



IDRC Alumni Newsletter

Number 7

January 2005

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Former President Ivan Head dead at 74



IDRC Alumni around the world were saddened to hear of the death in November last year of former IDRC President Ivan Head, seen here with his wife Ann, who will also be well known to many former Centre staff. A full obituary can be found on page 9.

Have you renewed your membership?

If you haven't, we'd like to hear from you. Unfortunately our erstwhile Membership Director, Alison Craig, stepped down at the end of 2004, but not before she had passed the reins to Maria Williams, who many of you may remember as Maria Herrera.

If you'd like to know what we do with the money, you can see treasurer Gerry Bourrier's financial report on page 8. In the meantime, how about making Maria feel welcome in her new board position by renewing your membership today? In fact, why not do it right now, before it slips your mind. Send your cheque for Cdn\$20 (or US\$15) payable to IDRC Alumni to Maria at: 40 Amberwood Crescent, Nepean, ON K2E 7B9.



From the Board

The Board of IDRC Alumni, in adopting a general statement of purpose of the Alumni agreed that a primary role for our organization is to support and serve as advocates to further the programme initiatives of IDRC. To have any meaningful role it is essential that our interested members be aware of the current areas of concern of IDRC and the evolving concepts of program direction that are now in play. Prior to the Annual Meeting and Reunion on September 24, discussions with Maureen O'Neil, President of IDRC, resulted in agreement that it would be of value to the Alumni if their representatives could be involved in a general review of IDRC's current program directions and initiatives.

Which is why at 4 p.m. on September 24, a meeting was convened where 47 interested IDRC Alumni members as well as IDRC Board members met with senior program representatives of IDRC. Representing the Centre were Rohinton Medhora, Vice President Programs and Partnership Branch; Lauchlan Munro, Director, Policy and Planning Group; and Richards Fuchs, Director, Information and Communications Technologies for Development.

These three presented a sound and comprehensive review of current IDRC initiatives and program thinking together with a computer-based video demonstration. A lively discussion followed. Of particular interest was the reference by the Centre representatives to linkages with early program articulations in the 1970s. David and Ruth Hopper in particular reviewed the earlier programme directions and the connections with current evolution.

The discussions were terminated by the opening of the Annual Reunion, but corridor discussions between the two groups continued for some time. It was generally agreed that the interchange was useful for all parties and that we should repeat this kind of meeting.

Changing of the guard

It was with regret that the Board of IDRC Alumni accepted the resignation of Alison Craig as Membership Director effective the end of 2004. Alison has done great work maintaining the membership and distributing this newsletter since the Alumni was founded. Her contributions will be greatly missed.

However, we are fortunate to have a replacement in Maria Williams (Herrera) who has agreed to take on the position of Membership Director. Welcome to the Board, Maria.



Alison Craig

Jim Pfeifer, Chairman

Where Are They Now?

Aprodicio 'Prod' Laquian IDRC 1971-79



Retirement doesn't come easily for Prod and Eleanor!

After leaving IDRC in 1979, Prod Laquian returned to his native Philippines to teach and do research. In 1982, he joined the United Nations Population Fund with postings in Fiji (1982-84), China (1984-89), and New York (1990). Taking early retirement from the UN, Prod returned to Canada in 1991 and became a professor of urban and regional planning at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver where he was also director of the UBC Centre for Human Settlements and coordinator of three very large projects funded by CIDA.

Retiring (again) in 2000, Prod tried his hand at politics, returning to the Philippines as the chief of staff of former president Joseph Estrada. Unfortunately, that adventure did not work out, but Prod and his wife Eleanor did manage to write two best-selling books on the Estrada presidency. Prod writes that one of these, titled *The Erap Tragedy, Tales from the Snake Pit*, will be of great interest to people concerned with graft and corruption.

In 2001-2002, Prod taught urban and regional planning at MIT, where he was also acting director of the Special Program in Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS). In 2002-2003, he was awarded a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, where he wrote a book on the planning and governance of the largest mega-urban regions in Asia. The book, *Beyond Metropolis*, is scheduled to be published by Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Johns Hopkins University Press in April of this year.

Prod and Eleanor are now enjoying life in Vancouver. They divide their time between Boston (where two of their grandchildren live) and Vancouver (where their other granddaughter is). In fact, Prod says he is not sure they will ever really retire. Which is probably an understatement considering his current workload...

