



## CIHS Annual General Meeting: Report

Diane Burrows

On 21 October 2021, the Canadian Immigration Historical Society held its annual general meeting, using the Zoom software communications platform. The CIHS used this meeting format to protect participants from the risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus, and it circulated its annual reports to the membership in advance to provide time for topical discussions. The formal portion of the evening's lineup covered four main agenda items: a welcome to members and announcement of CIHS officers for the coming year; the overview of the annual reports to membership; the keynote speaker's presentation (CIHS President Dawn Edlund's talk about Canada's response to the Syrian crisis); and finally, the president's explanation of planned CIHS activities for the coming year.

Thirty members across Canada and elsewhere (U.S. and Argentina) joined the meeting. Always a social event for members, the CIHS's invitation welcomed them to "sign on" 30 minutes before the formal meeting started at 7:00 p.m., eastern time, to allow them to meet and greet former colleagues and friends.

### Welcome and Announcement of Officers

The meeting first covered general items of business. Anne Arnott led the participants through the results of this year's elections (acclamations) to the CIHS board. In 2021, the CIHS board members will be: Dawn Edlund (president), Michael Molloy (past president), Anne Arnott (vice-president), Raphael Girard (treasurer), Robert Orr (secretary), and Diane Burrows (Bulletin editor). The board's representative from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is vacant, following Randy Orr's recent death. The members at large will be Gerry Maffre, Charlene Elgee, Kurt Jensen, Robert Shalka, Brian Casey, Ian Rankin, and Donald Cochrane.

### Overview of Reports

Arnott then proceeded to give a short overview of the various reports that were provided in the October 2021 members' newsletter: from the president, treasurer, secretary, Molloy Bursary committee, website, and Gunn Prize committee. These reports cover the CIHS's activities for the past year. I am only reporting here on the topics not covered in Dawn Edlund's presentation as president, to be found in the final agenda topic below.

The Treasurer's Report for 2020/2021 is published on the CIHS website as a public document and is prepared as a requirement of the CIHS's status as a charitable organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. Essentially, the organization is doing well financially, and the CIHS continues to raise funds for the CIHS Molloy Bursary Fund. The CIHS thanks its corporate donors (the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and IRCC) for their ongoing financial support.

TITLE	Contents	AUTHORS/CONTRIBUTORS	Page
CIHS Annual General Meeting: Report		Diane Burrows	1
Correspondence Inspired by the AGM to Michael and Jo Molloy		Darrell Mesheau	3
Update on Society Projects		Michael Molloy	4
The History of Vietnamese Boat People in the Philippines		Jan Top Christensen	5
Donald Milburn, Part I: A Journey into Immigration		Kurt F. Jensen	6
Letter to the Editor and Response		John Baker and Robert Shalka	8
Deputy Minister Catrina Tapley Speaks to Canadian Immigration Historical Society Members		Anne Arnott	9
In Memoriam			10

In 2021, the CIHS Molloy Bursary Fund (a new undergraduate bursary for history students) took shape, and at the time of the AGM, the fund had reached \$8,705 (of a \$30,000 goal) in donations from many Society members as well as through an appeal by the Canadian Ambassadors Alumni Association to its membership. The deadline for a bursary application was set at 1 November 2021, with the bursary committee planning to assess any applications received.

The CIHS [website](#), the organization's rich repository of information, was reported to have been relatively quiet recently. The Bulletin continues to attract the greatest number of visitors. There was a bump in visits to information on British Home Children; several people have used it in their research projects. Over and above the regular postings of the Bulletin, in the past year the CIHS posted the Molloy Bursary information and forms, more historical Canadian and UNHCR documents on the Southeast Asian refugee movement, a link to a Pier 21 posting about the Kosovar evacuation to Canada, and the IRCC staff message about the CIHS donation to their research collection.

### **Canada's Response to the Syrian Crisis 2015-2016**

The meeting agenda then turned to Dawn Edlund's keynote presentation on Canada's response to the Syrian refugee crisis. This presentation, supported by a series of slides, was very well received, and interesting discussions ensued. The presentation was in two parts: Operation Syrian Refugees (OSR) and the OSR Memory Project.

Edlund explained the context in which OSR was created in Fall 2015, how the planning process worked once the federal election was decided, and the elements of the overall plan. Within the tight timeframes identified by the government, the following operational processes had to be designed, confirmed, and communicated: (1) identifying the Syrian refugees who would come to Canada; (2) processing the refugees overseas; (3) transportation to Canada; (4) welcoming in Canada; and finally (5) settlement and community integration. To meet its commitments, the government tested and expanded new technologies, used the full range of its authorities, and tested innovative ways of doing business, including tapping the entire immigration network's capacity for OSR case processing and using solely paperless files. Edlund highlighted the exceptional emphasis on, and value of, communications while adapting to challenges as they arose (within IRCC, with the many other government departments, other governments and organizations—in Canada and internationally, media, stakeholders, and settlement agencies). One example of where quick thinking and cooperation were essential was in setting up new settlement processes in smaller cities because of a dire shortage of affordable housing in the larger cities, especially within the tight OSR timelines and for the many larger families needing lodgings. She also noted the outpouring of goodwill by volunteers and sponsors across the board and the high degree of trust displayed at the political level and by Canadians in what the bureaucracy could deliver.

Results were well publicized: around 26,000 Syrians arrived in approximately 100 days; there were 99 flights from Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan; over 350 communities welcomed Syrian refugees; and over 500 service-providing agencies were involved. The outcome is that the large influx of Syrians who arrived in 2015-2016 are resettled through OSR, and the movement is now part of Canada's collective history.

The second part of the presentation focused on the OSR memory project. IRCC plans to publish an edited collection that tells the above story from the perspectives of those who were part of it. Another core objective is to create a fully searchable digital archive for researchers, academics, and others. Edlund likened this effort to taking a giant haystack of electronic materials (420,000 "things"), remove highly sensitive information—such as personal information, security-related information, and cabinet confidences—and then removing, sifting and sorting to end up with "hay bales". Like the OSR itself, this type of data organizing was breaking new ground.

### **Focus for the Coming Year**

Finally, Dawn Edlund spoke as president about the past year and plans for the year ahead. Throughout 2021, the Society kept up its liaison and outreach with research institutions and the federal government, to publicize the CIHS mandate and strengths. Two major CIHS projects are the Vietnamese translation of a number of chapters of *Running on Empty*, with plans for publication under way now that translation is complete; and the Hearts of Freedom project, which has a very interesting [website](#) and five completed chapters of its book.

New activities in 2021 include: collaborating with the [Chyssem Project](#), which will mark the 50th anniversary in 2022 of the initial arrival of Tibetans in Canada (Canada's first non-European humanitarian resettlement project); participating in the organizing committee for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Ugandan Asians' arrival in Canada, set for November 2022; initiating a research project to capture memories and reflections from public servants who created and implemented settlement and integration programming for newcomers from the 1960s to the 1990s; starting a dialogue with the Metropolis Project about how the CIHS can contribute to the online course content that Metropolis is creating, which

focuses on migration, integration, inclusion, and best service provision practices for newcomers; and planning for the 100th edition of our Bulletin, which will come out in the spring.

On the topic of CIHS membership, Edlund noted that the size of the group is a perennial issue; at every AGM, there is a concern that there are not enough members to sustain the organization. The CIHS has struck a subgroup to come up with ideas to attract new members and to expand the membership's diversity. She welcomed suggestions from the general membership.

One idea to increase membership in the CIHS was to host "for members only" speakers' events. The first took place in September 2021. The Deputy Minister of IRCC delivered a very strong presentation about delivering services during Covid. Unfortunately, it was poorly attended, and the subgroup wants to find out why. Was it scheduled at an inconvenient time of day, did the presentation topic not appeal to the members, or did the CIHS need to publicize the event differently? If another speaker's event were scheduled, what should be done differently?

