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La société historique de l'immigration canadienne

CIHS Bulletin

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Editor's Note: The decision by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to recruit a new category of university-educated foreign service officers in the late 1950s is a topic we have wanted to cover in the bulletin for many years. Nestor Gayowsky, with the assistance of our former president, David Bullock—two of the original officers—provides a faithful account of what it was like to be in that first wave. The description of how the work was done in those days is particularly interesting.

The Early Days of the Immigration Foreign Service

by Nestor Gayowsky, with help from David Bullock

Author's Note: The details of this essay were found in two of my diaries from 1957 and 1958. My handwriting was terrible, but I believe I've decoded the important facts. This is how it began.

The second group of university graduates selected for Immigration's foreign service assembled for the first time on 3 June 1957 in the Woods Building (now Confederation Park). We had passed the foreign service examination and the subsequent board interviews held across the country and overseas. Our initial pay was $350 a month, raised a year later to $380. We felt rich.

Included in this group were Bill Grant, David Bullock, Elsa Amadio, Bill Marchak, Sam Kula, Pierre Bernier, Pierre Vachon, Gonzague Rivard, Ed Wieck, Otto Thiessen, Adair Banerd, Marcel Bedard, and Jean Frenette. The first group (including Gilles Durocher and Jim Turnbull) had started their training earlier in the year. The larger, third group (including Pierrette Picotte and Jacques Denault) started the month after.

Deputy Minister Laval Fortier welcomed our group personally. He said our presence reflected his wishes for a change in the approach our visa officers were taking in selecting immigrants. He made us feel we were part of a new departmental and foreign service elite. (Over a long period, we learned that other foreign service departments did not share his enthusiasm.)

The first two weeks were devoted to lectures by Citizenship and Immigration staff about their work. The next two weeks, we studied the *Immigration Act and Regulations*, which left most of us in a daze.

Contents

Our training plans were interrupted, however, by the aftermath of the 1956 Hungarian uprising. After a quick test of our knowledge of the act & regulations, Elsa Amadio, David Bullock, Pierre Vachon and I were sent to the immigration office at 175 Bedford Road in Toronto. The rest of our group was dispatched to other immigration offices to help with the refugee workload.

In Toronto, working with interpreters, we were assigned to issue food vouchers and support payments. Such support was premised on the refugees making efforts to settle and find work. Afterwards some of us were transferred to Placement to find jobs for them. Many Canadian employers were very willing to provide Hungarians with jobs. Temporary housing was also provided to them: the Toronto office did a commendable job refurbishing the former Home for Delinquent Young Females situated at 17 West Lodge Ave.

Once the pressure of settling the refugees lessened, we returned to our comprehensive training program. Familiarity with the *Immigration Act and Regulations* and knowledge of their implementation in the field rounded out the training. Then we proceeded to learn about the clearing of passengers at airports, land border points, and seaports.

In those years, most people arriving from overseas travelled by ship, a less expensive option than air. In early September 1957, Bill Grant, David Bullock and I were sent to the city of Québec to learn how to process immigrants arriving by ship. Our first ship, the *SS Hibernia,* produced some excitement. A supposed British crime boss was on board. As the ship docked, the quay filled with reporters. After a two-stage processing, he was refused entry and jailed locally because the department had no detention quarters. He returned to Britain on the same ship, as required by the *Immigration Act* at that time.

Our next “real” ship clearance occurred when we were ferried from Québec to Lévis and then took a train north to Pointe-au-Père, which is located at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. The next morning we were awakened by a sorrowful foghorn and greeted by heavy fog. After breakfast, we proceeded to the pilot boat station and rode out on the fog-bound river to rendezvous with *The Empress of Scotland*.

Two events occurred that remain with me to this day. The first was the emergence of a “whale” of a ship out of the dense fog—what a sight! The next was our transfer to the ship. We had to walk the proverbial gangplank between the ship and the pilot boat, on a 12-inch-wide board without a railing. The two vessels pressed against each other to maintain contact while the water between them rushed by at great speed and considerable noise. Each of us wondered if we would make it. Carrying my briefcases in one hand and with a deep breath, I lurched across, grabbing the hand of a seaman at the other end. We all made it. There were three more ships after that.

The purpose of meeting the ships was to allow them to make a quick turn-about once they reached port. The trip from Pointe-au-Père to the city of Québec took approximately seven hours, during which immigrants were processed and “landed”. When the processing ended and the totals of the ship’s passenger manifests and the immigration cards agreed, the assembled immigration officers joyously shouted “bingo”.

