
The IDRC Alumni provides opportunities for former IDRC employees to maintain personal and professional links, and supports continuing dialogue on development issues.

Bulletin

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Thanks to Michèle Wilson for Translation

Wish to support the IDRC Alumni Association? Contributions can be made annually or over a three-year period:

1 year	\$20
2 years	\$35
3 years	\$50

Cheques payable to the **IDRC Alumni Association**.

Return to: Donna Bickford, 1195 Priory Lane, Ottawa, ON, Canada. K1C 1Z8

Electronic transfer is also possible for Alumni across Canada and in other parts of the world who have Canadian accounts. For details contact Gerald Bourrier <bici@sympatico.ca>

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

A Check Up with Dr. Teitelbaum



As appealing as international trips for IDRC were, there were always those mosquitoes ready to attack, the alluring dishes better left untasted, the suspect ice cubes in the drink. At IDRC, we were fortunate to have a top-flight health team, wonderful nurses like Mireille, Constance, Pauline and Denise, and for the last 38 years Dr. Peter Teitelbaum. Recently Peter announced to his patients that he was retiring from family medicine, but happily, he will continue to operate The Riverside Travel Clinic and consult for IDRC.

Peter's long history at the Centre began when he worked at the Centretown Community Health Clinic in Ottawa. He was approached by Health Sciences' program officer Dr. Alan Meltzer to consult for the Centre in the newly created health services unit. Peter had no experience with the new field of travel medicine, but Alan assured him "You'll pick it up." At the time travel health services were offered to the public only at the Civic Hospital, so Peter observed its operations. That helped him to pick it up. Knowing that the three-week waiting period at the Civic was impractical for some travellers, he eventually decided to open his own clinic. Within six months he was busier than the Civic, being able to process patients more quickly than in a hospital setting.

Peter says that in many ways travel medicine has not changed greatly during his practice of it. Of course there are periodic scares, such as SARS and ebola. He still marvels that ebola has been relatively contained, as the kind of facilities and procedures needed to contain an epidemic, like those available in Toronto to contain SARS, are not available in West Africa. He also has to monitor the arrival of new contagions. For example, chikungunya has "exploded" across the Caribbean.



Unlike travel medicine, Peter says that family practice has changed greatly, and not for the better, during the course of his career. He says, "When I started, patients would come to you and tell you they were sick. Now patients come to you, and you tell them they are sick." Peter believes that there is significant over-medication for diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure and that, "There needs to be a serious re-examination of the number of pills that people are taking. People are worried about chemicals in their food and in their drink, but what are pills but chemicals. I've done my best to keep people off them, without going too far. But I present the options to patients and tell them there are certainly doctors who would be more aggressive than me in prescribing medication." According to Peter, this situation has arisen due to questionable science, including studies backed by pharmaceutical companies and flawed designs that lead to "spurious results." Overall, he says, "The situation is grim."

Whatever may be the state of family medicine, the state of travel medicine at IDRC was of the first order. For those of us who have left the workforce, our major exposure to tropical disease may now be a land excursion off a cruise ship. But for many years some of us travelled in much less amenable circumstances, travel made safer through the expertise and dedication of the nurses and the doctor who got us ready to go.

Alumni News

Michael Graham

Triumphant!



I started in Communication in 1974 as a young science editor. Most people will not know that I am a “car guy.” I owned a 1959 Triumph TR3, a bit rough, but great fun to drive. When posted to ASRO in 1981 I reluctantly sold the car, but never lost interest or passion for these little British sports cars. I returned to Ottawa in 1984, and worked until 1990 as an Associate Director in Communications. Post IDRC, I launched my own business (mgedit.com), focussed on science editing and writing, program and project evaluation, and website design.

In 1998 I again became a Triumph owner ... this time a 1973 Triumph TR6. The car required considerable mechanical work, an engine rebuild, renewal and installation of overdrive transmission, electrical and brake system work, interior and dash restoration, and rebuilding of many mechanical components such as universal joints, differential and rear axles, wiper motor, and alternator. The TR6 is a great car to drive, but I always had thoughts of returning to the joys of a “side-screen” TR3.



