

## Changing of the Guard at the Centre

*President Maureen O'Neil leaves in July after 11 years  
Government Announces New Chair and President*

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AS PRESIDENT of IDRC and in her previous positions, Maureen O'Neil has worked passionately to give a voice to the people, whether in Canada or in developing countries.

Throughout her career, her main goal has always been to ensure that citizens exercise their rights, express their needs and aspirations, and take part in the decisions that shape their lives. She is recognized by numerous government departments, universities and non-governmental organizations for her outstanding contributions to Canada's participation in international affairs and in the development of human rights.

The well-being of people has constantly been the focus of her work in public policy, research, policy analysis and development. It has been her priority as president of IDRC and in all her previous positions, which include Interim President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, President of the North-South Institute, Deputy Minister of Citizenship for the Government of Ontario and Coordinator of Status of Women Canada.

Helping women gain greater control over their lives is a matter particularly close to Ms O'Neil's heart. As coordinator of Status Women Canada, she led Canadian delegations to the Copenhagen and Nairobi United Nations World Conferences on Women.

She wrote as well on women's issues in several publications; for instance, she is the co-author (with Sharon Sutherland) of the chapter on "The Machinery of Women's Policy: Implementing the Royal Commission on the Status of Women" in *Women and the Canadian State* (1997).

This commitment is also central to her work as President of IDRC. It was under her leadership that IDRC decided to increase work on gender issues in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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**Board Chair:  
Hon. Barbara J.  
McDougall**



**President:  
David M. Malone**



## Former External Affairs Minister McDougall is New Board Chair

In announcing the appointment, Maxime Bernier, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, noted that "Ms McDougall has served on the Board of the IDRC since January 2007, and has an outstanding reputation for expertise in international business development and corporate governance." He added, "I am certain that she will make a significant contribution to the continued success of the IDRC."

IDRC's new chairperson is a graduate of the University of Toronto and a Chartered Financial Analyst. She is best known as the Member of Parliament for the riding of St. Paul's, Ontario, from 1984 to 1993. She held a number of senior posts in the Conservative Cabinet from 1986 to 1993 as Minister of State for Finance, Minister of State for the Status of Women, Minister of Employment and Immigration, and finally as Minister of External Affairs.

Ms McDougall is an honorary governor of York University and is Chair of the Patrons' Council for the Toronto Association for Community Living, and was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. She calls Toronto home and is an adviser with Aird & Berlis, where she counsels clients on international business development and government relations.

## New President will take office in July

Career diplomat David M. Malone will be the next President of IDRC. Mr. Malone is currently Canadian High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal and Bhutan.

"I am proud to welcome Mr. Malone, who brings a wealth of diplomatic and scholarly experience to IDRC. He will build on the outstanding legacy of Maureen O'Neil, who has provided excellent leadership to the Centre for 10 years," said Barbara McDougall, Chair of IDRC's Board of Governors. "I had the pleasure of working with David during my tenure as Secretary of State for External Affairs in the early 1990s, and know him to be a brilliant thinker and practitioner, as well as a long-time friend of IDRC."

David Malone joined the Department of External Affairs in 1975 and served in increasingly senior positions in Ottawa, Cairo, Amman, and New York. He is currently Canada's High Commissioner to India and non-resident Ambassador to Bhutan and Nepal, managing Canada's largest diplomatic mission abroad. From 1998 to 2004, he was President of the International Peace Academy in New York, an independent non-profit research organization. He has taught at a number of universities in Canada, France, and the United States and has published numerous books and articles on international relations.

"IDRC has always been for me the model of an ambitious and innovative organization that has increased steadily in stature and accomplishment as it matured," said Mr. Malone. "I look forward to working with IDRC staff, who are renowned for their professionalism, creativity, and commitment to improving the lives of people in the developing world."

"It has been a great privilege to lead IDRC and to be part of Canada's foreign policy community over the last decade" said outgoing President Maureen O'Neil, who will stay on until Mr. Malone joins IDRC in July. "I know that Mr. Malone will be a tremendous asset to the Centre as it strives to improve people's lives in the developing world through research."

## From the Board



TO BEGIN, we hope you have all survived the winter which is just in the process of passing. An unusually heavy snowfall left Ottawa with six to nine foot snowdrifts, but courtesy of a gradual thaw we have been spared the forecast floods ... for the moment at least, as our three rivers may yet prove to be difficult.

This Newsletter refers to the departure of IDRC President Maureen O'Neil, whose term will end on June 30, with her successor, David Malone taking office on July 1. The fourth President of IDRC, Maureen has served with great distinction, guiding the programs of the Centre in new directions while remaining fully conscious of the traditions created by the Presidents and staff who preceded her term.

