



CIHS Annual General Meeting

Anne Arnott

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society held its annual general meeting on Thursday, 17 October 2024 at the Royal Canadian Legion on Kent Street in Ottawa. The event featured a social hour, dinner, and a speakers' panel on Operation Parasol. Thirty-six people attended the AGM in person, and five joined us on line to hear the panel discussion.



CIHS President Dawn Edlund and
CIHS Board Member Emeritus Joe
Bissett. Photo by Don Cochrane.

The various reports (President, Treasurer, Secretary's report on membership, Bulletin, Gunn Prize, Molloy Bursary) were sent to members ahead of the meeting, as was the list of proposed board members. The only change in the board for next year is that Michael McCormick has replaced Paula Pincombe as IRCC liaison. The web site report can be found as a separate piece elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Our President, Dawn Edlund, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and noting our two special guests: Eleanor Berry, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC's) "library services goddess" and Michael McCormick from IRCC's Research and Data Branch. In her highlights of CIHS's achievements in the past year, Edlund noted the Society's involvement in the 25th anniversary of Operation Parasol, in which vulnerable Kosovars were brought to Canada. The CIHS effort, led by board member Gerry Maffre, included a financial contribution, a special issue of the Bulletin (Number 108), the work of linking a PhD candidate (one of our speakers) with a number of immigration officials who had been active in the operation, as well as assisting with, and attendance at, a conference held at the University of Toronto, with Lloyd Axworthy as the keynote speaker. IRCC's book *Memories of Kosovo* (published following the events of Operation Parasol) can now be accessed on our website in both English and French.

The year's highlights also included considerable effort by CIHS members on the Hearts of Freedom book, which is nearing publication, and the Molloy Bursary award. The Gunn Prize was not awarded this year, as no submissions were received. The steering committee will work to broaden the scope of their advertising. Edlund also mentioned our ongoing participation in the onboarding sessions of Foreign Service Development Program officers. She explained that during these sessions we offer them one year's free membership and talk about the CIHS and life in the foreign service.

Contents

TITLE	AUTHORS	PAGE
CIHS Annual General Meeting	Anne Arnott	1
2024 CIHS Molloy Bursary Recipient is Announced	Charlene Elgee	3
Commemorating the Kosovars' Evacuation and Operation Parasol	Gerry Maffre	4
October 1929: Immigration Officers Hired for New Ambassador International Bridge	Dawn Edlund	6
Beirut Area Visit 1972	Michael J. Molloy	8
Book Launch: <i>Sanctuary in Pieces: Two Centuries of Flight, Fugitivity and Resistance in a North American City</i> by Laura Madokoro	Dawn Edlund	11
CIHS 2024 Website Report	Don Cochrane	12
In Memoriam		12

The Panel Discussion

Robert Orr, chair of the panel discussion, drew from the Pier 21 website in his introduction:

In February 1998, widespread ethnic tensions led to an outbreak of armed conflict between the forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Some 350,000 Kosovars fled to neighbouring countries in search of safe haven. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) appealed to the international community to provide these refugees with temporary protection until they could return home.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Canada's resettlement and repatriation of 7,000 Kosovar refugees. In 1999, over 5,000 Kosovar refugees arrived under Canada's emergency humanitarian evacuation program, Operation Parasol, while a further 2,300 came via a family reunification program. All had the option of staying or repatriating. In the end, some 7,251 Kosovars came to Canada, of whom some 4,800 stayed. As always, there were many partnerships involved for immigration officials to manage and deliver the program. Bulletin 108 published in May 2024 was dedicated to Operation Parasol.

Our three panelists had very different perspectives on these events.

- **Gerry Van Kessel**, a founding member of CIHS, was Director General, Refugees, at Citizenship and Immigration Canada from 1997 to 2001 and was therefore responsible for the department's management of Operation Parasol. In 2001 he became Coordinator, Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Ravi Sall** works for IRCC as a senior director in the Service Delivery Sector, responsible for the economic program. He has worked in almost all aspects of the migration program in both IRCC and the Canada Border Services Agency. In 1999, as a young recruit, Sall worked at Camp Aldershot from its opening until its closing. During that time, he was responsible for the matching centre and was the alternate site manager, working alongside the refugees at the sustainment site.
- **Krenare Recaj** is a PhD candidate at Carleton University. Her Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded doctoral research explores the history of international relations, migration, diaspora, and refugees with a particular focus on Kosovar-Albanian refugees' settlement experiences in Canada. She, along with her sisters and parents, came to Canada in 1999 through Operation Parasol and spent time at the Borden sustainment centre. More information about and from Recaj can be found in Bulletin 108.