Those of us in Quebec worked at reception counters, handling inquiries; in admissions, dealing with sponsorship applications; or in investigations involving illegal immigrants, stowaways, or follow-up on delinquent assisted passage accounts. We also spent some days at the Lacolle highway crossing point and worked on the passenger clearance of railway travellers between New York City and Montréal.

In January 1958, the entire group returned to Ottawa for interviews to determine our readiness for posting overseas. There was cause to worry. Following the interviews, two of our group were discharged. One of them was a good friend who possessed the sharpest of minds and a sharper wit unappreciated in a bureaucratic environment. A few were sent on their cross-Canada tours, while others (me included) were assigned further training. For me, it meant another four months in Ottawa and two in the province of Quebec.

I would like to describe what the Ottawa bureaucratic world looked like then in its internal workings. It was much different from today.

Work attendance was strictly controlled. Morning and afternoon we had to sign an attendance register, which disappeared from its place five minutes after the appointed work time and then could only be found in the supervisor's office.

Travel to meetings at other departments in downtown Ottawa (before the move to Hull) was conducted by streetcar. We would ask our supervisor for two tickets and sign for them. Just two tickets. No more. No package of tickets.

Office supplies were also controlled. We had to sign for ballpoint pens, pencils and any other items from the stationery cupboard. To remind us that we were using taxpayers' money, all pens and pencils bore the admonishment: "Misuse Is an Abuse".

After spending many months in Ottawa, I came to praise the office systems. The filing system was superb. I subsequently worked elsewhere in the public service, and nowhere did the filing systems approach the quality in Immigration. There were several floors in the Woods Building, and case files often had to be located urgently. File record control sheets were on the desk of every officer to record the movement of a file from desk to desk. A specific class of staff called "runners" spent its days hunting and finding files using those record control sheets.

Policy files were another matter. They were controlled in the file room area through a machine that looked like a large laundry mangle, or wringer. Those policy files contained the history of Canada, and one of my personal delights was reading them whenever I had a moment.

During our training period in Admissions, we answered letters asking about immigration to Canada. We dictated our replies into a snake-like tube, and the machine inscribed our words on to a wax cylinder. After a few dictations, the full cylinder was sent to the typing pool for transcription. Then the fun began. Being neophytes, we all dictated badly—very badly. The ladies of the typing pool—to "educate" us—sent back exactly what we had said, with all the speaking mistakes, for example: "uh", "oh", "darn it", "change that to citizen of the United States and not American citizen". It took us several days to get a letter finished and ready to be signed by our supervisor. Just when we thought it was OK, our supervisor would find a minor problem with the letter and ask that it be redone!

1913 Edison Dictating Machine

One also has to remember that then copies were made using carbon paper. Corrections on the original copy were sometime made by using razor blades to lift and remove a word. We all developed a great respect for the professionalism of the women in the typing pool.

We had no fax or copy machines. Sometimes telegrams had to be copied for more than one file. We would cover the telegram with a kind of rice paper and run them through a chemical bath that would allow the telegram ink to be transferred in part to the rice paper, making a copy—a difficult process to master.

In June 1958, I spent time in and around Sherbrooke and Victoriaville, Quebec. In July I was back in Montréal, where the immigration office was above Pascal's hardware store in the lower town.

It should be noted that the introduction of university graduates into an environment where there were very few could have caused resentment. We were moving in and taking opportunities away from officers who had served well and were capable of doing a good job overseas and had proved that. Because of World War II, few had an opportunity to raise their educational credentials and thus appeared to be excluded from opportunities overseas. Nonetheless, our group encountered little unkindness or unfortunate language. Immigration staff in

those years were truly professional in their approach to their work and to us. Perhaps this was because many of them had been in the war, and the discipline of the military carried over into their civilian life. Later there was some intelligent modification of the policy regarding overseas postings, and some deserving “old timers” were posted abroad.

The final selection board for the remaining members of our group took place at the beginning of August 1958. We referred to it as our Day of Judgement. Those of us who passed now entered the final phase of the training program. The department decided that it would be useful for us to travel across the country to learn about regional economies and to appreciate the nature of Canada before we went abroad. Peter Bernier, Otto Thiessen and I started our tour from Winnipeg and went westward.

In those years, the *Immigration Act* required that Canadian railway companies provide free passes to immigration officers travelling on duty. This helped to lower departmental travel costs. In each province we were met by settlement officers, who drove us to the principal communities and to significant economic developments. For example, in Saskatchewan we saw potash mines and some amazingly large farm operations.

