

Remarks and Messages upon the retirement of CIHS President,

Michael Molloy

at the

Annual General Meeting (Zoom)

October 22, 2020

Michael Molloy

Joe Bissett

Peter Duschinsky

Marie Macdonald

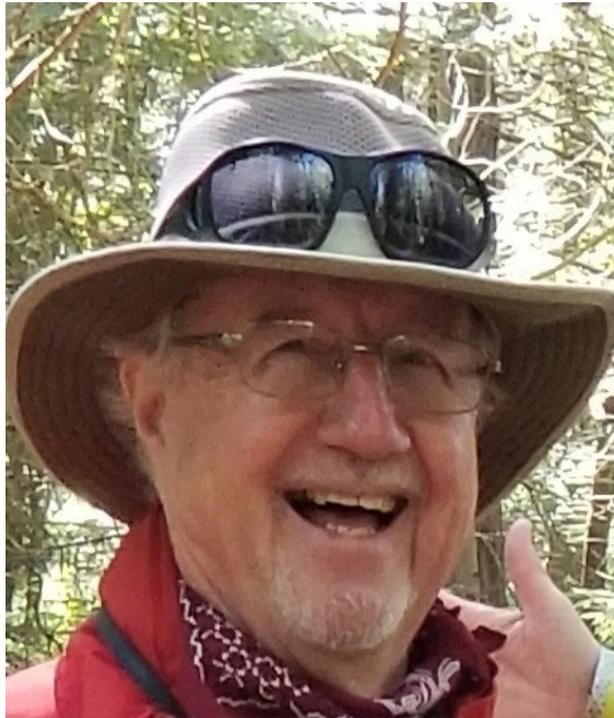
Laura Madokoro

Doug Dunnington

Colleen Lundy and Allan Moscovitch

Dawn Edlund

PRESIDENT MOLLOY'S FAREWELL SPEECH



Photograph by Jo Molloy

Thank you, Anne (Arnott). Good evening and welcome.
As we have done before I wish to acknowledge our meeting is taking place on unceded Anishinaabe territory.

INTRODUCTION

I was on the west coast in February when it hit me. It was time to step down as president for life and beyond of the CIHS. I imagined tonight as another pleasant evening at St Joseph's Soccer Club: a leisurely happy hour; a glass of the house red and the homey Italian buffet surrounded by friends and colleagues, some I've known for half a century.

There were faint reports of a new flu in China at that time but who could have seen how it would impact our world and our lives? Still, our Society found a way to adapt and here we are connected by something called Zoom. The upside is that some members far from Ottawa have been able to join us online tonight. They are very welcome.

COVID IMPACT AND ELECTION REPORTS ON LINE

Because of COVID 19 the election of our board was done online. As Anne has already said, all the required reports, including my report, on our activities since the last AGM, were sent to you in a newsletter on October 1st.

I don't want to repeat that newsletter except to remember the friends and colleagues we lost this year. Grievous losses including CIHS Secretary Gail Devlin, my old patron Roger St-Vincent, Helen Allison from our Nairobi High Commission, John MacLachlan and just recently, Brian Casey's beautiful and talented wife, Lily. All people whose passing we mourn and whose lives made a difference to the immigration program.

This is an historical organisation so I thought it appropriate to provide some background to my enjoyable stint as your president.

I had just retired after 35 years when Joe Bissett and Raph Girard invited me for lunch. I should have sensed a trap when we walked into the Colonnade Restaurant and joined Dave Bullock, then president of CIHS. David, along with Al Gunn, had kept the Society alive in lean times but he clearly wanted out and, before I knew it, the job of president was mine. I took it on the understanding that if CIHS was not a going concern in three years we would shut it down and send any remaining money to the museum at Pier 21 in Halifax. That was 17 years ago.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the years since it was founded the Society had

- 1) published three memoirs of Morris Mitchell, Fenton Crossman and Roger St-Vincent.
- 2) co-hosted a conference on the Hungarian Refugee movement and two conferences on the Ugandan Asian movement.
- 3) issued a Bulletin a couple of times a year with a lot of interesting material but to a very limited readership.
- 4) collected 19 boxes of immigration documents and memorabilia that were shipped off to Pier 21 the month before I became president. They found a very good home at Pier 21 and are the pride of its archival collection. But I sure wish I had had a peek at it all before it went off.

FINDING OUR WAY – CZECH MATES

It took a while to determine a new direction and to figure out where our advantage lay in an environment where the Canadian academic community was at last showing an interest in Canada's immigration history. For the 30th anniversary of the Czechoslovakian refugee movement we decided to ask colleagues who had been involved to tell us what they remembered about the experience. The resulting "Czech Mates" Bulletin, Number 46, demonstrated that if we pulled those memories together, they revealed things the historians wouldn't find in the files. That discovery pointed the way.

