion will accommodate a new permanent exhibition showcasing the broader story of immigration to Canada, which will be complemented by a newly renovated exhibition dedicated to the Pier 21 years. Through a combination of first-person stories and oral histories, artifacts, multimedia experiences and more, visitors will be encouraged to see the immigration story as integral to Canada's development as a nation. Visitors will be invited to create connections between the past and the present and to contemplate how immigration continues to shape Canada.



Marie Chapman of Pier 21, Michael Molloy and Charlene Elgee of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society

The gallery dedicated to Canada's immigration story will have four main themes: Journey, Arrival, Belonging and Impact. One of the highlights is a Canadian flag, donated by CIHS and one of only five objects representing the theme of Belonging. While organizing the evacuation of refugees from Uganda in 1972, Canadian immigration officials placed flags on the hotel room doors of the families under their protection. Zayn Alarakhia and her family were some of those refugees. When speaking at the Journey of Hope symposium in 1994, she said "I can't tell you what that flag meant to us". To her and her family, the Canadian flag was a symbol of safety and hope, and it remains so even today.

The new gallery will also be home to other valued resources donated by the CIHS, such as the original Head Tax certificate issued to Lee Qing on 29 February 1920.

The Pier 21 CEO emphasized that the relationship with CIHS has enabled the museum to recount the role of immigration officers and their impact on the lives of newcomers and on Canada's development. Much of this information lies in the society's donation of more than 1,600 artifacts, films, images, books and documents. The material represents almost every part of the immigration department since Confederation. From photographs and letters to memos and memoirs, each is a unique piece of Canada's immigration history.

The breadth and depth of this collection shows the scope of activities carried out by the immigration department and its officers in Canada and abroad. For example, there is a photograph of a customs officer in New Brunswick greeting an American tourist and a story of a foreign service officer in Northern Ireland installing bullet-proof glass in his home overseas.

Chapman concluded by stating that "the help that the immigration department workers provided to newcomers while enforcing Canada's policies is immeasurable, and its impact can be felt worldwide. We'd love to know more of your experiences working as Canadian immigration employees around the world, so I encourage you to [share your written story](#) with us".

After Chapman had concluded her remarks and responded to questions from the floor, Mike Molloy presented her with several documents relating to discussions in Ottawa that led to the creation of the museum.

Treasurer's Report

In his report, Raph Girard said the period ending 30 September 2014 showed an untypical uptick because revenues exceeded expenses, improving the year-end cash position by more than \$700. Contributing factors include adding several new life members and cutting back mailing costs for the bulletin. These savings are all the more important because this year the society had to absorb an ongoing major new expense, management of the website, which cost an average of \$100 a month. Despite its cost, the website is a good investment since it has broadened our outreach to the community and improved interaction with the clientele researching immigration history.



Society members attending the Annual General Meeting

Bottom line: CIHS wrapped up its fiscal year with approximately \$16,000 in the bank. Unfortunately, the improved revenue situation is unlikely to be repeated in future and so the society must continue to manage expenses carefully and seek new sources of income. Full details of income and expenses can be found on the society's [website](#).

Membership Report

Society membership is higher than last year. Life – 83, Annual – 35, Corporate/Sustaining – 7, Honorary – 7, Total – 132.

Members present at the meeting approved the slate of board members presented by Joe Bissett for approval:

- President - Michael Molloy;
- Vice-President - Anne Arnott;
- Treasurer - Raph Girard;
- Secretary - Gail Devlin;
- Bulletin Editor - Valerie de Montigny;
- Academic Relations Lead - Gerry Van Kessel;
- Members at Large - Joe Bissett, Brian Casey, Roy Christensen, Hector Cowan, Peter Duschinsky, Charlene Elgee, Kurt Jensen, Gerry Maffre and Ian Rankin; and
- CIC Representative - Diane Burrows.

