



CIHS Annual General Meeting – 2025

Charlene Elgee

As always, the 2025 annual general meeting was a lively affair with old friends and colleagues greeting one another and happily engaging in conversation. The old walls of Legion House on Kent Street rang with joyful greetings and stories old and new from the more than thirty participants in the meeting.



*Former IRCC Assistant Deputy Ministers (Operations)
Martha Nixon and Bob Orr*

CIHS President Dawn Edlund opened the formal proceedings by remembering those colleagues we have lost over the past year. In particular, the board mourns the loss of one of its own, Ian Rankin, one of the founding members of the society. Ian will be remembered for his many contributions, not the least of which was his many years as the congenial and attentive host for the board's luncheon meetings.

Dawn went on to enumerate the many projects in which the Society has participated over the last year. These include helping put on a conference on the Kosovar refugee movement, contributing to the Kosovar archival project at Carleton University, presenting to new foreign service officers, awarding both the Molloy bursary to a McGill student and the Gunn prize for the best essay, and being part of the team publishing a book on the Hearts of Freedom project. This latter accomplishment was achieved after many years of hard

work by CIHS members, in conjunction with many others from the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian diaspora in Canada. Dawn also gave thanks to Scott and Elizabeth Heatherington for hosting a garden party in June.

The business part of the meeting came next, with Dawn presenting the financial report on behalf of Treasurer Don Cochrane. The financial records were subjected to an external audit by former board member Roy Christensen and were given top marks. Diane Burrows was thanked for her excellent work as the editor of the CIHS Bulletin as she steps away from that position, which will be filled by Don Cochrane. Don has served ably as the Treasurer for several years and, as he steps into his new role, the Society will need a new Treasurer. The final item of Society business for the evening was the approval of the board membership for the coming year. That approval was unanimous, and the members for 2025-26 will be: Dawn Edlund, Don Cochrane, Diane Burrows, Anne Arnott, Kurt Jensen, Michael Molloy, Charlene Elgee, Raph Girard, Brian Casey, Gerry Maffre, Robert Orr, and Michael McCormick.

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The Panel Discussion

Dawn then introduced Anne Arnott as the moderator of the evening's panel on the "Hearts of Freedom" project and the recently published book. Anne in turn introduced the members of the panel which consisted of Dr. Minh Tri Truong, Peter Duschinsky, and Michael Molloy. Anne reminded those gathered of the book's intention to tell the stories of those Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians who were caught in the wake of the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region and the refugee crisis that followed.



Panel members Peter Duschinsky, Mike Molloy, and Dr. Minh Tri Truong. Moderator: Anne Arnott

Dr. Truong spoke first, recounting the story of his coming to Canada 46 years ago after several attempts to leave Vietnam. He told of his involvement in the first attempts, in the mid-1990's, to memorialize this historic refugee movement. The "Hearts of Freedom" project furthered these efforts in 2015 by establishing committees in all the three diaspora communities. The purpose was to give the refugees a safe space to tell their stories, a necessary part of the long process of coming to terms with the losses and gains of their experiences.

The Society's President Emeritus, Mike Molloy, then took over the narrative, telling how the 2017 book "Running on Empty" was a story from the perspective of those who were working as immigration officials during the refugee crisis. The "Hearts of Freedom" project gave a voice to the refugees themselves; the objective was to tell their stories of settlement and accomplishment, to create a website, a documentary film ("Passage to Freedom"), and the book being launched here this evening. There is now even a travelling exhibit. All these separate efforts are unique in their coverage of the stories of all three communities.

Peter Duschinsky opened his segment by acknowledging that today, October 23rd, is the 69th anniversary of the uprising by the youth of Budapest – an event that led to the exodus of over 200,000 Hungarians to the west, himself among them. He then spoke movingly of the individual cases of human suffering told by those trying to escape southeast Asia in the late 1970s and early 1980s as well as those of the many people who helped them as they tried to escape their countries, and of those who ruthlessly victimized these vulnerable refugees.

Following the remarks from the panel and a brief question and answer session, Anne thanked the three speakers on behalf of all of us in attendance and closed the panel at 9 PM.

Closing Remarks

Dawn read the following message from Elsa Amadio, who could not be present at the meeting, to the gathering:

"I will be unable to attend the dinner that I am sure will be a success.

As an older elder of the Society, allow me to thank and congratulate each and all persons responsible or not for their interest and donation of time and effort to uphold and promote the Society for the benefit of present and future members but also as a reference centre for Canadian immigration.

Immigrants build the future of a country. Judging from the favourable light in which Canada is viewed the job has been well done!"



*CIHS President, Dawn Edlund, with Gunn Prize winner Michele Faux
(Photo: Don Cochrane)*

The Gunn Prize

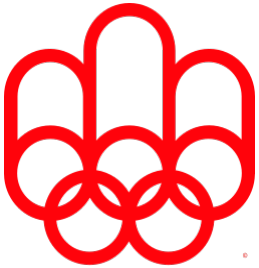
The final event of the evening was the presentation of the Gunn Prize to Michele Faux, a Ph.D. candidate at York University, for her essay “The Ugandan Expulsion of South Asians & Multicultural Policy: Exploring Factors which Sparked the Migration of Goans to Canada in the 1970s”. The essay can be found on the CIHS website.

As always, the event was an excellent opportunity to connect with former colleagues and other members of the Society in a relaxed, informal setting. Planning is underway for the 2026 edition, which will mark the Society’s fortieth anniversary.