Reports to headquarters were another feature of our training. D.A. Reid, then chief of the Operations Division, wrote to us in a letter: “A report on your activities while in the field is to be submitted to this office at the end of August, October and December. Each report is to contain a short outline of the duties performed by you, together with any suggestions you may have for improving the field training of future foreign service officers”.

We also reported in considerable detail about our visits, what we had seen, and our views about the settlement of immigrants across Canada. We always wondered whether anyone took the time and trouble to read them. After the west, we visited eastern Canada. Our cross-Canada tour ended in Toronto in the middle of December 1958.

By then, arrangements were being made for us to travel to Europe. Each of us had been asked for our preferred city in Europe. I had originally indicated Copenhagen as my first choice but changed my mind and listed Paris instead. The two choices went to two different people. When the final list was drawn up, the person responsible knew that I had spoken rhapsodically about Copenhagen but was unaware of my change of mind. He therefore crossed off Paris and I was posted to Copenhagen.

In those days we travelled to postings abroad by ship, moreover, by first-class! In January 1959 we set off for Europe. From the very beginning, the Immigration foreign service was denied the privileges and benefits of officers in Trade and Commerce and External Affairs. We were given “green” service passports. At European posts, this meant our vehicles did not have a diplomatic designation, we were unable to order directly from the free ports on our own behalf, and we felt “looked down upon” by the more fortunate embassy officers. Generally, we had little contact with the embassy proper. In my view, resistance to raising our status originated in the Department of External Affairs.

In 1967, Treasury Board established a small working group of four officials to look at the package of benefits for those working abroad. There were officers from Trade and from External Affairs, and a representative from Treasury Board. I represented Immigration. The goal was to prepare a range of benefits, taking into consideration the nature of the foreign service population and the different problems confronting posts, individuals and families.

We were at it for a year. We were told to achieve equality of treatment and to shed the discriminatory practices of the past. I think we achieved that objective. The foreign service directives of today are the result of that work.

Remembering the Nansen Award

Many bulletin readers may well have been in active immigration service in 1986 when a singular event took place in Ottawa. That fall, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees recognized Canada's "essential and constant contribution to the cause of refugees within [our country] and around the world" by presenting the "people of Canada" with the Nansen Award for Refugees (http://www.unhcr.org/nansen/503743f86.html).

In a ceremony at the National Arts Centre, then High Commissioner, His Excellency Jean-Pierre Hocké, presented the award to then Governor General, Her Excellency Jeanne Sauvé. A video of portions of that ceremony was made, stored in the former CIC Library and recently uncovered by the department's Eleanor Berry.

With CIC's permission, we have now put the ten-minute video on the CIHS web site (http://cihs-shic.ca/2014/02/unhcr-nansen-refugee-award/). Enjoy this step back in time!

The Lucky Ship *MV Batory*

The Polish ocean liner *MV Batory* was built in 1936. Four years later she was seized by the U.K. and used to transport Britain's gold reserves to safety in Canada. During the war she carried Allied troops and luckily survived various war zone engagements. After the war she again became a passenger ship, sailing a host of immigrants from Europe to Canada, until she was retired from service in 1969. For a more elaborate account of the *MV Batory*, see Bulletin 69.

Second Video Collaboration

by Gerry Maffre

Last year, Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) and CIHS produced a series of video interviews with former Immigration officials on Canadian refugee policy and programs over three decades. The partners are now planning a second series. This series will explore past policies and measures aimed at attracting newcomers to, and encouraging them to settle in, destinations other than Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Meyer Burstein, P2P's Director of Policy and Planning, says "providing insights into successful migration and settlement in small and mid-sized communities forms an important part of our work. So it is logical that we

would want to look back and learn from former federal and provincial government officials about their experiences and the factors that influenced their decisions at crucial moments".

"As with the first series of interviews, this exercise will add to the oral history of immigration, related by insiders who were involved in the political and policy decisions of the day, as well as their implementation," says Michael Molloy, CIHS president. "It is consistent with the society's work with the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University on the Indochinese 'boat people', including presentations by some of the migrants themselves and officials who played important roles in that movement".

This new P2P-CIHS project is at an early stage of development and interviewees are now being recruited. The partners look to a fall completion date, following which, the interviews will be available for viewing on the internet.

Key Links:
Pathways to Prosperity: http://www.p2pcanada.ca/
First video series: http://www.p2p-cihs.com/
Indochinese presentations: http://indochinese.apps01.yorku.ca/conference/

Update on Our Web Site

Bulletin readers can now receive an alert to any new material posted to the CIHS web site. To subscribe, simply go to our site and complete the box in the top right corner. We are also working to make the bulletins already on the site more accessible to search tools.