The Gunn Prize

On behalf of Gerry Van Kessel, President Mike Molloy announced that the 2014 [Gunn Prize](#) has been awarded, by CIHS and the [International Migration Research Centre](#) at Wilfrid Laurier University, to Geoffrey Cameron of the University of Toronto. The winning paper is entitled “The Political Origins of Refugee Resettlement Policy: Insights from the Policy Process in Canada (1938-1951)”.

Ed. Note: Geoffrey Cameron, Gunn Prize Winner, explains the thesis of his award-winning paper.



L to R: Prof. Jenna Henneby, Director IMRC; Geoffrey Cameron; Prof. Margaret Walton-Roberts, Wilfrid Laurier University, at the presentation of the Gunn Prize, Kitchener

Thirty million or more people were left stateless at the end of World War II, and the plight of these “displaced peoples” and international responses to it laid the groundwork for the modern international refugee regime. Displaced peoples provoked vexing questions among Western governments and thinkers about the rights of man, the durability of state sovereignty, and the responsibilities of the international community to individuals. With millions of people wandering post-war Europe without the protections of citizenship, the Allied powers undertook a massive operation aimed at repatriating refugees. By 1945, military forces and other intergovernmental agencies had relocated 11 million people home, and others had returned on their own.

However, it became clear that repatriation would be inadequate to resolve the crisis; more than a million remained in special camps, unwilling to return home due to fear of persecution.

For the first time in history, coordinated resettlement to third countries emerged as a public policy response to a refugee crisis. In this paper, I examine Canada's response to the demand for international resettlement to analyse the policy process that led its government to become one of the first, and most generous, Western states to resettle displaced people. The international resettlement effort was undertaken from 1946-51, during which time the displaced people camps were finally cleared—with about a million refugees resettled in dozens of countries around the world. This resettlement effort was all the more remarkable in light of the restrictive and racist immigration policies in most Western countries, a legacy of the interwar period. Between 1947 and 1951, close to one million refugees were resettled, including 123,000 in Canada.

Drawing upon a policy process model, I argue that Canada's decision to resettle displaced people was made during a brief policy window that followed more than a decade of effort by religious communities and internationalist groups to put the refugee question on the agenda as a public policy problem. The creation of the International Refugee Organization (a predecessor to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees) and its resettlement mandate mobilized political will by presenting an opportunity for Canada to express an independent foreign policy as a "middle power". The policy solution, however, reflected the views of business and political elites, who sought to preserve the racial composition of the population and meet manual labour demand in certain sectors of the economy.

The Fall of the Iron Curtain

Roy Christensen

About the author: Roy Christensen worked in Ottawa for the Delegation of the European Union to Canada for nearly 35 years, the last 20 as its press officer. He devotes much time to research and writing and sits on the boards of a number of associations.

Just before midnight on 9 November 1989, a restless, but peaceful, crowd of East Berliners surged over and through the Wall into West Berlin, cheering and shouting as they were greeted by West Berliners on the other side. The whole world was riveted by what happened that night, as the Berlin Wall was the notorious symbol of the division of Europe and the chief focal point in the Cold War between East and West. The stunning fall of the Wall symbolically marked the end of the Cold War and led to the transformation of the international system which had prevailed since World War II. It also entailed profound changes in alliances and trade flows.

The fall of the Berlin Wall heralded the total disintegration of the Iron Curtain, from Lübeck to Trieste, as communist dictatorships collapsed. One by one, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe proclaimed their independence and freedom. Meanwhile the Soviet Union stood by and let events unfold. Indeed, the uprisings were fueled by Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev's statement that the Soviet Union would not intervene militarily in the internal affairs of other countries.

What was astonishing was the suddenness, speed and surprising ease with which the dictatorships and their Warsaw Pact collapsed. Compared to the French and Russian revolutions, the events of 1989 produced one of history's most successful periods of non-violent revolutions. Admittedly, these revolutions differed from country to country. Some were fierce struggles or coups, while others were relatively peaceful transitions. For example, in contrast to the "Velvet Revolution" in Czechoslovakia, in Yugoslavia the break-up erupted into a long and devastating civil war with war crimes, genocide and international intervention.