An Undertaking of Olympian Proportions

Don Cochrane

Don Cochrane was a foreign service officer in the immigration stream from 1992 to 2021, with postings in Budapest, Vienna, Ankara, London, Beijing, and Geneva. He has recently taken over the editorship of the CIHS Bulletin.



Montréal 1976

When Montreal was awarded the 1976 Summer Olympic Games (“the Games”) at a ceremony in Amsterdam in 1970, it marked the successful end to a long-standing aspiration for the city and its flamboyant mayor, Jean Drapeau. Montreal had made five previous bids¹ to be the host city, and in 1970 a majority of members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed that it would be a safe and politically neutral alternative to the two other main contenders—Los Angeles and Moscow. It was awarded the Games on the second ballot.

Most of the media coverage of the city’s preparation for the Games was through a budgetary lens. Drapeau was determined that the Games would be self-financing and would produce a surplus; famously quipping that the Olympics could no more result in a deficit than a man could have a baby.²

The concerns of the federal government, as evidenced in records of cabinet discussions held between 1970 and 1976, were initially almost completely focused on these financial concerns and whether Ottawa would end up having to contribute for the event to be successful. The federal government had adopted a posture early on of saying as little as possible about the Games to temper such expectations—but, in a cabinet meeting held on 23 August 1972, ministers agreed to continue an analysis of the costs that the federal government would incur, in preparation for a meeting with Drapeau on his return from the Munich Olympic Games.

Less than two weeks later in Munich, armed terrorists killed two members of the Israeli Olympic team and took nine others hostage. The incident ended with a poorly executed rescue attempt, during which the remaining hostages were killed.

Suddenly, security became an additional major concern to be addressed. Canada had lived through its own limited experience with terrorism in late 1970 during the so-called “October Crisis”. What the events of Munich demonstrated was that terrorists from outside a host country would, if given the opportunity, use an event such as the Olympics to focus attention on their cause.

When the Olympics next appeared on the cabinet agenda in January of 1973, however, the cost of federal involvement continued to be the main issue of concern. At the time, it was thought that the most significant federal expense would be the additional costs that the CBC would incur in covering the Games³. At a subsequent cabinet meeting in February, the Prime Minister proposed that the federal government agree to negotiate the payment of some of the “incremental costs” such as RCMP and military personnel costs, as well as customs and immigration services.⁴ The President of the Treasury Board was tasked with coordinating federal inputs into the Olympics.⁵ It was clear to cabinet that the world saw Canada, and not only Montreal, as being the host for the Games, and any failures would be worn by the federal government as well as by Montreal and Quebec.

On 1 June 1973, the issue of security planning for the Games appeared as a stand-alone cabinet agenda item. It was agreed, among other decisions, that “the Minister of Manpower and Immigration be authorized to augment his resources in personnel and finances as required... in order to support the security posture recommended”⁶.

Also at this meeting, cabinet was informed of the IOC’s expectation that members of the so-called “Olympic family” (athletes and officials) would be able to enter Canada using only the officially issued accreditation document. The memorandum to cabinet (prepared by the Solicitor General and Minister Andras) was adamant that this should not be the case, as it amounted to a surrender of Canada’s sovereignty over its borders and immigration control. The initial reaction of at least one member of cabinet has been preserved for posterity:

Despite this limited commitment it is now apparent that the Olympic authorities expect Canadian Immigration Regulations for participants and media to be replaced for purposes of the Olympic games by regulations of the International Olympic Committee regarding passports, visas, entry and free movement across Canada. They expect to issue an Olympic Identity Card which will replace Canadian regulations determining passport and visa requirements for entry into Canada. These

NO WAY!

In the background, the bureaucracy had already started addressing these challenges and assessing its needs. A seasoned and capable immigration official, Roger St. Vincent, was tapped by Manpower and Immigration Canada to be the “Federal Immigration Coordinator” for the Games. He relocated to Montreal to take up his duties in November 1973. At St. Vincent’s request, each of the five domestic regions were to designate a “Regional Olympic Liaison Officer”, or “ROLO”. These individuals met in early 1974 to be briefed on some of the major initiatives that had been recommended to cabinet: a computer system to identify persons of concern and “known trouble makers” (the “Computer Operated Immigration Lookout System”, or “COILS”); electronic terminals at major points of entry; and microfiche readers so that ports of entry could access information not available through their limited access to the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC).

In his memoirs, St. Vincent recalled that he also wanted Canadian missions abroad to be involved in the accreditation process and to play a role in liaising with the various national Olympic committees, as well as being “more alert when granting visitors’ visas”. As he put it, “our missions and staff abroad are a first line of control and enforcement in refusing visas to undesirable persons”.

St. Vincent was also determined to break down some interdepartmental silos that he had discovered while speaking with interlocutors. As he put it, he was “stunned” when he learned that External Affairs had a list of lost or stolen Canadian passports, 12,000 in number, that was being shared with no one outside of that department. Amazed that such a huge vulnerability existed, he took steps to ensure that the information from this list was incorporated into the immigration lookouts.

As noted earlier, host nations had previously accepted the Olympic identity cards issued to athletes and others as being sufficient to permit entry to their countries. However, as St. Vincent learned while speaking with IOC officials in Lausanne, the issuance of these documents was left in the hands of the host countries and, too often, were issued indiscriminately.