Prod is currently affiliated with the Comparative Urban Studies Project at Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC, the Centre for International Cooperation in Urban and Regional Planning of Peking University in its Shenzhen City campus, and with the Centre for China Development Studies at Hong Kong University. He is also working on another book on the management of urban infrastructure in Asian cities and is actively involved in preparations for the World Urban Forum III to be held in Vancouver in June 2006.

Allan Rix

IDRC 1977-95



Retirement – Finally!

I joined IDRC in 1977 to plan and implement a new program of Fellowships that would honour the name of the Centre's first chair Lester B Pearson. This involvement led my next stop as the Director of the Fellowships and Awards Division when it became separate from the Social Sciences Division.

In 1986, while on a field trip in East Africa I received a phone call from then president Ivan Head asking me to come to his office the first morning I was back in Ottawa. What had I done? Or not done? Monday morning at 9:30 I was asked by Ivan Head to become the Director of Human Resources in the Resources Division headed by Ray Audet. That was a sea change for me and launched me on a new career, without my realizing that at the time.

From 1993 to 1994 I was seconded to the office of the Auditor General of Canada as a member of the audit team that audited IDRC. Upon my return to the Resources Division I worked on a review of administration procedures in the division but in 1995 took the plunge with "early retirements" being offered and joined a small consulting firm in Ottawa that specializes in HR work. Those were interesting times and I became involved in projects in different government departments in Ottawa including Natural Resources Canada, and Parks Canada.

As usual I moved on again and joined another firm and within a short period became the Acting Head of Human Resources for the Canada Council for the Arts. In addition to this work I was the HR creature in a WUSC project in India that had the enviable task of assisting the government of India establish introduce a personal income tax system. A great cause that is probably still being attempted.

At the end of a two-year stint I was thinking of quitting and going back to my knitting when I got a call from Katherine Graham (we had worked together on the Pearson Fellowships), then the Associate Dean of Public Affairs and Management at Carleton University. I became the managing director of an idea. The idea was to establish a joint centre by Carleton and Ottawa U that would work with the voluntary sector, which was assuming more importance in public life. The centre was duly established with the acronym of CVSRD, the Centre for Voluntary Sector Research and Development. After two-plus years I finally retired (again), but the Centre goes on.

During the last few years I became involved in board work, as a volunteer, in local agencies that were involved in work I found useful. The one I have stayed with throughout this period is the Catholic Immigration Centre which does wonderful work with refugees and immigrants coming to Ottawa....

I have also served as the National President of Volunteer Canada, and a board member of Family Services Ottawa.

BUT I DID QUIT PAID WORK IN DECEMBER 2003!!!!!!

Beverley and I live on Frank Street within walking distance of the Chateau Laurier swimming pool (half price for seniors), the Elgin Street Diner, the longest skating rink in the world, miles of bicycle paths, NAC, National Gallery, and the By-Ward market. Montreal is only a short bus ride away if you need to escape Ottawa, and a great place to have spent my 70th birthday.

Our two daughters, Sarah and Alison, are in Toronto; Sarah is a manager in the City of Toronto administration, and Alison is a paramedic for the same administration. As you might imagine there are suggestions we should go back there some day if only to fulfill the promise that I made when we moved from Toronto to Ottawa in 1968 on a two-year contract: "We will try the place and if it doesn't work we'll go back."

Haven't gone back yet.

Tony Lovink IDRC 1977-1986



Retirement – Soon?

Tony started at IDRC as executive assistant to the Executive Vice-President, then became its Information Officer. This morphed into his being primarily responsible for organizing IDRC's regional conferences across Canada as part of making the organization more visible and launching the Cooperative Program with Canadian universities and other research organizations...

After leaving IDRC, I moved into teaching languages in the private sector and as an ESL high school teacher for the Ottawa Board of Education. This challenge allowed me to continue working with people largely from the South, with students from up to 15 different countries in my classroom at one time. The school where I currently teach has immigrants speaking 36 different languages – a very exciting ambience. Working with these students and their parents, I often get to use my background knowledge of their countries of origin, much of which I gathered working in international development at IDRC and before that with CUSO and the American national churches.

Having taught for 16 years, I have now started a PhD in cultural anthropology, building on work started in the 1970s and recognizing that I am a somewhat frustrated academic, who had to abandon his studies for family and other reasons. IDRC gave me a taste for research, focusing on the adaptation process of immigrant adolescent youths from Sudan and Somalia, with my eventually teaching courses at the university level and being helpful to immigrant settlement organizations. Retirement is an exciting process with new adventures in view.