Van Kessel began by outlining the underlying causes of the Kosovo crisis. The government in former Yugoslavia favoured Serbs. New borders put some groups into minority situations, creating tensions which drew the involvement of Western powers. When the war started in March 1999, over 800,000 people were internally displaced or fled to neighbouring countries. Western governments debated how to respond to this refugee crisis—assist refugees to remain where they were in the countries of first asylum or assist them to relocate. Then Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Lucienne Robillard consulted Van Kessel in April, and he recommended that Canada provide aid. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and U.S. President Bill Clinton spoke, and it was decided that 5,000 Kosovars would be brought to Canada. Rick Herring became the branch lead. Speed was critical, so there was no time for the usual medical, criminal, and security screening before their arrival. After an initial triage, 5,000 Kosovars were quickly brought to Canada with the assistance of the Department of Defence. Over 2,000 people were also brought in on the basis of family reunification. Kosovars were sent to a series of sustainment centres for several weeks, and the screening was done there. Many government and non-governmental departments worked together to make this happen. For the first time, Canada was acting as a country of first asylum and allowing asylees to come for a temporary period of time. Many remained in Canada and eventually became permanent residents and citizens, but many went home after the war.



Panel members L-R: Krenare Recaj, Ravi Sall, Gerry Van Kessel, and Robert Orr. Photo by Charlene Elgee.

Sall was a young port-of-entry officer in Victoria and was considering looking for another job when he received a request to work at the sustainment centre in Aldershot. It all happened very quickly, and there was not a lot of clarity in the roles. The military personnel were remarkable, turning things around very quickly, from furniture to meals. Sall recounted living in the barracks and working 12-hour days to complete pre-screening of the asylees to allow them get Canadian government ID. There were a lot of bored, traumatized young people who were very isolated and could not leave the centre until their ID had been issued. He spoke about the efforts to get to know people and assist them. An elders' council

was set up, with some of the younger people acting as interpreters. Sall said that he remained in touch with some of the Kosovars he met in Aldershot. This experience completely changed his mind about working in immigration, and he returned to the department after completing graduate school.

Both Van Kessel and Sall spoke about the subsequent change in the Canadian perception of refugees after boats containing refugee claimants starting arriving on British Columbia's coast. What had been a very warm and receptive view of refugees when the Kosovars arrived changed almost overnight.

Recaj spoke of her PhD research, specifically the difference between how the Kosovars were treated and how Canada normally treats refugees and refugee claimants. She said that she often bounced between being a researcher and being a refugee. Finding a picture of herself and two of her three sisters in the Pier 21 photo archive changed her thinking about how we record history. She reached out to CIHS, which put her in touch with people who had been involved in this operation. She spoke to 30 officials and others; every interview gave her something that she couldn't get anywhere else. Every family has an official they remember fondly. She finished by saying that it takes a village to write a dissertation and that she was very grateful.

During the subsequent question-and-answer portion of the discussion, one AGM attendee asked why so many people had chosen to leave Canada and return home. The answer explained that everything happened so quickly—within two weeks, people were forced from their homes, becoming refugees, and then were offered the chance to go to Canada. Most subsequently spent years dreaming of a liberated Kosovo. Some, because they wanted to be part of an independent Kosovo, returned too quickly, but they were under the protection of the United Nations. The UNHCR was against people returning too soon, but Canada's position was that if people wanted to return, they should be assisted to do so. Van Kessel stated that in general, 20 percent of all immigrants to Canada decide to leave. Sall said that initially 90 percent of Kosovars wanted to return home—the fact that 45 percent of Kosovars did return home in this context was not surprising. Part of his job was to assure people that there was more to life in Canada than what they were experiencing in the sustainment centre.

“Lessons learned” from this movement influenced how Canada reacted in subsequent refugee situations.

Closing Remarks

Edlund closed the meeting by noting that we are not very good at documenting what we've done, and so this is one of CIHS's current goals. Looking to next year, the Society has recently received many boxes of material from Jack Mitchinson's family. Mitchinson was a CIHS member and a retired immigration official in southern Ontario. His archive includes considerable information about the program and the people who ran it, including newspaper reports of the opening of the Ambassador Bridge in 1929. The CIHS will go through this material to determine the appropriate partners to archive it and create one or more Bulletin articles. We also have work to do on the documentation we have already collected about the Lebanese movement to Canada in the 1970s.

Edlund concluded her remarks by noting that CIHS currently has 133 members and that we need to work to draw new membership from a broader spectrum of individuals with interest and experience in the field of immigration.

2024 CIHS Molloy Bursary Recipient is Announced

Charlene Elgee

The CIHS Board is proud to announce the recipient of the 2024 Molloy Bursary.

This year's recipient of the bursary is Madeleine Le, a second-year student at McGill University with a major in Canadian Studies and a minor in Political Science. Studying the history of Canada features as a strong element of her work, and she has achieved excellent results in all her courses.

Ms. Le is the daughter of a refugee from Vietnam. Her father left his family as a small child and ended up in Ontario sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada. She explains that her “father's story serves as a cornerstone of my identity and a motivating factor to study Canadian history and contribute to a better future”. She intends to follow her undergraduate degree with the study of law in Ontario, and we wish her every success in that pursuit.



Madeleine Le, recipient of the 2024 Molloy Bursary, at the McGill Faculty Club. Photo provided by her.