We began to attract new colleagues to the board and the median age dropped to a youthful 65. They brought interests, experiences and talents that set the stage for what came next.

THE UGANDA COLLECTION

We got lucky when two collections containing hundreds of newspaper clippings on the Uganda Asian movement, one from Uganda, the other from Canada, came our way. With the assistance of the Ismaili Community here in Ottawa we were able to interest the Carleton University archives in conserving and digitizing the collection. It is worth visiting the website www.carleton.ca/uganda-collection to see what they have done with the collection. Thanks to Patti Harper, Heather Leroux, Chris Trainor, Kylie Patrick, Salim Fakerani and Shezan Muhamedi.

At one stage we decided to go into the movie business with Pathways to Prosperity. With the aid of Meyer Burstein and Martha Nixon we filmed three interviews and a panel discussion with three former directors general, Refugee Affairs - Gerry van Kessel, Raph and me. These can be found on our website.

RUNNING ON EMPTY

I think there is no doubt that the group effort of writing the 580 pages that make up *Running on Empty* is the main accomplishment of my term. Forgive me if I devote some time to it.

At one point a group of us spent an afternoon at the Immigration Department's late, lamented library because the staff had indexed the first 50 issues of the CIHS *Bulletin*. They invited us to help cross check the index. I was surprised to discover that while over 140,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos had been resettled in Canada between 1975 and 1997, there was not a single *Bulletin* article on what remains our largest ever resettlement operation.

So what? some might ask.

Well, between 1976 and 1981 I was in the unique position to witness the creativity, determination, courage, compassion and, I might add, suffering of Immigration's foreign and domestic service personnel - our friends, our colleagues - as they delivered a resettlement operation of unprecedented magnitude and complexity. Their accomplishments made a story that deserved to be told, a story no one else was going to tell and a story we were well placed to tell. I had also witnessed the terrible suffering and struggles of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees, struggles that did not end when they arrived here, and also their astonishing personal and community accomplishments over the last 4 decades. Those accomplishments, by the way, were largely ignored until our fellow CIHS member, Feng Hou of Stats Canada, documented them in a brilliant report for one of the UN universities.

I believed we owed the refugees and their children an account of how it was that they got here. As recently as last week a woman who had come to Canada as a toddler in a Chinese

Vietnamese family called me to say that *Running on Empty* had filled a huge gap in her family's understanding of their history.

After various conversations within the Board we established a research and writing team - Peter Duschinsky, Kurt Jensen, Bob Shalka and yours truly. And recruited two editors, Gail Devlin and Jo Molloy.

We decided to concentrate on the period from the fall of Saigon in 1975, to the end of the big 1979-80 push that saw the arrival of 60,000 refugees, many of them privately sponsored.

We decided to tell the story from the perspective of the immigration department and its governmental partners. The story of the sponsors and civil society had already been told and we would not presume to tell the refugees' stories.

Before we'd written a word, I sent a short letter to McGill-Queen's University Press telling them in half a page what we planned to do. The next day Jacqueline Mason, the Acquisitions Editor at McGill-Queen's, wrote back and said "We'll take it!" She waited 4 years to see our manuscript. It was a great encouragement that Canada's most prestigious university press believed in what we were doing.

The first year Peter, Kurt and Robert spent weeks at LAC, where access to the government files was facilitated by a research agreement we had recently signed with the immigration department. Robert also persuaded PCO to release the relevant Cabinet documents to us. The result of their efforts was 7 three-inch binders of documentation that were expertly sorted and indexed by a University of Ottawa grad student, Laura May Roth.

In the meantime, I wrote to everyone we could find who had worked on the program from 1975 to 1980 and simply said "Please tell us what you remember." The result was over 60 memoirs, some just a page, one that became a whole chapter.

Other material began to arrive. Don Cameron dug up Gibby Gibson's hilarious account of his search for boat people rescued by a ship heading for the Persian Gulf. The son of the Scottish captain of a Canadian Pacific oil tanker sent the log his father kept after he rescued people from a boat adrift in the seas between Vietnam and the Philippines. And David Ritchie located a history written by Dick Martin during the last weeks of his 1978-80 posting to the Singapore visa section's boat people operations from the very start. How my wife tracked down Dick who left the department over 30 years before is a story in itself.

We got sidetracked for a year when the Refugee Studies Centre at York University asked us to partner with them in what turned into a spectacular three-day conference on the Indochinese refugees and the Private Refugee Sponsorship program. The conference greatly expanded our contacts in the Indochinese, academic and service provider communities, deepened our understanding of the horrific experiences endured by the refugees, and allowed us to showcase the talent and creativity of our colleagues.

Writing the book took us something over a year. We had a few false starts but eventually the outline came into view, with:

- 10 chapters of hard, archive supported history covering Canada's involvement from April 1975 to December 1980;
- 11 chapters comprised of the memories of officers from Immigration, Health and Welfare Canada, RCMP and Quebec Immigration who went out and got the refugees in Asia and elsewhere; and
- 3 more chapters on how our colleagues received and resettled the refugees after arrival.