That concluded the formal part of the meeting. Some members asked questions, then a general conversation continued for some time.

### **Correspondence Inspired by the CIHS AGM to Michael and Jo Molloy**

Darrell Mesheau

*Ed. Note: CIHS member Darrell Mesheau's letter below to former CIHS president Mike Molloy and Jo Molloy, was inspired by the annual general meeting that took place on the evening of 21 October 2021 and is reported above. Thank you to both parties to agreeing to its publication.*

Hi Mike and Jo,

That was a very enjoyable meeting just now. I didn't know all the faces but was pleased to see so many of the alumni.

I particularly enjoyed the discussion concerning the Syrian movement. I didn't stick my oar in the water because I felt that enough had already been said and it was growing late. I still want to say it though, so I'll bend your ear to compensate while it's fresh.

I found the mention of the seven-day processing time to be very reminiscent of our Vienna experience with the Czechs in 1968. We were loading people into Air Canada charters hand over fist as fast as the airline could fly their planes to Vienna. I recall going to the airport one day and seeing more of our Air Canada DC-8 charters on the tarmac than Austrian Airlines planes.

I also recall one day—I'm not sure if you and Doug [Dunnington] were still there but Joyce [Cavanagh-Wood] would have been—when we came into the office in the morning to be told that Air Canada had sent a Stretch DC-8 for whatever reason, rather than the regular size we'd chartered, to fly out later that afternoon. That gave us 40 additional seats to fill. We simply went into the constantly crowded waiting room and asked if anyone could leave that afternoon. We helped the volunteer travellers complete their applications quickly, interviewed them, did quick medicals and cursory visa control checks, and issued the visas so that the plane left at 5:30 that evening with a full load!

The idea of officers trusting one another to complete their applications brought to mind another aspect of the Vienna process. It's not quite the same of course, but in order to facilitate the assembly line of visa processing we actually took turns signing stacks of blank Forms 1000, which was the authoritative form at that time, and leaving them with the staff to carry out the typing once the applications had been accepted.

John Zawisza (nicknamed *Die Löwchen* [little lion dog] by the local staff) didn't have any trouble cutting corners to make things work. I assume the data-systems-driven processes of today might not accept that sort of kink in the order of things so readily. 1968 was a much simpler time.

I also wanted to tie in a conversation at the beginning of the meeting with one later on in the agenda. Growing up in New Brunswick, I never heard the expression "DP" until I was in senior high school. In fact, with the exception of a very few Hungarian refugees in the mid-1950s and some remnants of the post-war Dutch movement, I barely ever heard the word "immigrant". Dawn's mention of the dealings with New Brunswick, and the province's request for over 200 more Syrian immigrants, reminded me of what we have here today. Immigrants have been flowing into the province at an increasing rate since Frank McKenna began telling us that more population was required to keep things growing because we weren't replacing ourselves.

Many Vietnamese arrived in New Brunswick in 1979–1980 through our new one-for-one public/private sponsorship, and Latin American and African refugees began arriving in the 1980s and 1990s. Many others, such as the Yugoslavs, followed. We're told that Fredericton has welcomed more Syrians per capita than any other community in Canada. It's not without its problems, but those issues are being met positively and, speaking as someone who's been watching settlement of arrivals closely for decades, this is one of the best movements I've seen, partly because we're seeing so many adaptable young families.

The Syrian kids are mixing with Canadian kids in school and are doing very well. They're becoming fluent in English quickly and are teaching their parents, as well as interpreting for them. They're building their own communities as well, and that means less tendency to move to other places with stronger economies, something we've suffered from mightily in the past. I find it very rewarding to see the hijab all over the city and being accepted and welcomed by the locals so readily, and even being seen in a most Canadian place—meeting over coffee at Tim Hortons! We've come a long way in a couple of generations.

It's good to see that something's being done as well regarding the Ugandan movement in 1972–1973, though I didn't catch quite what. I was acting head of the Rome post during the beginning of that movement in the fall of 1972, just before being sent to open the office in Buffalo. With a direct flight to Entebbe, Rome was the staging area, sort of a gathering and organizing place and a jumping-off place until the office in Kampala got up and going. We also supplied some of the initial doctors and visa control staff.

I'm very much looking forward to being able to travel and meet more freely again and perhaps attending next year's meeting in person.

Best regards to the both of you,  
Darrell

## **Update on Society Projects**

Michael Molloy

The translation, proofing, and layout of *Cong Lung Van Ganh*, as *Running on Empty* will be called in Vietnamese, are now complete, and at time of writing [20 November 2021], all that remains is to select and caption the photos. If all goes well, a firm in Edmonton may print an initial run of 300 copies before the end of this year. An electronic version is planned for 2022. Editor in chief Professor Dam Trung Phan, a retired engineering-technology professor in Toronto, led a small team of translators. Dr. Hoang Dinh Tri of Edmonton handled design, layout, and production. I acted as project manager and coordinator. We are grateful to the publisher of the original English edition, McGill-Queen's University Press, for waiving fees and royalties.

At the same time, we are participating in a second book project, *Hearts of Freedom: Southeast Asian Refugees in Their Own Words*. This book is based on 173 oral histories collected from former Vietnamese, Laotians, Hmong, and Cambodian refugees, plus involved persons across Canada. The project is part of the Carleton University-based Canadian Southeast Asian Refugee Historical Research Project: [Hearts of Freedom](#). Former Prime Minister Joe Clark and former immigration minister Lloyd Axworthy are among the Canadians interviewed. McGill-Queen's University Press has accepted the book, and its target date for submission is 30 April 2022, for which we are on schedule. The funding that Hearts of Freedom received from Canadian Heritage includes translation costs for a French edition. A documentary film based on several of the oral histories is in the final stages of production. Hearts of Freedom is also preparing a package of curriculum materials for distribution to education ministries across Canada. In 2022 and 2023, a travelling exhibition mounted with the cooperation of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and the Canadian Museum of History will tour the ten communities from Halifax to Vancouver where interviews were conducted.

### **Qui était le ministre de l'immigration en 1957 ?**

Le site de la SHIC contient maintenant deux listes complètes des noms de tous les ministres canadiens responsables des questions d'immigration et de citoyenneté, de 1867 à aujourd'hui. Elles sont publiées avec la permission et la collaboration d'Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada.

### **Just who was the minister of immigration in 1957?**

The CIHS website now includes two complete lists of all of Canada's ministers responsible for citizenship and immigration matters from 1867 to today. They are published with permission from and in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

## The History of Vietnamese Boat People in the Philippines

Jan Top Christensen

*A university lecturer and research fellow in Denmark, the author became head of the UNHCR field office in the Philippine First Asylum Camp (1987–1990). From 1990–2019 he held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, including Director General of the Department of Humanitarian Action and Policy (2001–2007), Ambassador to Lebanon (2007–2013), and Ambassador to the Philippines (2014–2019). He now lives in Ottawa with his Canadian-Vietnamese wife and daughter and is a fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. All photographs are courtesy of the author.*

I am a member of a group of people who held different professional functions in a refugee camp, the Philippine First Asylum Camp (PFAC).

We created a foundation that was formally approved in 2019 by the Security and Exchange Commission of the Philippines. The purpose of the foundation is to create a physical museum in the City of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. This museum will share the story of the Vietnamese fleeing Vietnam between 1975 and 1995: the dramatic exodus; the dangerous trips across the South China Sea in unseaworthy boats with loss of lives; the daily life in the camp for almost 20 years; and the challenging resettlement in third countries. Our focus is on PFAC, which was set up in 1979 for some 3,000 persons but was later extended to house up to 10,000 as a first asylum camp (and not a processing centre as incorrectly written in *Running on Empty*<sup>1</sup>). The first couple of years, camp solutions were temporary in the Philippines, but after some years, the structure became well-defined. PFAC was the only asylum camp for those coming directly to the Philippines. Some came straight to the camp; others went briefly through the transit centre. Some 55,000 asylum seekers spent from one to 20 years in PFAC.

