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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.

Bulletin

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Thanks to Michèle Wilson for Translation.

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From the Chair

Rob Robertson

The Feminist Program

As always, our annual meeting was a time to reminisce, to laugh and to eat. And as always there was a serious time, to consider the challenges that the developing world still faces and that IDRC is called to address.



This year, Maureen O'Neil shared her views on Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. Maureen reminded us that four decades ago CIDA was instructed to examine its full range of programming "to determine its impact on women." But it is only now that feminism has found full flower in Canada's assertive new aid policy that recognizes that "promoting gender equality and empowering girls and women is the most effective approach...to reduce extreme poverty and build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world." That assertiveness finds substance in the allocation of \$150 million over five years to promoting women's rights through local groups and \$650 million in three years to sexual and reproductive rights programs.

Allocating enough money to build an effective program is only part of the challenge. Maureen pointed out the real dangers for the women who receive it. She said, "In many countries where women's lives are made miserable by their own governments and cultural norms, women's civil and political rights are not guaranteed. How the money is flowed to developing country local NGO's really matters. If it is allocated first to international NGOs there might be a tendency not to support the most challenging campaigns because organizations might not want to negatively affect the rest of their operations. Would making contributions to local women's funds be a better way, or does the simple fact of a lot of foreign money make targets of the women and women's groups who take it? What about multilateral channels? ... We must remember that the risk of revolutionizing the lives of women is borne by brave women activists in developing countries, not Canadians. Think of the death penalties for non-heterosexuality and jail for abortion, the forced marriages after rape, the immunity for traffickers of women and girls. The risks taken by activists to overturn these heinous policies and transform cultures built on the oppression of women must never be forgotten. Our desire to show our concern, to help finance that revolution must not increase the dangers that already threaten their lives."



For those of us who have lived through the various flavours of foreign aid concentration...the green revolution, debt forgiveness, structural adjustment economics, good governance, the environment ... Maureen's advocacy of a sustained and robust interest in women's rights carried special meaning. She said, "Like the rest of the federal government, IDRC's interest in women's inequality has waxed and waned. Perhaps it is time to get with the program; do more, publicize more, evaluate more and share successes." After the reminiscences, the laughter and the food, I hope that future annual meetings will be an opportunity for us to hear about them!

Where are they now?

Ron Ayling

IDRC alumnus **Ron Ayling** has received the Canadian Forestry Achievement Award from the [Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada](#), the first and oldest forest conservation organization in Canada. The Award reads, *“in recognition of individuals who have made unique and outstanding achievements in the field of forestry. It appreciates the value of consistent exceptional contributions made over a lifetime to the field of forestry, in addition to singular momentous achievements. This Award has the objective of encouraging excellence in the forestry professional.”*



Ron received the Award for his almost 15 years as editor of [The Forestry Chronicle](#), the official journal of the Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada and first published in 1925. As of January 1st, 2017, the *Chronicle* became fully open access and published solely on-line to provide information on the scientific management of forests and their resources. It further provides forest practitioners in Canada and throughout the world with a means of communicating with their peers in the professional community. Ron notes that he has the assistance of 28 highly regarded associate editors who manage a thorough review process of submitted professional and scientific papers. Topics in the journal include social/community-based forestry, forest ecology, management, biomass/energy, and forest economics.

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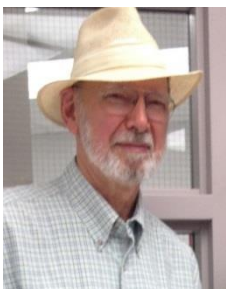
Alumni News

Pierre Beemans...writing

JUST OTTAWA

A WEB PAGE NEWSLETTER REVIEWS OPINIONS AND INFORMATION

"Made in OTTAWA"



While much of my education about pop culture in the 21st c. is provided by my 12-year old grandson during our early morning walks with his dog, Canadian history is not one of our hotter topics. Recently, however, a passing question about the settlement of New France led me to dig around and discover several little known events in our national story.

[Read on](#)

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David Brooks...traveling

The most impressive thing I saw on my trip to Peru...

Machu Picchu has always been at the top of my list of places to visit once I retired. (The closest I got while at IDRC was Arequipa.). I took nearly 10 years, but I finally signed onto a trip organized by Senior Discovery Tours for 16 days in Peru, including many pre-Inca sites, the Nasca figures (not just lines) by small plane, condors taking off and landing with the strong air flow of the Colco canyon, the sacred valley, and of course Machu Picchu. Thanks to lots of Maté Inca (aka Maté coca) I managed the altitude, and to some books I read prior to the trip, and the wonderfully knowledgeable guides at every site, I came away with great admiration for the Inca empire prior to arrival of the Spanish, but, as if in revenge, two legs that made it very clear every night that they *had to* rest.