Commemorating the Kosovars' Evacuation and Operation Parasol

Gerry Maffre

In 1999, having fled ethnic violence in Serbia, the Kosovars were in perilous circumstances. Leading up to the Easter weekend, there had been a lot of discussion at the international level as to how best to respond. Then, that same weekend, Canada announced "Operation Parasol" to evacuate 5,000 Kosovars here and ultimately more than 2,000 others through a family reunification program. Shortly after both groups started arriving on 4 May, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Lucienne Robillard announced that evacuees could stay permanently. Over half did so, while Canada would pay repatriation costs for others.

With the passage of time, the Kosovar-Canadian community thought it was right to celebrate its evacuation and reflect on "these significant moments, their lasting impact and the important lessons they hold for the present and future". The conference "Memory, Politics and Precedent" took place in Toronto on 1-2 November 2024. As in the past with anniversary celebrations of other diasporic communities, CIHS was one of the sponsoring partners.

An opening gala featured Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Her Excellency Donika Gëtvalla-Schwarz, who offered remarks of appreciation for Canada's help on Kosovo's path to independence. The Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, who was then Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke of the struggle in deciding when military action is appropriate to safeguard people under threat (the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine or R2P) and warned about the dangers of using permanent and temporary migration as a means of resolving issues in Canada, such as shortages in the labour market or shortfalls in university budgets. The rest of the evening featured a tribute to the Canadian Armed Forces for their role in contributing to the independence of Kosovo, testimonials by young Kosovar-Canadians, and music and dance.

The second day of the conference, at the University of Toronto's Bill Graham Centre, featured four panel discussions with question-and-answer sessions.

- **Canada and Kosovo in Context: Military, Diplomacy, Policy** - Gerry Van Kessel (responsible for the operation at CIC) reviewed the policy discussions and decisions leading up to the arrival of the Kosovars and the decision to let them stay.
- **Policy Implementation Overseas: Immigration Processing in Macedonia and Albania** - Dr. Marilyn Cooper, Stéphane Larue, and Martin Barry outlined their challenges in carrying out basic medical screening and finding and processing Kosovars in the region and camps for chartered flights to Canada.
- **Sustainment Sites: Kosovar Refugees on Canadian Forces Bases** - Presentations were made by Jim Crowther, then CIC manager at Camp Borden; Valerie Keyes, who was central to the Department of National Defence's planning to receive and house the evacuees; and Ishmael Aquino, who was then the Red Cross's Atlantic regional head. Their remarks emphasized that the level of cooperation between their organizations contributed to the program's success.
- **Settlement, Integration, and Policy: Kosovars in Canadian Communities** - Chris Friesen (Immigration Services Society of B.C.) and Fariborz Birjandian (Calgary Catholic Immigration Society) looked to past and current settlement programming and laid out possible improvements to the program that they nevertheless consider a global model.



The Sustainment Site's Panel. L-R: Panelists Ishmael Aquino, Valerie Keyes, Jim Crowther, and Moderator Gerry Maffre. Photo courtesy of Tanya Aquino.

Initiatives going forward include an archive at Carleton University's MacOdrum Library, consisting of documents, pictures, and oral histories from Operation Parasol. And *The International Journal* will publish a special edition marking the 25th anniversary of Canada's role in Kosovo in 1999.

As the conference co-chairs Carleton University Associate Professor Dr. Laura Madokoro, and PhD candidate Krenare Recaj said they see the conference as "a starting point for deeper reflection, greater discussion, and renewed attention to the 25 years of shared history, shared present, and shared future between Canada and Kosovo."

For more information:

- Check the conference [website](#).
- The opening gala is [online](#).
- The CIHS website has other [information](#) on Operation Parasol.



A chance meeting in a Halifax coffee shop in the fall of 2024 led to a sharing of memories amongst former colleagues involved in Operation Parasol in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

L-R: John Byrne (retired N.S. Regional Director, Red Cross), Tony Marshall (retired Director General, CIC Atlantic Region), Ishmael Aquino (then Red Cross Manager of Community Response), and John Webb (retired Director of Emergency Social Services, N.S. Department of Community Services). Photo courtesy of Roz Marshall.



Operation Parasol: Urgent need, swift action, display created by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 to commemorate the evacuation's 25th anniversary. Photo courtesy of the museum.

October 1929: Immigration Officers Hired for New Ambassador International Bridge

Dawn Edlund

The Ambassador International Bridge, linking Detroit and Windsor, opened on 15 November 1929¹. In preparation for that opening, 15 immigration officers were hired and reported for work in early October 1929.

The Windsor Star newspaper reported on these new immigration officers in two separate articles. The first, published on 1 October 1929, was entitled "New Men For Immigration" and appeared on page 3; the second was composed of photographs of the 15 men, with the title "New Immigration Inspectors Begin Duties" and appeared in the 3 October 1929 edition.² I find it intriguing that the 1929 newspaper coverage includes what in 2024 would be considered sensitive information and therefore not shared with the media for personal security and program integrity reasons, such as the new hires' home addresses, photographs and information about their specific work locations and shifts.

A transcription of the two articles can be found below.

New Men for Immigration³

15 Inspectors Added to Force; Ready for Bridge from Border Cities Will Be Introduced to Duties at Ferry Docks of City

Fifteen new men, all local, reported for duty at the Canadian immigration office on Chatham Street this morning and were assigned to shifts at the Ouellette and Ferry Street docks in preparation for regular shifts to be taken upon the opening of the Ambassador Bridge.