I’m an active member of the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club, and in 2005, a fellow member who was moving asked me if I might be interested in a 1956 TR3 “project.” You can likely guess my reaction. After 5 years in my workshop, I started a complete frame-off, nut and bolt restoration of the car in 2010. As the pictures show, the car needed lots of work; I rebuilt virtually every part of the car. The car is rare; tracking down missing parts was a major challenge, more than a year of searching for some. Three and half years on, I completed the restoration (always a work in progress).



On sunny days, I can be seen cruising the rural roads around Kemptville, or heading off to the golf course in one of my little gems. They are great little cars that always attract attention. Amazing how many people, both young and old, appreciate their unique design.

P.S. I’m not the only alumni with a soft spot for Triumphs. Chris Smart had a TR3 earlier in life, and encouraged me to share my love of these little cars. Thanks for the push Chris!

Cheers Mike.

It’s true that for a few brief months I had a TR 3 that ended like this! I wish I had had a Mike around to buy the remains. Ed.



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Don Simpson

Living the Metaphor: Network and Expedition



Don Simpson was the first Associate Director of the Education Programme in the Social Sciences Division for the first decade of IDRC. In Don's memory "The time with IDRC was a defining moment for me into an ongoing role with diverse clients in which the skills refined in IDRC as a "research entrepreneur" became one of my strongest assets".

Don's work on international development goes back to 1960 when as a history teacher looking for real world issues for his students he was inspired by encounters with students from Africa to co-found [Canadian Crossroads International](#). Post IDRC the big adventure of Don's life and work has been the Innovation Expedition which he founded and led as [Chief Explorer](#).

At 81 Don has stepped back as the Chief Explorer with the Innovation Expedition with a new role to promote the [Renaissance Expedition](#) and raise [funds](#).

[Don's archive](#) is found in the Clara Thomas Archives at York University.

Sarwat Salem Retires

After more than 35 years, Sarwat Salem is retiring from IDRC. MERO is planning a celebration of his substantial contributions, which span IDRC's global presence, on the morning of January 28th. On this occasion, colleagues will present Sarwat with an album filled with memories and best wishes. Alumni are invited to send pictures and/or messages they would like to contribute. If possible, please do so before January 25th to allow time to organize the album.

Contributions can be sent to Bruce Currie-Alder<bcurrie-alder@idrc.ca>

Alumni Research Awards

MENA Award 2014 Report

Bruce Currie Alder, RD, MENA expresses sincere thanks for the Alumni for their continued engagement and generosity. The Alumni contribution proved decisive in catalyzing not just support for a single researcher, but a more substantial funding for the [Arab Council for Social Science \(ACSS\)](#). Specifically, the Alumni portion leveraged IDRC funding for post-doctoral fellowships within project 107980. The first round of fellowships were awarded to two individuals:



Jamil Mouawad, a recent PhD graduate from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) who has returned to Lebanon in order to publish his dissertation "The Negotiated State: State-Society Relations" and work at the Institut Francais du Proche Orient (IFPO) in Beirut studying "When Authoritarianism Fails in the Arab World".

Al-Hadi Boushamma, an Algerian sociologist, spending nine months in Morocco at Mohamed University examining “The City in Tribal Societies: its Contribution to Patterns of Inclusion and Exclusion”.

ACSS recently released the first of an annual ‘monitor’ report assessing the structure and function of social sciences across the region. The summary is available [here](#). Some key insights include:

- 70% of Arab universities were created after 1991
- the number of research centers (as stand-alone NGOs) increased by seven-fold over the past three decades
- 2/3 of scientific periodicals in Arab world are issued by such centers independent from universities
- 40% of researchers report benefiting to some extent from international funding

This first edition also identifies some key issues for further analysis, such as the divide between topics/issues considered appropriate for “science” and “public” spheres. Arguably there is a great need for critical inquiry to test assumptions and bust myths that underpin public discourse. Moving forward, ACSS promises to provide a much more nuanced understanding of the career paths and employment prospects for scientists.

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LACRO Award 2015

The Award will support the field work of a student completing a Masters Degree researching the financial education of rural women in Peru and options for their participation in business. The research is supervised by Carolina Trivelli at the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos.

The focus of the research is the pros and cons of adopting informal trading versus a more formal cooperative model of women’s participation in business and efforts to ensure the sharing of the options with women.