In early 1980, the Philippine Regional Processing Center (PRPC), built to house 18,000 persons, was established in Bataan, two hours by car north-west of Manila. This centre served the whole region and was for those who had already been accepted for resettlement. More than 400,000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were processed, having intensive language training and cultural introduction for four to six months before being sent off to the already-decided resettlement countries.

The Philippine Refugee Transit Center (PRTC) in Parañaque replaced in 1984 the José Fabella Center for those arriving in the northern parts of the Philippines. In 1991, the Regional Refugee Transit Center (RRTC) was established as part of the Comprehensive Plan of Action and can be seen as an expansion of PRPC.

It is also worth mentioning “Viet Ville”. After UNHCR closed down PFAC in 1996, a private initiative involving the Catholic Church in the Philippines and resettled Vietnamese, and financed by the Vietnamese, built a village for the approximately 2,500 “screened-outs” from PFAC who had refused to return to Vietnam. Once more, the Philippine government showed unusual flexibility and humanity, and let the people stay. However, after another ten years, Viet Ville was emptied because the residual group was eventually accepted, on humanitarian grounds, by the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

As a special angle, our museum will also feature how the authorities in the Philippines historically have welcomed refugees and given asylum—unlike what is said in *Running on Empty*<sup>2</sup>—from receiving a Japanese samurai in 1615, to White Russians after the Revolution in 1917, to Jewish refugees. It is interesting to note that Philippine president Manuel Quezon was willing to accept more than the 1,300 Jews arriving but, like Canada, their colonial master the U.S., was not very keen on giving asylum to Jews before World War II.



An old Vietnamese fishing boat used for escape, serving as memorial in PFAC.



Houses in PFAC were nipa huts, according to local tradition

Mindful of the fact that it will take a long time to prepare the groundwork to build a physical museum, we are working on setting up a virtual museum. We expect to launch the website very soon as a work in progress and hope to inspire ex-Vietnamese refugees who lived in PFAC, people who worked in the camp, and others, to contribute with new material and personal stories.

We are collecting materials from the agencies involved—pictures, reports, and statistics—to document how the camp was featured in local and international media. And we are collecting objects from the camp and interviews with both the Vietnamese refugees, people working in the camp, and local authorities.

A sneak peek of the virtual museum can be had at [www.pfacmuseum.org](http://www.pfacmuseum.org), but remember, it is a work in progress. Comments are most welcome. If you want to know more, or have material or ideas for the museum, you are most welcome to contact Jan Top Christensen at [jantop.jtc@gmail.com](mailto:jantop.jtc@gmail.com).



Children in PFAC on departure day, ready for resettlement

<sup>1</sup> From *Running on Empty*, page 345: "In 1979, the Philippines opened a camp on the western Filipino island of Palawan near the city of Puerto Princesa, bordered by the ocean and an airport. This camp was to be a refugee processing centre, capable of holding up to 18,000 refugees while they were tested for tuberculosis and completed immigration requirements." Michael J. Molloy et al. *Running on Empty: Canada and the Indochinese Refugees, 1975-1980* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> From *Running on Empty*, page 342: "Like many countries in Southeast Asia, the Philippines was not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention related to the status of refugees. It did not have resources to settle large numbers of refugees, nor did it have a history of providing asylum".

## Donald Milburn, Part I: A Journey into Immigration

Kurt F. Jensen

*Ed: CIHS board member Kurt Jensen prepared this series of articles from Donald Milburn's memoirs, a copy of which Milburn donated to the Canadian Immigration Historical Society for its archives.*

Donald Milburn first joined Canada's immigration service on a temporary assignment in the summer of 1947. At that time, it was part of the Department of Mines and Resources, with immigration possibly viewed, in Milburn's mind, as one of the resources. Details of his recruitment and his previous experience have been lost, although we do know that he was a veteran who served in World War II. We also know that immediately upon recruitment, he was assigned to the border crossing at Kingsgate, B.C. Milburn and his family boosted the town's population to fifty-three.

Kingsgate was little more than a dot on the map. It boasted a small hotel, complete with beer parlour and gas pumps. A café-store combination met local needs, and a motel provided accommodations for those passing through. Kingsgate's prime purpose was as a border-crossing point between Canada and the American town of Eastport, Idaho. The crossing operated from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., when the U.S. Customs staff promptly pulled a steel gate across the highway. The total regional population on both sides of the border numbered about 200 but fluctuated seasonally.

Upon arrival in Kingsgate that August, Milburn located Bill Dunbar, the local man in charge of immigration. Dunbar arranged for the family to stay at the small local hotel and handed Milburn copies of the *Immigration Act* and regulations and the *Citizenship Act* to study before reporting for duty the following morning. The border crossing was very active at that time of year, with tourists heading in both directions. Immigration was not involved with Canadians heading south but Canada Customs checked southbound traffic since Canada still had restrictions on currency leaving the country. Incoming traffic was screened to identify those U.S. residents who were not citizens to ensure they possessed lawful permanent resident cards ("green cards") enabling their return to that country.

Within a couple of weeks, Milburn had learned sufficient immigration legal and operational procedures to conduct his own admissions inquiries. He loved the work, and he and his family loved the calm life in the small town. His wife had been pregnant when they arrived, and their son John was born in January 1948. Roughly at that point, the job ended. Milburn knew it had been a temporary assignment but hoped it would last longer.

By that time, their home was a two-room tourist cabin. It met their needs, and with a newly arrived baby, they decided to remain where they were. Milburn applied for unemployment insurance in nearby Cranbrook but received little because of the brief period of employment. He earned a few dollars as a barkeep at the hotel and for working the gas pumps. He also cut timber for railroad ties and mine props and helped at a sawmill. Some earnings came from cutting firewood across the border in Idaho with friends. Fishing and hunting augmented the family's food supply, but life was lean for most of 1948.

Probably in 1949 a propitious event occurred. One of the remaining full-time immigration officers in Kingsgate left government service to return to Vancouver. Milburn, still in Kingsgate, was asked to fill the vacancy while Ottawa sought to staff the position permanently. Dunbar, the local head of immigration, proposed Milburn to fill the position, and Regional Headquarters, then in Winnipeg, supported the application. The Ottawa bureaucracy looked at the earlier eligibility list from which Milburn had gained his temporary appointment. Milburn had been number twelve on that list. One eligible person remained ahead of Milburn: a customs officer in Kingsgate whose name had never been removed from the list. That other officer received an offer of employment from Ottawa, but having already secured an advancement in Customs, rejected it. The way was clear for Milburn, who was hired and measured for a uniform, which arrived in due course. He began his career with a salary of less than \$3,000 per year.

During the summer of 1950, Milburn processed an automobile with Alberta licence plates. The driver was named Mather, the same as his best war-time friend who was killed by a mine in Italy. The couple in the car were the parents of that friend. He invited them home and showed them pictures taken of their son when he was still based in England—many of which he gave them, knowing it was what his friend would have wanted him to do.

That same summer, the Korean War started, and Milburn received a letter from the Department of National Defence reminding him of his Reserve Officer status and a likely call for volunteers for duty in Asia. At roughly the same time, he also saw a recruitment poster for the "Overseas Immigration Service", to which he responded. That autumn he received two letters from Ottawa on the same day. The first was from National Defence offering re-instatement at his previous rank with an immediate transfer to a U.S. army base in Texas for training. The second letter was from Immigration headquarters in Ottawa asking him to appear for an interview with a Mr. George Benoit regarding overseas service. With a wife and a small child, he chose the immigration option.