BREAKING IN

The men were distributed between Ouellette Avenue dock and the automobile dock at the base of Ferry Street, to be broken into the regular routine. All have passed civil service examinations. Upon the opening of the bridge for traffic some of the new men will take up position there, and the others will be placed on shifts at the other docks.

"Two or three of our men live in Sandwich," Orval G. Adams, head of the immigration office, stated this morning. "It is therefore quite likely that they will want work at the Ambassador Bridge, and naturally will be given the preference in this case."

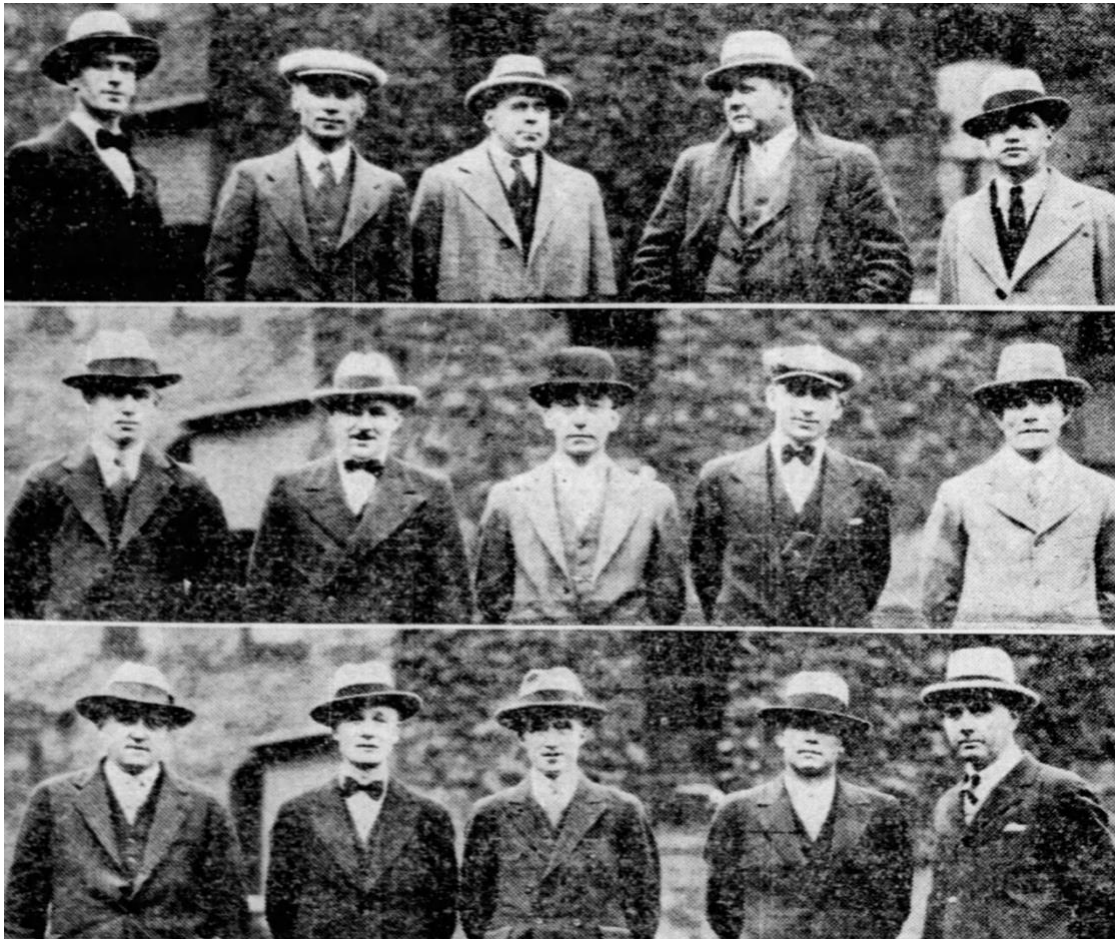
"When the spring season opens up, more officers will be placed on duty to take care of the extra immigration work. As yet," Mr. Adams said today, "they do not know how many they will require to handle the work during the summertime. To take care of the rush at that time extra men will have to be taken on for that season."

ASSIGNMENTS

Joseph St. Pierre, 849 Wyandotte street, east; David A. Weir, 149 Turner Road; F.C. Lewis, 43 Josephine Avenue; and A. Smith, 1170 Cadillac Street, have been assigned to the 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. shift at the Ouellette Avenue dock for this week. On the 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. shift at the same dock are N. McGuire, R.R. No. 1, Windsor; W. Chadwick, 900 Gladstone Avenue; Harold Mills, 133 Monmouth Road; and Peter McIntyre, 46 Crawford Avenue.

From 6:45 p.m. to 2:45 a.m., George Rawlins, 545 Windermere Road, and Thomas Butler, 321 Victoria Avenue, will be on duty at the Ouellette Avenue dock; and from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. C.E. Fordham, 1029 Tuscarora Street, will be working at the Ferry Street auto dock.