Ismailis in Zaire

by Michael Molloy

Anyone with a passing knowledge of Canadian immigration history is aware that in 1972, our country offered resettlement to approximately 5,000 Indo-Asians being expelled from Uganda by President Idi Amin. The resettlement operation was documented in detail by Roger Saint Vincent, who led the Canadian team in Uganda, in his memoir *Seven Crested Cranes.* [See box at the end of this article.]

Those who came to Canada at that time included Ismaili Muslims, Goans, Sikhs, Hindus, and members of a half-dozen or so smaller religious communities. As the immigration process did not record people's religions, hard figures on the number from each community are not available. The Canadian team was instructed to accept people who qualified under the point system and then to concentrate on those who had no obvious place to go. Unlike other communities that had opted for British status, the Ismaili and the Goan communities had taken out Ugandan citizenship. With the expulsion, their citizenship was tantamount to statelessness, and as a result many were accepted by Canada.

What is not so well known is that, in the next three years, Canada accepted another 2,500 Ugandan Asians, mainly people who had been evacuated by the UNHCR to refugee camps in Europe. At the same time, Canada accepted as immigrants thousands of Asians from Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia who were moving on under the pressure of "Africanization" in those countries. That seemed to be the whole story. But not quite.

A year or so ago, my colleague Robert Shalka mentioned that, as a young officer in training, he was given some files to review, one of which contained correspondence between then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and the spiritual leader of the Ismaili community, His Highness the Aga Khan.

The correspondence indicated that President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (now known as Zaire), Sese Seko Mobuto, had taken a leaf from Idi Amin's book and was putting pressure on non-indigenous business people, including members of Zaire's small francophone Ismaili community. As most of them operated businesses in small towns, would it be possible, the Aga Khan apparently asked, for them to immigrate to Canada and set up shop in small towns in Quebec?

This is the kind of forgotten immigration incident our society likes to investigate. The first question that came to mind was: Would immigration statistics provide any clues? We asked our friends in CIC's Research and Evaluation unit about landings of people whose "Country of Last Permanent Residence" between 1972 and 1977 was Zaire. The results were surprising: 1972—12; **1973—52; 1974—1,275; 1975—360; 1976—70;** 1977—32.

Obviously something was happening from 1973 to 1976, although the numbers don't tell us who exactly was coming to Canada from Zaire during that period. If the pressure was on all small non-native businesses, it could have included Lebanese and Europeans as well as Ismailis. But clearly something was motivating people normally resident in Zaire to move to Canada.

Immigration from Zaire in the 1970s was handled by the Paris Manpower and Immigration office, and the management team in Paris in 1973 was led by Gilles Durocher (one of Canada's first university-educated foreign service officers—see our lead article by Nestor Gayowsky) and his newly arrived deputy, Anton Jurkovich. As Gilles and Anton are now retired and living in Montreal, we asked them what they recalled. Quite a lot as it turned out.

> Anton, who has a beautiful memory, may be able to help you better and more with policy issues. Notwithstanding, I surely remember vividly having spent a few weeks in Kinshasa, Zaire, where I became sick while processing mainly Ismaili refugees. They were business/shop owners who had been working and living Zaire for many years and who were told by decree that their businesses or shops were being nationalized and that, if they wanted to recuperate some money out of it, they had to, *as a good father would do*, instruct the newly designated Zairian *owner* to run *his new* business or shop. Mobutu issued the decree.
>
> I did spend a few hectic weeks in Kinshasa to process these refugees, possibly in the neighborhood of 50? But my souvenirs are to the effect that relatively few refugees went to Canada, because the decree was soon rescinded as it was creating such havoc in the business community, as one may imagine.
>
> I do not have more memories of this movement, except to say that I was much impressed by the high moral quality of these refugees, and I felt that, if they emigrated to Canada, they would soon become first class, well integrated immigrants with the halo of their Ismaili community.
> *from Gilles Durocher*

Je vois que tu es toujours aussi impliqué dans le maintien de la mémoire collective de l'histoire de l'immigration. Que ferons-nous sans toi ?

Your e-mail takes us back 40 years ago—to the last century! But I can vividly recall the events around this movement. I have not seen any correspondence on the subject between Prime Minister Trudeau and the Aga Khan, but I have no doubt that there was a clear political commitment on the part of the prime minister as they were friends. An additional indication was the pressure from HQ on the Paris staff to be on the ground without delay. At the time, as the senior officer and number two of the immigration section, I was the one designated to go to Kinshasa. However, as I did not have the proper immunization, there was to be a delay of four weeks before I could make it. This proved too long for Ottawa, and Gilles, who had the proper shots, ended up going in my place. Naturally, I have always regretted this lost opportunity.