Reaching Ottawa by train, he stayed at the Lord Elgin Hotel across the street from Immigration headquarters. Five other officers were there for similar interviews. The three-hour interview the following day was harrowing, ending with Benoit informing him, "Mr. Milburn, you're not making it". Milburn responded angrily, "In that case, Mr. Benoit, we are wasting one another's time. Goodbye," stood up, and headed for the door. Benoit yelled at him to stop. He told Milburn that the interview team had been worried he would be unable to say "no" to an applicant. Milburn's response showed he could, and he was told he would shortly hear details of his training course for overseas service.

Milburn returned to Kingsgate with the happy news and dreams of wonderful postings to Western Europe, where most offices were located at the time. He and the other successful applicants were familiar with the immigration selection process but would receive training on settlement information to be provided to successful immigration applicants. Milburn reported to Ottawa for training in early 1951. His training class included Jimmy Bonner from Fort Francis, Sid Empson from Winnipeg, Ernie Reed from Boisevain, Don Brown and Fred Norman from Toronto, and Vic Moran also from Winnipeg but from the district headquarters rather than a field office. For several days they learned about headquarters operations, including citizenship. Then a six-month "cross-Canada tour" began in Vancouver, chosen as the starting point because the country was still in the throes of winter.

In British Columbia, they visited logging camps high in the mountains, sawmills, plywood and pulp mills, fish-processing plants, and other types of factories, all chosen to expose the trainees to postwar economic growth and the region's growing employment needs.

In the months that followed, the trainees travelled as far west as Port Alberni, B.C., and as far east as St. John's, Newfoundland, and to Peace River, Alberta in the north to see farming, and to Pincher Creek in the south to see ranching. They viewed sugar beets, sunflower farms, coal mining, grain elevators, gold and hard rock mines, as well as shipyards, and textile and forest industries. They saw industries great and small, including wooden boat building (dories) in Newfoundland. They were exposed to every conceivable employment environment as well as teaching and cultural centres. Milburn took from the training a new pride in the growth of his country and an understanding of how the Immigration service could help the country by providing the right people for further growth.

The final train ride of the trainees together was a return to Ottawa for days of debriefings on their travel, what worked, and what was missing. Each trainee met with George Benoit to receive his first posting. Milburn was to go to the Netherlands.

In preparing to leave Kingsgate, which had been home to the family for four years, he reflected on how much they loved and enjoyed the natural beauty of their surroundings. Time had been spent hunting and fishing in the summer and skiing in the winter. They liked their neighbours.

And there were many outstanding memories relating to Milburn's job on the border. He remembered a Studebaker racing through the border from the U.S., without stopping, only to reappear from a bend in the road a short distance inside Canada. It then reversed at nearly the same speed with which it had crashed the border and stopped at a perplexed Donald Milburn. The driver was world-famous singer Bing Crosby, apologizing profusely, saying he was deep in thought about a poker game he was heading to in Jasper. A week later, on his way back, when he did not need to stop on the Canadian side, he parked his car and came in to chat with the people on duty, telling them he had won enough to pay for his trip.

When the time came to leave Kingsgate, the family drove to Minburn in central Alberta to visit with Milburn's parents for a couple of weeks before taking the train to Montreal to board the SS *Ryndam* of the Holland-America Line. The family had first class accommodations and a wonderful voyage to Rotterdam, en route to their first foreign assignment.

*Ed.: This is the first of three parts. The next issue of the Bulletin follows Milburn and his family on their posting to The Hague, their return to Canada, and a second posting to The Hague with some temporary duty in Copenhagen. At that point Ottawa informed overseas immigration officers that their continued service abroad would require a university degree or, in its absence, a successful completion of the Foreign Service Officers exam.*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear CIHS,

I have very much enjoyed Robert Shalka's "The Resettlement of European Refugees in Canada" series [*CIHS Bulletin*, Issues # 96, 97 and 98]. One significant, but often overlooked movement, was the very first group to be resettled from overseas. I am referring to the selection and resettlement of 2,876 Polish men from the Polish II Corps in Italy.

In Bulletin 97, Robert makes brief mention of "the 1946 decision to admit up to 4,000 Polish veterans for agricultural work". One quirk for this group was the fact they would only receive temporary status for the first two years, after which landing would be granted if they had fulfilled their work contracts, been of good behaviour and complied with immigration laws. A team comprising two RCMP officers, two doctors from Health and Welfare, and three officers from the Department of Labour proceeded to Italy in late August 1946. Notably, the team had no officers from the Immigration Branch of Mines and Resources. Operating at three camps within a 90 km radius of Ancona, on Italy's east coast, they concluded their work in mid-October. The selected Poles arrived in Halifax on two British ships during November 1946. The first displaced persons from Europe did not begin to arrive until the spring of 1947.

Yours sincerely,  
John Baker

P.S. One of the World War II war crimes cases that I was involved in, after retirement, came from this group.

## Reply from Robert Shalka

John Baker's letter with information about the government's decision to accept Polish veterans as farm workers is much appreciated. The World War II odyssey of Polish military and civilians to reach territories controlled by the Western Allies is a fascinating one. An initial group escaped the German advance in 1939 by crossing into Romania and continuing to France and Britain. Following the 1941 invasion of the U.S.S.R., many Poles interned in Soviet camps were allowed to leave the "Socialist paradise" via Iran. They established a Polish military presence in the Middle East and, eventually, participated in the Italian campaign and as part of the First Canadian Army in Northwest Europe. As the war progressed, numbers of German prisoners of war (POWs) with a claim to being Polish were also recruited.

With the close of hostilities, it was increasingly evident that most Poles in the West had no wish to return to a Poland controlled by communists or to areas incorporated into the U.S.S.R. Over time, these persons were resettled, especially following the large-scale programs for displaced persons from 1947.

The early immigration movement of Polish veterans for farm work illustrates how the Government of Canada was feeling its way cautiously into a return to immigration (from Europe and the "British Isles" chiefly) after World War II. The small



number of refugees admitted to Canada during the war on temporary status was allowed to remain. Bringing 4,000 Polish veterans to Canada from Italy and the U.K. was in part a matter of “enlightened self-interest” to meet a labour market need at minimal cost to the government. During the war, Canada had housed large numbers of German POWs who had been employed in farm and forestry work. Their impending repatriation threatened labour shortages that could be met with Polish veterans. The movement also met a humanitarian objective, as the Poles had fought alongside Canadians in Europe. The government did not hesitate to mention the Polish veteran movement as an early example of Canada “doing its bit”.

The movement was not without controversy. The communist-dominated government in Warsaw demanded that its citizens be repatriated to help rebuild a “new Poland”. In Canada itself, Polish organizations took opposing positions in testifying before the Senate Committee on Labour and Immigration. The Polish National Congress supported the movement. It strongly opposed its pro-communist counterpart, which claimed that all Poles in Western Europe opposed to returning were fascists, nationalists, collaborators, and traitors or beguiled by them. At the same time, the Canadian Jewish Congress alleged that Jewish veterans in the Polish forces wishing to apply as farm workers were screened out by Polish officers on the grounds that they did not have the necessary agricultural experience.

Some 750 participants in the movement were sent to Alberta. Their story is in part covered in Polish-Canadian historian Aldona Jaworska’s 2019 work, *Polish War Veterans in Alberta: The Last Four Stories*, published by the University of Alberta Press. A great deal of information is available online, including contemporaneous newsreels depicting arrivals of Poles in Iran from the U.S.S.R.