Shortly before the conclusion of the trip, we were asked what for each of us was the highlight of the tour. I replied that the wall-sized painting of the Last Supper at the Cathedral in Cuzco. This may seem to be a strange choice, so let me explain.

The Spanish conquistadores were amazed at the lavish use of gold by the Incas, and they slowly began to strip it and send it to Spain. At the same time, they began to tear down Inca monuments and temples and use the stones to build Catholic churches. Logically, they recognized that many of the Inca artists could be impressed into copying paintings from Spain for use in the new Cathedral. This form of slavery did not itself bother the Inca artists as their religion was quite syncretic. However, they did



take every opportunity to introduce Inca symbols into, for example, paintings of the Virgin. One painting now shows the Virgin with animals and birds that are sacred to the Incas. So too with the enormous copy they made of *The Last Supper*, to be placed just beside the central altar. Notably, Judas turns out to be faced with the image of Francisco Pizarro, the head of the conquistadores who were at the time destroying Inca monuments to provide stone for the Cathedral, and stripping gold for shipment to Spain. That connection was perhaps obvious. Not so with the next.

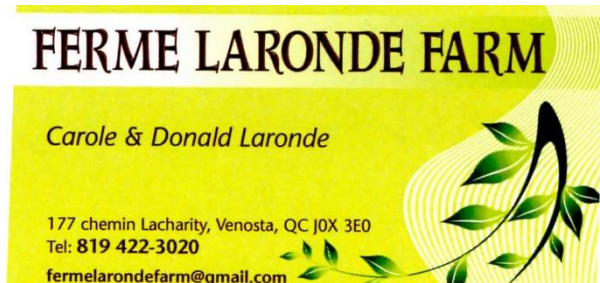
There is not the least reason to suppose that the Inca workers had any knowledge of Judaism. Even less would they know that the original last supper was a Passover Seder. They did note meat in the center of the supper table, and they may have recognized it as lamb. But sheep do not grow above about 1500 metres. (Cuzco is almost 3000 m above sea level.) Llama were available but they are mainly used as pack animals, not generally eaten as the meat is tough. So what did they paint to place in the centre of the Seder table? They painted what would have appeared on a festive table in their own homes--guinea pig; some people say chinchilla. Both appeared growing in almost every house we visited in highland Peru. No matter, they are both rodents and totally non-kosher for any Jewish table. So I could amuse myself enormously by the total improbability of non-kosher animals appearing on a Seder table anywhere in the world.

No photos are permitted in the Cathedral so you will have to take my word for what I considered the highlight of my trip to Peru. Or look at the accurate copy found by the Bulletin's editor. Don't miss the claws on the feet of the "lamb" and the portrait of Francisco Pizarro (front left).

Carole LaPlante...farming



In retirement Carole and her husband Donald Laronde have taken up farming, raising cows and sheep in Venosta, Quebec. They sell the lamb meat at the farm and deliver to the city. The ride out to Venosta through the Gatineau valley is a bonus. Venosta is 1 hour north of Ottawa.



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Cherla Shastri...celebrating

Cherla and his wife, Ratna, were in Beijing as guests of the [International Network for Bamboo and Rattan](#) (INBAR) to celebrate its 20th



anniversary. From the early 1980s IDRC supported a range of agro-forestry research most with the [Chinese Academy of Forestry](#) (CAF) in China. Many of the Project Leaders and Staff studied for graduate degrees in Canada.

The transfer of the Centre's Network on Bamboo and

Rattan with support from ten countries and a headquarters hosted by China launched INBAR in 1997.

Cherla was the founding Director General and friend and mentor of many young staff at The Chinese Academy of Forestry.

INBAR today has 43 member countries.

Recognition....

“The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 7 December [granted Observer Status](#) to the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization – the world’s only intergovernmental organization that uses bamboo and rattan for sustainable development, representing millions of bamboo and rattan producers from 43 countries across the Global South....“This is huge recognition of the role that bamboo and rattan can play in contributing to a better and more sustainable world. Bamboo and rattan can be important tools for global development and green trade, and we need to encourage all UN members to be part of the conversation”, INBAR Director General Dr. Hans Friederich said.”