2004 Alumni Reunion Featured a Latin American Theme

For the first time this year the annual Alumni Reunion featured a regional theme, with former LARO Director Henrique Tono as guest of honour. The reception room at IDRC HQ was decorated with Latin American artifacts, there was delicious Latin food to snack on, and even a mariachi band to provide atmosphere!

See how many faces you can put names to in the photos on these two pages. Sorry, no prizes. See you next year!



**Mark your
calendar now...
the 2005 Alumni
Reunion:
FRIDAY OCTOBER 14**

**This year's event will
feature the LARO region
with 'A Taste of Asia'
Watch for more details
in your next Alumni
newsletter**



Photos by: Kim Daley

**IDRC ALUMNI
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2004**

Revenues

Membership fees (2003-2004)	\$ 2,879.83
Miscellaneous income (2003 reception)	1,310.00
Membership fees (2004-2005) – prepaid	80.00
Total Revenues	4,269.83

Expenditures

Reception (2003)	1,306.52
Newsletter (graphics, photo work, printing, translation)	526.80
Software, office supplies, miscellaneous	1,136.01
Bank charges	140.03
Total Expenditures	3,109.36

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	1,160.47
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Add: Bank balance – 1 September 2003	1,946.29
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Bank balance as at 31 August 2004	<u>3,106.76</u>
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Approved on behalf of the Board:

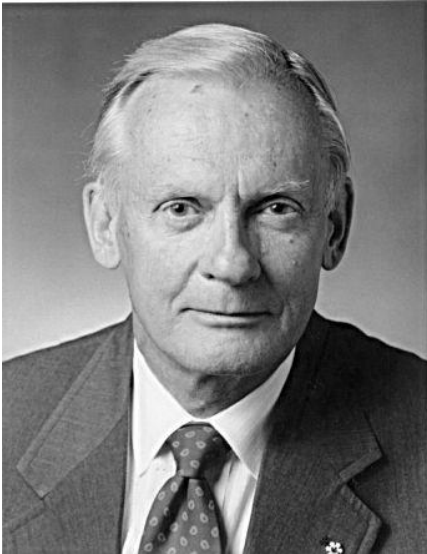
Gerald R. Bourrier, Treasurer

James C. Pfeifer, Chairman

31 August 2004

IN MEMORIAM

IVAN HEAD



1930 – 2004

Former IDRC President Ivan Head died of cancer in Vancouver on November 1, 2004. He was 74. He is survived by his wife Ann, also an IDRC Alumni member.

Head was born in Calgary where he both practiced law and taught at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law. In 1968 he moved to Ottawa to become foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Trudeau, a position he held for ten years.

In 1968 Head became IDRC's second President, succeeding the retiring Dr David Hopper. He held the position for 13 years, earning respect from around the world. Shortly before his retirement from the Centre, he received a book from Robert S. McNamara, former World Bank President, inscribed "Congratulations on a superb job. I wish I had contributed as much to the social and economic advance of the five billion people in the developing world during my 13 years at the World Bank as you did in your 13 years as head of IDRC."

After leaving IDRC Head returned to academia, becoming a professor of law and political science at UBC. While there he founded the Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues, and stayed on after his retirement as its senior fellow.

He was the author of a number of books, including *The Canadian Way: Shaping Canada's Foreign Policy 1968-84*, which he co-wrote with Trudeau. He received nine honorary degrees, including one from the Beijing Forestry Institute and another from the University of the West Indies, where he co-chaired a chancellor's commission on university governance.

JEAN (JOHN) COMEAU

1927-2004

John Comeau passed away peacefully in hospital on Friday 24 September 2004 at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife Aurise, their six children and their four grandchildren. A funeral mass in memory of John was held on Tuesday 28 October at St. Augustine Church in Ottawa. In memoriam donations to the Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family.

John joined IDRC in 1970 and he retired in 1989. During his career with IDRC he first worked as the Executive Assistant to the President, then as Director of Administration. Prior to his retirement John was a Special Assistant to the President.

Continued...

John Comeau continued...

John hails from Manitoba where he spent the first part of his professional life working in the private sector. He and his family moved to Ottawa in 1967 where he worked on a Government Commission headed by Dr. Robert Weir. He then worked on a special CIDA assignment that included assisting with the preparatory work leading up to the creation of IDRC. John was one of the first employees of the Centre.

John joined the IDRC Alumni when it was first formed in 2002 and was a faithful supporter, despite his failing health.

GB