Of great importance to the Alumni is the fact that Maureen believes strongly in the potential contributions of a strong Alumni organization, and with her support we have been able to assist in and contribute to cooperative IDRC programs for the development of new international initiatives. Each year she attended our Annual General Meetings and Receptions, following a joint seminar conducted with her senior staff members and Alumni representatives.

We are continuing our request for articles and indeed any writings on development issues, or any other issues of consequence, from members. You will note that we welcome contributions to this Newsletter, but we also welcome the opportunity to publish titles and details of material published or being offered for publication elsewhere, in the hope that this will assist the publication process. And please bear in mind that this offer extends to spouses and companions of members. Please send your contributions to our editor, Bob Stanley, whose coordinates can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

Once again I will make my annual plea to former members who have not yet renewed memberships this year to please do so. And remember, if you wish to renew for longer than one year, Maria's schedule of membership fees offers the following packages: \$20 for one year, \$35 for two years, or \$50 for three years. The two-year and three-year options are proving to be popular.

I repeat again our offer to any of you who wishes to join the Board, to make yourself known to us. We are currently considering the possibility of non-Ottawa Board members, who could be kept aware of Board issues by email. And if any member knows of a former staff member who is not aware of the Alumni, please forward the address and telephone number (or email) to us.

With warm regards to all,

**James Pfeifer – Chairman**

### **Your Board:**

Chris Smart (Secretary),  
 Gerry Bourrier (Treasurer),  
 Maria Williams (Membership)  
 Bob Stanley (Newsletter Editor),  
 Claude-Paul Boivin (Special Programs)  
 Angie Anton (Director)  
 Jean-Marc Fleury (Director)  
 IDRC Staff Director: Kim Daly



# Alumni Annual Reunion January 25, 2008

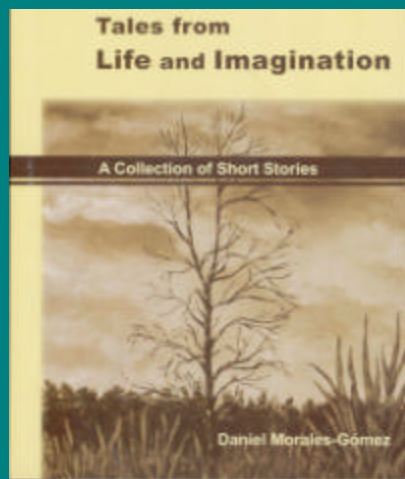
It was three months late, thanks to IDRC's move to Kent Street, but that did nothing to damp the enthusiasm of the Alumni members who gathered at the Centre's new HQ to celebrate the Alumni's sixth annual reunion and a belated 2007 AGM.



Photos by Catherine Shearer

## Book reviews

By Chris Smart



### A book with many stories

*Tales from Life and Imagination* by Daniel Morales-Gomez.  
Daniel A. Morales-Gomez. 2007. ISBN 978-0-9783419-0-9.

*“This ... was born countless times over the past years in forms beyond description, weaving fantasy and reality to the point of making it impossible to tell them apart”*

Sounds like the opening sentence to an IDRC Project Summary! *N'est-ce pas?*

No. They're the first words in the Acknowledgements to a new book by Daniel Morales-Gomez. They set the tone for our former colleague's wonderfully observed moments from life — from his own and, I suspect, from ours. A dozen short stories: each an invitation to a moment away from the day-to-day pressures of life: the gift of a scene from the pleasures and puzzles of life. Each an ideal companion for afternoon tea in a sun-lit garden.

Through the Canadian quaintness absorbed over his many years in Canada flashes of magic realism remind us that Daniel sees all from another vantage point — perhaps his start in Chile, perhaps his years at IDRC! My favourite story is *Irish Red*.

Daniel observes and records with narrative and paint: The short stories in *Tales of Life and Imagination* are narrative landscape, portrait and still life.

To see the paintings do visit Daniel's gallery at [www.magma.ca/~dmorales/index.htm](http://www.magma.ca/~dmorales/index.htm). For a bonus click on 'Portraits and People' and look at a couple of old friends.