## **Deputy Minister Catrina Tapley Speaks to Canadian Immigration Historical Society Members**

Anne Arnott

On 14 September 2021, at our first members-only speaker event, Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Catrina Tapley spoke via Zoom about the delivery of IRCC’s programs during 18 months of the pandemic. We are very grateful to her for making the time despite her extremely busy schedule.

DM Tapley opened by saying that it had been a challenging, disruptive, and momentous year but that it was a pleasure to lead a mission-driven organization that was constantly striving to improve.

We went into crisis mode in March of 2020 and for many of us, that may remain our state of mind. It’s been an extremely challenging 18 months, but there is also reason to be proud and to be hopeful. IRCC has adapted and innovated in so many ways during this time, ranging from the services we provide to the way we work. Imagine the reality of repatriating almost all of our Canada-based officers to Canada, the reality of closing our offices in Canada, and the reality of figuring out, with our staff and their bargaining agents, how individuals in key roles could return safely to their office environments. The department rose to confront policy and operational challenges to be able to continue to deliver, as best we could, on the minister’s mandate and the government’s evolving priorities. And, all this with a focus on what our clients experience. And most recently, an extraordinary and urgent effort to evacuate thousands of people from Afghanistan.

The deputy minister spoke of the disruption and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, and the nimbleness, patience, and creativity demonstrated by staff and clients. Traditional ways of working were challenged, and some were replaced with virtual tools. “What we realized was that many of our clients applauded these efforts as a step forward in service delivery”. But, she emphasized, the pandemic also had negative and sometimes devastating effects on newcomers, singling out the loss of life among seasonal workers on farms and processing plants across the country, workers who had been allowed into Canada despite the lockdown and considerable personal risk to maintain Canada’s food supply and to support their families at home. “Each one of those deaths was a tragedy that we will not forget”.

Another challenge that became apparent very early was that newcomers and racialized Canadians were at increased risk of contracting Covid-19. They were often working in front-line occupations that supported Canadians through the pandemic, such as health care and the service industry, which put them at higher risk of exposure to the virus as well as greater economic instability. One of the actions taken by IRCC to recognize their tireless efforts was to provide a new pathway to permanent residency for these “guardian angels”.

DM Tapley spoke of the “overwhelming collective push across the department by a dedicated workforce that wanted to continue to deliver on our important mandate”. Allowing employees to work from home and to find ways to serve clients virtually required significant technical support and innovation, as well as extensive outreach and a new approach to

operations. In many ways, the pandemic accelerated changes started over the past few years—moving from place-based to activity-based processing, workload sharing, and the e-medical system, which allows medical officers to focus on more complex cases and analysis. During the push to bring in Syrian refugees, the technology platform—the Global Case Management System—allowed back-office work on files to be done in different locations and different time zones to maximize overall productivity. When frontline officers arrived in the morning, their colleagues in other locations had already done considerable work on the files. The ongoing Digital Platform Modernization initiative at IRCC “will contribute to another complete overhaul in the way our processing system functions for the passport, citizenship, and immigration programs”. Paper applications had been moved to a digital format, allowing processing anywhere there was capacity in IRCC’s network. New online citizenship tests and virtual citizenship ceremonies facilitated the important task of granting citizenship. Partner agencies such as settlement and resettlement agencies “demonstrated resilience and ingenuity”, assisting with vaccine uptake, hosting pop-up clinics, and working with health authorities to raise awareness of newcomers’ challenges. DM Tapley concluded this segment of her talk by saying that the department was “working hard to sustain the innovations we’ve achieved well beyond the pandemic. We want an immigration system that is easier to navigate, more efficient at processing applications, and more welcoming to newcomers”.

The deputy minister then spoke briefly about IRCC’s role in assisting Afghans to come to Canada following the Taliban takeover, particularly those who had previously assisted the Canadian government, military and media. She emphasized that IRCC was “working to the point of exhaustion and beyond” and that this would continue. IRCC staff and partner agencies were working as hard as possible to bring Afghans to Canada while “working diligently to ensure that Canadians’ health and safety were never compromised”. A temporary Afghan task team had been created, led by three directors general, to provide a governance structure and focus to ensure that as many Afghans as possible could be moved to safety.

Following her remarks, the deputy minister took questions from the members present. We were honoured to have her speak with us.

### **Upcoming Virtual Presentation to the Ottawa Historical Society**

One of our CIHS members, Rob Vineberg, will speak to the Ottawa Historical Society on the topic of “Larocque’s Department Store: A Personal History”, on 27 April 2022, as part of its Virtual Speaker Series. Vineberg has written a book about the store, which was purchased by his grandfather in 1927 and became the family business. For more information and to register for this virtual (on Zoom) meeting, please visit the Ottawa Historical Society’s [website](#).

## **In Memoriam**

### **Bullock, David**

A former immigration foreign service officer and program manager who worked in London, The Hague, Vienna, and Oslo, David Bullock passed away on 1 October 2021, in his 90th year. He was an important presence in the CIHS after his retirement from Canada Post. He was a CIHS lifetime member, the CIHS president for four and a half years, and editor of the CIHS Bulletin from early 2006 to the end of 2007. He is remembered warmly.

#### *Remembered by Nestor Gayowsky*

The Bullocks were my closest friends for many years and I stayed in touch with them, including at The Ravens, until communication between us proved impossible. Friends are a part of the fabric of our own lives and, selfishly, it is hard to lose them. But remembering the good times helps.

#### *Remembered by Michael Molloy*

David was one of the officers in the very first group of university graduates recruited as immigration foreign service officers in 1957.

When the Czechoslovakian refugee issue erupted in August 1968, David, who was in charge of the Hague office, was ordered to Vienna to reinforce the management team there. It was in Vienna that trainees Doug Dunnington and I first met him. He was very kind to us and took us one weekend for a ride in his snazzy BMW—I had never even seen a BMW before—and we quickly learned that David loved speed, which suited us fine. There was one solemn moment when we approached the Czechoslovakian border and saw a Russian tank guarding the approach to the crossing.

David and his wife Mary were true sophisticates, with a deep love of classical music, jazz, good wine, good food, and fine automobiles. Their contribution to the Ottawa arts and culture scene was such that I recall that CBC Radio devoted a two-hour program to them some years ago.

*Remembered by Raphael Girard*

I think David was Class of 1957 with Jacques Denault, Elsa Amadio, and so many others. I recall his rebuttal to one of my articles in the Bulletin about the exclusion of immigration foreign service from the FS category. When I joined, the highest grade available was AO4, despite my having been offered an FS1 by the Public Service Commission on my recruitment, and no doubt similar to what the class of 1957 had been offered but not in fact granted when the old-line foreign service departments closed ranks to exclude us. He was in Oslo when we were cutting back in Europe. When he came home, he left to join the Post Office. That would have been in 1972 or 1973. In later years David took on the presidency of the CIHS, so I would encounter him periodically at meetings and at Ottawa Symphony socials, where he was an avid supporter.

*Remembered by Elsa Amadio*

Your news of his demise has brought flashbacks. The first is of the party we, the June 1957 trainees, held in honour of Mary, the newly arrived spouse of David. They had met in London. David and Jim Turnbull were the first to be posted abroad (London), whereas the rest of us left in January 1959. David met me at the airport and took me to the Cumberland Hotel—a businessmen's hotel, where I required a stool to get in and out of the high bed! When the rest of the trainees arrived (they came by ship), in afterwork hours and with the guidance of Mary, we enjoyed many a dinner together sampling the varied cuisine that Soho offered, theatre, and sightseeing. Mary and Anne Turnbull did their best to change my single status, introducing me to eligible males, but obviously never succeeded. David and Jim were then posted to other locations.