Alumni in Print

David Brooks

[The Water Legacy of Conventional Mining](#)-edited by James E. Nickum, David B. Brooks, Anthony Turton and ÉSurina Esterhuyse. Routledge.

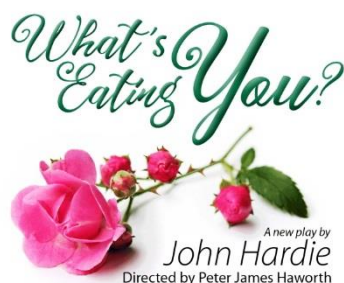
The impact of mining is too big to ignore in a world of oversubscribed water. This is true of conventional mining as much as – or even more than – hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The legacy issues of such mining on water have not been fully appreciated, especially the irretrievable effects mining has had on communities and ecosystems around the world through its impact on water. Yet this is not an ‘us-or-them’ problem: the wealth, influence and technical knowledge of mining interests can and must be part of the solution. All of the contributions to this volume either consider the deficiencies of existing governance structures and the need for better ones, or explore the use of new techniques to identify and evaluate social and environmental impacts.

The chapters in this book were originally published in the journal [Water International](#).

David writes: What happens to old researchers?...for many of us is that we become editors, I was the lead author for the Introduction to the volume.

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and On Stage - John Hardie



To paraphrase the words of my daughter, I live in the middle of a field in the Gatineau Hills north of Wakefield, Quebec. I am privileged to live in such a beautiful place and to enjoy a very diverse, eclectic and talented community with a thriving theatre company. It was here that I first encountered, IDRC alum, John Hardie, performing as a comic Scottish character he created, matron Jesse MacPherson, to help launch the inaugural Wakefield Nude calendar, wherein he appeared nude on cross-country skis!

Little did I know John and I were, as the crow flies, neighbours, but it wasn't long thereafter that I ran into John cross-country skiing, fully dressed I might add, in the back fields behind our homes. A friendship was born.

Theatre was always an interest of mine in school but not something I ever pursued. For John it was bred in the bone. His mother and eldest sister were professional actresses and his childhood was steeped in mimicry and other forms of improvised (melo)dramatics around the kitchen table. While his studies and career took him along another path, he never lost his passion for writing and theatre. After taking early retirement in 2004 John began to write and perform for theatre and film.

He wrote and performed two one-man plays - one about Dr. Harold Geggie, who founded the first hospital in Wakefield and the other about the life and work of Robert Burns. With a grant from Patrimoine Canada, John wrote a fantastic historical play, “Stitches in Time”, weaving modern day and early logging days up the Gatineau, which opened in 2012 at the historical Faribairn House in Wakefield, and had a further run in 2014!



In 2016 Theatre Wakefield selected John's most recent work, "What's Eating You", from amongst various works from local playwrights, to be their fall/winter production. The play was also part of a workshop comprised of various theatre people and select members from the community and beyond, and I was privileged to be a part of this group. Months later as the final edits to the play were made and production plans were in the works, John suggested I audition. What a quantum leap, but knowing the quality of this incredible moving tale of love and loss, sickness and health, life and death, with many elements and characters drawn from our little community and John's wife, Annick's experiences at a local greenhouse, I tried out for the play, amazingly, I was privileged to be given one of the leading roles.

A triumph for John and Director, Peter Howarth, the play ran for two weekends at the end of November and early December 2017 to rave reviews, and not a few tears. Life, always curious and surprising.

Yolande Henry
Executive Assistant, President's Office, IDRC

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Gallery



Alumna gather...Former IDRC colleagues at a recent get-together.

Front row (l to r) Kathy Kealey, Louise Behan, Julie Hauser, Kafui Dansou, Danielle Vinette

Back row (l to r) Vepe Percival, Gisele Morin-Labatut, Jenny Cervinskaskas, Beryl Scrivens, Pauline Dole, Barbara Davidson

Your Alumni Exec, chez Pauline: Gerry, Donna, Kim, Rob, Eyra, Ed, Michèle, Chris....



... Pauline took the photo.



Visit the [Alumni Facebook page](#)  for photos of the November Luncheon.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Geoff Oldham



I had just started to work for IDRC as a secretary in SSHR when one morning, I saw this tall Englishman with a great big smile saying hello to everyone. Yes, that what I remember about Geoff Oldham: that great big smile of his, his cheerfulness and kindness to even a newcomer. Many years later I met his wife, Brenda, at the Ottawa School of Art where we took the same course in Watercolour. I would like to tell her how sorry I am and send her my heartfelt sympathy.

