



IDRC Alumni Newsletter

Number 4

January 2004

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Second Alumni Reception,
report and plenty of pictures.

Where are they now?
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IDRC Update.

AGM report and financial
statement.

Alumni Seminar – International Development and the Law



The panel (from left): **W. David Hopper**, First President IDRC/Vice President South Asia and Senior Vice President Policy Planning and Research, The World Bank; **Karim Karim**, Professor, School of Journalism and Communications, Carleton University; **Anne Whyte**, former Director General, Environment & Natural Resources, IDRC/President Mestor Associates; **Robert Robertson** - General Counsel IDRC.

Just prior to this year's reception, IDRC Alumni sponsored a development seminar on the topic of International Development and the Law. Chaired by IDRC's first President, Dr. David Hopper, the seminar was attended by Alumni members as well as a number of current IDRC staff.

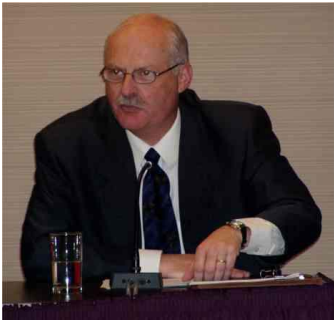
This is the first event of its kind sponsored by the Alumni, and could provide a model for similar events in future. A full report on the seminar, written by Jim Pfeifer, chairman of the Alumni Board of Directors, can be found on the following pages.

Editor: Bob Stanley

Write:
6853 Twin Lakes Avenue, Greely,
ON K4P 1P1
Email: stanleyb@rogers.com

Seminar Report by Jim Pfeifer

At issue, a consideration of how the presence of rule of law advances or safeguards sustainable development in key social and economic areas of the developing world, and an examination of the different perspectives and perceptions of the rule of law within various cultures, and how these perceptions alter the force and application of the rule of law.



Rob Robertson illustrated the significance of the rule of law in promoting development in the health sector by referring to the anti-tobacco movement's push for legal access to health data, its lobbying for tobacco control legislation, and the aggressive use of litigation to suppress tobacco advertising. He pointed out that although the poor may not often use the law or the courts to advance their development, that advocacy groups representing their interests viewed law reform and enforcement as a key element in achieving social and economic progress on their behalf.

On floor discussion, he remarked that in IDRC studies of the implementation of Internet services in Latin America, the researchers found that Internet companies simply went where the local law and legal system protected contractors rights and intellectual property.



Anne Whyte pointed out that the links between the rule of law and development are important at the international level as well as within countries in both South and North. But there are some important differences between the rule of law within countries and internationally. Under the rule of law within the state everyone from king to commoner is subject to the law, and the law rules. However, states may refuse the jurisdiction of international courts, and the rule of law is not necessarily accepted as the most important factor in sustainable development. In international law, with its more discretionary application, states are under no absolute obligation to be subject to treaties. International environmental law is an important example – witness Kyoto.

A growing concern with development and human rights in developing countries is evident in the principal areas of environmental protection, control over natural resources, a clean and safe environment, economic development, and the right to participate in decision making.

However, NGOs and other national groups are having increasing influence in formulating international environmental law and requiring its acceptance, with the lead in the formulation of new regional agreements coming from Africa, Latin America and Asia. IDRC is in the forefront of these new initiatives.



Karim Karim noted that the principles of the rule of law do not exist perfectly in any country, even in the West. A number of the rule of law principles are present in varying forms in developing countries. The history of Muslim societies indicates an openness to the rule of law, but colonialism and present-day authoritarian governments have impeded

the previously existing autonomy of civil society institutions capable of facilitating the rule of law. Rather than attempting to effect complete overhauls, Canadian development organizations should work strategically to help indigenous organizations work towards bringing about the rule of law within local cultural and historical contexts.

On floor discussion, he noted that, with Egyptian efforts to protect women's positions in divorce cases, Islamic conservatism and opposition was overcome by allying the reforms with mullahs and imams who agreed with the studies. Conservatives are everywhere, and to succeed with reforms and innovations we must create alliances.