Gilles spent some six weeks assessing the situation and interviewing candidates. There was no obvious rush on the part of Ismailis in Kinshasa, and I suspect they were hedging their bets. Events proved that they were right, as Mobutu changed his mind not long after. Nevertheless, there continued to be a steady trickle of applicants from the Ismaili community. A number who were selected and went to Canada eventually returned to their businesses in Zaire, having established some roots in Canada. This was most evident in the early 1990s, when I was back in Paris as head of the immigration and consular programs.

At that time, Zaire launched a new “nationalisation” program, and a number of Ismailis were again the target. However, by then they were Canadian citizens, mostly from the first wave of the 1970s. We were tasked in Paris to organize an evacuation of these citizens. The consular officer in Paris, then under my supervision, a fellow by the name of Lapointe, was sent to Kinshasa to organize the evacuation. The evacuees then transited through Paris, where paperwork was completed, and they were sent on their way to Canada.
from Anton Jurkovich

It is well established that Prime Minister Trudeau and the Aga Khan were friends. We know they were in contact during the early stages of the Ugandan expulsions (August to November 1972). The Aga Khan and his deputy for East Africa, Sir Eboo Pirbhai, visited Canada in late September 1972. CIHS recently discovered notes from a meeting on 28 September 1972, of the Aga Khan, Sir Eboo Pirbhai, and very senior officials in Manpower and Immigration, the Privy Council Office, and the departments of Finance and External Affairs. The notes indicate that the visitors were to dine with the prime minister that evening. While the legal frame-work at the time did not permit the government to cut a particular deal for Ugandan Ismailis as Ismailis, they could, and did, instruct the Canadian Kampala team to be receptive to anyone who was stateless or the holder of Ugandan citizenship—a status that was being routinely and arbitrarily terminated by the Ugandan authorities.

If Canada had responded so quickly and openly in the case of Uganda, why was there no publicity about the quick response to the situation in Zaire? It is hard to know for sure, but it is instructive to look at the Cabinet document that set out the Trudeau government’s refugee policy immediately after Canada signed the UN Refugee Convention in 1969.

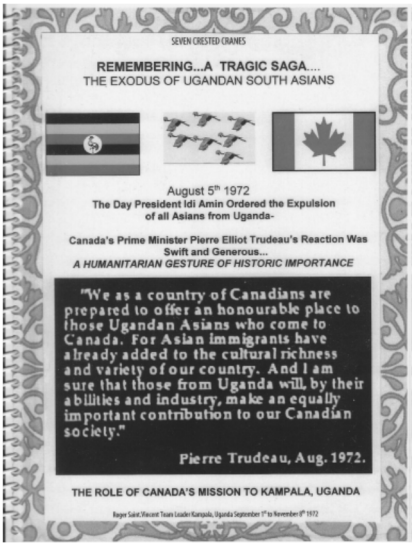
On 27 July 1970, the Cabinet approved sweeping changes to Canada’s refugee policy. Refugee

His Highness the Aga Khan and Begum Salima Aga Khan with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in Ottawa. (Photo Special Silver Jubilee Souvenir, 25 Years in Pictures, Islamic Publications, London)

selection would no longer be restricted to Europe, and the government agreed that Canada would now use the UN Refugee Convention definition, would apply the point system with generous use of discretionary authority in our resettlement programs, and would establish a mechanism to consider applications from people claiming recognition as Convention refugees at the border or within Canada. The Cabinet also agreed to the creation of the "Oppressed Minority Policy" for people facing oppression but unable to claim the protection of the convention because they had not fled across an international border. We are used to thinking about the application of the "OM" policy in public terms—such as for the Asians in Uganda or Chileans in Chile—but the original concept, as explained in the Cabinet document of 27 July 1970, was much more subtle.

> Religious or ethnic organizations in Canada often request special consideration for certain minority groups who claimed they are oppressed. Examples are Jews and Armenians in Arab states and some Christian sects in Turkey and a variety of persons in communist countries. As these minority groups are usually citizens or permanent. residents of the countries in which they live, they do not fall within the United Nations' definition of "refugee". Most of the people concerned are either not prepared to, or unable to, move to another country where they could claim refugee status under the Convention. If a specific program were conducted which gave special status to minority groups while they were in their country of normal residence, it could cause adverse criticism from other residents not receiving the same consideration, as well as from government officials and thus adversely affect Canada's relations with that country and particularly our Immigration program there. Moreover, it could well worsen the position of those of the minority group who remained behind.
>
> Therefore, rather than attempt to give such minority groups the legal status of refugees, it would seem better, when considering those who cannot escape, to deal with them under the normal Immigration program in their country but take into account, without publicity, the offers of assistance which voluntary agencies are prepared to give, just as examining officers do when assessing the case of a refugee as defined within that program as set out above. This will enable the Department to grant such applicants the same advantages extended to refugees.