When our publisher, MQUP, asked for a chapter summing up the refugees' resettlement experience, Peter Duschinsky produced one in a matter of weeks. I would be remiss if I did not mention the quiet but very valuable contribution of Chris Duschinsky.

Joe Clark headlined our initial launch at Library and Archives Canada in conjunction with the Ottawa International Writers Festival. Senator Peter Harder hosted a launch at the Senate. We held launches and promotional events from Pier 21 in Halifax and CFB Longue Pointe in Montreal to various bookstores and institutions in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, including one attended by Mayor John Tory in Toronto. All these events were strongly supported by the local Vietnamese communities. The two ministers involved, Ron Atkey and Lloyd Axworthy, were very supportive. Sadly, Ron passed away five days after he received the book.

Running on Empty has been adopted by the Vietnamese community. In Calgary they bought 300 copies. A shortened version is (slowly) being translated into Vietnamese.

It is being used as a text book in a number of universities.

As of April, it had sold over 1600 copies. It has been presented, by other organizations I might add, to the Director of the International Organization for Migration, to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and to the Secretary General of the UN.

We donated the hundreds of pages of documents that underpin *Running on Empty*, to Carleton. So now we have two collections there.

Running on Empty put the Canadian Immigration Historical Society on the map and showed what we can do. I have no idea what we can do for an encore.

OTHER PROJECTS

My report in the newsletter touches on some of the other things we've been doing, especially the Hearts of Freedom project with Carleton University which has collected 170 oral histories from Lao, Cambodian and Viet refugees; ongoing work on the Lebanese Special Movement by Kurt Jensen; and the inventory of overseas offices from the 1950s to 2000 being compiled by Gerry Maffre and Raph Girard.

THE BULLETIN

From the earliest days, our CIHS *Bulletin* has been the Society's central product. It is unique because it publishes articles on immigration history and acts as a sort of a community newsletter. During my time Hector Cowan was our first editor with backup and layout by Jo. Valerie de Montigny was next, and she improved the format and, with the advice of our tech expert Winnerjit Rathor, made it easier to read online. We are amazingly fortunate to have the super talented Diane Burrows agree to replace Valerie.

The *Bulletin* now reaches most of our members online (reducing cost and vastly enhancing its potential and flexibility eg coloured pictures, video links.)

Thanks to IRCC's Research and Evaluation group - Umit Kitzaltan, Michael McCormick and Eleanor Barry in particular - our *Bulletin* reaches all of IRCC's workforce (approx. 10,000) through a wonderful service called "Research at a Glance" which also puts it in the hands of most Canadian academics who study migration.

THE WEBSITE

The original CIHS website was just a signpost saying 'Hey we're here and, no, we don't do cases.' Ian Thomson and Brian Davis initiated the work on a new website. Then, with Daniel Godin's expertise, we launched the website in 2012. Gerry Maffre and our much-appreciated technical advisor Winnerjit Rathor now oversee the website, with Michel Sleiman helping us present a more bilingual face. The website has matured into a useful resource.

It has made the entire run of the *Bulletins*, 95 to date, available to the world. The site continues to lead researchers to us and that in turn has generated a number of interesting articles for the *Bulletin*.

GUNN PRIZE

Gerry Van Kessel and I were talking after a meeting at Chez Lucien's (best burgers in town) when he suggested we establish an annual prize for the best university level term paper on Canada's immigration history. Laurier University's International Migration Research Centre, now represented by Professor Chris Anderson, agreed to match our \$500, hence the \$1000 Gunn Prize. To generate that \$500 a year Roy Christensen organized two very successful auctions that were generously hosted by Liz and Scott Heatherington.

We have to promote the Prize vigorously. In order to maintain a high standard, we don't always have a winner but, that said, it provides us with a reason to be in touch with professors across the country and spread the word about the society. Two of our winners are now well-established historians.

IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS

We are a small organization but we have learned to effectively leverage our impact by partnering with other institutions. We have helped organize and direct conferences with York University (Indochinese), the University of Ottawa (Hungarian), the Uganda Asian Community (Journey to Hope + 30th anniversary), Carleton University (Bahai), St. Paul University and the Hungarian Community (Flight to Freedom) among others.

In addition to Laurier, our Gunn Prize partner, the three most important and enduring of our partners are IRCC, Pier 21 and Carleton University.