You can order the book from Daniel at [dmorales@magma.ca](mailto:dmorales@magma.ca)

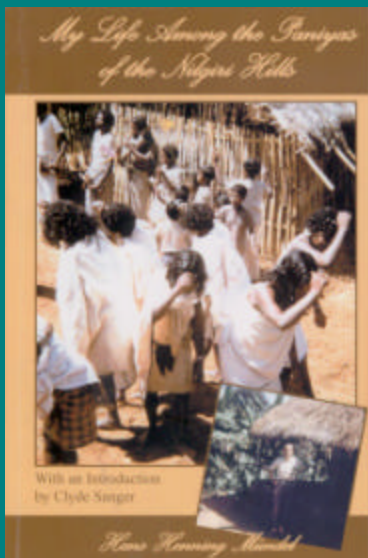
### A book with many IDRC connections

*My Life Among the Paniyas of the Nilgri Hills* by Hans Hemming Mündel, with a foreword by Clyde Sanger. Carpe Diem Mündel Publishing, 2007. ISBN 978-0-9783593-0-0.

Let me count the ways in which one may have a connection with IDRC without ever, strictly speaking, qualifying to be an alumnus. In 1966, when you first arrive in India as a CUSO volunteer assigned to help manage a farm settlement for the Paniyas in Madras State, David Hopper meets you off the plane and tries to dissuade you and to send you off to an agricultural research station to do the research for which your two Masters degrees (in Agronomy/Plant Breeding and International Agricultural Development from UC Davis) have prepared you, and you tell Dr Hopper 'thanks but no thanks' Hands up any one who ever did that when Hopper was President of IDRC!

After three years in India you come home to receive one of the first awards to complete a doctorate only months after IDRC opened its doors for business. In 1986 you are associated with monitoring IDRC-supported safflower research in India, topped off with IDRC funding numerous participants to attend the Second International Safflower Conference in Hyderabad in 1989. Those are Hans-Henning Mündel's links with IDRC and reason enough for Alumni to crack this book.





Those Alumni who, like Hans Henning, got their first exposure to international development through CUSO will enjoy this retelling of that adventure, and will wonder whatever happened to the letters they sent home to family and friends, which is what Hans Henning Mündel has used as his sources.

The Paniyas belong to the *Adivasi*, ‘tribal’ peoples, India’s First Nations. Mündel’s CUSO assignment was an example of very early efforts to improve the welfare of India’s autochthons—efforts getting more attention today as witness IDRC’s research into their role in the preservation of biodiversity. Reading Mündel’s ‘letters home’ one is witness to two initiations: on the one hand to follow a group of people taking the first steps on the path to the economic and social development that is the *raison d’être* of IDRC; and, on the other hand, to follow the *droit de passage* of a young Canadian scientist engaged in a learn-by-doing development assignment that calls for knowledge contributed with humility, trepidation, patience and kindness.

It is a book that will be enjoyed by those who have ‘been there, done that’ and by those just setting out on careers in IDRC, CIDA, World Bank, name any development agency, and by those taking the *Hobbit*’s way into development work with CUSO, VSO, UNV, Peace Corps, name any NGO.

To quote Clyde’s foreword: “It is lyrical, but you are also in the mud of those distant fields. It is shingly genuine, because you can’t fool your fiancée or your parents. It has been the most enjoyable read I have had in months. I hope you relish it.”

I did.

The book is available at [www.henningpaniyas.ca](http://www.henningpaniyas.ca)

## How IDRC helped keep the junta at bay

[The following article originally appeared in the *Toronto Star*]

On a cloudy Tuesday morning in September 1973, Chile’s top military officers led by Augusto Pinochet deployed naval ships, fighter jets and soldiers in a coup that overthrew Marxist president Salvador Allende. Within hours, the 18th-century presidential palace in Santiago was ablaze, Allende was dead and carabinieri, paramilitary troops, were burning books in the capital city’s cobblestone plazas.

In London at the time, Chilean economist Alejandro Foxley watched the events unfold on television. “I knew I had to go back and fight it out,” he recalls. Foxley would wind up with an improbable ally: a little-known Canadian development agency that eventually broke with convention and helped fund a virtual safe house for Foxley and other Chilean academics under siege.

While Canadian efforts to ferry food and emergency relief to victims of conflict and natural disasters have been well documented, the International Development Research Centre’s efforts in Chile during the post-junta years of terror have largely escaped attention.

With the junta in charge and police picking Pinochet’s political adversaries off the streets and out of their beds? interrogation tactics included rape, drugging, electric shock treatments to the genitals and even mock executions? the IDRC helped finance a liberal think-tank in Santiago called Cieplan, the Economic Research Corporation for Latin America.

In effect, the IDRC helped to prevent a brain drain that could have crippled this country when civilian order was restored in 1990. "The funding meant many of the academics could keep doing their work; they didn't have to leave the country or go drive cabs," notes Ron Harpelle, a Lakehead University professor who teaches Latin American history and received a grant to study IDRC's efforts in Chile.