Amazingly, only 11 months after the fall of the Berlin Wall, East and West Germany were united. The United States strongly supported German unification, while France and Britain were definitely cool to the idea of a larger Germany. Chancellor Helmut Kohl knew that the window of opportunity would be of limited duration and secured a quick unification of Germany by acting with resolve and alacrity.

With the end of the Cold War, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe deregulated and adopted a free market economy. The result was extraordinary growth, with a profound impact on the lives of millions of people. Despite the fact that the new governments privatized state-owned companies, often leading to massive unemployment, the transition to market-based economies led to enough opportunities to spur the creation of new jobs, goods and services. Moreover, currency restrictions were eased and foreign direct investment was encouraged, in turn helping to boost foreign trade.

Most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe clamored for admittance to the European Union and NATO. In Brussels, the possibility of integrating these countries into the EU quickly evolved into a coherent enlargement policy, offering tremendous political, economic and social benefits to all concerned, not to mention the wider prospects for continental peace and institutionalized cooperation.

The dismantling of the Iron Curtain led to the opening of borders, the possibility of travelling abroad and returning home, and the freedom to emigrate. People leaving Central and Eastern Europe to find work in the West were for the most part younger than 35, and about a quarter of them had completed some sort of higher education. Often there were scant employment prospects in their home country, while there were plenty of opportunities in the West, particularly in construction, agriculture and the hospitality sector.

By 2011, all citizens in the new Central and Eastern European EU member states could move freely anywhere in the EU to work and live. Since 1989, more than two million Poles have left Poland to work in the United Kingdom, Germany and elsewhere. Admittedly, some returned home after getting foreign experience and had little difficulty in finding work. At the same time, many will never return to live in Poland permanently, as Polish workers are in great demand. In November 2012, then-Canadian Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told Polish workers in the U.K. and Ireland that, “Many of you would find a better job in Canada”.

Russia lost its empire shortly after the fall of the Wall and has continued to suffer from the expansion of the EU and NATO, and so it is not surprising that relations between Russia and the West have at times been tense. In March 2014 relations between the Russian Federation and the West deteriorated again after Russia annexed the Crimea. Russia has become more assertive and belligerent as it tries to regain its sway in its old spheres of influence. A semblance of cold war has re-emerged, 25 years after the Iron Curtain came down.

Nonetheless, the fall of the Berlin Wall is the one single event that most clearly signaled the collapse of communism in Europe and the end of the Cold War. In short, the fall of the Berlin Wall changed the world, and for the better.

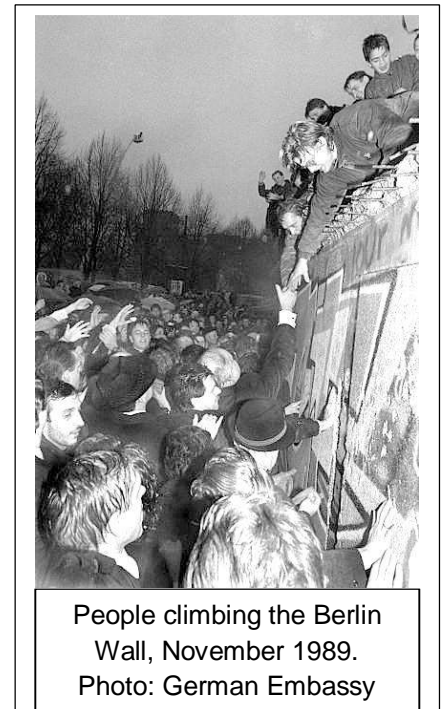
Mein Bruder, Unbekannt—My Brother, Unknown

Gail Devlin

About the author: Gail Devlin spent two and a half years in Berlin when her husband was deputy head of the Canadian military mission, accredited to the four occupying powers.

Last night the Wall fell. It wasn't a Pyramus and Thisbe crack. There was no Joshua to sound the trumpet. No soldiers attacked, no tanks rumbled. The Wall was breached by simple people who wished for more than new Trabants and comfortable apartments. They wished to be free.