C.B. Moulton, 48 Byng Road, and Fred Brill, 425 Grove Street, will be on duty from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the auto dock; from 10:45 a.m. until 6:45 p.m., John Ford, 1648 Louis Avenue, is scheduled for work at the same dock; and George Westrop, 1541 Elsmere Avenue, will be on duty there from 1:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.



New Immigration Inspectors Begin Duties⁴

THESE fifteen new men, all local, reported for duty this week at the immigration office and were assigned to shifts at the Ouellette and Ferry Street docks in preparation for regular shifts to be taken upon the opening of the Ambassador Bridge.

The top row, reading from left to right, shows F.C. Lewis, C.E. Fordham, J.F. Ford, N.T. McGuire, and T. Butler. In the middle row are H. Mills, G. Rawlins, F.E. Brill, C.B. Moulton, and W.E. Chadwick. The lower photo shows J.O. St. Pierre, George Westrop, P. McIntyre, A. Smith, and D.A. Weir.

Notes

¹ Ambassador Bridge, accessed 24 September 2024 at: [Ambassador Bridge - Wikipedia](#)

² Some of the punctuation and capitalization has been modified throughout for ease of reading.

³ "New Men For Immigration", published in *The Windsor Star* on 1 October 1929, page 3; accessed 24 September 2024 at: [Article from 01 October 1929, page 3 - The Windsor Star at Newspapers.com](#)

⁴ "New Immigration Inspectors Begin Duties", published in *The Windsor Star* on 3 October 1929, page 5; accessed 24 September 2024 at: [Article from 03 October 1929, page 5 - The Windsor Star at Newspapers.com](#)

Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que la publication « Souvenirs du Kosovo » est maintenant affichée sur le site web de la Société.

Beirut Area Visit 1972

Michael J. Molloy

Ed. Note: all illustrations in this article are by the author.

I recently came across an expense claim for an area visit I made to eastern Africa, Mauritius, and Saudi Arabia between 17 June and 18 July 1972. I was about to shred it when I realized this was the last trip to East Africa before Idi Amin announced the expulsion of Uganda's Asian community, so I decided to take a closer look. The trip itself was not historic, but it included some interesting experiences and unexpected brushes with history.

In 1972, the Canadian embassy in Beirut housed an immigration area office, one of several established when Canada adopted a policy of "universality" when the point system came into effect in 1967. Beirut's area office provided Canadian immigration services to people in the Middle East, a large slice of eastern Africa, and a number of countries bordering or in the Indian Ocean.¹

I had made a similar trip in January and was looking forward to getting away from interviewing visitor applicants, but the departure was fraught. The embassy would certainly never provide transportation to the airport for a mere immigration officer, so my wife, Jo, who was suffering from dysentery on top of morning sickness, discharged herself from the hospital and drove me (with our children Kathleen and Bill in the back seat) to the airport. It was considered unwise to let taxi drivers know that the "man of the house" was out of the country. Sounds harsh now, but that's how it was.

Nairobi

There were no flights from Beirut to Africa, so step one was a Sabena flight to Athens and a midnight flight on Olympia to Nairobi, arriving there on 17 June. Olympia had a groundbreaking smoking policy: smokers sat on the right, non-smokers on the left.

Most of our business in Africa consisted of Asians (people from the Indian sub-continent) seeking more security as post-colonial Africanization policies took hold. Kenya had expelled several thousand Asians in the late 1960s, and Canada had resettled several hundred. This led to a modest but steady flow of applications. On these trips, we did 12 interviews a day, usually at the local Canadian high commission or embassy, augmented by numerous conversations between, before, and after the interviews with people previously interviewed or planning to apply.

Kampala: Trouble Ahead

We had no applications from Uganda, but the boss, Roger St. Vincent, was worried about the evolving situation there. On 24 June I flew to Kampala to consult British and American colleagues and to broaden my circle of acquaintances in the Asian community.

After I checked into the Apollo International Hotel, my first stop was Nelsudry's Grocery to meet with my official Ismaili contact, Sadru Ahmed. As I walked through the door, Sadru, without even saying hello, told me that I needed to talk to someone in the storeroom. There I found an Asian man, apparently in shock. He had been en route to Kampala when he heard the roar of a convoy of Ugandan army trucks and got off the road and out of sight. To his horror he saw that the trucks, heading in the direction of the Nile, were piled high with the bodies of dead soldiers. Amin's northern soldiers were ridding the army of their 3,000 southern comrades.

Things had clearly got worse since my January visit. Consultations between Amin and leaders of the Asian communities had led nowhere. Amin had attended a summit of radical Arab leaders that included Sadat of Egypt, Khadafi of Libya, and Assad of Syria, and on return had expelled the Israeli development and military missions. His public pronouncements were becoming more and more threatening. At the same time, in the course of meetings, meals, and squash games, I found the Asians I encountered only mildly worried and carrying on as usual.

Nairobi

On 24 June I checked out of the Apollo and flew back to Nairobi. I reported what I had learned to the high commission and was instructed to dictate a report for External Affairs HQ in Ottawa directed to CIDA manager Phil Boyce. I kept it as factual as possible and did not speculate on what might lie ahead. I had personally concluded that expulsion of the Asians was more than likely, though I had no idea that it would come so soon.