An identity card issued to Krassimira Gurova, a member of the Bulgarian women's basketball team

This, he knew, was another major issue to be addressed. With a view to making the document as secure as the technology of the time would permit, the Canadian Bank Note Company was chosen to produce the cards. In the end, the cards incorporated a latent image with a maple leaf hologram, with intaglio printing—the same type of security features found in passports and visas. The three-part document was printed on a special paper that would turn dark brown if tampered with. It was by far the most secure Olympic identity card ever produced. This measure, combined with strict issuance procedures, meant that Canada was indeed able to conform with past practice and accept the pass as a valid travel document.

Having decided that timely access to lookout records and to CPIC was essential for ports of entry, the list of lost and stolen Canadian passports was added to the database that would be deployed for their use.

Given the technical constraints of the time, it was not possible for every port of entry to have a COILS terminal—in all, only 38 terminals were available to be deployed at major and strategic ports of entry and at immigration headquarters. This was the very first time that immigration officers could have instantaneous access to enforcement information. For those ports of entry where a COILS terminal could not be justified, the information was provided on microfiche, along with new microfiche readers.

In early 1975—with just over a year to go before the Games—draft guidelines were sent to visa offices abroad. Each office was to appoint an officer to liaise with the local

National Olympic Committee and to telex the list of participating athletes and officials to Canada.⁷

COILS became officially operational on 12 November 1975, when the Minister pressed the button for the first inquiry. As big a step as this was, the immigration lookout information was only held in Ottawa, so an army of typists was enlisted to ensure rapid responses to queries.

St. Vincent recalls that he had also advocated for immigration officers to take the place of their customs colleagues on the ports of entry primary inspection lines temporarily (as they had done in the past⁸) but was rebuffed. He was more successful in advocating for the introduction of disembarkation cards, to be completed by all passengers arriving from abroad and made mandatory after 1 January 1976. The card was designated by the minister as a “prescribed document” for entering Canada⁹.

On the legislative front, there was a perceived lack of authority in Canadian law to authorize immigration officers to exclude immigrants or non-immigrants on security grounds. While specific criteria relating to the exclusion of applicants for immigration on security grounds had been in place since 1967, they were outdated and did not address “the modern threat of terrorist activity” or even apply to non-immigrants. In a March 1975 memorandum to cabinet, Minister Andras sought and received cabinet approval for updated criteria that would address these shortcomings.¹⁰

In addition, given that the prohibited grounds for exclusion in the 1952 *Immigration Act* were inadequately defined, and that the 1976 *Immigration Act* had not yet been introduced in the House of Commons¹¹, a temporary piece of legislation was drafted and came into force on 26 February 1976. It contained a sunset clause whereby it would expire on 31 December 1976. That [new law](#) permitted the issuance of a summary deportation order against any non-citizen or

permanent resident who “is likely to engage in acts of violence that would or might endanger the lives or safety of persons in Canada”¹².

The preparation and execution of security arrangements for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games have been described as having been the largest peacetime security operation in Canada’s history. Dominique Clément, a Canadian historical sociologist at the University of Alberta, devotes a section of his website, historyofrights.ca, to the Olympics and the security measures that were taken—of which a great many conflicted with the Canadian *Bill of Rights* and almost certainly would have been challenged on Charter grounds today.

Aside from an avoidable diplomatic incident stemming from Canada’s recognition of China but not Taiwan (and which ended with Taiwan withdrawing from the Games because they could not compete under the name of “Republic of China”)¹³, everything went smoothly in the leadup to 17 July 1976, when Queen Elizabeth officially opened the Games by lighting the Olympic flame. When the cauldron was finally extinguished on 1 August, there is little doubt that all concerned heaved significant sighs of relief.

The fact that we associate the 1976 Montreal Olympics with the perfect scores of a 14-year-old Romanian gymnast¹⁴ and not with any acts of violence or terrorism is testament to the years of planning that preceded the Games, as well as to the massive deployment of police and military personnel.

There were very few incidents of concern; certainly, no acts of terrorism took place. According to St. Vincent, a single Japanese visitor seeking to enter Canada from the United States admitted to being a member of the Japanese Red Army and was whisked back to Tokyo, and a total of 15 participants from Eastern Europe, the USSR, Algeria, and Ethiopia ended up applying for “political asylum”. Given over 6,000 athletes (and many more officials, media, and others) entered Canada, the low number of defectors was likely due to national teams restricting the freedom of movement of their members.

It is fair to say that while providing ports of entry with more modern means of verifying names against databases would have happened eventually, the Olympics had the effect of focusing minds and, more importantly, making money available. COILS was discontinued after the Games, but the RCMP strongly advocated for the continuance of some form of similar access to lookout information for ports of entry. Some voices within the RCMP were less enthusiastic about the continued use of disembarkation cards, which they saw as being cumbersome and of very limited value.¹⁵ As we know, however, the cards indeed continued to be a regular part of air travel to Canada for many decades to follow.

COILS itself was decommissioned shortly after the Montreal Olympics—it would still be a few years before the Field Operations Support System (FOSS) was deployed, but the Olympics had offered an excellent proof of concept for providing rapid access to immigration lookout information. Microfiche readers soon appeared in Canadian immigration offices abroad as well—though it was not unusual for them to sit largely unused and gather dust.

In the context of the times, the immigration security measures that were in place for the Games (and the privacy intrusions) appear to have been acceptable to the public and did not result in any significant protests.

Once the Games concluded, the focus once again returned to the massive financial miscalculations and cost overruns that have made the 1976 Olympics infamous and whose effects still haunt Montreal and Quebec taxpayers fifty years after the Olympic flame was extinguished in the “Big O”. But that is another story altogether.