I arrived in Berlin on Easter Monday 1973. I spent the first few days acquainting myself with my new city—taking my year-old son to the nearby zoo, wandering in the Tiergarten, house hunting, and exploring the



wonderful shops and department stores. It was heady and exciting for a young woman from Saskatchewan to live in a luxury hotel in the centre of one of the most dynamic cities in the world. I hadn't yet seen the Wall.

At breakfast on my first Sunday in Berlin, I picked up a newspaper. Someone had been shot trying to escape across the Wall. Police guessed that he was my age. Without words, we agreed on our destination for that Sunday's family walk. Baby in stroller, we crossed the broad square in front of the Reichstag. A small crowd stood by silently, heads bowed. A rude cross had been fashioned and placed beside others on a wire fence. It read "unbekannt" [unknown] and gave the date of death. There were wreaths and flowers.

I stood there and said a prayer for the soul of that young man who was my age. As I raised my eyes, I could see the grey waters of the Spree and the place where he must have died, only five metres from the west bank—the length of a living room from freedom. I felt myself in the water, cold in April, felt the weight of the water and the dread of fear; the bursting lungs and the hope that this time the Vopos and Grepos would be looking the other way, lighting a cigarette, relieving themselves out of sight. Then the bullets and the loss of hope and life. For the first time in my existence, I experienced hatred. I hated those men with their guns and their power. I understood why people murder.

I raised my eyes still higher and encountered the stare of binoculars. Somewhere, hidden from sight, was a camera. Soldiers marched two and three together down the strip of concrete bordering the river on the other side; others aimed their submachine guns in our direction. One side of the river was grey and menacing; the other, though filled with light and colour, was in mourning.

I lived with the Wall for more than two years. We would see it in the distance as we walked in a forest on a Sunday afternoon. It snaked through wheat fields, left only the facades of houses and shops on Bernauerstrasse, cut off the dead from the dead in the cemetery of St. Hedwig's, and even cut off sisters who had been neighbours on a street not far from where I lived.

In 1987, we returned to Berlin to celebrate its 750th anniversary. It was a bit shabbier than we remembered, and the population had aged as had we. But it still vibrated. It was still special. The baby in the stroller and the tiny girl born in that wonderful city were teenagers, and we took them to see the Wall.

They were not impressed. In the years we were away, tourists had become braver about approaching it. It was painted with gaudy, often pornographic, graffiti. A few cans of spray paint had neutralized the menace. How could we convince our children that someone their age could still be shot for trying to jump over that kaleidoscope wall?

We went to the Reichstag. The cross was there, joined by others. I said a prayer for my brother and his fellows and once again raised my eyes to the other side. The Vopos, younger brothers of those of 14 years ago, still marched up and down, guns ready. Binoculars stared at me, and somewhere cameras clicked. All of the hatred welled up inside of me again only this time it was not those young men whom I wished to destroy; I hated the system which chains its people.

Tonight I cried as people from both sides of the Wall joined together to dance a wild dance of freedom. I shouted encouragement at each blow of the pickaxe. I tasted the sweet tang of the Sekt they guzzled. And, above all of the shouting and celebration, I heard a voice I had long imagined: "freiheit!" [freedom]—it was mein Bruder, Unbekannt.

Postscript:

In 2007, I went back to Berlin. The Wall was gone, replaced with buildings of a dynamic, modern city. However, at the Museum of the Wall, I found the cross and the name "Unbekannt" and said a final prayer for that young man, whoever he was.

The society was recently informed that Ida Fleming, widow of Ted Fleming, celebrated her 100th birthday on 14 February 2014. Ida resides at the Colonel Belcher Retirement Residence in Calgary. Congratulations, Ida.

We would also like to congratulate Ellery Post, who celebrated his 90th birthday on Christmas Day. A few “old timers” went by to wish him well—Rudy Wiens, Rob Ferguson, Bill Phillips and Hugh English, as well as a few RCMP vets that he had worked with over the years.