- **IRCC.** CIHS was founded by Immigration department employees with the support of DM Jack Manion at a time when immigration was of little interest to Canada's academic community. We are honoured to have IRCC as a corporate member and very grateful for the financial support that membership provides. As I have mentioned, we enjoy excellent relations with Research and Evaluation and the new Data branch of the department, participate in the department's Public Service Week observances and brief incoming Immigration FSOs. Randy Orr is our permanent liaison with IRCC and has been very effective indeed.
- **PIER 21.** The previous generation of CIHS members played an active role in obtaining governmental agreement that a Halifax based foundation would convert the abandoned Pier 21 facility into an immigration museum. On my watch we supported the Harper government's decision that Pier 21 should become a National museum. We have watched with considerable pride as CEO Marie Chapman and her talented team turned Pier 21 into a museum that tells the national story in a manner that touches the hearts of thousands of visitors every year. I don't have time to name all the wonderfully competent people we work with at Pier 21 but I have to mention the amazing Carrie Anne Smith.

In any given year interesting immigration related documents and artifacts come our way and Gerry Maffre ensures that the best are referred to Pier 21's collections committee. We were consulted by Alan Desnoyer when he wrote his wonderful musical about Pier 21 and then helped facilitate its presentation at the Museum. We are proud and honoured to have the museum as a corporate member.

- **CARLETON UNIVERSITY** hosts the Migration and Diaspora Network and at least 30 professors who specialize in various aspects of migration. As I mentioned, the Carleton Archive hosts the Uganda Asian and Indochinese refugee collections built around materials we provided.

The Hearts of Freedom project, a logical follow up to *Running on Empty*, is hosted by Carleton's Social Work Department. We are at present talking to Carleton's History Department about a conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the Uganda Asian movement in the fall of 2022. We don't have a formal agreement as such with the university but the relationship is varied and valuable.

MEMBERS AND RESOURCES

It has been a struggle for most of my term to keep our membership at around 125-130. It currently stands at 164 members, the highest it has been in decades. The treasurer's report shows our finances are sound and will give our incoming president options rare in our society's history.

All that to say we are in good shape but, as ever, we have to continue to attract younger members.

SO WHAT'S IT ALL BEEN ABOUT?

I always thought I'd be a historian but when I left grad school a great Canadian by the name of Hilda Neatby suggested I might have more luck making history than writing it. I wouldn't claim to have made history but in my immigration career I've been privileged to participate in it.

Within the CIHS I have been motivated by a profound conviction that the story of Canada **is** first and foremost the story of immigration and its consequences. There are few aspects of our national reality, good or bad, that have not been shaped or impacted by immigration - from the troubled circumstances of our indigenous population to our role in the world.

There are now many professional historians and political and social scientists working on migration related subjects, which was not the case when our Society was founded in 1986. I have always believed that those of us who have served in the Immigration Department have, for better or worse, shaped a big part of Canada's story, and if we don't tell that part of the story, who will?

So what is our role, our niche? For me it is to tell the stories that have not been told. Examples: Susan Burrows' account in a recent *Bulletin* of the Karan Refugee Movement, the work Kurt is leading on the LSM and *Running on Empty* for that matter. It is important that we remain non-partisan and a good rule of thumb is to keep our focus at least 20 years in the past.

The fact that so many of us have worked inside the immigration machine provides a level of reality-based understanding that is hard to replicate from the outside. We also bring the habits of diligence, effective management, innovation, integrity and team work that we learned in our careers. These are our strengths and we need to play to them.

THANKS

It is now time for me to say thanks. Nothing accomplished in the last 17 years would have happened without friends and colleagues.

I acknowledge the contributions of some of our founders and previous presidents and board members now gone: Harry Cunliffe, Maurice Mitchel, Robert Keyserlink, John Hunter, Vigg Ring, Al Gunn, Dave Bullock, Brian Davis, Bernie Brodie.

I would also express my appreciation for our two outriders Holly Edwards in Montreal and Rob Vineberg in Winnipeg for their many contributions. No reason why we can't involve them more given the technology.

I'd like to thank Joe Bissett, Board member emeritus, for a lifetime of encouragement.

Raph, treasurer, for his prudent management of our funds, for re-writing our bylaws, the Designated Classes (our most frequently cited article), but most of all - the wise advice and counsel given me from the start.

Gerry Maffre our Communications guru, for all the work he has done drafting correspondence, designing banners and logos, for managing an important part of our relations with Pier 21 and oversight of website in partnership with Winnerjit Rathor and Michel Sleiman.

For many years I wanted to work with Anne Arnott. When she became VP with her wonderful organizational skills, initiative, good judgement and deep knowledge of the immigration program, she lifted a huge burden from my shoulders.

The fabulous hospitality and generosity of Ian Rankin and Pat in hosting and providing the best lunches in town for our meetings. Looking forward to those soon

Charlene Elgee, hosting lunches, maintaining our archives, for putting her skill and speed as a researcher at the service of the Society and for being a wise friend to Jo and myself.

Robert Orr, for stepping in when we lost Gail, and putting his vast knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Society.

Randy Orr, fantastic job he has done as our link with IRCC and support he's provided for various events at IRCC.