David Hopper, in summation, said that, in approaching development and development structures, we always have to deal with local legal issues and the existing systems. He referred to the initiation of a village council system in Pakistan, which was doomed. The President's attempt to break the feudal system of land ownership met entrenched rights and he had to back away from efforts to change.

In India, the old Indian rules of administration still dominated after partition, and investment was always subject to a "political" administration. However, national rules regarded as an impediment could be circumvented by going through a state administration where the national rules were ignored.

In China, the initial modalities for investment and industrial development evolved slowly, not through Chinese domestic law but through international agreements signed in Hong Kong. This route has evolved because the Chinese are more committed to recognizing and enforcing international treaties than to providing legal relief under domestic contracts requested by foreigners. Increasingly, local agreements are structured to ensure that particularly successful joint commercial ventures do not permit additional local profits to be converted to hard currency and exported from the jurisdiction.

Ruth (Zagorin) Hopper, first Director of Social Sciences for IDRC, attended the seminar. She referred to early IDRC studies of corruption and law. A Nigerian study of tribal law and legislated law and efforts to give tribal chiefs jurisdiction over local and family matters, with the legislated law administered by a national system, went nowhere. Studies of corruption did produce useful results, but only after the title was changed from corruption to "bureaucratic behaviour".

She advised that, generally, projects on marketing and investment failed where there was an inadequate legal structure. On the issue of any investment in developing countries, what we knew became immediately apparent. Investment in any country must be backed up by local legal structures that protect contracts and contract rights.



Renewing Old Friendships at the Reception

More than seven years have passed since I left IDRC. So it was with some trepidation that I stepped onto the top floor of 250 Albert for the second annual IDRC Alumni Reunion. I need not have worried. From the moment I picked up my name tag to my last good-bye, the evening was filled with laughter, a few tears and many reminiscences. So many familiar faces – sometimes, though without instantaneous recall of names. October 24 was magical – catching up with friends, reliving some adventures and recapturing the essence of IDRC – namely the people. I knew everyone was having a wonderful time as the volume just went up and up. Earlier in the day I attended the excellent seminar on Law and Development. Intellectual stimulation was and still is such an important element of the Centre. A special thank-you to the Organizing Committee for making this event happen. Looking forward to 2004.

Bev Chataway



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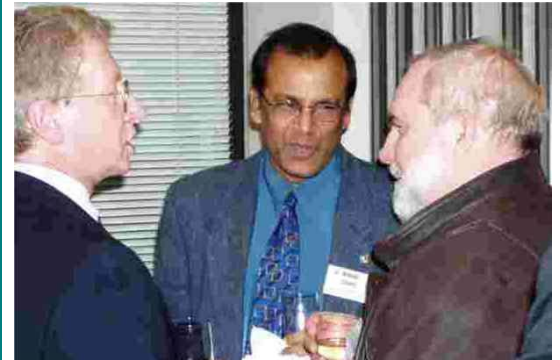
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**Mark your
calendar now!**

**Next year's
reception and
annual meeting:**

**Friday, September
24, 2004**

Photos: 1 Chantal Roddy,
Susan Warren. 2 Ivan Head,
Louis Berlinguet. 3. Jean-
Marc Fleury, Bob Stanley,
Mary Blackwell. 4. Bev
Chataway, François Bélisle.
5. Tim Dottridge, Anwar
Islam, Hubert LeBlanc

6. Rose Wood, Karl & Patsy
Smith. 7. Mireille (Lessard)
Roberge, Lyse Lavictoire,
Bert St. Armand. 8. Tim
Dottridge, Tony Lovink. 9.
Serge Dubé, Pauline (Fleury)
Degen. 10. David Hopper,
Subadra Kappagoda. 11.
Bahija (Dottridge) Reghai,
Chris Smart.. 12. John &
Jeanette Rive, Sheila
(Fraser) Terjanian.
13. Bunny (Barker) Craig,
Bert St. Armand, Alison
Craig, Jon Church, Maria
(Herrera) Williams, Jocelyne
Béland, Julie Lalonde, Susan
Warren, Lyse Lavictoire,
Angie (Forget) Anton, Marc
Gohier, Rose Wood



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Where Are They Now?