Jacqueline Bustos

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Inderjeet Singh Bhoi

1938 – 2017

Inder died in October 2017.

The Two Lives of Inder Bhoi: Elder of the Burning Spear

Once in his retirement, Inder Bhoi sat back and contemplating his many experiences said to me, “You know, I’ve really lived two lives.” One was a very public one in Kenya, and the other a more private life in Canada. His work at IDRC from 1974 to 1982 as the Centre’s Senior Legal Counsel and later it’s A/Secretary and General Counsel was the transitional time between the two.

Inder grew up in Kenya as part of its dynamic Sikh community. After studying law in Britain he considered staying there to practice, but with Kenya’s transition from colony to independent country he decided to apply for a position in the newly forming Foreign Affairs department. Although expressing quite anti-British views in his interview, he was accepted. To enhance his preparation for a public role, he undertook a fellowship from the Carnegie Foundation and then entered public service, eventually becoming Kenya’s Deputy Foreign Minister. One achievement in this role was persuading the U.N. to headquarter the United Nations Environment Program in Nairobi, during which time he met Maurice Strong, UNEP’s first Executive Director. This was a meeting that unexpectedly help shape his future in Canada.

As the anti-Asian terror of the Amin regime swept across Uganda, echoes of prejudice could be heard throughout East Africa. Alarmed by this, Inder decided to move his young family from Kenya to where he felt opportunities would be greater. Given his prominence in the community and comfortable personal circumstances, this was a decision that shocked his Kenyan friends. Although there were

several options, he chose Canada where three siblings already lived. Through the Strong contact he met David Hopper in New York, and based only on a handshake with Dr. Hopper he moved to Ottawa to work at the Centre, and at the same time attend law school, article, and pass the Ontario bar. This provided him with the chance to continue to travel, learn and accustom himself to Canadian ways. He was a uniquely qualified counsel, wise in the ways of developing countries and filled with intellectual curiosity and diplomatic savvy.

Although Inder had the opportunity to remain an executive at the Centre, he chose what had been his original intention in life, private law practice, working mainly in the areas of real estate, investment, and corporations. He practiced until his retirement in 1995. His daughter Tavinder, now a Senior Programs Advisor at IDRC, remembers her father as a voracious reader and enthusiastic cricket fan, who was deeply engaged with members of his community, giving counsel, helping with documents, and always aiming to build consensus. But most movingly, she remembers Inder with his four children and his ten grandchildren, continually investing his time in their homework, their papers, and discussing issues. His family was, after all, why he had embarked on his second life.

One highlight of his retirement was a return to Kenya in 2012, officially invited back to talk about and celebrate the early days of independence and the creation of the Foreign Affairs Department. While there, the honour of Elder of the Burning Spear was conferred on him.

Inder passed away suddenly in the autumn of 2017 at the age of 78. I remember when his mother died his warm yet realistic approach to her passing. Referencing his favourite sport of cricket he said, “We say in our community that people who have lived long and full lives ‘had good innings.’” And so did he.

Rob Robertson

Friends and colleagues remember

I first met Inder shortly after he joined the Centre in 1974. We became close, as, being single, I was often invited home to enjoy his wife, Chindoji’s, delicious home-cooked Indian treats. Although Inder was barely a month older than I, always I addressed him as *Inder Bhape* (respected Brother in Punjabi). Inder and Chindoji, were always gracious hosts. Their home was the center for community gatherings, attracting friends and family, with generous hospitality and enjoyable evenings of Hindustani and Punjabi music.

Inder Bhape was a man of high intellect, a patient listener, and thoughtful communicator, a truly global citizen who knew no bounds of color, nationality, religion or societal status. He was big-hearted, always accessible, with a big smile, generously giving his talent and time, to friends and others needing help.

It was a comfort to learn that Inder died peacefully, at home – doing what he loved most: spending an enjoyable day with Cindoji watching his favorite sport, Cricket! We can just feel him looking down and saying: “How’s that?”

Although we moved away from Ottawa in August 1982, we remained in contact with Inder and family. Bonds of friendship remained intact and strengthened over 43 years despite time and distance. We were deeply moved when Inder drove from Ottawa to attend our son’s wedding in Montreal in 2007, despite a family emergency at the time. Our connection with the Bhoi family recently extended to the third generation when their granddaughter, Ms. Amar Nijhawan (daughter of Tavinder), visited with us in Manila in 2017.