Brian Casey; wonderful accounts of his work in former Yugoslavia.

Roy Christensen, first and foremost, for the auctions he organized to support the Gunn prize, most fun. And for his articles for the *Bulletin*, wise advice on publishing.

Valerie de Montigny for her work as editor and the improvements and innovations she brought to the CIHS *Bulletin* and for being such a delightful colleague.

Diane Burrows, for the speed with which she mastered the editorial role, the skill and enthusiasm she brings to the role and for the highly appreciated support she and Greg have provided to the Society over the years.

Dr. Bob Shalka, one of our resident historians. Vast knowledge, professional historical research skills, the book's Thailand chapters

Kurt Jensen, our second resident historian, for a ground-breaking article on Stage B, huge contribution to RMT in editing the 60 memoirs and leadership on the Lebanese Special Movement initiative, and long service on the Gunn Prize committee which he will chair starting this year.

To Dawn, of whom more will be said later for agreeing to pick up the reins. I could not think of anyone more qualified to direct the future our Society. I expect that her presidency will take the Society in new and exciting directions.

And, as my last official act as President of CIHS, it is my great honour to present a certificate of appreciation (created by Gerry Maffre and Jo) to our third resident historian, someone who has been my travelling brother-in-arms as we introduced *Running on Empty* across the country and who is leaving the board this year. Peter Duschinsky, that dab hand at the Hmong ball toss game, made an enormous contribution to the book, was a leading member of the team that mounted the Flight to Freedom conference and has helped to shape and deliver the Hearts of Freedom project at Carleton University. A deep thinker, a good friend, and always a wise and thoughtful member of our board.

Peter: the citation reads

Peter Duschinsky, as you step down from the board of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, we recognize your long standing and deeply appreciated contributions to the work and success of the society, particularly on Running on Empty and the Flight to Freedom and Hearts of Freedom projects as well as your contributions to our Bulletin. Canada's immigration story needs to be told and you have helped to make the story telling possible.

From your friends and colleagues on the Board and in the Society. Ottawa Oct 20, 2020.

Friends and colleagues, thank you for making these last 17 years so rich, interesting and productive. I hereby relinquish my role as President for life and beyond of the CIHS.

REMARKS BY JOE BISSETT

Thank you and greetings everyone. It's great to see so many familiar faces and too bad we can't share a glass or two but maybe next year. I am happy to say a few words about Mike but at the same time sad to see him retire.

I must confess I share with Raph Girard the credit for essentially ordering Mike to accept the presidency without the usual requirement of an election by members.

As I recall, we invited him for a coffee and essentially told him he was to be the next president..... appointment at the first election afterwards.

It is hard to believe sixteen years have passed since he took over in 2004. But during those 16 years our historical society has developed from a small group of former immigration officers who used to gather to reminisce about their experiences.

In 1989 a few of them decided they should form an organization dedicated to get down on record these stories since, in large part, the stories themselves were an important part of Canadian history.

There a few of these originals still very much involved in the Society and are here tonight.

The historical society did not, at the beginning set out to extend its activities, but as time went on there was a feeling that membership was declining and new members hard to find. This gave thoughts about disbanding.

However, the hard core of the veterans never gave up, and with the department recognizing the importance of CIHS, it began to help finance it. Things began to look brighter.

With this modest funding and the established working relationship with Pier 21, we began to initiate relationships with academia (the Gunn Prize) and to publish more memoirs and articles.

However, it was the arrival of Mike that has enabled the Society to make a wider and more effective contribution to the history of Canada's immigration experience.

In his first presentation to us, he stressed the importance of continuing to preserve more information about how immigration and refugee programmes were delivered at the front line and emphasized the need to link up with universities and encourage young students to become involved with immigration issues.

It was Mike who really put the Society on the map by his perseverance in managing the publication of the Indochinese refugee movement with the book "Running on Empty". However, his greatest quality was his ability to see ahead and to lead a team with intelligence and at all times with good humour.

We will miss his leadership but he is still with us and can be called upon, I am sure, whenever we need him.



**TRIBUTE TO MIKE MOLLOY
BY OUT-GOING BOARD MEMBER,PETER DUSCHINSKY**

I feel honoured by this opportunity to say a few words in the name of the board of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society in tribute to our president Mike Molloy.

Mike has been the leader of this organization for such a long time that we have become used to calling him “president for life and beyond”. He has led the society through many major changes and challenges. I believe that all CIHS members would enthusiastically agree with Roy Christensen when he says “I find Mike so inspirational that I would follow him into battle” and with Brian Casey, who characterizes Mike as a person who rose up to lead the society to meet challenges and achieve goals that the organization never dreamed were even possible. As Kurt Jensen has stated, through Mike’s vision CIHS has grown into an organization with academic clout and relevance and the society has harnessed the knowledge and experience of members to turn the CIHS Bulletin into a repository of articles with lasting historical value. Kurt has also emphasized that Mike has built a team that wrote *Running on Empty*, a major contribution to the history of the Indochinese refugee movement to Canada.