Mauritius: Ups and Downs

The following day, 25 June (my birthday) I flew to Mauritius, where I was met by Mauritian TV and gave a short interview praising the bilingual character of the Mauritian population. I was also met by Mario Rosette, driver-handyman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism and various other things. We went directly to the ministry, where I met with the

principal secretary and the foreign minister and assured them that we loved Mauritians. (Which, as it happens, was true. Being bilingual in English and French and the products of a solid school system, Mauritians had acquired a positive reputation among employers in Canada.)

It was our practice to conduct our interviews in the capital, Port Louis, a steamy, grungy port town, in the office of the ombudsman, who had fled the island for reasons never explained to me. After work, we would take a taxi up into the cool mountains to Curepipe, and a hotel whose name I have happily forgotten—bleak, unfriendly, with no amenities. I learned some years later it had burned down and was not saddened by the news.

By 28 June, I was so sick I could not go to work. The hotel staff avoided me as if I had the plague, and I felt as if I did. Around 11 o'clock in the morning, the door burst open and two Australian immigration officers barged in and demanded "What the Hell's wrong with you, mate?" They had heard I was in Mauritius, went looking for me at the ombudsman's office, where they found dozens of people I should have been interviewing, and somehow learned where I was staying. They cleaned me up and got me dressed and into a taxi. They handed the driver a wad of rupees with instructions to take me to HMS Mauritius, a small Royal Navy station, and to stick with me for the rest of the day. At the station a Royal Navy surgeon gave me a shot, a handful of pills, and an introduction to one of the local hospitals. I've been a great fan of the Australian immigration service ever since. My expense account indicates I checked out of the hotel due to "bugs" and found a new place to stay.



On Sunday morning, Mario Rosette and his Mini Minor appeared at the new hotel for our traditional tour of the island. We drove to a gas station, where he extracted some cash in a tiny official OHMMS envelope (On Her Majesty's Mauritian Service) and explained that for long journeys he always used super test gas. (Mauritius is 45 miles long). The highlight of the tour was the astonishingly beautiful botanical garden at Pamplemousses established by the French in the 1700s, and maintained by the French, the British, and now the Mauritians.

Lusaka: Not My Favorite Stop

By 2 July I had managed to catch up with all my interviews and departed Mauritius for Lusaka, Zambia. If Mauritius was my favourite stop, Lusaka was not. I stayed at the modern but cheerless Lusaka Intercontinental, and I never saw anyone smile. On my way to meet with the UNHCR representative, I chatted with the taxi driver who, out of nowhere, quietly asked whether there was any chance that the British would come back and run the country again. A number of my interviewees were white Zambians who were being squeezed out, but I got the impression they were more likely to resettle in Australia. The most positive thing about Zambia was the currency, underpinned by the copper industry. The Kwacha was the rough equivalent of the British pound: .65 Kwacha = 1\$US. Years later I had a particularly unpleasant encounter with the Zambian security service, but that's another story.

Dar es Salaam

About a year earlier Tanzania had begun putting pressure on its Asian population. People were not expelled, but their businesses and properties were being systematically nationalized, leaving them with no option but to move elsewhere. The Hindus and Sikhs favoured the U.K.; the Ismailis preferred Canada. These people had useful business skills, had benefited from an excellent educational system, and spoke fluent English. The attitude of Canada's immigration department was that they were desirable immigrants. My colleague, Keith Carter, had been dealing with them for the past year, but I was instructed to include several days of interviews in my itinerary.

Accordingly, on 6 July, I flew from Lusaka to Dar es Salaam. My seat mate was a Finnish engineer who was going to Tanzania to determine why his company had not been paid for a pharmaceutical factory they had completed the previous year. We both checked into the Kilimanjaro Hotel and decided to have a swim on the adjacent beach before getting down to work. I have vivid visual memories of the beautiful bay, masses of kids enjoying the water, and a magnificent dhow sailing out to sea. I was lying on the beach, eyes closed, enjoying the sun until the moment when I felt sand on my face. Opening my eyes I saw 1. an army boot on either side of my head, 2. camouflage army pants, 3. the business end of an AK47, and 4. a grinning soldier with wraparound sunglasses. (It was the glasses



that scared me most.) Two guards from the President's residence down the beach had decided to have a little fun with two white guys. We decided it was time for lunch.

The people I interviewed in Dar told much the same story: ancestors who had arrived in the late 1800s when Tanganyika was a German colony, businesses and strong communities established in various parts of the country, and the receipt of an order advising them that their business was now property of the government. I went to lunch with two youngish Ismaili community leaders: the curry was shockingly hot, but I took comfort from the fact they were having as much trouble with it as I was.

At the UNHCR's request I went to a jail and spoke to four young South Africans. They had been lured by a liberation movement to "escape" South Africa with a promise of scholarships in Europe. On arrival in Tanzania, they were conscripted into the movement's "liberation" army: harsh discipline, poor food, and a high death rate from malaria and other diseases. Eventually they had had enough. They went over the wall one night and made their way to the commander's house to demand their release. He pulled a pistol, there was a struggle, he was killed, they were serving 20 years. Unfortunately, given the law at the time, there was nothing we could do.