1999 Evacuation of Kosovars to Canada

In 1999, the Government of Canada announced that it would take 5,000 Kosovars, displaced by ethnic strife, and that they could stay temporarily or settle permanently. This documentary traces the Kosovar movement to Canada and presents the partnerships between employees of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and other federal departments, the Canadian Red Cross and other groups in civil society, and the private sector; together they made a rapid response possible. The video is accessible through the [society's website](#) or on [YouTube](#).

A Versatile Uniform



Going through some old CIHS files, we came across a photo of the late Bill Burton (see In Memoriam, CIHS Bulletin 69, January 2014) in the uniform he wore when he served at a port of entry after World War II.

Immigration officers were not allowed to drink in uniform in those days.

The story comes down that the double-breasted opening could be reversed to hide the brass buttons and reveal a second set of plain blue buttons. With the badge removed and the jacket reversed, the uniform looked like a conservative navy-blue business suit.

However, it was observed that border officers quenching their thirst after work looked for all the world like an undertaker's convention.

P2P Conference

Gerry Maffre

With just over 200 registered delegates, the P2P conference took place in Montreal on 24 and 25 November in an up-beat and engaging spirit.

Quebec Minister of Immigration, Kathleen Weil, opened the conference. In her speech, she described the province's demographic realities and the challenge of maintaining acceptance of diversity. She spoke of the importance of allowing temporary workers and foreign students to stay permanently in Quebec. She also touched on the forthcoming province-wide consultations on future immigration levels.

Her federal counterpart, Chris Alexander, spoke the second morning in a fairly extemporaneous manner about an increasingly long list of programs for temporary entrants, immigrants and refugees. He talked about the then-imminent launch of “express entry” for certain skilled workers, who will receive a speeded-up processing, based on their initial online applications. Employers and provinces will have access to an inventory of these workers, who are to be admitted within six months of being pulled out of the applications bank following a federal, provincial or employer assessment. In the Minister’s mind, this will free overseas processing and inland settlement services to focus on more challenging refugee applications and settlement cases. He also sees express entry eventually becoming available to foreign students and temporary workers. This point connected to an oft-discussed conference issue.

The Minister went on to speak about other priorities, including improving pre-departure counselling across categories, a large part of which is now being done abroad by NGOs. CIC intends to triple contract funding of this work over the shorter term. The Minister is also keen to tackle the Official Language needs of migrants (usually women and older newcomers). Several P2P researchers are already looking at Official Language Minority Communities and how immigration can support them

In plenaries and workshops, we explored issues around migrant settlement, settlement programs, and funding sources for service providers. These larger topics prompted such side discussions as the need for better pre-departure preparation and counselling of new immigrants; the growing demand for settlement services for temporary workers; the combined settlement challenges in large cities of high housing costs and lack of public transport to less costly neighbourhoods; and the needs of francophone communities.

CIC is planning a major evaluation of the settlement program in 2016/17. NGOs continue to be concerned about the cost of evaluation as well as their perception that CIC doesn’t seem willing to fund their efforts to promote their settlement services to the target clientele. Pre-departure counselling goes beyond simple information sessions to include workshops on the mechanics and mores of finding a job, connecting these people with organizations that can offer further help once the migrant has arrived and partnerships with groups like the former Association of Community Colleges.

Results were presented of research into whether those who work here as students or temporary workers have higher earnings than those who enter initially as immigrants. The combination of temporary (skilled) work and studies is the best predictor of higher comparative earnings. Simply having studied here prior to landing did not create the same earnings advantage.

It was an informative and useful conference: I had interesting discussions with other attendees, promoted the society, and alerted academics and students to the Gunn Prize.

Reflections on Pre-Departure Counselling

Robert Shalka

Gerry Maffre’s remarks in his article on the P2P conference about pre-departure counselling struck a note with me, as this was one of the things I worked on when I was at the Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO).