We all know that Mike did not reach his many successes alone. His life mate, Jo Molloy, has played a major very active and supportive role in all of Mike’s accomplishments.

Over the past decade Mike and I have been not only colleagues but – and I hope he will agree with me – we have become good friends. Like other members of CIHS, I have come to appreciate his limitless energy and infectious good humour. How Mike manages to do as much as he does in a single day, I could never find out. What I always knew is that when he reached into his jacket’s inside pocket and pulled out his tattered paper schedule, it was time to run for cover, since there was more work, another project, coming.

Mike’s networking and organizational abilities are matchless. He has built and maintained contacts with a network of dedicated professionals stretching from the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax through the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, to McGill in Montreal, the two universities in Ottawa, to York University in Toronto and the University of Winnipeg. (And I have not mentioned all his academic contacts, there are too many). He has friends in ethnic communities stretching from the Ugandans to the Vietnamese and many in-between. Immigration and refugee professionals from NGOs to federal and provincial officials count on his knowledge and unfailing commitment. He can pick up the phone and call on Joe Clark, or Lloyd Axworthy, or Peter Harder, all of them old friends from countless battles and engagements. In difficult situations, Mike is always decisive, yet humane. He is an excellent leader because you feel his commitment and you want to work with him.

Mike will be a difficult leader to replace, but fortunately for CIHS, in Dawn Edlund there is an excellent president to follow in his footsteps. If we were at a nostalgic AGM at the old Saint Anthony Soccer Club, I would love to raise my glass with all of you in a toast to Mike Molloy. But during this pandemic, I have no choice but to raise it through ZOOM, alone in my study. Here is to Mike Molloy.



**TRIBUTE BY PROFESSOR LAURA MADOKORO,
CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

I met Mike a decade and a half when I was an archivist at Library and Archives Canada. He and Gord Barnett were looking for documents related to the Indochinese refugee movement and though I failed in my efforts to find what they were looking for, that encounter marked the beginning of a very special friendship and mentorship.

I am now an Associate Professor at Carleton University and when I decided to return to grad school in 2007 to work on a history of Chinese refugees during the Cold War, Mike was infinitely supportive and helpful – introducing me to all sorts of wonderful folks who have shaped my thinking and research on migration history for years now.

It is Mike's special talents to make connections and bring people together that I think is particularly worth celebrating. I remember sitting in on the 2013 conference at York University, The Indochinese Refugee Movement and the Private Sponsorship Program 1975-80. It was an amazing event that brought together refugees, private sponsors, civil servants and academics. A colleague turned to me in the audience and said, how did this come to be? And we both knew that the credit lay with Mike and his boundless energy, enthusiasm, passion and generosity in documenting, preserving and promoting the history of migration.

Mike has not only participated in history, as he says, but he has also made it. Thank you, Mike, for everything, and especially the stories.



**MESSAGE FROM MARIE CHAPMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21**



Canadian Museum of
Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de
l'immigration du Quai 21

1055 rue Marginal Road
Halifax, NS B3H 4P7
T : 902.425.7770 F : 902.423.4045
www.pier21.ca | www.quai21.ca

A Museum thanks for Mike Molloy

Mike Molloy is one of the heroes of the museum. He is brilliant, kind, has an amazing breadth of experience, and he is a masterful storyteller.

There is so much I could say, and I suspect much of it will be echoed by the other speakers. I will share one specific example where he made our museum better.

When we were planning our exhibit, *Refuge Canada*, Mike's lived experience in Uganda brought this pivotal part of the exhibit to life; we even have one of his drawings included! He shared so much that we could recreate exact details, down to the calendar on the wall and memos on the desk.

It was so accurate that when I toured another person through, he recognized the calendar, sat down to see the videos clips and he was visibly moved at what he heard. This level of accuracy is what makes an exhibit SING for the people who experience it, and it was such a treat to tour people through.

...2/

So much more to say about Mike's generosity of spirit, brilliant choice of life mate, and incredible memory. I can imagine he was the best of colleagues, mentors and team mates, and the impact he had on generations of public servants is one of many parts of his legacy.

I feel very lucky to know Mike. Mike, I can send you our volunteer forms if you and Jo want to come to our bubble!

Thank you from all of your friends at the Canadian Museum of Immigration.

Marie Chapman



MESSAGE FROM DOUG DUNNINGTON

I will bet that I was the first of the group to meet Michael. It was back on June 17, 1968 at the good ole Bourque Building on our first day in what was then called the Foreign Branch. We bonded quickly as we were both from small town Canada- Mike from Nelson B.C. and me, from Kitchener. Ontario.

