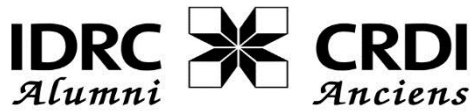




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alumni@idrc.ca / anciens@crdi.ca



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The IDRC Alumni provides opportunities for former IDRC employees to maintain personal and professional links, and supports continuing dialogue on development issues. / L'Objectif de l'association des anciens du CRDI est d'entretenir, de raviver ou de renforcer les liens personnels et professionnels, et aussi d'offrir une tribune pour le dialogue sur les enjeux du développement international

Bulletin

No. 51
July 2017

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Watch for the invitation and RSVP through *Evite*

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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>

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 This year we honour ARO

Watch for the invitation and RSVP through Evite

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

Whatever Happened to 0.7%?



As we all know the most important recommendation made in the Pearson Commission Report in 1969 was the creation of institutions like IDRC. But equally enduring was the recommendation that ODA “be raised to 0.7% of donor GNP by 1975, and in no case later than 1980.” This recommendation was supported by a subsequent Resolution of the UN General Assembly.

But the urgency of the Pearson recommendation was not shared by many countries, including his own. The usual suspects...Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and Norway...met the standard in the time proposed and subsequently Luxembourg, Germany and the U.K. have joined the club.

The British case is the most interesting. Bucking considerable opposition from reactionary media outlets, a superbly organized campaign by civil society organizations led to the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government actually imbedding 0.7% in law, turning a policy goal into a legally binding requirement. In parliamentary debate, the Minister of State for International Development said, “We have to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice, because if we do not deal with these problems at source, we know where they are going...to our doorsteps and shores... We have pledged to spend 0.7% of our national income on international development, which means that we have 99.3% to spend on ourselves. I do not know anyone who spends 99.3% of their income on themselves; I am not sure I would want to know such a person...”



In Canada, civil society organizations have lobbied the Canadian government to increase official development assistance to 0.7%. However, the 2017 budget includes no scheduled increase in international assistance in the next five years. By one estimate, with constant spending, Canada’s ODA budget will decrease from its current 0.26% and eventually fall below its lowest rate since 1965. A typical reaction from the development community was that of Julia Sánchez, president of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, the umbrella organization for development NGOs: “Canada is letting Canadians and the world down.”

CCIC plans to launch a new campaign for the old idea of 0.7%, using the British experience as one source of inspiration. Just as the Pearsonian ideal of organizations like IDRC has endured, so too has his goal for ODA. Could he have contemplated that nearly a half-century after issuing his report that one of its key recommendations will live on as a development battleground in his own country?

Lester Bowles "Mike" Pearson PCc OM CC OBE was the founding Chairperson of the IDRC (1971-1972).

Canada’s [Mcleod Group](#) regularly blogs well informed thoughtful comment on this core development issue.

Alumni News

Alumni Executive Changes

Thank You Claude Paul Boivin



Colleagues of Claude Paul will know that he is an original in many senses of the word. Claude Paul, with James Pfeifer, Gerry Bourrier, Mary Blackwell and Alison Craig, had the original brainwave (plot?) for the IDRC Alumni in 2003 and has sat on the Executive as a member at large since its first meeting.

Still managing a busy work-life, Claude Paul has asked for release! At its last meeting the Alumni Executive reluctantly agreed to his wish to retire, and in gratitude granted him a lifetime membership, ever to dwell in the honoured circle of Founding Fathers and Mothers of the Alumni. And of course we look forward to Claude Paul's continuing presence at the annual gathering.

And the evidence for the dimensions of the man's originality...this reply to Rob's news of Claude Paul's manumission... "I can't complain too much about the travel because right now I am in Jasper, Alberta at the Fairmont overlooking the Rocky Mountains and a beautiful lake - with only one 20 minute meeting in the six days I'm here ...the rest is socializing...hard work, but somebody's got to do it. Cheers."

§

There have been several changes over the past year. Herewith the current...

Alumni Executive

Chair: Rob Robertson
Secretary: Pauline Robert-Bradley
Treasurer: Gerry Bourrier
Membership: Donna Bickford
IDRC representative: Kim Daley
Bulletin: Chris Smart
Web Master: Ed Brandon (We're working on it!)
IDRC Alumni Facebook: Shaun Bona
IDRC Representative: Eyra Edington:
Member at Large: Michèle Wilson

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Cherla Shastry – Forestry Program Results

News from another part of our forest...

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”
Warren Buffett

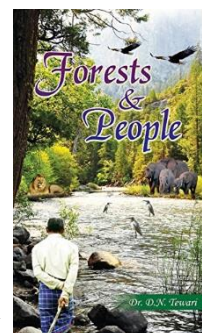
Cherla Sastry shared a communication that IDRC Programme Officers dream of receiving. In the 1980s/90s Cherla’s Forestry Programme within AFNS supported [Dr. Dina Nath Tewari](#)’s research¹ into the challenges of the reforestation of denuded land near Allahabad, U.P., India.