The Bullocks came to visit during my posting in Dublin. I came to appreciate his gourmet taste when I was unable to provide the mayonnaise requested for the Irish salmon! He also loved cars and particularly the Aston Lagonda. He gave Mary for Christmas a course in winter driving, and I appreciated the tips he also gave me, new to the wheel. I continued to see them on and off during my Ottawa sojourns and much appreciated Mary's sense of humour and international cuisine. After the vicissitudes our group of foreign service officers experienced, David and some others left for other employment, much to the detriment of the service. I did not come across them again but enjoy warm memories of our times together.

## **Champoux, Lloyd**

Former immigration foreign service officer and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient for his RCAF service as a bomb aimer on Lancaster bombers during World War II, Lloyd Champoux passed away in North Vancouver on 2 October 2021. He was 97 years old. He started his immigration career in Vancouver, and then his international career took off with postings to Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, Belfast, Trinidad, and Chicago. He also worked in Nelson, B.C., and Ottawa.

*Remembered by Mike Molloy*

Lloyd was born in 1924 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and despite the name, he grew up in an anglophone family. He was prevented from joining the RCAF early in the war, but later the RCAF came back for him because whatever the vision problem was, it was an advantage in a bomb aimer. He was posted to RCAF squadron 428 (the "Ghost Squadron") and was in the first crew that survived a full 31 missions—all those ahead of him and his crew were lost long before they got to 31.

When I got to Tokyo, another officer was assigned as my trainer, and after six months I told my wife, Jo, that I was going to quit because I could not understand how decisions were made. Lloyd and I had adjoining offices, and the day after the other guy left, Lloyd came into my office and said "Forget everything you've been told. Your training starts today". He saved my career. Struggling to make ends meet in Tokyo on a PM2 salary, then the most expensive city in the world, we only tasted beef when Lloyd and Lynn invited us for dinner, which they kindly did several times each year.

As an aside, Lloyd's sly sense of humour was demonstrated by the signature he created for an automated letter writing machine that was used in the Central Processing Office in the 1960s that processed applications from Area A – Asia, Africa, and South America. Thousands of letters were dispatched to the four corners of the world bearing the signature "I.M. Cepeau" (I am CPO). Mr. Cepeau received thousands of letters in return.

Lloyd really liked chocolate, and after his retirement, he opened several chocolate shops in the Vancouver area. When a big chocolate company bought him out, he and his spouse, Lynn, moved to Kelowna, where he lived until she passed away. (Her passing was recorded in the Bulletin.)

### *Remembered by Doug Dunnington*

I remember Lloyd well from our days together in London. I soon referred to him as the Silver Fox because of his wavy hair, warm smile, and savvy about the immigration program. Lloyd had a wealth of experience gleaned from his time in Vancouver, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. In London, he headed the “White Team” processing unit before taking over the administration position when Gordon Whitehead left for Cologne. Marilyn Stuart-Major summed up Lloyd well: “He was a very sweet man who was so supportive of us young ‘uns””.

The CIHS also received brief condolences from Gordon and Jinny Whitehead, and from Bob Romano.

### **Orr, Randy**

Randy Orr, an immigration foreign service officer of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), passed away on 15 September 2021 in Ottawa. He had postings to Manila, New York, and Buffalo. From 1995 to 1998, Randy served as president of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society and more recently was the department’s representative to the CIHS.



At the International Metropolis Conference 2019 in Ottawa, Canada. L-R: Tareq Hadhad, Randy Orr. [credit: Les Escobar]

He filled these roles superbly. He was invaluable in coordinating the CIHS’s promotional activities with IRCC, the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers, Metropolis events, and other entities, and he participated in the CIHS sub-group that established the CIHS Molloy Bursary. In recognition of his substantial contributions to the CIHS, the Society has made a donation for cancer research in his memory to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation and is sharing with members some historical details of his tenure as president along with reminiscences of former colleagues.

The written record is a bit thin, but President Dawn Edlund and Charlene Elgee, the Society’s archivist, succeeded in unearthing the following nuggets from minutes of various meetings during those years and from a contemporaneous Bulletin.

*From Charlene Elgee:* Many of the minutes of executive meetings (I have some records but not a comprehensive collection) in my possession have a statement about Randy’s plans and activities:

16 November 1995: “The new President stated that between the meeting and Christmas he planned to contact a few members each week personally to make them feel welcome and valued in the Society”.

16 May 1996: “The Society was pleased to attract that number [42] of people [to the annual cocktail party] without the support of PAFSO that we had enjoyed last year. Some of this may have been due to the posting of notices in both Place du Portage and the Journal Towers. . . . The president wondered, with greater numbers of persons moving every week to the Journal Towers, whether we should consider holding the Annual General Meeting there on a Thursday, instead of our usual Saturday morning timeframe”.

That year’s AGM was in fact held on Wednesday, 12 June 1996 at 7:00 p.m.

In general, there are several discussions within the meetings around the work of the department and the CIHS’s interaction with it. Reading between the lines can be a dangerous thing to do, but it’s not a big leap to discern Randy’s enthusiasm and collaborative spirit at work.

27 February 1997: “The CIHS is seeking ways to raise its profile with serving members of C&I. In this regard, we are hoping to enlist the services of Joe Bissett, who is due back from Russia this spring. The idea would be to ask Joe to undertake a lunch time talk, possibly within the Journal Building, on his experiences as Ambassador to Yugoslavia and more recently as head of the IOM in Russia. The suggestion here is that the CIHS would offer this as a free event and would supply coffee and sandwiches to attendees.

There is also a discussion of sponsoring a couple of other social functions to drum up interest.

17 April 1997: [As part of a discussion about such social events as the annual CIHS cocktail party and the best time and location to attract the most people.] “With regard to CIHS participation in a sponsorship role with the PAFSO Awards dinner, Randy has negotiated our sponsorship for a relatively modest financial outlay and sought the approval of those present to finalize details”.

17 June 1997: “The noon-hour talk by Joe Bissett took place in the south tower of the Jean Edmonds complex, with coffee and muffins provided by the CIHS”.

*From Dawn Edlund:* It seems as though only a small number of people attended the AGM on 3 Oct 1998, so the group met on the couches of the outer lounge area, rather than in the room that had been booked at DFAIT’s HQ. And, it would also seem that the board itself—and perhaps the “members at large” group—had been shrinking.

Bulletin 31: It should be noted that, in a somewhat “Gordian-knot” move, outgoing President Randy Orr drafted onto the Board *all* of the CIHS members who attended the AGM, since they represent the hard core of our support with[in] the National Capital Region and the bedrock of our hopes for the survival and future of the Society. Those of us who have been serving for many years look forward warmly to the fresh ideas, new perspectives, and energy of the new Board Members.

Susan Burrows succeeded Randy as the next president, the third woman to take on the role, after Viggi Ring and Joyce Cavanagh-Wood. So, in October 1998, Randy revived the CIHS’s fortunes, at least from the perspective of those who came on to the board. There is no list of who these “drafted” folk were, but from that Bulletin and the next two, the list is as follows (with no separate list of who the “members at large” might have been):

President: Susan Burrows  
Treasurer: Alan Troy  
Editor, Bulletin: Bernard Brodie / Del McKay  
Secretary: Bernard Brodie  
Membership: Al Gunn

*Remembered by Alan Desnoyers*

Earlier in March 2020, as Covid first hit, Randy and I were finalizing a date for the Pier 21 musical to come to Ottawa for a presentation to the Ministry of Immigration a day before the 75th anniversary of VE-Day, but as most everyone experienced (including veterans who were scheduled to commemorate overseas), everything was suspended.

He’d reached out in April this year to offer his empathy for the state of affairs with the theatre scene vis-à-vis Covid, and his congratulations on my Pier 21 pilot script, offering this: “I hope that we can continue our connections as you develop your latest project”.