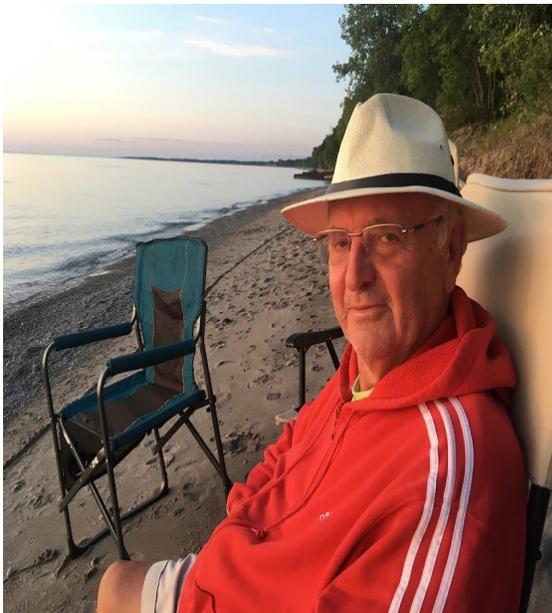
Our first workplace was Vienna where we were the occupants of a broom closet processing Czech refugees.

Tokyo was next where Mike introduced us (especially Barb) to the Friday night freedom and frolics of Japanese businessmen. Their normal reserve and temerity were allowed to roam free.

Damascus was also a highlight, especially, the wonderful tour given by three lovely ladies from City Hall. In thanking them I gave them each a quick kiss as any grateful Canadian would do. However, I could tell by Mike's reaction that I had made a faux pas. I had apparently married three new wives! Now how was a guy from Kitchener to know that!

We have kept in touch with Mike and Jo over the years, the last in Kitchener last fall when Michael brought 40th celebratory greetings to the members of the Waterloo Region Refugee Organizations. As always. his natural delivery and sincere message were a real credit to the Department and the Society.

Gemutlichkeit old friend.



**MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR COLLEEN LUNDY AND
PROFESSOR ALLAN MOSCOVITCH,
CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

Today we join with members of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society to celebrate the enormous contribution of Mike Molloy to the writing of Canadian immigration history. We are fortunate to have Mike as a member of the research team of the *Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Project: Hearts of Freedom*. His on-the-ground experience as senior coordinator of the task force to deliver the “boat people” in 1979-80 has enriched and informed the research process. With Mike’s invaluable assistance we were able to interview more than 170 people who relocated to Canada from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, as well as those settlement staff, sponsors and government folks that facilitated the refugee movement. Many of the people we interviewed among the settlement staff, sponsors and government staff were at Mike’s suggestion. Mike’s contributions are always accompanied with a touch of good humor. And where would he be without Jo, who keeps his schedule, helps get him to meetings and keeps us informed. We salute Mike as his term of President of CIHS comes to an end and are happy that he remains on the research team. We look forward to continuing our partnership as we prepare a book on the refugee experience based on those many interviews. Thank you, Mike, for what you have contributed to CIHS, and what you are contributing to Hearts of Freedom.

Colleen Lundy and Allan Moscovitch, Coordinators, Hearts of Freedom, Carleton University



**INTRODUCING DAWN EDLUND: REMARKS FROM THE CIHS
2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Dawn Edlund

Dawn Edlund is the new President of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society. She has kindly provided her speaking notes for publication in the Bulletin and on the CIHS website.

Merci à vous tous pour votre soutien. You have elected a great Board of Directors, and we will continue the fine work that we have been doing under Mike's leadership. I know that I have some enormous shoes to fill, so that's daunting, but luckily, Mike has agreed to stay on the Board, so that he—and his shoes—will be close by to help me take up the mantle of President.

Je suis devenue membre de la Société il y a un an, et tout de suite j'ai découvert que l'Exécutive est une équipe dévouée et passionnée par le mandat de la Société. Les « lunch » chez Ian Rankin étaient formidables, mais le travail des membres de l'Exécutif était encore plus impressionnant. Je suis reconnaissante de la manière dont les membres de l'Exécutive m'ont accueillie, et je sais qu'ils vont m'aider beaucoup.

I've had a long association with the department. I started in January 1992 as a newly minted lawyer employed by the Department of Justice, in the Legal Services Unit, as the (at the time) only woman lawyer on the team doing immigration work. Nine years later, one week before 9/11, I was heading up the unit. I used to say to my staff at Legal that the kind of work the department does changes people's lives and has the result of influencing what Canada is and will become. Very cool, and one of the reasons I became, like many of you, a "lifer". I stayed with Legal for 18 years, almost to the day, and in mid-January 2010 became the Associate ADM in the Operations Sector, working with the inimitable Claudette Deschenes. In fact, she was a significant factor in my changing roles, as she had proposed me for the position when the incumbent was leaving, and the DM liked the idea. At that moment, I stopped being a lawyer and became a hopefully not-too-troublesome client.