All of the Bhatias will hold and cherish the wonderful memories of our dear Inder Bhape!

Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Manila, Philippines



Chantal Roddy

1953 - 2017

Chantal died in November 2017.

Chantal joined IDRC as a Secretary in the Communications division, reporting to Hutton Archer, deputy director; she transferred to the President's office where her responsibilities included housekeeping and care of regional directors. While at IDRC, Chantal studied to become a translator and obtained that designation. She became a member of the ATIO (association of translators in Ontario).

Following IDRC Chantal joined National Defense as an editor/advisor of all French reports and communication. Chantal was Secretary to the Association of l' Union des francais à l'etranger.

Obituary

I remember the first time we met: on a bus where I was trying to kill a wasp with a ruler...you recognized my French side....the school bag the Vendean cross I was carrying...you spoke to me...it was 1984.

I remember a morning in your Volkswagen, deep in the winter, where I had to defrost your windscreen while you were driving. What a laugh!

I remember our restaurant outings: that you loved good food washed down with a good wine!

I remember our weekends at our cottage: you loved taking the ferry to Cumberland; it reminded you of the island of Ré, in France!

I remember our many scrabble games ... that you were clever with the words!
Not for nothing were you a translator.



And ... I remember your chemotherapy sessions where I accompanied you ... We were going to the spa, we said ... and we laughed and cried together. I went to get our lunch from Tim Hortons. These were difficult moments and moments of extraordinary sharing that I will keep in my heart all my life ...

My heart sister, you are not there anymore physically but I will never forget you. You are there in the

next room and in my heart, with a lot of love. You are free from all suffering and it comforts me.

Catherine Reynolds



John Eric Woolston

1924-2017

John joined the Centre in 1971 as the founding Director of the Information Sciences Division, was Vice-President Information Programs before leaving in 1985.

British by birth and a landed immigrant to Canada John Woolston had degrees in physics and French civilization. His illustrious career began in London in 1944 and progressed to various roles in the information sciences in Washington DC, Chalk River, Vienna, Geneva, Ottawa, Rome, Aleppo and Mexico. Major appointments included Director of Scientific and Technical Information at the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Program Lead for Scientific and Technical Information at ICARDA. After retiring from ICARDA he spent 17 years as an invited researcher with CIMMYT in Texcoco, Mexico.

John died in October 2017.

CYMMIT [celebrated John retirement](#) from his fourth career.

John Remembered:

When I joined IDRC in the summer of 1984, John was Vice President of Information Systems. He was in his last year or two there, finding (he told me later in Mexico) that VPs didn't do much. So he retired from IDRC, but this also consisted of not doing much. It was therefore only natural that he went to ICARDA. Again, at some point, he retired, and still not ready for the easy life, arranged to volunteer in the library at CIMMYT. He was there when by co-incidence I started working at CIMMYT as its IT Manager in the fall of 2000. My wife, Sheila, and I quickly started up a friendship with John. Things quickly became routine: every Saturday we would have breakfast together at the "Coffee Club" in Texcoco, followed by grocery shopping in the same town, then shopping for more food at the weekly outdoor market close to our home, and finally ending up at our home for tea. Sharing a deep interest in history and culture, I also credit John for having shown us places in Mexico of cultural or archeological interest that were not part of the normal tourist locations.

All I know of the early days of John and IDRC are anecdotal, based on what he told me over the six years of very close times together in Mexico. He did much to establish the library in the early days, with strong encouragement from David Hopper.

I hosted a meeting of CGIAR IT managers at CIMMYT in 2003. My counterpart from IRRI considered John "the father of modern information



systems”, and asked me to invite John to the meeting so he could be properly recognized for his contribution.

In a strange twist of fate, as part of a reorganization of CIMMYT in 2005, the CIMMYT library was also assigned to me, and John therefore reported to me.

John left CIMMYT in 2010, for a final and real retirement. CIMMYT honoured him by naming the CIMMYT library after him. After a short stay in Sarnia, he settled in the Vancouver area. Sheila and I last saw him in August 2014 during a visit to Vancouver.

Ed Brandon

John Woolston was a brilliant and inspired information scientist. One never knew in what direction his mind would turn, or what new ideas he would dream up, sometimes in the middle of a conversation, at which he would call for his Secretary, Jennifer Leckie, and begin dictating a letter. The nearest I ever had to a mentor, he both awed and terrified me during my first months at the Centre. But in time, terror gave way to profound respect.