I’m very grateful I had a chance to meet him in person—he was a unique and thoughtful man. He was very supportive at the 2019 Metropolis conference and went out of his way to make my little theatre company feel welcome. Leading up to that, he enjoyed chatting on the phone about theatre in general. I believe it was an earlier passion and he’d been a performer. He will be remembered fondly.

*Remembered by Anne Arnott*

I had the pleasure of working with Randy from 1998 to 2002 at the consulate general in New York (CNGNY). Randy was the supervisor of the visitor section, the most important unit in our office, and he did the job extremely well. At that time, while we certainly did immigrant cases, we processed many thousands of visitor visas to largely walk-in clients. We also did a very large number of minister’s permits for inadmissible entertainers destined to Canada. I would get the call from the lawyer (because Randy’s voicemail box was full) and then go down the hall to Randy to ask him to “do the needful”. He was always the first person in the office and the last to leave—even during the FS work to rule when he was the shop steward and I had to threaten to tell the other union members if he didn’t go home at the normal quitting time. He was terrific with staff and a good manager, had good judgement on cases, and was a supportive and cheerful colleague. No matter how many people came into our waiting room during the morning (and in summer we would often issue more than 300 visas each day to walk-in clients and refuse many others), every case was concluded by close of business.

During the 9/11 crisis, he was a rock, talking to clients in our waiting room, reassuring staff and ensuring that all the urgent visas were processed in the coming days. While the rest of us were pulled in many directions to help with the larger issues, he kept this work going.

Randy was a very private person. He occasionally spoke about the driving trips he did on weekends, but I never heard much about his private life other than that his mother and siblings lived in Mississauga. At the end of his time in New York, he cross-posted to Buffalo because he said that he wanted to continue to be close to his ailing mother.

Randy was a very active and involved member of the CIHS board as our IRCC liaison. He was extremely helpful in a number of our endeavours, and he made many important contacts for us. He will certainly be missed.

*Remembered by Joyce Cavanagh-Wood*

Randy arrived in Bangkok on temporary duty to assist with the Vietnamese Family Reunification Program in the late 1980s. That was our first meeting, and I was delighted to have him along on the arduous but boring trip to Ho Chi Minh City. He worked hard, was cheerful, and easy to manage, so when I was told in 2002 he would be joining the Buffalo team, where I was also posted, I was quite pleased.

On arrival, Randy fitted in easily to the busy Buffalo pace. He was unfailingly cheerful, got on well with all staff, and could be relied upon to do any and every thing that needed doing. At the time, we were tasked with rejigging the physical plant to accommodate more staff and thousands more files. Without more space, and in an already cramped office. Randy took this on and did a great job, wheedling and cajoling staff, pushing suppliers, and generally ensuring the success of the project.

Randy maintained a very private personal life. I assumed he was a bachelor, as he worked long hours and never mentioned entertaining anyone in his home. When watching Randy's memorial service, I was astounded to learn that he was married and a devout Catholic. This made me realize that, although I certainly enjoyed working with him, I really did not know him at all.

*Remembered by Enrico del Castello*

As a colleague and a friend of Randy, I will miss him very much. He was a generous and fantastic human being. It was a pleasure and an honour to work with him. He was knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and a great team player. He was always ready to give a hand and good advice. Randy was a member of my International Metropolis Conference 2019 team, and his work greatly contributed to the success and recognition the conference received from around the world. He rounded up volunteers, advised our team on international issues, and helped resolve tricky situations the conference organization was facing. St. Augustine teaches us that we never lose the people who are dear to us as they continue to live in Him who is alive. He will watch us from above and continue to be near us. May he rest in peace and his memory be a blessing.

**Pflanz, Benno (Ben)**

Retired Canadian head of mission (Sri Lanka and Maldives), immigration program manager, and immigration foreign service officer Ben Pflanz passed away in Cochrane, Alberta in late August, 2021. There is no published obituary as of 6 December 2021. His distinguished foreign service career took him and his family to postings in Europe (Munich, Stuttgart, Milan, and London), Asia (Tokyo, Seoul, Manila, and Colombo), and Africa (Nairobi). He also worked in diverse areas in headquarters, such as the Europe geographic desk, immigration recruitment and selection policy, and as director in the former "Social Affairs" Personnel Division. Ben Pflanz was an open-hearted and admired colleague and mentor to many. Former colleague Marius Grinius kindly provided the photographs in this section.

*Remembered by Ernest Allen*

I had the pleasure of working with Ben during the late 1980s. He was the director of External Affairs' Asia and Pacific Programs Division at the time, managing an oddly mismatched combination of Immigration and Public Affairs. He accomplished this challenge with a blend of good humour and Germanic thoroughness, somehow juggling the competing demands of two assistant deputy ministers. Concurrently he found time to resurrect the then largely lifeless Immigration Historical Society. Ben was a good friend and highly respected colleague; he will be missed by all who knew him.



*Remembered by John Baker*

Ben and I sat in a windowless room in the Bourque Building for several months from 1977 to 1978, writing several chapters of the new manual for the 1976 *Immigration Act*. Ben was his usual detail-oriented, hard-working, and often funny self. But after a few weeks, Ben began calling us “Terminal Twos”: two FS2s with no hopes of promotion (at the time), whose best assignment was writing a manual no one would want to read. I replaced him in Nairobi seven years later, and we often saw each other in the late 1980s at Fort Pearson. Ben earned the respect and affection of all who worked with him.

*Remembered by Jacques and Maria Beaulne*

In April 1972, Maria and I arrived in Milan for my first assignment as officer-in-charge. A few days earlier, Ben and his family had left on their cross-posting to Seoul. I had never met Ben but heard very positive comments regarding his professional abilities as a colleague and supervisor. For Ben and Connie, Milan had been a bittersweet posting. The untimely fatal accident of their baby son was, of course, a trying period for them. But Milan, and Italy in general, had met all their other expectations. The trepidation I had about replacing Ben soon disappeared when I discovered how smooth-running an office and competent staff he had put in place.

Given that, before leaving the foreign service, Maria had worked with Ben in Stuttgart, the following comments are hers: I was sent to Stuttgart as part of my training tour, and Ben immediately very generously shared his knowledge with me and helped me better understand the facts we had learned during the Ottawa training. When I was subsequently posted to Cologne, we continued to share and exchange job information. He was always very precise with his comments and absolutely reliable for the correctness of his information. I very much admired his abilities and his comportment as a diplomat and always held him in very high esteem. We are both saddened to hear that he has died and extend our sincere condolences to his family.

*Remembered by James Bissett*

Benno—He was one of the best. A big man with a big heart. Connie and Ben were among our best friends, and through the years we played tennis and cards (never bridge, Leslie and I were not at their level), ate some great meals, and drank bottles of wine and lots of cognac and scotch. I was in fairly frequent phone contact with Ben up until the last few weeks. He had been ailing. During our last call, he was afraid he might lose his driving licence, but was enjoying his cooking and coming to terms with old age. Gavin Stewart has now heard that Ben died in his chair watching TV and enjoying a bowl of soup—not a bad way to say goodbye and a blessing in many ways. Nevertheless, we who knew him will surely miss him. To borrow from Shakespeare, “There was a man, take him for all and all, I shall not look upon his like again”.



*Remembered by Susan Gregson*

Ben and I were “sole” mates—while he was in London and I was in Rome in the 1990s, we both suffered from plantar fasciitis and would commiserate regularly. I also remember his kindness when he was in Personnel—always so encouraging and understanding. Reading all the lovely tributes in this thread is very moving—my sincere condolences to Ben's family.