Dr. Tewari is now an internationally recognized forester and environmentalist. He was the founding Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education ([ICFREF](#)). For over five decades he has promoted sustainable management of natural resources as a feature of nation building to eradicate poverty and hunger by protecting the environment.

In retirement, Dr. Tewari founded the [Utthan](#), Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation. In a note to Cherla he credits IDRC’s help to start eco-restoration of surface mined areas in Allahabad that today sustains 500 villages that are “green, clean, water positive, carbon positive, energy positive and solid waste recycling positive” enabling, and encouraging, people to see “a clean and safe environment as a right not a privilege”. In 2007, Utthan and Dr. Tewari were awarded the [Rio-Tinto- Alcan prize for Sustainability](#)- and one million (US) dollars--for their work on denuded land rehabilitation in Northern India.

Dr. Tewari’s recently published book, [Forests and People](#), arrived in Cherla’s mail with a bonus. There was news of the outcome of IDRC-supported research from two decades ago and contributions from others in the IDRC’s ambit. Of the eleven chapters, one was written by [INBAR](#) staff (another AFNS/IDRC global initiative) on bamboo and rattan, underlining their importance for livelihoods and environmental sustainability and for poverty alleviation.



A chapter was contributed by Professor [Zhu Zhaohua](#) and team (recipient of the Man of the Trees Award from Canada) on Chinese Forestry. Dr. Zhu is remembered by many in IDRC as Mr. Paulownia for the Forestry/Agroforestry project by AFNS in the 1980's. Over a million hectares of [Paulownia](#) were planted in China. Dr. Zhu is also remembered as the Deputy Director General of INBAR (under the founding DG Cherla Sastry) when it became a free-standing institution. Both Sastry and Zhu were recognized as Distinguished Fellows of INBAR for life by the Board of Directors chaired by Dr. Gordon Smith² in 2000.

And, a final thought...from Rohinton Medhora on reading the message from Cherla...

“Timely, in the week that the US withdrew from the Paris Accord. I have taken the liberty of informing colleagues at IDRC, which I know is still preoccupied with demonstrating long term impacts of its investments.”

¹ Himalayan Eco Rehabilitation and Medicinal Plants projects at ICFRE and Eco Restoration of Surface Mined Areas with Bamboo and other species.

² [Dr. Gordon Smith](#) was Chair of the IDRC Board from 1997 to 2007.

Have you recent news to share with the Bulletin of a project from your time at IDRC?

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The David and Ruth Hopper and Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Fund Launched

The [April Bulletin](#) (Supporting Development and Honouring a Friendship) reported on the gift alumni Ramesh and Pilar gave to the Centre to establish the *David and Ruth Hopper and Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Fund*.

The Centre completed arrangements for the ‘Hopper-Bhatia Fund’ with the [following announcement](#):

“The fund is **co-supported by IDRC and the IDRC Alumni Association**; it is managed by IDRC. Its purpose is to fund young researchers in the early stages of their careers, particularly women, through fellowships, scholarships, or internships.”

Further information on the fund is found [here](#).

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The Rachel DesRosiers Alumni Award

A more formal Centre-Alumni arrangement

The Alumni has agreed to a more formal and longer-term arrangement for the *Rachel DesRosiers Alumni Award* and annual contributions from the IDRC Alumni at large. The title of the award is changed to confirm the Alumni’s support for the award.

The Centre has agreed to maintain a regional-office-based award to support the professional development of young promising researchers and emerging leaders in the developing countries where there are regional offices. The award will rotate among regional offices, in synchronicity with the funding provided by Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia.

IDRC agrees to top up the Alumni donations to make the award attractive and viable and recognizes that there could even be years when IDRC will be the sole funders of the award.

For 2017 the Rachel DesRosiers Alumni Award will form the partnership with ARO (formerly SARO).

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Where are they now? Andrew McNaughton (III)



Andrew is based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia where his consulting practice covers rural economic development, livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, natural resources, and project cycle management. He wrote to say that senior Cambodians are interested in commemorating the start of internet in Cambodia, twenty years ago, in which IDRC played an important role, thanks to the vision of Maria Ng and others. An ad hoc committee is working on a programme, to be sponsored by a local telecoms firm and other agencies.

Other parts of IDRC's work in Cambodia from those years are still flourishing, especially the National Integrated Pest Management Program, and the CBNRM Learning Institute. Andrew reports that he often meets Cambodians in high places whose careers were given a major boost by their participation in IDRC projects.

As a footnote, some of us working with Andrew knew that he is the grandson of [General Andrew G. L. McNaughton](#) CH CB CMG DSO CD PC, Canadian scientist, army officer, cabinet minister, and diplomat. Compare the photos!



Ed

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Gallery

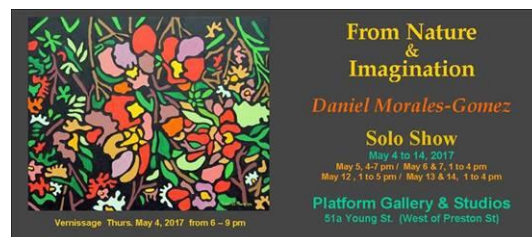
Daniel Morales Gomez



The Gallery was in a gallery for real in May for a *vernissage* for Daniel's new work: "My artistic style is an evolving quest to reflect life experiences, places and insights through the interplay of light, colour and form.