Further reading

For any event in which Roger St. Vincent was involved, his comprehensive and entertaining [A Very Fortunate Life](#), available on-line through Carleton University’s library, devotes a chapter to the period during which he was the Olympics coordinator.

Dominique Clément has written extensively about the history of rights in Canada and has assembled many primary documents on his website, historyofrights.ca, as well as a narrative account of the security operation necessitated by the Games.

https://historyofrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/olympics/Cabinet_Summary_RCMP.pdf (cabinet meeting of June 1, 1973)
On same day looked at exclusion on sec grounds criteria: chrome- https://historyofrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/olympics/cabinet/Security_Planning.pdf.

Notes

- ¹ Montreal had made unsuccessful bids in 1944 and 1956 for the summer games, and in 1932, 1936, and 1956 for the winter games.
- ² Drapeau's quip was in French: "*Les Jeux olympiques ne peuvent pas plus avoir un déficit qu'un homme ne peut avoir un bébé.*"
- ³ Cabinet Conclusions – [19 January 1973](#) (Library and Archives Canada).
- ⁴ Cabinet Conclusions – [1 February 1973](#).
- ⁵ Cabinet Conclusions – [22 February 1973](#).
- ⁶ Cabinet Conclusions – [1 June 1973](#).
- ⁷ Roger St. Vincent, *A Very Fortunate Life*, page 266.
- ⁸ On 1 October 1969, Canadian customs officers took over the initial questioning for all government departments, including immigration, health, and agriculture, to reduce redundancy and delays.
- ⁹ Instrument I-24, November 6, 1975.
- ¹⁰ Clément, Dominique. "[Memorandum to Cabinet dated March 19, 1975](#)" *Canada's Human Rights History*. <https://HistoryOfRights.ca> (accessed 7 February 2026).
- ¹¹ The 1976 *Immigration Act* was introduced in the House of Commons on 22 November 1976, received Royal Assent on 5 August 1977, and came into force on 10 April 1978.
- ¹² The *Temporary Immigration Security Act*, 23-24-25, c. 91.
- ¹³ At the time, the Peoples Republic of China was not a member of the IOC and did not compete at the Games.
- ¹⁴ Nadia Comăneci received a total of seven "perfect ten" scores at the 1976 games, winning five medals (three gold, one silver, and one bronze).
- ¹⁵ Clément, Dominique. "[Toronto International Airport Tech.pdf](#)" *Canada's Human Rights History*. <https://HistoryOfRights.ca> (accessed 7 February 2026).

The Ugandan Expulsion of South Asians & Multicultural Policy

Michelle Faux

Michelle Faux is a Ph.D. candidate at York University in the department of Art History and Visual Culture. The original essay, which received CIHS's 2025 Gunn Prize, is posted on the CIHS website. The following article is a summary of that essay.

My essay explores the sociopolitical factors which led members of the Goan diaspora living in Uganda to migrate to Canada as refugees in 1972. I argue that this pivotal moment established the Goan community in Canada and thereafter sparked their chain migration from other parts of the world as well. In August of 1972, President Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of South Asians living in Uganda. The South Asian community was comprised of Sikhs, Hindus, Ismailis, and Catholic Goans.¹ Examining the sociopolitical contexts of Uganda and Canada in the early 1970s reveals how the expelled South Asians became a boon for the Canadian economy, since they were valued as middle-class, educated workers. The timing of the expulsion crisis coincided with a shifting Canadian mindset that viewed non-Europeans/non-whites more favorably than ever before, since multiculturalism was increasingly celebrated as an essential component underpinning Canada's nationhood.²

In the first section of my paper, to reveal a more nuanced perspective of Ugandan South Asians, I focus on the Goan diaspora. "Goans" are people whose heritage stems from Goa, a state located on the west coast of India. Goa was a colony of Portugal for 450 years, from 1510 to December of 1961, when it was liberated from the Portuguese by Indian troops. I consider the effects of Portuguese colonialism on Goan people and what forced many to become uprooted. By the 1870s, educated Goans began to migrate in droves, looking for "white collar" work outside of the agricultural economy of Goa. Across the Indian Ocean, the British government in Uganda enacted a recruitment campaign that appealed to Goan labourers who were willing to work for lower wages than British administrators. Goans came to occupy more than half of the recruited colonial government positions in Uganda.³ The story of my late parents, Joe and Bertha DeCosta, helps to personalize this section as I track their migration journey from Goa to East Africa, and onwards to Canada in 1975.

I then draw from newspaper articles to understand Ugandan and Canadian perceptions of the South Asian refugees. On 4 August 1972, President Amin declared that Uganda had "no place for the over 80,000 Asians who were sabotaging Uganda's economy".⁴ Amin deemed British Asians to be "brown colonialists" and ordered all people of Indian, Pakistani, or Bangladeshi descent to leave the country within ninety days, warning that those remaining after 8 November 1972 would be "rounded up and taken to military camps".⁵ Letters printed in the *Ugandan Argus* in August of 1972 written by

various members of the public, lauded the expulsion as a just punishment for South Asian corruption.⁶ In contrast, the Toronto *Globe and Mail* and the Montreal *Gazette* reported that in response to the crisis, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau had authorized an emergency admission program to welcome up to 5,000 Ugandan Asians in Canada within two months.⁷ Trudeau and Immigration Minister Bryce Mackasey asserted that supporting the South Asian refugees was a logical choice, since they were mainly merchants and professionals who would easily find work in Canada's growing economy and add "cultural richness" and "variety" to Canadian society.⁸

Finally, I compare the oral histories of Cressy DeMello and John and Gladys Noronha, to illuminate the Goan refugee experience.⁹ Their personal accounts describe life during the expulsion, when coercive tactics included the confiscation of South Asian-owned land and personal property, imprisonment, police brutality, and torture. Tracking the De Mellos' and the Noronhas' step-migration reveals how some Goan families came to terms with starting from scratch again in Canada. The establishment of Goan social clubs in cities such as Toronto and Montreal helped to keep the diaspora members in touch with one another and their heritage.