Joe Losos IDRC 1973–1980

After running a busy bush hospital in Uganda, Africa 1969 to 1971, Joe returned to Canada to a teaching practice at the Toronto General Hospital. His real love remained the developing world so, after two years in practice, he joined IDRC in 1973 as a Program Officer and Staff Physician.

In 1975 Joe went to Toronto for two years to do post-graduate training in Tropical Diseases/Internal Medicine and then in Epidemiology and Community Health. During this period he married Joanne Cameron Carr and at the end of training, with a six week old baby, left for another posting in Africa. This time IDRC had seconded him to the World Health Organization and he established a large scale Field Epidemiology program in Zambia. These were the Rhodesian war years of '77 through '79 and, besides the usual wonderful African environment, the family experienced several harrowing episodes with threats from armed gangs and even the police.

Nevertheless, all ended well. They returned to Canada in late 1979 with Joanne pregnant with number two. Not learning their lesson, they then went for number three in 1982. They are blessed with three terrific offspring – two sons and a daughter, all of whom are doing well. Two are in Masters programs in Environment and the youngest is finishing Honours Science at Queen's.

Joe continued developing research programs around the world on his return in the Health Sciences Division, when that still existed in IDRC. In May 1980 he moved to Health Canada and, after holding several director positions, he became the Director General of the Laboratory for Disease Control. Joe holds four university degrees and loves to lead and manage large organizations. Promotions came steadily. In 1996 he became the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Health Protection Branch of Health Canada. This is the most senior Public Health position in Canada and its programs touched every man, woman and child in Canada daily.

After four years as ADM he was recruited in May 2000 by the University of Ottawa to establish a new research Institute of Population Health. He is also a full Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University. The Institute has grown almost exponentially in two and a half years and in 2003 already numbered over ninety staff and won over \$13 million in research grants.

IDRC has always been a special place for Joe and virtually a second home no matter what organization he has worked for. Once a family member...always a family member.

Concluded on next page

Joe says he and Joanne lead a pleasant life in Ottawa, and with the university have moved to a less hectic pace. Their children are very successful people who will go far (mostly Joanne's doing, says Joe). Both are blessed and active in a multitude of ways, "waiting to spoil their grandchildren rotten, whenever those might come along."

Kathy Kealey IDRC 1976-1992

Update on Members

Since leaving the Centre in 1992, Kathy Kealey (Communications Division) has worked as an international proceedings editor and publishing consultant through her company INTERPUB.

Her husband, Joe Chouinard, retired in 2001 from a 30-year career with the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). Joe continues to do some international consulting and sits on the boards of several development aid organizations. Currently, Kathy and Joe divide their time between their townhouse in New Edinburgh and their country home outside Gracefield, Quebec.

Kathy says she hopes to develop a writing career and to find more time to indulge in her hobby of oil painting.

Jim Chauvin IDRC 1983-1991

After leaving IDRC in 1991, Jim was engaged as a consultant by USAID, CPHA, CUSO, Oxfam-Quebec, and CIDA on a variety of overseas missions. He also co-founded the International Secretariat for Water, a Montreal-based NGO.

Jim joined the Canadian Public Health Association's International Programs in 1992, first as a Research Manager for the Canadian International Immunization Program - Phase 2, then as a Senior Program Officer with the Strengthening of Public Health Associations Program, and in 1999 became Assistant Director of the Association's International Programs.