It would be naïve to assume that the friendship between Prime Minister Trudeau and the Aga Khan played no part in the decision The pressure brought to bear on the office in Paris to dispatch an officer without delay has the earmarks of a department responding to a prime ministerial order to "do it". At the same time, the impressive speed with which the Ugandan Asians had adapted to Canada just a year before would have been on the minds of officials in Ottawa, and the approach taken fitted comfortably within the scope of "oppressed minorities" described in the 27 July 1970 Cabinet document.



The CIHS has a small supply of Roger Saint Vincent's classic account of the 1972 Kampala operation to resettle Asians being expelled from Uganda. This version, created in 2012, is profusely illustrated in colour with maps, photos and memorabilia. It encompasses accounts of subsequent events, including the 1994 "Journey in Hope" conference and gala and the 2002 30th anniversary celebration.

Proceeds from book sales will go to the Gunn Prize that the CIHS and Laurier University award each year for the best fourth year or graduate essay on immigration history.

To order your copy, send a cheque for $35.00 to:
The Canadian Immigration Historical Society
Box 9502, Station T
Ottawa, K1G 3V2

Don Milburn at 92

Don and Santa, Christmas 2013

Don is in residential care at Broadmead in Victoria. He turned 92 last September and is doing well. His memory has failed him, but his love of music persists and he bursts into song at the hint of a tune. Staff have told his son David that just their humming when they are fixing up his room brings on a song. David takes him to the daily music entertainment offered at Broadmead.

Don had a long and varied career with Immigration and managed the matching centre during the Indochinese refugee movement.

Raph Girard recalls the time he replaced Don at Immigration regional HQ in London in 1965: "He was in charge of private employer recruitment programs, which he turned over to me after a very brief training period. Don was always patient, superbly well organised and focussed on his job—qualities I always aspired to but never mastered."

Update on CIHS Activities

by Michael Molloy

Book Project: The Indochinese Refugee Movement—the Role of Canada's Immigration Department (Working Title)

Work is proceeding on the book about the role of Canada's immigration department (and employment centres) in delivering the Indochinese refugee program between 1975 and 1980. So far we have drafts of 10 chapters, which deal with three broad themes.

The first theme is a historical account of the events in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that caused people to become refugees and Canada's reaction. These events include the fall of Saigon, the airlift of babies from Vietnam to Hong Kong to various cities in Canada,, the initial Canadian operations in Guam and the U.S. military camps, operations out of Singapore from 1975 to 1977, re-engagement in 1978, the Hai Hong, and the big refugee movement of 1979 and 1980. There are chapters on operations in Singapore, Bangkok, Manila and Hong Kong, and post-arrival activity in Canada.

The second theme describes and analyzes the policy and operational innovations that made it possible to process 60,000 refugees in 1979 and 1980. The chapters in this theme include discussion of the refugee elements of the 1976 *Immigration Act*, including the designated classes, the refugee sponsorship program, and the annual refugee plan. The book looks at the operational innovations that shaped the movement—the special IMM1314 combined processing record and visa; the staging areas at Canadian Forces Base Longue Pointe, Montreal, and CFB Edmonton (Griesbach Barracks) that received all incoming refugee charter flights; the matching centre, and the system that was used to match incoming refugees with sponsors and to determine the destinations of those without sponsors; the refugee liaison officers; and the roles played by immigration officials at the regional and local levels across Canada.

The third theme consists of a series of firsthand accounts of officers in Immigration and the RCMP and medical officials in the camps of Southeast Asia and in Canada. These provide the human interest core of the book. We have so far pulled together the accounts from the Singapore operation, and they are terrific! It is hard to avoid superlatives when describing the accomplishments of the young officers Canada sent to Southeast Asia to locate, document and transport the refugees from remote camps in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Macau. The hardships they endured, and the grit, determination and ingenuity they displayed

are nothing short of inspiring. Equally impressive were the accomplishments of unsung CEIC regional officials, CIC/CEC counsellors and refugee liaison officers and the role they played in preparing Canadian communities to receive unprecedented numbers of refugees—coordinating, organizing and trouble shooting.