The Alumni Contribution of \$4,000 was matched by an IDRC/LACRO Contribution of \$8,000.

News from Elsewhere

Dr. Cécile de Sweemer, an Alumna Living Development

Cécile was a program officer in the health Sciences Division (1986-1992). For the past ten years she has lived in Western Kasai Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo where she cofounded an NGO named Butoke, meaning “light” in Tshiluba, along with Jean Lumbala. Butoke is dedicated to integrated community development in the region.



Alumnus Réal Lavergne, a friend of Cécile's from their Senegal days has been a Butoke supporter from day one. He visited DRC this year and is working to share Butoke's story while rounding up support from others who understand the challenges facing an indigenous NGO working to bring hope to the lives of children in a region neglected by government and development organizations alike. The picture at the left shows Jean, Réal and Cécile in her modest living quarters and meeting area in Butoke's nutritional rehabilitation centre building.

Your Executive was confident that supporting alumni would want to recognize and honour Cécile for her dedication to development that matters and has decided to make a modest contribution to Butoke's school fund. Réal has created a Facebook post that serves as a launching pad for others to learn more about Butoke and Cécile's work and how you could contribute. Follow this [link](#) and take it from here.

Alumni may browse the book [Missionary Impossible](#) that speaks of Cécile's life and contributions to development.

Gallery

Photos from the 2015 AGM and Luncheon: In the attached file *Alumni Anciens Photo 2015. pdf*



Friends lunch in Singapore: On the left side from far end: Maria Lee Hoong Ng, Catherine Ndiaye, Betty Lim, Lucy Tan, Offie Reyes. On the right side from far end: Vivien Chiam, Nihal Kappagoda, Willy Reyes, Subadra Kappagoda.

Where Are They Now?

Ronald Archer

Ronald joined IDRC in the Pebb building in 1972 to create the IDRC library in a vacant space outside the elevator (and not much bigger!) on the 4th floor, at a time when the four program divisions were in the four corners of that floor. With the library in the middle of the Divisions and walls paper thin all business was easily shared and requests for library and research materials were transmitted to the library before the requestor voiced his/her desires to library staff!

Smoking was allowed and practiced, constant coffee was freely available and everybody knew everybody and everyone had a window office. There were no “smart phones” and if a problem arose a walk down or up a floor resolved issues face to face, immediately.

The move to 60 Queen meant luxurious space for all the Divisions, including the library (the whole of the 11th floor!), and a resulting increase in staffing but, unfortunately, a physical separation by many floors that resulted in segregation of units and difficulty maintaining that one-on-one relationship with colleagues.

Ronald moved from the library to become Executive Assistant to the Director of Information Sciences (John Woolston). He created the micrographic testing and production laboratory within IDRC and developed several projects around the world dealing with archival storage of information, including storage systems for microfilm and microfiche in tropical climates.

Between 1989 and 1993 Halifax was home when Ronald joined IDRC's sister organization ICOD (International Centre for Ocean Development) to develop a program of Information Sciences in the Fisheries and Ocean Management sectors - especially in the South Pacific. At ICOD Ronald met and married Bridget (who was the ICOD resident Librarian) and at the same time gained a young family, a girl and twin boys. Must be something in the ocean air!

Posted to Suva, Fiji, Ronald managed the only Regional Office of ICOD and an annual \$20 million joint CIDA/ICOD program in Fisheries and Ocean Management in the South Pacific. It was while in Fiji that the Canadian Government in a cost cutting purge closed 21 Agencies and Government Departments, including ICOD.

In 1993 Ronald returned to Ottawa to manage, under the auspices of IDRC, a wholly CIDA funded \$20 million information management project with the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva. CIDA's Humanitarian Division had run into implementation problems that it could not easily resolve and had requested assistance from IDRC's Information Sciences (at that point Martha Stone was the Director). In 1997 with the Board approval of the Acacia Project, Ronald gradually moved into the position of Acacia Project Manager with postings to ROSA and WARO. He retired in 2002.

Ronald has mostly fond memories of IDRC - especially the early years, when there was a sense of making a difference and a very strong sense of comradery within the organization. He particularly wishes to thank his Mentors within IDRC throughout the years. People like Arthur Vespry, John Woolston, Martha Stone and Gaston Zonga, all who encouraged and coached him along the way. His career within IDRC would not have existed without their willing and able support.