By the 1980s, the diaspora in Canada had grown to include Goans from all over the world and its social scene was thriving. Many Goans were now well integrated into society, with children and grandchildren born in Canada. The need to preserve a sense of 'Goanness' was emerging as a prominent concern. The *International Goan Convention* was organized by Torontonians in August of 1988 to celebrate Goan heritage, and events attracted attendees from around the world. A souvenir book commemorating the festivities included a congratulatory letter to the community from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.¹⁰ Just weeks before, Mulroney led Parliament in passing Canada's first multiculturalism act, in July of 1988.¹¹ I argue that the Goan diaspora in Canada has grown alongside, or perhaps because of, the adoption of multiculturalism as a key characteristic of Canadian nationalism.

Notes

¹ Roger St. Vincent, "SEVEN CRESTED CRANES, Asian Exodus from Uganda: The Role of Canada's Mission to Kampala, Roger St. Vincent, Team Leader," in *Perspectives in Canadian Immigration History Series*. Number 3, October 1993. Ottawa: The Canadian Immigration Historical Society, 1993. P. 24.

² Daniel McNeil, "Shy Elitism: A New Keyword in Critical Multiculturalism Studies," in *Citizenship and Belonging in France and North America: Multicultural Perspectives on Political, Cultural, and Artistic Representations of Immigration*. R. Mielusel & S.E. Pruteanu, Eds. Berlin: Springer International Publishing, 2020. P. 175.

³ Shezan Muhammedi, *Gifts from Amin: Ugandan Asian Refugees in Canada*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2020. P. 30.

⁴ *Ibid*, P. 58.

⁵ "Uganda Asians Facing Threat of Internment," in *The Vancouver Sun*, 9 September 1972. Binder 2, The Hempel Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University. <https://carleton.ca/uganda-collection/archival-material/the-hempel-collection-looking-in-from-the-outside/>

⁶ "An Asian Dream Has Ended," in *the Ugandan Argus*, 18 August 1972. The Bennett Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University. <https://carleton.ca/uganda-collection/the-bennett-collection-uganda-argus-newspaper/>

⁷ "U.K. Calls on Canada to admit Asians expelled by Uganda," by Colin McCullough, in *The Globe and Mail*, 19 August 1972. Binder 1, The Hempel Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University. <https://carleton.ca/uganda-collection/archival-material/the-hempel-collection-looking-in-from-the-outside/>

⁸ "No limit – but 5,000 expected: Canada takes Uganda Asians," by Guy DeMorino, in *The Montreal Gazette*, 25 August 1972. Binder 1, The Hempel Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University. <https://carleton.ca/uganda-collection/archival-material/the-hempel-collection-looking-in-from-the-outside/>

⁹ Interview with Cressy De Mello, September 1, 2022. The Uganda Collection, Carleton University. <https://carleton.ca/uganda-collection/people/cressy-de-mello/>; Interview of John and Gladys Noronha, 12 October 2016. The Uganda Collection, Carleton University. <https://carleton.ca/uganda-collection/people/john-and-gladys-noronha/>

¹⁰ Brian Mulroney, Letter of Congratulations, Souvenir Book of the *International Goan Convention of 1988*, August 1988. P. 6. Goan Cultural Archives, 2016. https://archive.org/details/InternationalGoanConventionBookSouvenir/International%20Goan%20Convention%20Book_Souvenir/

¹¹ Lloyd Wong & Shibao Guo, Eds. "Revisiting Multiculturalism in Canada: An Introduction," in *Revisiting Multiculturalism in Canada: Theories, Policies, and Debates*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2015. P. 2.

Canadian Immigration

From the August 14, 1880, issue of *The Canadian Illustrated News*

This article, and the accompanying cartoon, were published in the August 14, 1880, edition of the Canadian Illustrated News, which was published in Montreal from 1869 to 1883.

We publish a cartoon to-day relative to immigration from Europe to Canada. This has been a favourite subject of ours since the opening of navigation, under the impression, which is every day more forcibly brought home to us, that no subject can possibly be of more direct interest to the future welfare of the country. Of what possible use can our Pacific Railway and our other public works prove to be unless we have an increment of population to profit by them! And whence do we expect to get that increment except from foreign immigration! Natural reproduction, however luxuriant in the French parishes of Quebec, cannot supply the want of the country in this respect.



The caption reads: "Canada Welcomes: - These bands of Immigrants who, in such numbers, last week, came to settle in the Dominion, instead of passing through to the United States. COME TO STAY"

arrived, laden with immigrants, and the most of them, if we are to believe the despatches, had shipped for Canada, especially the North-West, and were making direct route in that direction. This is very encouraging, indeed, and we may hope that the example thus set will be steadily followed. If English farmers, who are unable to maintain themselves and families at **home**, will only look to their own interests, they will avail themselves of the advantages which the Dominion Government gives them for emigration. In this western world, which is only a few days' sail from "home", they will find British laws, British institutions, British customs, and, over and above, free homestead rights, equality in all relations, and the widest career open to talent, thought, and enterprise, unhampered by any details of rank and station. There are no limits to the capabilities of this immigration scheme, and we trust the Ottawa authorities will be equal to the occasion.