Fast forward to the fall of 2015, when I became the operational lead for the Government of Canada's Operation Syrian Refugees (OSR). That was a fabulous experience, which I spoke about with Sid Frank and Louisa Taylor at the AGM four years ago. Prior to retirement, I spent the last year of my career in the public service leading a small team documenting and writing about OSR and working to create a fully searchable digital archive of whatever we could lay our hands on. We are also working on producing an edited collection, capturing the voices of many public servants and Canadians who were involved in OSR. I looked to *Running on Empty* as a model on how to structure the collection, since I had very little idea of how to go about it. In fact, the idea for the Syrian Refugees' Memory Project grew from a seed planted by, you guessed it, Mike Molloy. It's a particular talent of his to plant seeds, nurture them, and give them room to grow.

Along with several hundred others, we were both at Rideau Hall on 1 December 2015, when the Governor General hosted a half-day symposium. Its goal was to ignite Canadians' interest in the Syrian resettlement project, and it was very successful. During the morning coffee break, I chatted with Mike, and he cautioned me not to repeat the "mistakes" made in relation to the Indochinese movement. He shared with me that it was profoundly difficult, decades after the fact, to reconstruct what happened when, and who did what. Memories fade, ephemeral documents disappear, things aren't collected or organized, and you are mostly left with what's in Library and Archives Canada and/or tracking down people who were involved to see what they remember and if they kept anything relevant. And, no insult to LAC, but the kinds of things that are of archival interest only tell a narrow part of the story of what was happening day to day in the department on whatever file or issue becomes of interest. The immigration department is mission-driven and does a magnificent job of delivering on the priorities of the government, but it does a terrible job at ensuring that what is important is kept, properly organized, and readily accessible to people in the future. This is but one of the reasons why the Society, its mandate, and what it does is so important, and why I was deeply honoured to have my name put forward to become your president.

I am a passionate family-tree researcher, and through that I have learned a lot about the building of Canada by waves of immigrants. My mom's family came to New Brunswick in 1765 from Germany via Pennsylvania. Others came from Ireland and England at the turn of the 19th century. My dad's side of the family came from northern Sweden at the turn of the 20th century and homesteaded on the bald prairie in southern Saskatchewan. Through my family-tree research, I have learned so much about the communities where my ancestors lived and worked, and the many ways in which any newcomer to Canada can make a contribution.

There are a few things I want to share with you as I take on the presidency. First is the proposal, soon to be considered by the Board, for the creation of the Molloy Award. The award would be aimed at young people who are starting their post-secondary education, are recent immigrants to Canada, and will take on the valuable work of recording and interpreting Canadian history. More news on this to follow.

It would also be good to get a sense of who is working on what, not just Board members, but all of us. There's a lot of collective energy in our membership, and, as Mike said earlier this evening, when we choose to focus that energy, the Society can have a lasting impact. So, a *tour d'horizon* is on my "to do" list, to see where we might want to bring that focus to bear. I will also want to build on the relationships and partnerships that the Society, and Mike in particular, has fostered and nurtured over the years. Important projects like Hearts of Freedom will continue, and some noteworthy anniversaries are coming up. One is the 50th anniversary of the resettlement from Uganda, and Mike has already started the ball rolling on how the CIHS can play a role.

As a way of learning more about the CIHS, I started reading all of the Bulletins—what a rich collection, and a wonderful way for us as practitioners, as "insiders", to share our lived experience. One concern that has come up from time to time is membership in the CIHS. None of us is getting any younger, so how can we market the work of the Society and attract a younger and more diverse group of people to join us? The Board has already started, by organizing events with the Research and Evaluation branch [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada], by speaking to the new Foreign Service Development Program officers, and by hosting events during National Public Service week. I would appreciate your ideas on what else we can do.

Up to now, Bulletin articles are mostly written by current or former foreign service officers, and it's great to have their experiences recorded. I am hopeful that we can find a way to encourage different folks to come forward and add their voices and stories to the mix. In October, the department released an evaluation of the Express Entry program. That made me wonder whether someone might be interested in writing up the story of how Express Entry was created; maybe someone else would write about the implementation of the e-medical system, which was the first end-to-end paperless process for immigration medicals (or, more generally, document and write about the massive changes that have been brought to how applications are processed in the last decade); maybe another person would write about development of the various settlement and integration programs, etc., etc. Just a few ideas; I am certain that you have many more to offer.

I am so lucky to start out in this new role, in that I have a wonderfully accomplished and dedicated Board, that the Society itself has a very strong foundation and its work is relevant and relied upon, that we have a terrific Bulletin, and that we are in solid shape financially. For all this, I am tremendously grateful to Mike Molloy. As others have already said this evening, much of what the Society has become can be traced directly to Mike and his inspirational leadership.

Many thanks to you all for your support and I look forward to working with you.