Where is he now? Ronald and Bridget retired to rural Perthshire in Scotland (Ronald was born in Scotland). They bought a 150 year old cottage and spent three years extending and renovating it themselves. It was a labour of love and lots of learning of new skills and techniques. Sadly, Bridget died in 2009 of Melanoma Cancer.



Yarrow and Kieran are in Vancouver and Campbell is in Ventura, California. They are doing well in their respective careers of Surgeon and Engineer. Ronald carries on with village life and hosting the many guests who travel from around the world to visit - colleagues and friends from Australia, Switzerland and Canada as well as relatives and friends from “down South” in England. At times he feels he is running an exclusive B&B in Scotland. And of course one must not forget the on-going study of the “water of life” otherwise known as the single malt whisky! There is always a wee dram to be had at Rossie Cottage.

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It's in the cards...

Don de Savigny



Don was in Ottawa last November for a meeting of the Board of [Health Bridge Foundation of Canada](#) .

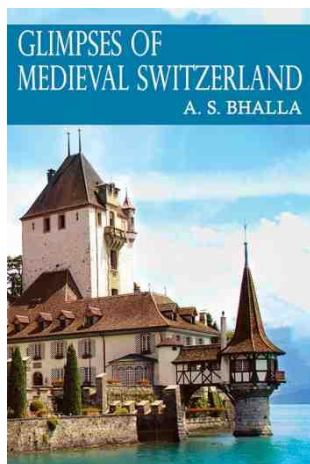
When not on airplanes to developing regions he lives in Alsace, France and cycles to work in Berne, Switzerland.

<p>Prof. Don de Savigny MSc, PhD Head of Unit d.desavigny@unibas.ch T +41 61 284 81 60, M +41 76 238 29 81</p> <p>Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Epidemiology & Public Health Health Systems Research Unit Socinstrasse 57, P.O. Box, 4002 Basel, Switzerland T +41 61 284 81 11, F +41 61 284 81 05, www.swisstph.ch</p>	<p>Swiss TPH </p> <p>Swiss TPH </p> <p>Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Schweizerisches Tropen- und Public Health-Institut Institut Tropical et de Santé Publique Suisse</p> <p>Associated Institute of the University of Basel</p>
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Alumni in Print

Ajit S. Bhalla

[Glimpses of Medieval Switzerland](#) Austin Macauley 2015.



Richly illustrated and extensively researched, *Glimpses of Medieval Switzerland* offers a fascinating journey through medieval Switzerland. It describes and illustrates Swiss history and art in its many cities, towns and villages which are replete with attractive cathedrals, castles, town halls and fountains. Decorative and often colourful fountains were the centrepieces of many towns (Basel, Berne, Fribourg, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Schaffhausen and Solothurn, for example) and they provide the take-off point for an informative account of medieval times in this scenic country. It traces the history, religious and political changes that took place in various regions of the country during and after the Middle Ages and highlights some aspects of the different architectural styles characteristic of the various cantons. The book also poses many intriguing questions, for example, why are there no decorative fountains in many old cantons of Switzerland such as Geneva, the Grisons and Valais? Do Calvinism and parsimonious nature of Geneva's population have something to do with this situation? Are the differences in their sculpture attributable to such factors as religion (Catholic or Protestant), language (French, German or Italian), or the historical legacy of Austrian Habsburgs, German kings or French counts and dukes?

Letters to the Editor

Shaun invited me to join the IDRC Facebook group which I did with great pleasure. Would you believe I did not have a Facebook account until yesterday, when I had to create one in order to access this page, because I did not want to use my wife's page to sign in?

I am still very much involved in pursuing my artistic tendencies! I have added photography to the mix and you can have a look at my handy work on my [internet site](#).

Antoine Hawara



IN MEMORIAM

Alicia Richero



1943-2014

Alicia joined IDRC in January 1990 as the LACRO Program Assistant in the Fellowships and Awards Division. She also worked with the Information Sciences Division (S&T Program); Operations Assistant; Information and Project Operations Coordinator, within the Regional Director's Office and as Information Services Coordinator. In 2003 Alicia was appointed Program Officer, Pan Americas and afterwards and promoted Senior Program Officer in the Information and Communication for Development Program Area. Alicia retired in 2009.