What makes the subject more interesting is the fact of the extraordinary influx of immigrants into the United States from early spring to the present time. As we have already occasion to state, the American bureau calculates upon a total of 500,000 during the present season, which is an immense figure, surpassing anything that has preceded it. We have no means of knowing from anything like official sources, what our proportion of such an exodus may be, although we have declared that we should be perfectly content with an increase of 30,000. One solitary paper, Ministerial in tone, but, perhaps, not Ministerial in inspiration, has put the figure down as high as 50,000 to 60,000. That were a consummation devoutly to be wished for. Of course it is an exaggeration, but, perhaps, the Department, through its well known accredited organs, might give us a gleam of information in this respect, just as the Finance and Customs and Inland Revenue Departments do, through the *Canada Gazette* every month. The former knowledge is just as important and interesting as the latter.

On our front page will be found a sketch representing the allegorical figure of Canada welcoming a number of immigrants, who have come to stay in the different Provinces of the Dominion, instead of passing onward, as has been so often the case, into the United States. Within the past ten days no less than three steamers have

Promoting “*Hearts of Freedom: Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees*”

Michael Molloy

Peter Duschinsky and I have learned two useful lessons from our [Running on Empty](#) experience:

Lesson 1: The Vietnamese communities are amazing organizers.

Lesson 2: There is no substitute for getting out and promoting a book in person.

As I write, our publisher, McGill-Queen’s University Press (MQUP), estimates that sales of [Hearts of Freedom: Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees](#) has reached 950 copies since its release last September. MQUP has done a wonderful job of promoting the book online and in publications such as *The Walrus* and the *Montreal Review of Books*, as well as bringing it to the attention of booksellers across the country. They have also designed and customized posters and a pop-up banner for book events.

The initial launch took place at Ben Franklin Plaza in Nepean on 4 October 2025. Joe Clark, our keynote speaker, gave a terrific introduction to an audience of around 100; the Vietnamese and Laotian communities were heavily represented at the event. The members of the Clark family were treated like rock stars. As a matter of policy, the authors had decided that book sales at our events should be handled by independent bookstores—Ottawa’s [Octopus Books](#) set up a booth, and the five authors (and Mr. Clark) signed books. McGill-Queens’ editor-in-chief, Jonathan Crago, drove from Montreal to attend the initial launch.

The second big event took place at the beautiful Marpeck Commons of Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg on 17 October, with Stephanie Stobbe and Mike Molloy representing the authors and [Common Word Bookstore](#) handling the sales. The audience included one of the signatories of the first sponsorship agreement and [Art DeFehr](#), one of our funders.

On 23 October a panel, including the president of the [Vietnamese Canadian Federation](#), Minh Tri Truong, discussed the book at the CIHS annual general meeting.



Guest speaker Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, authors Stephanie Phetsamay Stobbe and Colleen Lundy, Daniel Jean, authors Michael Molloy, and Peter Duschinsky (Photo: Gerry Maffre)

On 2 November the action moved to Mississauga’s Burnhamthorpe Library, with a well-attended launch organized by the Vietnamese community and co-chaired by Ms. Trin Ha, the [Vietnamese Canadian Federation’s](#) vice-president of outreach, and Mike. All statements at this event took place in both English and Vietnamese, thanks to Ms. Mai Nguyen’s translation skills. Our intrepid editor, Emily Andrew, assisted with the sales and we moved a lot of books.

On 10 November, Dr. James Milner of Carleton University’s [Migration and Diaspora Studies](#) network hosted a hybrid event at Carleton University that attracted over 100 students. The five authors gave readings from the book, and the only downside was that there was not enough time to really engage with the students.

On 13 November at the Beechwood Cemetery’s Sacred Space, Daniel Jean chaired a launch for veterans of both immigration and foreign affairs—including members of the Canadian Immigration

Historical Society, [Forum](#) and [AMBCANADA](#). The guest speaker was former minister Lloyd Axworthy. Following Dr. Axworthy’s presentation, the authors gave readings and there followed a lively discussion of the book and the current

state of Canada's refugee and immigration programs. Liz Heatherington played a central role in organizing the event and a subsequent lunch at the Clock Tower Pub, while [Books on Beechwood](#) handled the sales and subsequently hosted a pre-Christmas book-signing attended by the four Ottawa-based authors on 12 December.

The following weekend, 14-15 February, Peter and Mike drove to Kitchener to present the book at the Vietnamese community's Tet festival at the Moose Lodge, thanks to the efforts of coordinator Tina Quy Tran, who is the vice-president of external affairs for the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge Vietnamese Association. At the event, master of ceremonies Tony Nguyen first interviewed former boat person Quynh Nguyen about her experiences and then interviewed Peter and Mike about the book. All proceedings were translated into Vietnamese.