Given that very few immigrants whose applications are approved are interviewed—and the interviews that take place focus on admissibility—it is not uncommon for them to arrive in Canada without having ever seen a Canadian. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that skilled workers are often shocked by what they encounter in Canada and make remarks like the following:

- I was accepted. I thought there would a job waiting for me.
- Canada accepted me. Didn’t that mean that my professional degree was accepted also?
- I never knew that it was so important to have fluent English or French.

It was for that reason that FCRO was set up.

The NGO model of overseas orientation via Colleges and Institutes Canada (formerly Association of Community Colleges of Canada), the International Organization for Migration, SUCCESS (in B.C.), etc., was established because CIC, and specifically International Region, did not have the capacity or, quite frankly, the inclination to get into the counselling/orientation business. Whether that was the right approach, I cannot say.

Istrians in Canada

Ed. Note: This article was originally published in The Chatham Daily News

Antonio Perini is at ease knowing a monument is in place recognizing Canada and Chatham-Kent for welcoming him and other Italians who had to flee their homes more than half a century ago. "I said to myself, 'I'm in peace,'" Perini said after the monument was unveiled at Kingston Park in Chatham.



L to R: Gian Lorenzo Cornado, Antonio Perini, Cristina Perini

He is one of several Italians who were born and raised in the province of Istria, which would come under Communist rule by the former Yugoslavia on 10 February 1947. The peninsula, located on the north shore of the Adriatic Sea, was given to Yugoslavia as part of reparations after World War II.

Perini, who immigrated to Canada in 1960, said the rustic conditions he lived in while working on farms in Kent County were better than the conditions he left behind in Istria. He said it wasn't long before many of the Italian immigrants moved from the country into Chatham and found work in factories or in construction, noting many helped build Highway 401.

He said the move enabled him to get married, buy a house and car, and go on to raise three children, who are now all professionals. "Chatham was really good to us,

the people were nice, the farmers were nice," Perini said. He said this monument is there to say: "Thank you, Chatham, for helping us to make a new life".

Gian Lorenzo Cornado, the Italian ambassador to Canada, participated in the unveiling. He is well aware of the history of Italians who had to flee Istria, "Not only were many Italians deported, several others were massacred by Yugoslavian troops after World War II. To make matters worse, they were not welcomed by the Italian government of the day, which they deserved to be.

"It was thanks to Canada, who opened their arms, the Canadian people who received them here, so they had a second, great wonderful opportunity to build a new life and new future," he said.

Jack Mitchinson, 89, met many of the Italians who arrived in Chatham-Kent while working as an immigration officer. The local Italian community hasn't forgotten his work and included him in the ceremony. It has also invited him and his wife to many social gatherings over the years.

When asked what impressed him about the Italians who came here from Istria, Mitchinson said, pointing to the newly unveiled monument, "That stone looks pretty strong over there, but it is not as strong as that bunch of people that came here". He remembered they "looked like they had come out of Eaton's catalogue" when they arrived in Chatham, despite sailing across the Atlantic Ocean and then taking a train from Halifax, N.S., to their new home.

Long-Lost Recruitment Brochure

In the 1950s, the Government of Canada decided to recruit university students into Canada's overseas immigration service. A member of our society, who was recruited through this program [see CIHS bulletin 71, October 2014], has held on to a copy of the recruitment brochure all these years and has recently provided us with an English copy. Given our society's focus on historical aspects of Canada's immigration and refugee policies and programs as well as the personnel who carried out the Government's directions, we thought that posting the brochure to our website made sense. We have therefore had the brochure translated and it is now on [our site](#).

Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada and CIC have shared it with employees via their respective internal daily news emails.

Letter to the Editor: About the Recruitment Folder for Immigration Foreign Service Officers

I never saw the thing! After writing the normal FSO exam and undergoing an interview board, I was told I would be assigned to the Trade Commissioner Service. When I reached Ottawa, the story changed. An insufficiency of applicants for Immigration meant some of us had to be diverted! That was what I was told.

In those days you never asked questions or challenged decisions very much—certainly not when you were going for your first job out of university. Authority reigned supreme.