Nairobi

On 11 July I checked out of the Kilimanjaro and flew back to Nairobi, where more interviews had been booked.

Addis Ababa: Close Call

Then on 13 July, I carried on to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for three nights. Landing was scary: we were low enough that I could see a toddler sitting in the doorway of a hut, when suddenly the wing went up, the wing went down, and we were on the ground. I was met by the Canadian consul, who had witnessed the landing and was more shaken than I was because months before a plane had crashed and he had had the horrible task of identifying a number of Canadian fatalities. He was kind enough to take me home, where for lunch, his wife had prepared Nile perch with a sauce I still dream about.

The first thing you notice in Addis, is that with its altitude of 2,355 metres (7,726 feet), the air is really thin: the sun is hot, the shade is cold.

An American pilot I encountered at the hotel told me that the emperor, Haile Selassie, would often have himself driven to the airport in the evenings and would sit in his car and stare at the planes.

The work in Addis was not very heavy and included interviewing descendants of Armenians who had somehow made it to Ethiopia in the wake of World War I.

Asmara: an Unexpected Stop

On 16 July, I left Addis for Asmara, where there was supposed to be a connecting flight to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It turned out the connection was delayed for a day. So, there I was in Asmara, in the middle of a civil war that eventually led to Eritrea's separation from Ethiopia. The rebels controlled the countryside and the government controlled the towns. I made my way, with all my files, to the beautiful Nyala Hotel. After checking in, I thought I'd explore the town, but it didn't take long to discover I was being followed by a surprising number of what I subsequently learned were Ethiopian spooks. Fond as I am of Ethiopians, I thought it prudent to return to the hotel, where I bought the last paperback and retreated to my room. Happiness was discovering that because the CIA had a station in the area (I later learned a friend of mine served there), I could get American Armed Forces Radio. So I spent the rest of my time listening to 1960s and 1970s rock and roll and left the paperback for the next marooned traveller.



Jeddah: Hot

The next day's flight took off over the edge of the escarpment and instead of climbing, immediately began a descent to Saudi Arabia across the Red Sea. When they opened the door in Jeddah, the blast of heat was such that for a second I thought the plane was on fire. The only person I saw on the way to the hotel was a melon seller sleeping in front of a pile of melons and using a melon for a pillow. I ordered a cold beer with lunch. Non-alcoholic!!! Yuck.



Interviews in Jeddah took place at the British consulate, and I never ceased to be amazed at how kind and accommodating our British colleagues were. I recall a notice on the community board advising parents to keep a close eye on their children due to the presence of vipers in the garden. I also recall a 30-minute rant from one of the applicants about the inconvenience I created for him while I was dawdling in Asmara.

Cairo: Another Unexpected Stop

On 18 July I bid farewell to Jeddah and caught what I thought would be a direct flight to Beirut. However, there was short stop in Cairo, where we were requested to de-plane for about an hour. The Cairo airport terminal and tarmac were crawling with Russians, angry Russians, and I watched many of them boarding and departing on Russian military transports. A senior Russian officer stood not far from me, receiving reports from subordinates and making his displeasure very obvious.

I didn't understand what was happening until decades later, when I taught a course on the Middle East conflict and had to dig into the history. Egyptian President Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, was determined to obtain a peace treaty with Israel in order to have the Sinai, occupied by Israel since 1967, returned to Egypt. After failed attempts to interest the Israelis and to prove to the Americans he was serious, Sadat decided that the only way to get peace was to shake Israeli confidence by winning, not a war but a battle. Sadat decided to send home the thousands of Russian military advisors brought in by Nasser to lull the Israelis into complacency. The Egyptians then implemented a wildly successful deception plan. Sadat issued the order for the Russians to depart on 8 July 1972, and what I witnessed ten days later as I passed through Cairo airport was the leading edge of the Russian departure and the first step toward the Yom Kippur War in October 1973.² If at the time I did not understand what I had witnessed in Cairo one thing was clear to me: if Amin was capable of killing thousands of soldiers whom he had commanded, the Asians of Uganda would be lucky if expulsion was all they faced.

Home Again?

I got back to Beirut to find Jo had been sick most of the time I was away but the kids had been ok, thanks to our maid Hadiji Ein Halayway. The plan was to take a few weeks off and go camping in Turkey. But on 4 August, Idi Amin announced that members of the Asian community had 90 days to depart Uganda. Within days, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced Canada's response. At the same time the embassy doctor ordered Jo (and the kids) home to Vancouver for the rest of her pregnancy. By 5 September 1972 I was back in Uganda—so much for plans!

Notes

¹ Beirut's area: Iran, Iraq Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Dubai, Bahrain, The United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Kerguelen Archipelago, the last of which we never found. I may have missed a couple. Canadian staff included Roger St. Vincent as Officer in Charge, Ron Button as the second-in-charge, and officers Larry Carroll, Keith Carter, Mike Molloy and Brian Davis plus two security officers and a doctor—all supported by Lebanese, Palestinian, and Egyptian local staff.