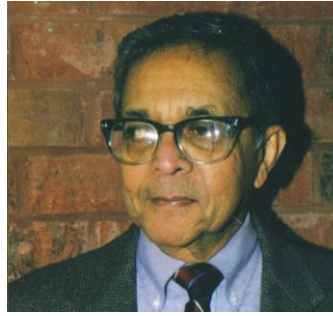
Vibrant and calming, Kinetic and still, my work is a study of contrasts. It reflects my

admiration of nature, the permanence of cultures and my Latin American Origins."



§

IN MEMORIAM



Ernest Corea
1932-2017

Ernest Corea died on May 11, 2017. Ernest joined IDRC as Director of the Publications Division of IDRC in 1975. In 1978 he was asked by President Ivan Head to become Director of the Cooperative Programmes Division. Before joining IDRC Ernest had been a respected journalist with the *Ceylon Daily News* and *Ceylon Observer* and then as Features Editor, Foreign Affairs Specialist and Editorialist with *The Straits Times* in Singapore.

Following his years with IDRC Ernest went on to diplomatic service as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Canada and as Ambassador to the United States, Cuba and Mexico. After leaving diplomatic service, Ernest worked for the World Bank's Secretariat of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). He returned to journalism after retirement, serving as Global Editor of [In Depth News Analysis \(IDN\)](#) and a member of its editorial board as well as a columnist and Co-editor of IDN's current affairs magazine, *Global Perspectives*.

Obituaries for Ernest are found in [The Washington Post](#) and [IDN-InDepth News](#).

[A Man for All Seasons](#) is a fuller story of Ernest's early life in Ceylon/Sri Lanka and in the world at large.

Colleagues Remember Ernest:

My wife and I have many good memories of time spent with Ernest, Indra, and their boys. In the Corea years, we lived in Carp, and when we bought Elmview Farm, it needed painting, particularly the eaves. Ernest volunteered Lester and Andy to help, and brought the boys to Carp on a painting spree. This was a huge favor because I was a nervous-nellie on ladders! Ida and I were also guests at the celebration marking his appointment as Sri Lanka High Commissioner to Canada. Ernest and I worked well together, and had many enjoyable encounters. He was a good friend.

Reg MacIntyre

I remember vividly Ernest Corea, first as outspoken journalist and then colleague at IDRC. I did not have much opportunity to interact with him but am very familiar with his work. He brought fresh ideas to IDRC. His passing away is a big loss for the young generation who still benefit from his innovative approach to mass media.

Jingjai Hanchanlash



Marianne Vespry
1935-2017

Marianne Vespry died April 16, 2017. Marianne joined IDRC as Marianne Forsythe where she was Head of Technical Services in the Library. Marianne wed Arthur Vespry*, the Centre's first Librarian.

Marianne worked as a librarian, editor, and administrator in Canada and abroad. Her final 13 years before retirement were spent with the United Nations regional office in Bangkok. In addition to poetry she has published abstract bulletins, thesauri, community editorials in the *Hamilton Spectator* (Ontario), and a fantasy novel.

[Celebrating Poets over 70](#) was one of Marianne's retirement projects. Some her poetry is featured.

Marianne's obituary is found on [Lifenews](#).

*Arthur's IN MEMORIAM is found in Alumni [Bulletin No.16](#).

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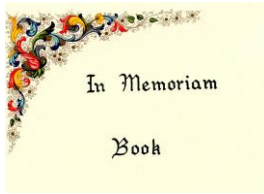
Raffaella Zumpano
1947-2017

Raffaella Zumpano died December 28, 2016. Raffaella worked at IDRC from 1985 to 1998, in Library Services and later as Corporate Secretary in the office of the Secretary and General Counsel.

Raffaella's obituary is found [here](#).

§

The IN MEMORIAM book on line



At early annual gatherings of the IDRC Alumni one question was perennial. ‘Have you heard from ... lately?’ often answered with word that the alumnus/alumna had died.

It was James ‘Jim’ Pfeifer, first Chair of the IDRC Alumni, who proposed an appropriate and elegant way to remember IDRC colleagues who have died through an Alumni IN MEMORIAM book with calligraphy that would be displayed each year when we gather.

With Jim’s spouse, Jennifer, offering to do the calligraphy, the Album was ready for the Alumni gathering in 2005 and has been updated and displayed at subsequent events.

Click for the [IDRC Alumni IN MEMORIAM album](#)

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Bulletin Archive on Line



Past issues of the IDRC Alumni Bulletin, from the first edition in January 2003, are now available in the [ARCHIVE folder](#). The ARCHIVE folder has subfolders for each year, starting in 2003, and each year folder has a subfolder for English and another for Français. Bilingual bulletins are copied under each of the language folders.

Bulletins for 1 to 26 are either English or French. From 27-39 they are bilingual and from 40 on, either English or French.



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at "IDRC Alumni" group and / or "IDRC" page.*



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