During the seventies, he was one of the major actors promoting international and regional collaborative information networks in support of development, and ensured IDRC funding for the elements necessary to support them: the creation or strengthening of national structures, data base management software, manuals and thesauri and, most importantly, the academic training of promising young documentalists in Canadian universities. Because of John, a number of documentalists from Africa and Latin America were able to complete Master’s programs in Library and Information Sciences and return to their home countries.

It was John who convinced the highly respected hero of the French Résistance, Raymond Aubrac¹, to represent IDRC in Europe, thus laying the ground work for many institutional contacts for IDRC in the first years of its establishment.

I am grateful for everything I learned from John Woolston. My husband Jean-Michel and I were honoured to know him as a friend in later years, and we grieve his passing

Gisèle-Morin Labatut

I am Emmanuel Ndurahirwe, originally from Rwanda, now living in Canada. I had the good luck to meet and get to know John E. Woolston in 1994 when an intern with CIMMYT in Mexico. He was straightforward, wise, respected and respecting and, above all, generous. I witnessed his kindness and “generosity without borders”, *Ubuntu*².

Following the events of 1994 in Rwanda my internship became exile when, without news of my family, no news foresaw the worst. At this moment of despondence John reached out to help me despite being in his 70s.

¹ IN MEMORIAM Bulletin No 3, June 2012.

² Ubuntu philosophy. Ubuntu (Zulu pronunciation: [ùbùnt’ù]) is a Nguni Bantu term meaning "humanity". It is often also translated as "humanity towards others", but is often used in a more philosophical sense to mean "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity". [Ubuntu philosophy - Wikipedia](#)

During my stay in Mexico, lost in the middle of nowhere in Mexico City, John and his network of colleagues at CIMMYT contributed each month from their own pockets to help me survive and provided moral support. Through his international network of colleagues at CIMMYT my wife and two sons, 8 and 4 years old, were found in a refugee camp in the DRC. In Kenya, John's friends and colleagues provided material and precious financial support for my family while they waited for the documents to immigrate to Canada.

When I left Mexico in 1997, John's network of friends and acquaintances in Canada provided material and financial support that continued after the arrival of my family. Whenever John was visiting Ottawa or Montreal he made sure to meet me, after the arrival of my family he visited us to check that we had the essentials.

John, may God take care of you in heaven as you took care of us on earth. May your soul rest in peace.

Emmanuel Nduruhirwe and family

I was saddened to learn of John's passing following a full professional life. John was a great inspiration to me in the field of information management and a friend with whom I had many discussions regarding the advancement of the profession in West Africa.

Yawo Assigbley, Togo

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Ruth K. Hopper (Ruth Zagorin)
1922-2017

Ruth died in December 2017.

Ruth K. Zagorin began her work at the IDRC at its inception in 1970. As the IDRC Program Director for Social Sciences and Human Resources, she played a pivotal role in designing its innovative approaches to development program research and design. With "a solid background of early experience in social and educational programs in the United States, India and the Philippines, she consistently demonstrated an unusual ability to combine research and social perceptions with practical and operation application. She made a major contribution to... new approaches to cooperation with institutions in developing countries," wrote Maurice J Williams, Secretary General, Society for

International Development in 1989. Her particular interest was in educational and social programs, especially education of women and their status and contribution to economic growth in developing countries.

Before joining the IDRC, she worked in social and educational programs in the United States, India (where she was the first principal of the high school at the American International School) and the Philippines. After leaving the IDRC in 1978, she worked as the Assistant Administrator of the Office of International Cooperation and Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and as Director for Human Resources Development in the Bureau of Science and Technology of the U.S. Agency for International Development. She also served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations concerned with international development.

After her retirement she returned to university, adding to her bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Chicago with a law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.³

Alumni remember Ruth

I began to work for Ruth Zagorin in 1975 in the early, inspiring days of the International Development Research Centre. Ruth was Director of the Social Sciences Division and her husband, David Hopper, was the President. Together, Ruth and David shared an extraordinary vision for IDRC as an organization that placed priority on developing local research and policy expertise within developing countries, rather than the more traditional aid philosophy of utilizing Canadian expertise, goods and services to provide assistance. As a young woman with a fresh M.A. in International Affairs and having just returned from the Caribbean as a CUSO volunteer, I was excited by this vision and approach to development, and by this remarkable partnership between a very strong woman and a man who loved her strength.