² See Ahron Bergman and Jihan El-Tahri, *The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs*. TV Books LLC, New York 1998 Chapters 13-15.

Book Launch: *Sanctuary in Pieces: Two Centuries of Flight, Fugitivity, and Resistance in a North American City* by Laura Madokoro

Dawn Edlund

On 20 November 2024, three members of the CIHS Board attended the official book launch for Laura Madokoro's new work, *Sanctuary in Pieces: Two Centuries of Flight, Fugitivity, and Resistance in a North American City*, which was published in October 2024 by McGill-Queen's University Press. The book is part of the McGill-Queen's Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Series, co-edited by Megan Bradley and James Milner.

Professor Madokoro describes her book, which was eight years in the making: "The work explores the history of refuge and the making of sanctuary by the very people most subject to the whims of hostile states. It emphasizes the critical role of community and interrogates the more performative dimensions of sanctuary practices in recent years".

Held at Perfect Books on Elgin Street, the launch featured a conversation between Madokoro and Milner, shown in the accompanying photo. Peter Duschinsky will review this book for an upcoming edition of our Bulletin.



L-R: Drs. Laura Madokoro and James Milner, 20 November 2024, at Perfect Books in Ottawa. Photo provided by Dr. Madokoro.

CIHS 2024 Website Report

Don Cochrane

Qualitative

The CIHS site has generated more than the usual number of requests for assistance this year—perhaps because of website content that sparks reader interest, the new site design, and/or better search functions.

Requests covered such topics as the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement, commonalities and differences in Canada's response to refugee movements, the Designated Class program, and the public service role in designing and implementing the points systems and Express Entry. We have also been asked to track down officers involved in South and Central American visa processing in order to help the Department of Justice on a legal matter, to identify officers involved in departmental reorganization over time, and to assist finding and recruiting someone with immigration experience as a university guest lecturer on recent immigration policy.

We have been able to respond to some of these requests in various ways: tapping CIHS Board members' knowledge; connecting regular members with the requestors; or by identifying more appropriate resource people or research materials. For those seeking help in genealogical research, we direct them to research advice on our site.

The CIHS implemented the Google suite of tools and now uses the Gmail system for handling email. This has resulted in greater stability in the handling of incoming and outgoing mail.

Quantitative: data are 2024 year to date unless otherwise noted

- Total users: 5,200 (approximately 550 per month)
- Average engagement time: 2 minutes, 22 seconds
- Devices used to access the site:

Desktop:	73.8%
Mobile:	24.4%
Tablet:	1.8%
- Visitors from:

Canada	2,700
Poland	638
USA	562
China	106
- How did they find us?

Organic search (search engines)	2,165
Referral (via links from another site)	1,781
Direct (directly entered/bookmarked)	1,395

In Memoriam

Hubert-Rouleau, Jean-François

Jean-François Hubert-Rouleau, a retired Canadian immigration foreign service program manager and visa officer, passed away on 30 November 2024. No funeral is planned. Jean-François served in many overseas postings: Riyadh, Manila, Damascus, Bogota, Havana, Port-au-Prince, and Islamabad.

He and Dan Dragovich were awarded the Governor General’s Meritorious Service Medals (civil division) in 2003, for their 1999 work in Riyadh, “at great cost to their personal safety”. Their efforts, in coordination with the RCMP, led to the dismantling of an elaborate overseas immigrant-smuggling ring.

In 2011, PAFSO recognized Jean-François for his exemplary leadership as an immigration program manager and his personal generosity in the very challenging time following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti that severely damaged the embassy and affected every staff member. Noteworthy were the depth and breadth of his response—providing first aid and other immediate and longer-term consular and immigration innovations to meet the human and operational needs demanded of him.

Upon learning of his passing, many colleagues commented on social media that he was a calm mentor to junior officers and a reliable colleague.

Remembered by Don Cochrane

My most vivid memories of Jean-François are of our working relationship in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti in January 2010.

At the time, Jean-Francois was the program manager in Port-au-Prince, which was already a very challenging operation. The widespread damage to the capital (which also claimed the life of one of the Canada-based staff in another section of the embassy) did not spare the immigration section, which was unsafe to enter due to serious structural issues.

I was directed to set up an office in Ottawa that would twin with Jean-François’s office to process the most urgent applications that were in process, as well as to implement the special measures announced by the federal and Quebec governments. Jean-François was indefatigable in the weeks that followed, despite working in an environment which steadily degraded over time. Although the demands often tested his ability to deliver, he maintained his composure and worked hard to do what he could and insisted on remaining in Port-au-Prince to see the job through—the receipt of the PAFSO award the following year was a testament to his dedication and compassion.

CIHS thanks its corporate members - IRCC 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 (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 – Don Cochrane; Secretary – Robert Orr; Editor – Diane Burrows; Past-President – Michael Molloy Members at large – Brian Casey, Charlene Elgee, Raphael Girard, Kurt Jensen, Gerry Maffre (Communications) and Ian Rankin Member emeritus – J.B. “Joe” Bissett IRCC Representative – Michael McCormick Webmaster: Winnerjit Rathor Translations: Sylvie Doucet</p>
--	--	--