There is a great deal more work to do. We need another five or six chapters, and the business of blending the work of the four writers (Peter Duschinshy, Kurt Jensen, Robert Shalka and yours truly) is character building, to say the least.

Follow up to the November 2013 CIHS-York University Conference: The Indochinese Refugee Movement 1975-80 and the Launch of the Refugee Sponsorship Program

We shall soon receive a 30-minute documentary with the highlights of the conference we co-hosted with York University's Centre for Refugee Studies. We hope to have it on our web site before summer. We are contributing to a number of follow-up activities, including plans for an online archive of the Indochinese movement at the Centre for Refugee Studies, a special edition of the CRS's journal *Refuge* and, eventually, an oral history collection and an edited volume of scholarly essays on the Indochinese movement. There will be more about these as they develop.

Ugandan-Asian Archive, Carleton University

Members will recall that two years ago, the society was given two magnificent collections of newspaper clippings on the Ugandan refugee movement, one consisting of hundreds of clippings from the *Uganda Argus,* the other of clippings from English-language newspapers from across Canada. With the assistance of a graduate student from the University of Ottawa, we have supplemented the Canadian collection with articles from six influential French-language newspapers.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Fakirani family, a Ugandan Asian family that we somehow missed in Kampala but who came to Canada subsequently, Carleton University Library's Archives and Research Collections, under the leadership of archivist Patti Harper, has scanned and conserved the collection.

Plans are afoot to have the collection "go live" at a ceremony on International Refugee Day (20 June). We shall provide a link to this impressive collection once the site is up and running.

Annual General Meeting 2014

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society will hold its 2014 Annual General Meeting and dinner:

Thursday, 23 October 2014, 6:00 p.m.
at the Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club
523 St. Anthony Street, Ottawa, K1R 0A6

St. Anthony Street runs west off Preston Street, just north of the Highway 417 overpass.

There is free parking and wheelchair access. The club provides an excellent buffet for $30.00. Cash bar.

RSVP rgirard09@gmail, or call Mike at 613-241-0166

In Memoriam

Lynne Champoux
by Michael Molloy

We are sad to report the passing of Lynne Champoux, mother of Randy and wife of Lloyd Champoux, in Kelowna on Easter Sunday. She slipped away from us because of complications from her valiant struggle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Lynne accompanied Lloyd, an expert on Chinese migration, on postings to Hong Kong, Tokyo and London. She was a kind, courageous and beautiful woman. My wife Jo and I were on our first assignment in Tokyo when we met the Champouxs. Lloyd took charge of my training, and Lynne's frequent invitations to dinner, invariably centred on a large roast of beef (an unheard-of luxury for a junior officer and family) were a high point in our lives.

Debra Presse
by Michael Molloy

Debra Presse, who worked in Immigration for 30 years, passed away on 4 April. Debra was the long-time director of Resettlement Policy and Programs, and she made an enormous contribution to refugee resettlement in this country.

While not a member of the CIHS, she took a lively interest in its activities. During my last conversation with her, just before her illness was discovered, she talked about her plans to join the society on retirement and about the research she hoped to do under the CIHS's auspices.

Over the years a lot of bright and capable people have served as director of Resettlement, but as the following remarks by CIC's deputy minister, Anita Biguzs, demonstrate, Debra was in a class of her own.

> Think globally, act locally, the adage goes. But Debra was able to act globally AND locally. She was, for example, instrumental in helping to bring the global community together to look at protracted refugee situations in recent years. Those joined voices led to negotiations that allowed thousands of Karen refugees in Thailand and Bhutanese refugees in Nepal to escape camps they'd spent years in, and find new homes in a number of countries. Many of them have resettled in communities across Canada.

I didn't get the chance to work with Debra very closely before she retired last fall, but the depth of her knowledge and commitment were readily apparent. It's no surprise that her achievements were recognized both within and outside government, domestically and internationally. She was awarded three Deputy Minister Achievement Awards, for ensuring diversity in the workplace, for advancing international refugee protection, and just last June, a Lifetime Achievement award. Last July, Debra was presented a Distinguished Service Award by the UN High commissioner himself, Antonio Guterres, for her outstanding contributions to resettlement. Also last year, the National Settlement Council recognized her for her dedication to the integration and settlement communities, and the private sponsorship of refugees community presented Debra with an award for her steadfast support of the needs of refugees.

Those who worked alongside Debra know that, for all her accomplishments, she will be missed mostly for who she was, her strong sense of values, and the enthusiasm she brought not only to her work, but to her hobbies, family, and friends.