Alicia was a gracious colleague, a great help when I had business with LACRO.

I have very vivid memories of a lunch with Alicia on one of my visits to the region. It was Alicia who explained to me why colleagues in LACRO were often schooled in the language of the family members who first immigrated to Uruguay: Regional Director Carlos Sere in German, Alicia's roots were Italian but she opted for education in English. **This explained why Alicia loved English literature, classical and modern and we found ourselves discussing the novels we liked.

Alicia and I compared growing up in Uruguay and Canada in the '50s and '60s. Alicia's father had been a land surveyor and she highlighted how delighted the family had been when they were able to own a home and buy a Ford Prefect and enjoy trips out of Montevideo. The comparison underscored for me one of the clichés of international development...that there was a time when the prospects of Canada, and Uruguay with Argentina were more or less at par, all confident that the future meant more and better. We know that circumstances dictated otherwise. That lunchtime conversation with Alicia was the anecdote as evidence, for the historian, a chance to time travel.

Thank you Alicia.

Christopher Smart

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J. Allan Rix



1934-2015

Allan joined IDRC in 1977 as an Assistant Director to manage the Pearson Fellowship Programme in the Social Sciences Division. In 1983 he was promoted to Director of Fellowship Program. In 1986, he became the Director of Human Resources. Allan retired in 1996.

Allan passed away unexpectedly at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto on Saturday, October 31, 2015 at the age of 81.

A colleague remembered:

When I was Allan's deputy I noticed that most mornings he and Sheldon Shaeffer would start the day with coffee and a chat. I asked Sheldon what they were plotting....

I fear it was less plotting than gossip -- of which there was always a lot! Let's say that I remember most his absolute commitment to fairness, open-mindedness, and equal treatment of all staff and his concern for their welfare and well-being (part of being "Rev. Allan Rix", I suppose) and the range of his work beyond and after IDRC. I know very few people who had his erudition and intellectual capacity as well as a practical ability to manage people and systems. Very sad he is gone...

Sheldon Shaeffer

For my part it was working with Allan that cued me to the role the personal computer would play in the Centre. Soon after I joined FAD in 1984 Allan asked me to help with a report that would summarise the awards and scholarships to date. I knew that this would involve a spreadsheet and went looking for a pad of the row and column paper accountants used. Within few steps from my office I found Faye Daneliuk messing about with a gadget and stopping to ask what it was. I was introduced to the first HP laptop in the Centre and the magic of the Lotus Spreadsheet. I handed Allan his data neatly printed within the week and went on to be one of those early adaptors of the PC.

Allan had learned to swim as an adult. He swam most mornings before work in the pool at the Chateau Laurier and would arrive for work perky! He usually worked with his office door open but it would close for a time after lunch. Needing to reach him in a hurry one day I knocked at the door and entered to find him stretched on the floor napping. I left quietly. He remained perky to the end of the day.

Christopher Smart

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Joseph Odera-Jowi



1929-1015

Dr. Odera-Jowi, an economist, served as Kenya's Minister for Planning and Economic Development in the Government of Jomo Kenyatta. In 1972 as Kenya's ambassador to the United Nations he is credited with bringing UNEP headquarters to Nairobi, an unprecedented diplomatic coup, to have the first global intergovernmental organisation located outside the US and Western Europe.

Odera-Jowi worked with Maurice Strong, UNEP's first Executive Director, and chaired one of the main committees of the 1972 Stockholm Conference.

Inder Bhoi, a young lawyer in the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, worked with Odera Jowi on the UNEP file. When Nairobi was proposed as the site, Bhoi spearheaded the campaign that resulted in the selection of Nairobi as the UNEP headquarters. In the mid-1970s Bhoi was recruited by IDRC to become Assistant Legal Counsel in Ottawa. He facilitated a sabbatical for Odera-Jowi to work at IDRC headquarters where his research was on the future of the East African Community.

*The Report is in the IDRC archive: this unprecedented diplomatic coup, to have the first global intergovernmental organisation located outside the US and Western Europe. IDRC Ref: AR CHIV : 35339, v. 1 391 Pages.