Moreover, even as more than 3,200 Chileans were executed or "disappeared" from 1973 until 1990 and nearly 28,000 others were imprisoned and tortured, the IDRC funding made it awkward for Pinochet to dispose of the troublesome academics. "The international community would have started asking questions," Harpelle explains. Today, many of the academics propped up by Canada — including at least three current federal ministers — have become linchpins of Chile's economic and social renaissance.

"This is a great untold Canadian story," says Elizabeth Fox, an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development who worked for the IDRC in South America during the 1980s. "It was absolutely huge that Canada did this. There just wasn't any other big funder around."

By the time the IDRC approved funding for the Chilean academics, Fox says, "Chile had been under a dictatorship for seven years. It had very little independent social science and economic analysis. Research is not just developing better seeds or a vaccine. It's also about trying to figure out how to keep an economy going."

In an interview in his office overlooking Santiago's gleaming presidential palace, where some of the 34-year-old bullet holes left by Pinochet's advancing troops were only recently patched over, Foxley, now Chile's foreign minister, suggests that ties to Canada might have helped save lives during a time of tense uncertainty. Pinochet's cronies entertained thoughts of eliminating their meddling left-of-centre critics during his 17-year junta.

When Cieplan books were banned by the government, copies were ripped apart and chapters handed out separately as academic papers. And while opposition political parties here were outlawed, Cieplan members took to writing op-ed pieces for Chilean newspapers.

The IDRC funding nearly didn't get off the ground, according to Tony Tillett, who is now retired and still living in Santiago. When he brought a proposal to the IDRC board in 1980 to help Cieplan cover its costs, Tillett says, some board members believed Canada shouldn't meddle in Chile's political affairs. After all, Chile's ambassador in Ottawa was telling anyone who'd listen that the situation in the South American country wasn't nearly as bad as was being reported by foreign news agencies.

It took a year for Tillett to coax the IDRC's board into approving funding for the Chilean think-tank. "It was a terrible and unnerving time in Chile," he says. "The government was attempting to crush the hopes of an entire generation, but at the IDRC there was still an unwillingness to take a political position."

Tillett says he continued to bombard the IDRC board with paperwork and a comprehensive report on Chile until it finally agreed to help cover Cieplan salaries and expenses.

As IDRC was gearing up, Cieplan member Rene Cortazar, who would later become Chile's labour minister, published a paper that criticized Pinochet's economic advisers, a group of economists known collectively as the Chicago Boys because they were schooled at the University of Chicago. Cortazar alleged the government had fudged its consumer price index. "It was not just one month; it was for 30 months in a row," Cortazar said in an interview. "We published our findings and they became the data still used today for Chile during that period."

To be sure, ties to a country like Canada were no guarantee of safety. Consider the case of Carmel Soiree, a 54-year-old United Nations' worker from Spain. Soiree disappeared one night in July 1976 after his car, bearing diplomatic license plates, was pulled over by security officials impersonating traffic police.

Suspected of using his status with the UN to transfer money to Chilean communists, Soiree was questioned and tortured. His body was found in a car that had been pushed over a cliff into a canal in downtown Santiago. A government commission after civilian order was restored concluded the killing was the work of the secret police.

## The Alumni Regional Office Research Award (SARO)

The IDRC Alumni has added a regional office component to the Alumni Research Awards started in 2007. Each year the Alumni will donate funds to a project in the IDRC's Regional Office featured at the Annual Members Reception ? SARO in 2007.

With wonderful co-operation from Stephen McGurk and his colleagues in Delhi the \$3,000 donated by the Alumni has been matched with \$9,000 from SARO's Regionally Administered Funds (RAF) to make a grant to the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Sri Lanka). The grant is being used to support the RCSS' annual Mahub ul-Haq Award, for collaborative research by young South Asians, each from a different country, for joint research on non-traditional security issues with relevance to contemporary South Asia.

The first recipients of the awards to which the Alumni are contributing are:

Ms. Maneshka Eliatamby de Silva (Sri Lanka) & Mr. Ramaseshan Iyengar (India) ? "An analysis of women's involvement in terrorism through a study of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Maoist rebels in Nepal."

Mr. Saeed Rid (Pakistan) & Ms. Sasmita Tripathy (India) ? "Democracy as a conflict resolution model for terrorism: a case study of India and Pakistan."

Mr. Surendra Kumar (India) & Mr. Mostafa Naser (Bangladesh) ? "Understanding suicide terrorism in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka."

Future issues of the *IDRC Alumni Newsletter* will keep you in touch with the outputs of these awards. For further information on the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Sri Lanka) visit, [www.rcss.org/](http://www.rcss.org/) and on the Mahub ul-Haq Award [www.rcss.org/research\\_awards.html](http://www.rcss.org/research_awards.html).