At the February event in Kitchener. Seated in the front row are panelist Quynh Nguyen, MC Tony Nguyen, Mike Molloy, and Peter Duschinsky. On the far right is organizer Tina Quy Tran (Photo: Han Trin)

The following day at First Hmong Mennonite Church, the [Mennonite Central Committee \(Ontario\)](#) (MCC Ontario) and the Hmong community hosted an afternoon event that focused on the Laotian and Hmong refugee experiences. Rev. Brice Balmer chaired the event, which began with Mr. Khaban Anonthysene, a former Hmong soldier, and his daughter Faye talking about the circumstances that forced them to leave Laos and the challenges that faced them as the only Asian family in Peterborough. Peter Lau Vang, whose linguistic skills allowed him to play a pivotal role in the resettlement of the Hmong in Kitchener-Waterloo, spoke about the difficulty of learning English (which he described as an “unstable” language). By way of example, he described going to the employment centre in search of a job. The receptionist directed to him to “take a chair”; so, he picked up a chair and made for the door!

At both events, CIHS member Doug Dunnington, who was responsible for refugee resettlement in Cambridge, Ontario in 1979-80, spoke about being on the receiving end of the refugee movement and recruiting churches to provide hands-on resettlement support for government-funded refugees, an early example of what was later formalized as the “host” program.

Finally, Paula Marshall, a sponsorship coordinator at MCC Ontario delivered a “call to action” for the private refugee sponsorship program. [Words Worth Books](#) handled the book sales on both days.

Meanwhile, Stephanie flew to Bangkok, where the Canadian Embassy and the UNHCR hosted [Hearts of Freedom's](#) traveling exhibition and book event at Chulalongkorn University. We will report on this event on her return.

February was capped by noon and evening book signings at the Ottawa Rideau Centre's Indigo Books.

Future events include a virtual launch to be hosted by the Canadian [Association for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies](#) on March 4, AMBCANADA's annual authors meeting on 17 March, and events to be organized by the Vietnamese communities in Edmonton and Calgary in late April. Finally, we have had preliminary discussions with community leaders in B.C. concerning more events in that province.

(Editor: Congratulations to the authors on their successful promotion events!)

In Memoriam

Dupont, Richard

Richard Dupont [passed away on 20 October 2025](#). Having joined the immigration foreign service in 1974, Richard was first posted to Glasgow in 1975, followed by Berne two years later. He then took a position with the Quebec immigration department and managed their office in Bangkok for a couple of years. His later professional years saw him working in Quebec economic ministries in Montreal, Paris and London, until he retired as director of the economic affairs office at the Délégation générale du Québec in New York City. Richard leaves in mourning his wife, Josée Deschamps, and daughter, Isabelle Dupont-Deschamps. He is remembered as a gentleman of good humour.

Remembered by Hector Cowan

I was in touch with Richard when our 50th anniversary of joining the immigration foreign service was being arranged, so I knew then that he was not well. I intended to make a pass through Quebec to see a few old friends, but I have been delayed and so did not make it. He was a gentleman: so it goes.

Remembered by Marlene Massey

Richard and I were both posted to Glasgow in 1975. Howard Spunt was already there, and John Burroughs joined us as well. My position was deleted after a year, and I was cross posted to Milan in 1976. Richard was posted to Berne while I was still in Milan, so we had occasional contact on cases. Sad to hear the news.

Remembered by Jean Roberge

I retain many memories of Richard Dupont. This one from autumn 1974 stays in my mind.

Our recruitment training included a cross-Canada tour, to familiarize ourselves with the various provinces, regions and towns. We would be expected to direct and destine immigrants to places with job openings, vibrant economies and with a need for population growth.

Each of us was tasked, in turn, to thank our local hosts and guides, usually in a toast after a formal luncheon. Richard's turn came to toast our host, somewhere in B.C. or in Ontario. Now, in French, the toast is "A la bonne vôtre". The French phrase "Je lève mon verre à la bonne vôtre" literally means "I raise my glass to your good health" or "I toast to your health." It is used when making a toast to someone, expressing a celebratory wish for their well-being or good fortune. The phrase combines the gesture of raising one's glass (Je lève mon verre) with the toast expression (à la bonne vôtre), which means "to your good health" or simply "cheers" in a polite and warm manner.

So Richard got up, raised his wine glass, and said, in bilingual fashion: "Je lève mon verre à la bonne vôtre, up yours!" I never knew if he was impish or if he simply translated "vôtre" to "yours". Benefit of the doubt!

Margaret "Maggie" (Jones) Nebout

Margaret Nebout passed away in Toronto on 6 February 2026, at the age of 81. Maggie, as she was known to her colleagues, was a member of the "Class of 1967" and was posted to Brussels, Paris, and Cologne. After leaving the foreign service, she worked with the Ontario government in several capacities.

[Margaret's obituary](#) was published in the Toronto Star on 14 February 2026.

Remembered by Joyce Cavenagh-Wood

I have known Maggie since 1967, when we joined the Manpower and Immigration training group to become visa officers overseas. That group of people have always remained very special to me; we had some great training experiences and came to know one another well. Maggie was a standout in so many ways... not least because she was a tall blond, with a gorgeous figure, and a piercing voice and laugh. She had a genuine naiveté that caused some of our pranksters to play tricks on her, because they could count on her voluble reaction! Maggie was serious about her work, and an excellent Visa Officer. Her energy was boundless and her judgement wise.

She was posted to Cologne and Brussels, in addition to Paris. I had the pleasure of being maid of honour at her wedding in Paris. Sadly, the marriage collapsed and Maggie returned to Toronto where she had been raised, bringing only her cat and her fur coat.