Ruth and David shared a strong commitment to mentoring young professionals, and I, like so many others, was a beneficiary of that commitment. As a leader, Ruth gave me the freedom to take initiative and risks, to develop my skills, and to travel extensively on my own. These early experiences have guided me throughout my career.

Ruth was a versatile, self-directed, and determined person. Prior to joining IDRC as Director of the Social Sciences Division, Ruth was a school principal in South Asia, with extensive exposure to development challenges in very poor countries. Her considerable skills and knowledge made her an ideal leader at IDRC. When she left IDRC, she decided to pursue a dream she had always had - to study law. Late in her life, Ruth became a lawyer.

Ruth was a remarkable role model on so many different levels - as a woman leader when there were far too few, as a progressive force in international development, as a lifelong learner, and as a compassionate, caring human being.

The world is a better place because Ruth Zagorin lived in it. And my own life, especially as a young woman, was enriched by this woman whom I admired and loved.

Ruth, I will never forget you.

Shirley Seward

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³ With thanks to Ruth's daughter Ellen Zagorin.

As far as Ruth (and also late David) Hopper, their memories will live on forever in our hearts! While speaking of Ruthji, it is hard to not recall Davidji. We were fortunate to have them both in our lives and will always cherish their memories!

It was a great privilege to have known, worked, and become a family friend of Ruthji over many decades. We regret not being able to attend her Memorial Services in Washington, DC. Our son (traveling from Toronto) represented us and we were there in spirit!

Although I had known Davidji from my days in India at the Rockefeller Foundation in mid-1960s and had heard of Mrs. Zagorin (who was the head of the American International School, Delhi), I met her formally in the summer of 1971 in Ottawa. A few days earlier, I had arrived from India to work at the IDRC. When Davidji picked me up at the hotel, I headed for the back seat of the car. However, I was asked to sit in the front seat – besides a lady sitting next to Davidji – who was introduced to me then as “Mrs. Zagorin, a close friend”! Davidji drove through the beautiful Gatineau hills on an enjoyable sightseeing tour, with stops for lunch, followed by soft ice cream, both of them sharing a cone. A few days later, he talked to me about their relationship and marriage plans.

Ruthji will always be remembered as the grand lady of the IDRC. She was the *founding* Director of the Social Sciences & Human Resources Division. She had it all: great intellect, strength, commanding wit and personality, competence, professionalism, elegance, benevolence and a big heart for her family, friends, staff and colleagues.

Our areas of responsibilities at the Centre didn’t involve frequent interaction with Ruthji. However, there is one incident that stands out. It relates to the transfer of IDRC headquarters from its location in the Pebb Building on Riverside Drive to 60 Queen Street. IDRC, being a Crown Corporation, all arrangements for leasing and furnishing the new offices had to be coordinated through federal government agencies. Ruthji especially (Davidji too), didn’t at all like the drab and darker color carpeting selected by the public works. The Centre managed to get three days’ time to come up with an alternative supply source to fill a large order, with our preferred color, at a competitive cost, while upholding timelines for our move. Both were ecstatic when we succeeded in meeting the challenge; most of their laughs came from winning against the bureaucrats who had sternly warned about the likely undue delays and higher costs. We avoided both and had much brighter new offices to show for our efforts.

As mentors and leaders, Dr. and Mrs. Hopper worked with people at all levels and were especially magnanimous to those needing help and guidance.

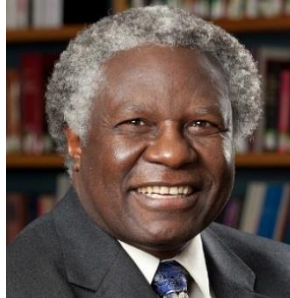
If not for their love, friendship and support over many decades, our two children would not have had the benefits of their mentoring for their career aspirations while growing up. With Davidji’s guidance, our daughter became a scientist and our son was encouraged to go into law because of Ruthji’s mentoring and influence – and both are now pursuing teaching careers in their fields with universities in Canada.

With Davidji’s demise in 2011 and now Ruthji’s recent passing, a major chapter in our lives has come to a close. In an effort to honor their cherished memories of our long-lasting friendship, love, and caring – and in close collaboration with and most kind/helpful support from both the IDRC management as well as the Alumni – we succeeded in establishing ***The David and Ruth Hopper & Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Funds*** to give back, while fostering their memory and mission in the international development field – a gift that, we hope, will keep on giving! What clearly has been most gratifying for both of us is the fact that this was accomplished in March 2017 while Ruthji was

alive and with her full blessings and concurrence.