**Chris Smart**



## In Memoriam

*ARTHUR VESPRY, IDRC's first head librarian, died in January. The following obituary was written by his friend and former colleague John Woolston.*



**Arthur Vespry**  
1931-2008

It defies the stereotypes to describe a librarian as risk-taking and adventurous, but those attributes certainly applied to Arthur Vespry, IDRC's first chief librarian. Born in Trinidad in 1931, Arthur came to Canada for studies at Ottawa and McGill Universities. He had several jobs while he was at Ottawa U, including at the federal Department of Agriculture. He returned there on graduation in 1958 as a professional librarian, and transferred to their new research station on the UBC campus in 1959.

The 1960s were glory years for the public sector. Governments and universities expanded, and funds were allocated for both existing libraries and new ones. There were not enough qualified librarians to fill the positions available. Librarians already secure in their positions had opportunities for promotion, and no reason to move. Arthur saw it differently. While others were unwilling to take a chance with new or unproved organizations, Arthur seized opportunities where he would be allowed to define the developments and earn recognition for his innovations. In this, he was ably counselled by Marianne Forsyth, a librarian he had met at UBC. They were married in 1961. It was a marriage for life, both personal and professional.

The decade of the '60s saw Arthur become chief librarian at AECL Chalk River, science librarian at McMaster, first university librarian at Brock, and head librarian at the IAEA in Vienna. Then, in 1970, IDRC was established and David Hopper had the vision of its becoming the home of Canada's principal library for scholars studying the science of social and economic development in the world's poorer nations. IDRC advertised locally, but there were no applications. Ottawa librarians were not interested in a new organization that occupied just two floors in a tiny office building at the south end of Bank Street.

Arthur, true to form, saw the opportunity. But this time he made a condition: that Marianne also be taken on staff so she could take direct responsibility for the more technical aspects of the work. Two years later, and Ottawa librarians were talking about the computerized system that Marianne and Arthur were building using the software that Kate Wild had studied at ILO in Geneva and had now implemented in Ottawa.

I was director of the Information Sciences program, and I remember an occasion when, after consultation with Arthur, I was working on the budget for the next year. We had agreed to request a healthy increase, but then David stopped by my office to ask what I was proposing. When I told him the figure, he said "No, double it!" - and that was not the increase, but the previous year's budget. Those were the 1970s!

After four years, the IDRC Library occupied an entire floor at 60 Queen Street, and the development scholars were beginning to use it. That's when Arthur started to look for his next challenge. He wanted to become a Program Officer and work with libraries in developing countries. There was an opening in the Singapore office, and he continued with IDRC in that capacity for another four years.



**C. Fred Bentley**  
1914 - 2008

Afterwards he returned to Vienna for some time, spent a year in Manila on a UNESCO consultancy, and finally settled in Bangkok where he was chief librarian at the Asian Institute of Technology, while Marianne worked for the United Nations.

Arthur retired in 1993, and Marianne in 1996. They then returned to Hamilton, but Arthur's health began to deteriorate. He struggled with great determination to continue living a full life, to travel and, when that became too difficult, to maintain cheerful contact with his friends by email. Marianne took care of him almost to the end.

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DR FRED BENTLEY, who died in April at the age of 94, was a distinguished Canadian soil scientist, and a charter member of the IDRC Board. He spent his life working in agriculture and sustainable development, both nationally and internationally, and received many international honours for his contributions and his vision.

He received a BSc in 1939 and a MSc in 1942 from the University of Alberta. He received a Ph.D. in 1945 from the University of Minnesota. In 1943, he joined the University of Saskatchewan as an instructor and then Assistant Professor of Soil Science. In 1946, he became a Professor of Soil Science at the University of Alberta. From 1959 to 1968, he was Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and in 1979 he was appointed Professor Emeritus.

From 1972 to 1982, he was a member and the first Chairman of the Governing Board of ICRISAT, and from 1983 to 1987, he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Board for Soil Research Management.

He was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence in 1987, and in 1994, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada "for his contribution to agriculture and food production". He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

He established the Helen and Fred Bentley Fellowship in Cropping Systems, which is administered by IDRC. Chris Smart has fond memories of Dr Bentley. "I remember long talks with him as he negotiated just what the awards he funded would cover. His main concern was for the health of the soil," he says.

Donations to the Helen and Fred Bentley Fellowship in Cropping Systems can be sent to IDRC, P.O. Box 8500, Ottawa, Canada, K1C 3H9.