Over the years we remained in touch, and when I was posted in Buffalo, I saw her frequently as she drove her little red car down to Buffalo to shop. Maggie was a whirlwind clothes shopper! Even though we mostly lived far from each other, we enjoyed sharing our life experiences by whatever means possible from airmail to texting. I will miss her cheery missives. I cherish so many happy memories.

Ian Rankin

In our last issue, we informed our members of Ian's passing. On Saturday, 6 December, an intimate gathering of friends of both he and his wife, Pat Bailey, from their professional and social circles gathered in Ottawa to share recollections of Ian.

Ian's daughter Sabrina, and son Anthony were in attendance, as well as Ian's sister and other close relatives.

Ian joined the Foreign Service as a visa office in 1974 and had postings to Manila, Los Angeles, New York City and Washington. Back in Ottawa, he served in Minster Axworthy's Canada Employment and Immigration office, at the Immigration Appeals Board, and as a security advisor at the Privy Council Office.

Remembered by Cheryl and Gerry Maffre:

Ian and Gerry first met in July 1974 as recruits to the immigration foreign service. We later welcomed Ian when we were all on our first posting – Manila, in 1975.

Ian fitted in very well to diplomatic life there and to the hard work of a very busy visa office where we often dealt with the complex human situations of our clients. Lunches in the Philippines Airlines executive dining room – the Embassy was in the airline's HQ - provided an opportunity to share issues and discuss approaches. And enjoy a San Miguel beer.

Ian was a networker and soon connected with relevant officials in the Philippine government and embassies. Later in Washington, he continued that professional approach - often serving as an unofficial intermediary on migration issues between otherwise siloed branches of the US government.

Other colleagues and friends have commented on his good humour, his positive attitude, his gentlemanliness and ability to deal with life's challenges with discretion, tenacity and aplomb. He was always ready for a discussion on some foreign policy issue or development – testament to his wide-ranging interests.

The three of us reconnected back in Ottawa and we were happy when Ian and Pat became a couple - happy together and lovingly supportive of one another. And excellent company for at-home dinners and generous, terrific hosts for the grand, boisterous Kenwood Avenue parties in early December. Later, in their Canal-side condo, Ian joined its board - only recently stepping down when Pat took over that seat.

Some forty years ago, Ian was one of the founding members of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society and was on its board these last many years. For a good while before Covid, Pat and Ian welcomed the board to their home for our monthly luncheon meetings. Wine, food and work tales enlivened the meetings - where work did get done.

Ian was proud of his Manitoba roots but prouder still of Pat, Sabrina, and Anthony and Carolyn and their children, August and Iris, who gained a grandmother in Pat. They all welcomed Ian and Pat to their homes overseas and Carolyn and the

children got tastes of Canadian summers on family visits here.

We were witnesses to Ian's health journey these past years up until our last time together in late June. Nevertheless, returning from a trip, we were shocked to learn from Pat of Ian's decline over July. We were even more shocked and saddened to hear from Pat of his passing in September.

A great friend of long-standing and of much character whom we will miss. We join his family in mourning Ian's passing.

Remembered by Peter and Chris Duschinsky:

Dear Pat, Antony and Sabrina,

We were so sorry to have to miss the gathering in Ian's honour but want to share our thoughts.

We remember Ian as a good friend for many years. He was an excellent officer and was the very model of a true gentleman.

Peter spent the trainee Cross Canada tour with Ian, playing long games of bridge and sharing stories of our pre-foreign service lives. I will never forget our time in Banff, when he and I walked a somewhat dangerous trail beside the Bow River. We were young and daring and Ian demonstrated that he was a champion athlete.

When our Ottawa postings overlapped, we often had to resolve difficult problems together.

And what an excellent host Ian was. Spending time with him in Pat's and his beautiful home was always a pleasure, everything was always done to perfection. But Ian was not only an excellent host; he radiated warmth and love for the family. And Ian had a subtle sense of humour that mirrored his high intelligence.

Some years ago, we were no longer limber athletic types. But Ian, Gerry Maffre and I gamely went to yoga classes together, ensuring that our old bones and joints got exercise.

But perhaps the most admirable quality Ian demonstrated late in life was his stoicism. Even though he suffered through a long illness, his friends never heard complaints, and he remained his always friendly, smiling self and a wonderful host.

We remember him with great affection. We feel his loss.

Remarks from Raph Girard

Ian was a man of admirable character. He took sole responsibility for his daughter, Sabrina, and her grandmother at one stage, which is a testament to a man not commonly found among us. His generosity was boundless typified by the annual Christmas parties he and Pat hosted as well as the monthly lunches for the CIHS. Ian contributed more to the betterment of this world than he took.

Remembered by Joyce Cavanagh-Wood

Although I never worked directly with Ian, I came to know him well through the years. I remember him in Los Angeles when he was very excited by the developments in technology and enjoyed sharing his enthusiasm. Back in Ottawa, he had major family issues to deal with, including a willful mother-in-law and disabled daughter. Life was not easy, but Ian always provided a cheery word and a winning smile. He and Pat visited J and I years ago when we were relatively newly settled in our North Carolina home. Our home's design is based on a visit J made to a hunting lodge that Ian's family owned in Manitoba. A gentleman in every sense of the word, Ian leaves fond memories.

CIHS thanks its corporate members – IRCC and Pier 21 – for their significant support, as well as the Society’s life and annual members. All contributions allow us to pursue our objectives and activities.

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society (CIHS-SHIC.ca) is a non-profit corporation registered as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act.

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.*

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