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Maurice Strong



1929 – 2015

Maurice Strong, leaves behind a legacy of leadership, innovation, influence and achievement in international development unmatched by any other Canadian. He was a personal inspiration to me and I was honored to count him among my friends.

He became a businessman and a self-made millionaire by the age of 27. But his heart and his life's mission lay not in the corporate world but in tackling global poverty, the environment and climate change and all aspects of international development.

Thus, in September, 1966, with no prior experience in government, he accepted Prime Minister Lester Pearson's invitation to lead Canada's External Aid Office and to transform it into an independent agency that would take responsibility for multilateral as well as bilateral aid and help shape Canadian policy towards developing countries. Under his stewardship the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was established with Maurice its first President. His hope had been to establish a crown corporation to accord it greater autonomy and flexibility than a government department, but that proved beyond the realm of political possibility.

The extent and revolutionary nature of the changes he introduced can be appreciated only in their historical context. In the mid-1960s, Canada's international development program, like that of most other countries, was small and operated mainly on a responsive ad hoc basis. Maurice set out to change that and he did. The innovations and initiatives Maurice launched between 1966 and 1972 gave Canada a reputation for leadership and as a trend-setter in international development.

And there would be no IDRC without Maurice. The 'idea' was his and his alone and, at the time, the idea was far removed from mainstream thinking. He was convinced that development goals could be met and sustained only if the dominant 1960s aid model of transferring financial and technical assistance to developing countries was expanded to include "very special and sensitive assistance in developing their own science and technology capabilities". Without interdepartmental approval (that would in all probability never have been forthcoming), he shared the idea with the Prime Minister of the time, Lester B. Pearson, who, to the outrage and fury of the bureaucrats of the day, announced the initiative in an after dinner speech at Carleton University in 1967. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. IDRC was given royal assent in May 1970.

After leaving CIDA in 1972, Maurice devoted a large part of his life to the United Nations. He was the founding Executive-Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, was thrice appointed to Under Secretary-General roles, including for the Earth Summit of 1972 in Rio and to lead the global effort to resolve the famine in the Horn of Africa in the 1980s. He served as the Special Advisor to the Administrator of UNDP and to the President of the World Bank. In addition, he founded the Earth Council, was a member of the founding board of the World Economic Forum and ... the list goes on and on.

Maurice was Mr. Canada International whose name was mentioned frequently and over many years as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations. He was indefatigable, even as he struggled with health challenges in his later years. He was always an endless source of new ideas, initiatives and proposals to make this world a better place.

And he was always optimistic. That was never more evident to me than in a conversation with him about six years following the Rio summit on an IUCN report on the state of the global environment. The main conclusion of the report was that the aggregate evidence showed not only no progress but that the main environmental and biodiversity indicators had deteriorated steadily over the intervening years. We agreed on this, yet Maurice continued to express optimism. I asked him how this was possible and will never forget his reply. He cited the response that Jean-Paul Sartre apparently gave to a similar question: "It may be that we cannot bequeath a better world to our children, but we must always live as if we could".

No one could have said it better.

Keith Bezanson

**IDRC ALUMNI
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 2014 – AUGUST 2015**

Revenues

Membership Fees (2014-2015)	\$ 590.00
Memberships – prepaid (2015-2018)	1,175.00
AGM/Reception	940.00
Donation – Alumnus	1,500.00

Total Revenues **4,205.00**

Expenditures

Office supplies, miscellaneous	349.57
Bank charges	189.31
Award – Alumnus –ARO	1,500.00
Award – Alumni - ARO	1,500.00
Bulletin translation	300.00

4,495.83

Total Expenditures

\$ <290.83>

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures

2,519.40

Balance carried over from 2013-2014

2,228.57

Bank Balance at year end (31 August 2015)

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Gerald R. Bourrier _____ Treasurer

Robert Robertson _____ Chairman

The IDRC Alumni received donations from alumni totaling **\$25,500** during the course of this fiscal year. These donations were made in support of the Rachel DesRosiers Award program and are administered by IDRC, for logistical reasons. The Alumni will decide on an annual basis what proportion of these funds will be allocated to the Regional Office being recognized.



*Don't be shy? Join IDRC Alumni on Facebook:
at "IDRC Alumni" group and / or "IDRC" page.*



<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/556623107712593/>