Nestor Gayowsky

Thursday 30 April 2015 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. The city's fall touched off a series of events that resulted in Canada's largest refugee resettlement operation—the Indochinese movement involving governments and civil society. There will be a special issue of the bulletin and other communications activities by the society to mark that anniversary.

Immigration Summit

Gerry Maffre

The Society is collaborating with The Conference Board of Canada and its Canadian Immigration Summit 2015: Towards a National Immigration Action Plan. The conference takes place from 13 to 14 April 2015 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa and will draw major stakeholders from across Canada. Society members can attend at a reduced fee of \$795.

This summit will allow participants to take part in discussions and consultation sessions to identify challenges and innovative solutions for a national immigration plan. The board sees the plan as a shared vision with specific goals and recommended actions for stakeholders to build an internationally competitive national immigration system. The summit is designed to provide time for networking, interaction between experts and delegates, and connecting the key players to build strategic partnerships.

The summit will focus on the seven themes:

1. The Immigration Imperative—the economic, social and cultural gains Canada and Canadian companies can realize;
2. Global Best Practices in Immigration, from Invitation to Integration—international experts will share their insights;

3. Leveraging Immigration as a Source of Innovation—highlighting immigrants’ contributions in innovation, research, culture, and international trade, and identifying how Canadian businesses can harness their talents to improve results;
4. Building an Immigration System Responsive to the Needs of Business—enhancing Canada’s immigration system to better meet the current and future needs of business and make the most of immigrants’ talents;
5. Streamlining Immigration for Skilled Tradespeople—how to streamline the immigration of skilled tradespeople to help overcome the significant labour shortages employers are experiencing in Western Canada;
6. Consultations on Enhancing Canada’s Immigration System—leaders from government, business, education, immigrant-serving agencies, regulatory bodies, professional associations and other experts will discuss an enhanced immigration system; and
7. What’s "Hot" in Immigration—gaining insights into the newest policies and practices that are reshaping immigration systems and overcoming immigration challenges.

CIHS members not already registered for the conference can now register for \$795 using the online registration system and entering PRM15. Please note that the reduced fee applies to non-registered delegates only.

For assistance with your registration, or if you have any questions, please contact Emily Hayward at hayward@conferenceboard.ca or 613-526-3090 ext. 393. More information can be found on the [conference website](#).

In Memoriam

Joseph “Gerry” Savard

Taken from The Ottawa Citizen

Gerry Savard died peacefully on Tuesday, 2 December 2014 at the Elizabeth Bruyère Centre in Ottawa. He was 62 years old. He leaves wife Linda (Signoretti) and daughter Sylvie, his “baby girl”, his twin boys Marc and Michael having died 1984.

Gerry was a very proud and dedicated public servant for 35 years, starting as an information officer in 1974 and retiring as a director general in 2011. He had the privilege of representing the Canadian government at the young age of 32 in a Canada-U.K. exchange program, working in the Home Office, Immigration and Nationality Department. While in the U.K., he participated in the Senior Management Development Program at Oxford University as well as an International Senior Management Program at Henley Management College.

During his tenure with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, he represented the commission and delivered speeches on human rights at conferences in Mexico, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Antigua and Washington

<p>The Canadian Immigration Historical Society (www.CIHS-SHIC.ca) is a non-profit corporation registered as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act.</p>	<p>The society’s goals are: - to support, encourage and promote research into the history of Canadian immigration and to foster the collection and dissemination of that history, and - to stimulate interest in and further the appreciation and understanding of the influence of immigration on Canada’s development and position in the world.</p>	<p>President - Michael J. Molloy; Vice-President - Anne Arnott; Treasurer - Raph Girard; Secretary - Gail Devlin; Editor - Valerie de Montigny; Board members: J.B. “Joe” Bissett, Brian Casey, Roy Christensen, Hector Cowan, Peter Duschinsky, Charlene Elgee, Kurt Jensen, Gerry Maffre (Communications), Ian Rankin and Gerry Van Kessel CIC Representative – Dianne Burrows</p>
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