This past year, he decided to do something different, and resigned his post as Assistant Director in January 2003 to become the CPHA Regional Coordinator for South East Europe. Now residing in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro), Jim is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of technical assistance activities being carried out through a CIDA-funded program in the Balkans region by Institutes of Public Health and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their capacity to respond to public health situations. He is also working with UNICEF to identify and mobilize Canadian technical resources in support of a regional CIDA-funded HIV prevention and AIDS care and support project.

More on next page

John Laidlaw IDRC 1968-1981

John Laidlaw joined IDRC as Assistant to the Secretary, Jim Pfeifer (and fondly recalls their shared martinis at the Chateau Laurier!). He also served as Assistant to the Vice-President, Cheik Hamidou Kane, and from 1976-1978 was Deputy Regional Director, West Africa, in Dakar.

John left IDRC in 1981 to become the Executive Director of the Canadian Hunger Foundation. In 1988, he became the Regional Director, Southern Africa, for the Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE) based in Harare, Zimbabwe. He still makes his home in Harare, where he runs a computer consultancy business.

From the Board

At its December meeting the IDRC Alumni Board welcomed two new members:

Chris Smart retired from IDRC in October 2003, but evidently couldn't stay away! He began his IDRC career as a Program Officer in the Social Sciences Division and completed his year 24-plus years with the Centre as the Director of the Special Initiatives Division. Currently he is Chair of the Board of Directors of Voluntary Service Overseas-Canada.

Bob Stanley was Associate Director of the Communications Division when he left IDRC in 1982. He joins the Board as editor of this newsletter, and would welcome any comments and/or suggestions on the new format, the content, or anything else about the newsletter. Bob is currently a freelance writer, editor, and communications consultant.

The other Board members are: Jim Pfeifer (Chairman), Gerry Bourrier (Treasurer), **Mary Blackwell** (Secretary), **Claude Paul Boivin** (Director Programs and Activities), **Alison Craig** (Director Memberships), **Angie Anton** and **Jean-Marc Fleury** (IDRC reps).

“The cheque is in the mail”

Right. Our indefatigable Membership Director, Alison Craig, has heard that and a few other excuses recently from members who haven't yet gotten around to renewing their IDRC Alumni membership. It costs some money to run this little organization (for example, not everyone has email so some copies of the newsletter actually have to be printed and mailed). The feedback we hear from you, the members, tells us we're doing good things. In order to continue doing that and plan new activities, we need your support, particularly the tangible kind. Membership fees for 2003-2004 remain at just \$20.00 Cdn or \$15.00 U.S. and may be mailed to Alison Craig, Ten Driveway, Apt 704, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1C7. Please do it soon, so that Alison can stop harassing the mailman.

*Just a
reminder...*

IDRC @ The World Summit on the Information Society



The December 2003 World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva provided a platform to highlight the work of IDRC and its partners in information and communication technologies for development. IDRC supported the participation of several researchers from the South, organized two workshops and participated in exhibits at the Canadian Pavilion.

The Centre undertook special coverage of the Summit by webcasting interviews with IDRC-supported researchers, decision-makers, program officers and IDRC's President Maureen O'Neil. The World Summit on the Information Society coincided with the launch of the new IDRC Web site. A key feature of the system is a very simple interface for authors, who include staff, program officers, and research partners.

Take a minute to visit the IDRC@WSIS Web site, a good example of the depth and power of IDRC's Web site: www.idrc.ca

In Memoriam

EDMUND J. O'BRIEN



1925 – 2003

The family of Ed O'Brien were saddened to announce the sudden but peaceful death of their beloved husband, father and grandfather on Friday, November 28, 2003 with his wife, partner and best friend of 35 years, Carol at his side.

Ed is also survived by his and Carol's seven children, a brother, two sisters and 10 wonderful grandchildren. He was predeceased by their daughter Jillianne in 2000. The funeral was held December 1 in Ottawa.

Ed was one of the original employees at IDRC, joining in 1970 as the first Director of Administration. Ed had a challenging position but he did it extremely well always with patience and a great deal of humor. He left the Centre in 1972. He was delighted when he was contacted with news of the proposed IDRC Alumni, became an active member and attended the first reception in September 2002.