*Remembered by Raphael Girard*

In September 1963, when I was driving east from British Columbia in my Austin Mini to join the immigration department, all across the prairies I was either passed by or passing a green Volkswagen for what seemed like days on end. We would wave and it got to be a joke, but we never stopped in the same place to introduce ourselves. Well, what do you think? When I arrived at the Jackson Building in Ottawa on 3 September, parked out front was the very same Volks with Alberta plates. Inside, I met Ben. He was enrolling for the Junior Executive Program, and I was going to work for immigration in the foreign service. We spent most of that week together. He ended up in the Post Office. During our chats, however, he learned about immigration and quickly determined that my job was going to be a whole lot more interesting than his. He applied in the FS recruitment cycle in 1964, and the rest is history.

*Remembered by Marius Grinius*

I only knew Ben by his solid reputation before my first (and only) visit to Sri Lanka in late 1993 as the new director for what was then “Asia Pacific South” and where Ben was high commissioner. Because of the unpredictable security situation, he insisted that I stay with him and Connie at the official residence, a cherished introduction to their professionalism and personal warmth.

Ben and I then took off on a road adventure from Colombo to Batticaloa (the site of recent outrages), south along the east coast and then up to Kandy before returning to Colombo and a series of meetings that Ben had arranged at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and elsewhere. Ben also held several working dinners at the official residence with various journalists and non-governmental organizations. They discussed, contrary to the official line, the unhappy state of their country at the time.

I have provided a photo of Ben, with welcoming garland, taken during one official stop on our road adventure. Ben was the ideal fellow traveller and introduced me to so many, often contradictory, aspects of what was then Sri Lanka. Among Ben's contacts in Batticaloa was a Jesuit priest who had been in-country for some 40 years and was later written up in *The Economist* for his *persona non grata* designation because he knew too much.

Besides Ben's professionalism, what struck me was his warmth and humanity. Even his cigar smoking could be forgiven. Condolences to Ben's family.

*Remembered by Kurt Jensen*

I worked with/for Ben for six months in Kirk Bell's policy bureau when I returned in 1977 from my posting to Stockholm. He was a good and kind man, always genuinely pleasant and helpful to someone who still had much to learn about immigration policy. I next was in contact with Ben in the late 1980s when he headed Personnel at DFAIT. My job required me to obtain detailed backgrounds on some officers, and Ben was always accommodating and good at helping me interpret information in the files. He was one of the "greats" of immigration.

*Remembered by Jeff Le Bane*

Ben was exceptionally good-natured, generous, and hardworking. I remember well working for him in Personnel when we were at EAITC and when he was high commissioner to Sri Lanka. We would go walking at lunch hour to buy his small cigars and lottery tickets and discuss the world as well as his early years in Canada. Ben and Connie were very kind and supportive when Claire and I had our second child. When we were posted to New Delhi in 1990, Ben and Connie were out at the airport the whole time before our departure to help out with our three young kids and give final instructions. Thanks, Benno, for everything. You made your mark.

*Remembered by Darrell Mesheau*

I first met Ben while passing through Stuttgart in 1967 while he worked there with Les Scott from my class. Ben came to Milan in about 1969, and we went up from Rome and celebrated part of Christmas that year with the Pflanz family, along with Gerry and Gail Fyfe, who were with them in Milan. I recall the Sunday afternoon a few weeks later when one of the Milan staff called to tell me, and the Rome office, of the death of the Pflanzs' young son, Peter.

Our paths crossed several times after that. His colleagues respected Ben, of course, because of his integrity and competence rather than for his considerable size and big voice. The size certainly couldn't be missed, though, and Gibby Gibson, usually a stickler for precise geography and very close to exact in this case, respectfully dubbed Ben "The Big Schwab". I expect I'll continue to remember him that way.

*Remembered by Bill Lundy*

I never worked with Ben but did replace him in Kirk Bell's shop in the summer of 1988. Jill and I, however, spent many hours playing bridge with him and Connie in Ottawa and London. As others have already stated, Ben was a man of integrity and judgement.

*Remembered by Robert Orr*

I, too, have happy memories of working with Ben in London in the mid-1990s. He was the immigration program manager, and Joan Atkinson was his deputy—a formidable duo! I learned a vast amount from him, and he was a super mentor. I also remember how Ben and Connie were out every weekend walking; they were determined to complete the 150-mile "London Loop". He was a fine man of integrity and warmth.

*Remembered by Ian Rankin*

Ben was a generous, hard-working, genuine colleague who quickly got to the heart of the matter and then got it done. Ben was one of the persons I sat down with to sort out my career after my daughter was born. I have always been thankful for his very apt advice. Rest In Peace.

*Remembered by Robert Shalka*

I knew Ben from headquarters and various conferences and worked for him briefly in London, where he was very considerate and supportive to Lena and me during our short assignment. Ben was originally from Baden-Württemberg, and he had been posted to Stuttgart, where local staff fondly remembered him. My first posting happened to be Stuttgart, and that gave us a later opportunity to share reminiscences about "Schwabens" and enjoy a "viertel", or quarter litre, of



local red wine from the region's own Trollinger grape. I remember his excitement about his retirement home in Cochrane, Alberta. He was a true stalwart of the Immigration Foreign Service who will be long remembered.

*Remembered by Robert Vineberg*

I never had the opportunity to work closely with Ben, but he was always a friendly, larger-than-life presence when our paths crossed. As many others have noted, I found that he was invariably supportive of young officers. I can still remember clearly his booming voice as I type these words.

*Remembered by Gordon Whitehead*

I am so sorry to learn of Ben's passing. I never had the good fortune to be posted with him or work closely with him, but he enjoyed a truly sterling reputation—a gentle giant of a man. Connie too was a going concern, loved and admired by all who knew her. RIP, dear Benno.

**Redmond, James (Jim)**

The CIHS recently learned that James (Jim) Redmond, former manager in CIC's B.C./Yukon region, and in the Embassy of Canada in The Hague, Netherlands, passed away on 17 November 2021. Members are invited to share their reminiscences, which may be published in the June 2022 Bulletin.

*Remembered by Paula Bennett*

I knew Jim best when we were on CIC's B.C./Yukon management team. I was director at the Vancouver International Airport, while he spent some time working in regional programs and as director in Victoria. I best remember working with Jim in Esquimalt when we were dealing with the Chinese boat migrants. As Esquimalt was in Jim's territory, he coordinated the examinations of these migrants and was the face of the department with the media. Jim had a really excellent way of handling people, both clients and staff. He was calm but authoritative when needed. Jim had a good sense of humour and was quick with a funny retort that could lighten the mood when appropriate. If you followed him on Facebook after his retirement, it was always jokes that he posted. I don't know anyone who ever had a bad word to say about Jim. Professionally, he held himself to a high standard and was an excellent program resource for the rest of us. It was extremely sad to hear about his extended illness and death, but it seems as if he bore it all like the gentleman we knew when he was with the department. RIP Jim.

*Remembered by Martha Nixon*

Jim was a dedicated public servant, never more clearly than when he was part of the B.C. team dealing with Chinese boats. During this intense time, he kept cool, was always there when needed, and went beyond to ensure that the issues were managed. His sense of humour and his ability to encourage the team to keep it together made such a difference.

CIHS thanks its corporate members - IRCC, P2P and Pier 21 - for their significant support as well as its life and annual members. All these contributions allow us to pursue our objectives and activities.

<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 – Dawn Edlund; Vice-President – Anne Arnott;          Treasurer – Raph Girard; Secretary – Robert Orr;          Editor – Diane Burrows; Past-President Michael Molloy          Members at large - Brian Casey, Donald Cochrane, Charlene Elgee, Kurt Jensen, Gerry Maffre (Communications), Ian Rankin, and Robert Shalka          Member emeritus - J.B. "Joe" Bissett          IRCC Representative - Vacant          Webmaster: Winnerjit Rathor</p>
--	--	---