



## Thirty Years of Achievements

Since 1986, CIHS has pursued its objectives of promoting research about the history of Canada's immigration and refugee programs and communicating about those programs. The work has been done and encouraged by many Society members as well as researchers and students. Our partnerships, publishing and communications, and public events have enhanced our efforts to meet core objectives. Here is an overview of some significant activity.

### Governance

- Founded in 1986
- First annual general meeting June, 1987
  - o Meetings deal with Society business and have welcomed speakers like the Honourable Ron Atkey, Minister of Immigration at the time of the Indochinese movement; Marie Chapman, CEO of Pier 21; the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Immigration (2008-2013) and Professor Gilles Paquet of the University of Ottawa.
  - o Thirtieth AGM (2016) welcomes Ms Dawn Edlund, Ms Louisa Taylor and Mr. Sid Frank to speak on the 2016 Syrian refugee movement to Canada.
- Treasurer Raph Girard led in updating the Society's by-laws in 2013 to bring them into line with new national standards.

### Partnerships

- CIHS was an early proponent of the need to create **Pier 21 immigration museum** and donated a substantial collection of historic documents and artifacts that now comprise the core of the museum's archival holdings.
- In collaboration with the **International Migration Research Centre** at Wilfrid Laurier University CIHS co-sponsors the Gunn Award (named after Al Gunn, a long-time member of the Society's board) that recognizes the best senior undergraduate or graduate student essay on postwar immigration. Four awards have been made since 2010. Gerry van Kessel, Kurt Jensen and Rob Vineberg, along with a professor from IMRC constitute the jury that picks the winner.
- With **Pathways to Prosperity**, the experiences of three former directors general of Refugees (Mike Molloy, Raphael Girard and Gerry Van Kessel) were videotaped and webbed.

- For several years members of the executive have made presentations at the Immigration department's NHQ during **Public Service Week**.
- CIHS is on editorial boards of both '**Bout de Papier**' – journal of Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers and **New Canadian Media**. Members have contributed articles to both.
- CIHS initiated a partnership with **Carleton University's** library and archive to house, preserve and digitize an extensive collection and launch Uganda Asian Online Archive.  
<http://arc.library.carleton.ca/content/uganda-collection>
  - o We transferred to Carleton our collection of over 1,000 Ugandan and Canadian newspaper clippings about the 1972 movement along with Roger St. Vincent's book – 'Seven Crested Cranes'. This year the collection acquired CFB Longue Pointe's log book of Ugandan Asians who arrived in Canada on government charters.
  - o We also participated in a travelling version of the archive to raise awareness of the collection and promote private funding in Toronto and Vancouver.

### Conferences

- In 1981 CIHS partnered with the **University of Ottawa** to host the first ever academic conference on the 1956-57 Hungarian Refugee Movement. The first history of the movement. *Breaking Ground: the 1956 Hungarian Movement to Canada* by former CIHS president, the late Professor Robert Keyserlingk, was a product of the conference.
- CIHS was instrumental in co-organizing with representatives of the **Ugandan Asian community** two events relating to the Ugandan refugee movement. The first, *Journey of Hope*, 1993, included a one day conference and the second, in 2002, marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movement with a gala.
- In 2012, CIHS President Mike Molloy undertook a speaking tour to Ontario universities on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Ugandan-Asian movement.
- In November 2013, in partnership with **York University's Centre for Refugee Studies and the Sponsorship Agreement Holders Association** we organized a three day conference called "*The Indochinese Refugees 1975-80 and the Launch of the Private Sponsorship Program*". The event included two workshops and the creation of a web site that includes high school curricula, oral histories and several mini documentaries, and a video record of the three day conference.  
<http://indochinese.apps01.yorku.ca/conference/>
- The final product of the York university conference was a special Issue of the on-line Journal "Refuge" with 11 new papers on the results on the Indochinese refugee movement and the private sponsorship program and their long term impact on the refugees and Canada's resettlement programs.

- <http://refuge.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/refuge/issue/view/2311>
- Participation in a symposium at **Carleton University** in September 2015 on the Baha'i refugee movement from Iran.
- On June 3, 2016 the **Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian communities** organized '**The Hearts of Freedom Gala**' event at the **Canadian Museum of History** to remember the Southeast Asian refugee movement to Canada, to express their thanks to the people of Canada and to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the presentation of the UNHCR's Nansen Medal to the 'people of Canada'. CIHS participated in the Gala through an exhibition of banners describing the movement, and in September-October 2016 we again displayed these banners at an exhibition at the **University of Ottawa**, jointly presented by organizations involved in the Southeast Asian refugee movement.

### Communications

- The Bulletin ( first issued March, 1987)
  - o With seventy-eight editions to date, the Bulletin, under Valerie de Montigny's editorship, has progressed to a more modern, web-friendly look.
  - o It contains reflections by immigration personnel, essays on various movements and immigration processes, lighter anecdotes, academic essays, reporting on Society business, and obituaries.
  - o We do not try to compete with academic journals but try to focus on aspects of immigration history that have been overlooked by historians.
  - o It is interesting to see Bulletin features now being cited in academic literature.
- New website launched 2013
  - o Special site added to mark fortieth anniversary of Indochinese movement.
  - o Next iteration will be easier to use from different social media and platforms.
- Memoirs. In the past CIHS published the memoires of Roger St Vincent, Maurice Mitchell and Fenton Crossman. We have several others in our files, including a promising memoire by Don Millburn that will be reviewed this year to see if they merit publication. The Fenton Crossman memoir of service in Montreal and the Maritimes before, during and after World War II captured the hearts of the staff of Pier 21 to the extent that the museum's mascot is called "Fenton".

### Looking Ahead

- For several years now, Mike Molloy, Kurt Jensen, Peter Duschinsky, Bob Shalka and Gail Devlin have been leading a massive exercise that will result in the publication of a book in the spring of 2017 about the Indochinese refugee movement as experienced by personnel abroad and in Canada. Provisionally titled "**Running on Empty**", the book consists of a ten chapter

archive-based account of the history of the movement to Canada and the refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos plus 14 chapters of fascinating first-hand accounts. Over 600 pages long, it is now in final editorial stages. It will be a unique contribution to the literature on this important movement. We will be contacting members across the country once a marketing strategy has been established with our publisher. The book will be released as part of the McGill-Queens University Press prestigious Studies in Ethnicity Series.

- CIHS is working with the Canadian Hungarian Educational Foundation to organize a symposium in October 2017 on refugee movements to Canada for the sixtieth anniversary of the Hungarian Movement during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation.

CIHS is also in exploratory discussions with Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Museum of History regarding other possible Canada 150 events.

CIHS will participate in '**The Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Research Project: Hearts of Freedom**', to record oral histories of 200 Indochinese refugees across the country with the lead of Carleton University, and the participation of the three South East Asian refugee communities, as well as Pier 21, the Canadian Museum of History and other partners; funding permitting, the research phase of the project is slated to commence in 2017.

- Over the past several years, anniversaries of various refugee movements have led to a focus on refugees. Moving on, in the coming year we will broaden our focus to look at other aspects of Canada's immigration history. The six part series of Bulletin articles by Dr. Brian Gushulak on immigration and public health/medical issues is the first step in that direction, as is the feature on citizenship. We are now seeking authors to write about enforcement, settlement and the reconfiguration over the years of the national and international refugee network.

Tabled by CIHS President Michael Molloy at the 2016 annual general meeting, Ottawa, 20, 2016