Donald MacGillivray

Donald began his life in Sarnia, Ontario not far from the McGillivray family farm. Through his growing years, his family moved from Sarnia—to Ottawa, to Toronto, to Winnipeg and then back to Toronto. This was Donald's prep for his future life as a diplomat.

Don tried first medicine and then liberal arts at the University of Toronto. It was here that he met his wife, Peggy. They married after graduation, in the year of Canada's centennial.

Japan was their first adventure. The new culture and the language challenged and delighted them. They fell in love with exploring outside Canada. While Don and Peggy both taught at an international school in Kobe, Don also wrote for the now-defunct *Toronto Telegram* and the *Mainichi Daily News* of Japan.

With two years' overseas experience under his belt, and maybe because he wanted to travel the world as a representative of Canada rather than as a school teacher, in 1971 Don applied, was interviewed, and was accepted into the foreign service.

Don was posted to Australia in 1972. New Delhi followed in 1974, and then Nairobi in 1976. By the time he was back in Canada, he had a family of five, so a house in Westboro was purchased, and Don became the editor of the community newspaper *Newswest*.

After a heart attack in 1980, Don started running. Over the next 20 years, he ran four marathons, numerous half-marathons, and countless ten-kilometre runs.

Starting in 1982 Don was posted overseas again, on some challenging assignments. First was Chile, where he made the headlines of *The Globe and Mail* when he was photographed trying to stop the Chilean police from taking away a human rights advocate that he was escorting to safety. Don was roughly pushed side by the police and the man was taken. Don was pleased to find out later that the man survived.

When he was in Pakistan, between 1986 and 1988, Don came home from work one day and was astounded to find several missiles destined for the Afghan war in his garden. This was the time of "Charlie's War", when the Russians went into Islamabad and blew up American missiles destined for Afghanistan. The heat of the fire had send hundreds of missiles into the grounds of the international school, the city, and the McGillivray garden!

In Guatemala (1988-1991), two full-time body guards took turns protecting Don from attacks by people who did not believe in raising the standards of the poor working class. Don was shot at. His home was shot at. A dead dog appeared on the doorstep. He was watched and threatened but did not back down. In fact, Don carried on

life as usual. He held parties, climbed volcanoes, and rented a home on Lake Atitlan. Gradually the violence against him abated, until a trip to El Salvador. On the way back to Guatemala City, he was forced at gun point to get out of the embassy car and lie face down on the ground with a rifle at the back of his head. He had had a few seconds to see the attack coming and hid the gold watch his wife had given him under the floor mat of the car. The attackers took his wallet, briefcase and eye glasses. Then he was chagrined to see the men steal the car, with his watch in it! As luck would have it, the robbers deserted the car a few miles down the road and so he got to keep his gold watch after all.

Don and his family returned to Ottawa in 1991 after nine challenging years in the field. He was ready for the safety and comfort of living in Ottawa. This lasted only five years, then Don was off again, this time to Cuba (1996-1998), Sri Lanka (1998-2000), the United Arab Emirates (2000-2004), and finally to the U.S. consulate in Seattle (2004-2006). Only dengue fever laid him low during these 10 years of service, plus the occasional bombing close to his home in Colombo and one shoot-out on the golf course between LTTE fighters and the Sri Lankan military while Don was golfing. Otherwise, life was pretty easy.

Don retired in 2006, but not before he was twice honoured for his work. In June 1998, he was given the Foreign Service Award for outstanding effort to free political prisoners in Cuba and get them safely to Canada. And in 2002, Don was a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal for showing exemplary ethics in complicated diplomatic situations.

Judith Ann Smith
by Kurt F. Jensen

Judy, wife of Hume Smith, passed away in Toronto on 2 April after a three-year struggle with cancer. A friend of so many of us, she will be sorely missed.

She is survived by her husband of more than 49 years, her children Kimberley and Christopher, and three grandchildren. A foreign service wife with nine overseas postings, Judy was the consummate diplomatic partner. She enjoyed the overseas life and always had time to take under her wings junior diplomats recently arrived at posts.

The following is an extract from the announcement of her death which appeared in *The Globe and Mail* on 5 April:

> Judy enjoyed 32 years as a spouse with Hume in the Foreign Service 1964-1996, setting up homes in nine countries and taking a library science degree while in South Africa. When Hume retired to Toronto in 1996, Judy ran a small library software and training business for a few years before joining him in full retirement in 2003, to enjoy their passion for opera and opera tours, as well as volunteer interests like the University College Book Sales. Tennis was a constant pleasure in Judy's life abroad and at home.

A family and friends remembrance service is to be held on Sunday, 8 June from noon to 4 p.m. at the Gallery Grill, Hart House, University of Toronto.

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