In Memoriam

HUGH DOGGETT, O.B.E.

Dr. Hugh Doggett, former Associate Director, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences (AFNS), passed away in England on 20 July 2003 of a severe stroke. Hugh will be remembered by his former friends and colleagues as one of the pillars of the AFNS Division who helped place the Division and IDRC at the forefront of research for development programs in developing countries. He is survived by his wife Jane, who still lives at their home in Histon near Cambridge, and many of their children and grandchildren live nearby.

Hugh joined IDRC in September 1971 and left in March 1985. Previously he worked as chief sorghum breeder for the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization where he gained international recognition for his pioneering work on sorghum. While at IDRC he worked from the AFNS Satellite Office at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon from 1971 to 1973, then from ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) until 1976. He then worked out of Kandy, Sri Lanka for several years.

Hugh retired as Associate Director in 1983 but continued as a Special Scientific Advisor to IDRC until 1985. He was involved in the founding of ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India, and was seconded there for a two-year period to head their cereal-breeding program. Hugh was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) during the latter part of his career.

LUCILLE LAPOINTE 1926 – 2003

Lucille Lapointe passed away in Hull on May 16, 2003 at the age of 77 years. She was predeceased by her husband Robert and is survived by her children, Pierre and Carole, as well as two grandchildren, a brother and many nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held at Notre Dame de la Gouadeloupe Church, Gatineau on May 24.

Lucille worked at IDRC from 1977 until her retirement in 1992. During her 15 years at the Centre Lucille worked in the Treasurer's Office as a Finance Clerk undertaking many accounting responsibilities, including taxation documentation.

IDRC Alumni Annual Meeting of Members

At the Annual Reception and Meeting of Members held in Ottawa on Friday, October 24th 2003, the Chairman, James Pfeifer reported to Members:

1. There are currently 160 members of IDRC Alumni located in Ottawa and around the world. Seventy members were in attendance at the meeting.
2. **Financial:** A financial statement was available for review by Members and showed a current cash balance of \$1946.29. The current cash balance at any time is a reflection of membership fees paid. and membership fees are the only source of income. As of the meeting date, approximately 33 percent of members had renewed memberships for the year 2003-2004.
3. **Memberships:** Members were urged to renew their memberships for the year 2003-2004. Members will continue to receive copies of the Newsletter, three per year, and an updated Membership Directory.
4. **Constitutional:** IDRC Alumni is continuing to operate under the Board of Directors who had constituted the first Founding Committee of the organization. The Board includes The Chairman - Jim Pfeifer, Secretary - Mary Blackwell, Treasurer - Gerry Bourrier, Director Memberships - Alison Craig, Director Programs and Activities - Claude Paul Boivin and IDRC representatives Angie Anton and Jean-Marc Fleury. Additional Board members may be added in the coming year.

At the present time the Board is not recommending a change in the organizational structure. As indicated at the founding meeting, more detailed recommendations will be presented to the 2004 Meeting. The Board and Members informally polled have expressed views favouring a simple organizational structure.

Members who are interested in working with the Board are urged to contact any Board member.

5. **New Business.** There was no new business.

The Meeting was declared adjourned.

**IDRC ALUMNI
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 2002 – AUGUST 2003**

Revenues

Membership Fees (2002-2003)	\$ 3,069.19
Miscellaneous income (2002 reception)	2,228.72
Membership Fees (2003-2004) - prepaid	85.00

Total Revenues	5,382.91

Expenditures

Reception (2002)	2,253.73
Newsletter (graphics, photo work, printing)	418.57
Software, office supplies	551.63
Bank charges, cheque printing	212.69

Total Expenditures	3,436.62

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures **\$ 1,946.29**

(Above amount represents bank balance at year end)

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Gerald R. Bourrier _____ Treasurer

James C. Pfeifer _____ Chairman

31 August 2003