Ramesh & Pilar Bhatia Manila, Philippines

Sadly, another outstanding development scholar and activist with strong connections with IDRC passed away in December 2017 after a long illness.



Dr. Calestous Juma FRS
1953-2017

“He developed the concept of ‘evolutionary technological change’ in relation to socioeconomic conditions, and his work encompassed conservation of biodiversity and land rights as well as technological innovation.”*

All who met Calestous knew that he was special.

Calestous was born in Budalangi on the shore of Lake Victoria, Kenya. With a teacher’s certificate from Egoji Teacher’s College in 1974, Calestous taught as a science teacher in Mombasa until 1978 when he became the first science and environment journalist for *Daily Nation*. Later he edited and published *Ecoforum* and worked as editor and researcher at the [Environment Liaison Centre in Nairobi](#) to 1982 when people who saw the scholar researcher in Calestous approached IDRC to consider supporting him for degree studies.

Calestous will be remembered by Alumni who knew him when IDRC supported his DPhil at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex.

Calestous was one of SPRU’s first applicants and sailed through his studies, completing his DPhil in two and a half years (at the time a record) before returning to Kenya to establish (along with his wife, Alison) the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) in Nairobi. ACTS has now become an International Governmental Organisation with a strong world-wide reputation.

Calestous became an extremely well-known international figure in academic and development circles fulfilling a variety of roles, in particular as Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biodiversity before being appointed as Professor of Development Practice at the Kennedy School in Harvard University in 1999. He was awarded an Honorary Degree from University of Sussex in 2006, in recognition of his work on the applications of science and technology in both the developed and developing world.

Knowing that Calestous’s honours include [Fellow of the Royal Society](#)* says much of his contribution to science. The full array of Calestous’s work and achievements are found in obituaries in the [NYT](#), and [The Economist](#).

I had the pleasure and privilege to work with Calestous in his formative years and develop a personal friendship during those years. He had a vision for what development should be and a special mind, sharp, analytical, and penetrating. He was full of ideas, with new perspectives looking at things from a different angle. He was an innovator, tireless organiser of new initiatives and events, and a prolific writer. He never strayed too far away from his laptop to enjoy some 'leisurely' writing even during holidays. He was fun to be with, often displaying his infectious smile and sense of humour.

Calestous and I first met in the mid to late 1980s in Ottawa. During his visit, my wife and I had him over for dinner. When he left, he said he was heading to a pub across the Ottawa River in what was then Hull. As it turned out, he was going to meet a young lady who would later become his wife (Alison Field-Juma). Apparently that very night (or was it the night after that?) he lost all of his personal documents. Calestous told us later, putting on a broad smile, how lucky he was to have lost his documents but found his partner and beloved wife.

A colleague's tribute...

Calestous and I re-connected when I relocated to EARO in 1989. We met on a regular basis for wide-ranging discussions on development needs and research priorities in Kenya and the region. These discussions revolved, in particular, around a think tank -- the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) -- that Calestous had established in Nairobi, on return from Sussex University, with an IDRC-supported PhD. Eventually incorporated as an inter-governmental organization, ACTS was the first think tank of its kind in Africa.

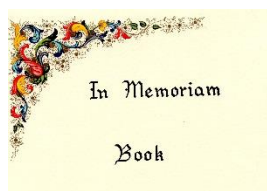
Conferences on particular policy-relevant topics, convened by ACTS, produced papers, and books, published by Initiatives, a desk-top publishing venture run by Alison Field-Juma, and later by ACTS Press. The conferences encouraged scholarship, and informed policy and practice. One of the first initiatives was a *Forum on Natural Resources in Kenya: Innovations in Land-use Management* that produced the book, *Gaining Ground – Institutional Innovations in Land-use Management*. Calestous and ACTS lead several IDRC-funded projects.

In the mid-1990s our ways parted, Calestous to Montreal to helm the Secretariat of the Biodiversity Conference, and me to ROSA. When, after 25 years in Africa, my wife and I moved back to Ottawa in 2014, I was hopeful I would have a chance to touch base with Calestous in Boston sometime soon. Sadly, that is no longer possible. Calestous will be greatly missed.

Hartmut Krugmann

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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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