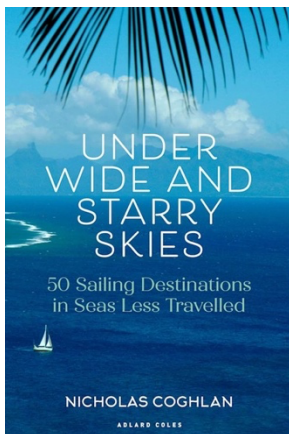


When enigmatic billionaire Burton Sykes walks into Re-Gene-eration, a bespoke reproduction assistance clinic run by Raina and Cedric, two disgraced genetic engineers struggling to get by, they know they have a very unusual client. When Sykes asks them to genetically engineer a way for humanity to survive the coming ecological apocalypse, Raina is tempted. Bees are dying, crops are failing, and she knows her research is partly to blame. Could she help in some way? Though troubled, Cedric agrees to take part when it becomes clear their benefactor will do this with or without them. How else can he be sure their work won't fall into the wrong hands? But can they really trust Mr. Sykes?

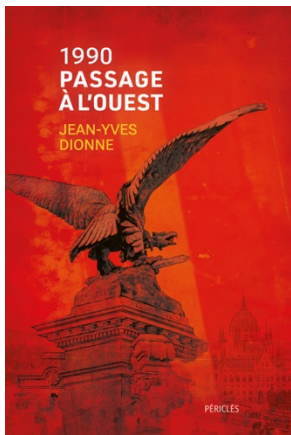
Christy Climenhage is a member of SFWA and CSFFA, and holds a collection of graduate degrees (PhD and two Masters) in International Political Economy, European Administration and Social Sciences from a past life as a social scientist, academic and diplomat. She is a career Foreign Service Officer with Global Affairs Canada.



Who among the diplomatic community does not occasionally like to indulge in some one-upmanship, and drop the names of exotic locations to which their responsibilities took them? Here is a set of lavishly-illustrated stories that may have you reconsidering your smugness. Nick takes us from Robinson Crusoe Island, where Daniel Defoe found his inspiration, to Palmerston in the Cook Islands, where all fifty inhabitants have the same surname, and Kodiak Island, where Nick and Jenny found themselves anchored next to a floating strip-joint. Here are the stories of a middle-of-the-night boarding by a machete-wielding assailant in the Solomon Islands, of the kindness of strangers in Japan, and of an island idyll in what is today the least travelled sea of all: Venezuela's. It's a book for travellers (and wannabe travellers) as much as for sailors and there's practical advice on how to reach the featured destinations if you don't have your own boat. Wide

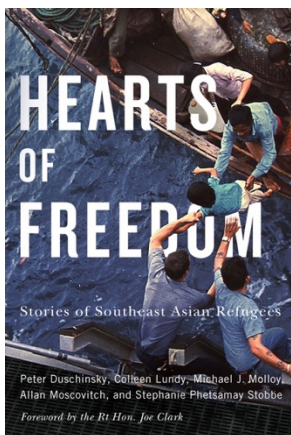
and Starry is published by the same team that brings you J.K. Rowling and Margaret Atwood (Bloomsbury; UK) and was shortlisted by the UK's Maritime Foundation for Best Book of the Year (2025). Blog and lots of reviews at bosenbird.com.

Nick Coghlan is a two-time PAFSO award winner and - along with his wife Jenny - was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross for the evacuation of Canadian citizens under fire from South Sudan in 2013. He was Canada's first resident diplomat in Khartoum (Sudan), our first (and penultimate) Consul General in Cape Town, and first resident Ambassador in Juba. He proudly notes that the Juba Chancery was during his tenure the only fully-armoured Canadian mission in the world: two reinforced shipping containers, plus a crest. In between producing catchily-titled political reports from sundry hot spots, Nick penned three books on his diplomatic career (on Colombia, Sudan and South Sudan), all published by MQUP. He was also successful in persuading GAC's HR department to grant him spells of leave without pay so as to indulge his passion for long-distance sailing, about which he has written three further books. Nick and his wife/Admiral Jenny live overseas; that is to say, on Salt Spring Island B.C.



A docufiction with the feel of a rhapsody! 1989 – The Iron Curtain falls. The result is the dissolution of the Eastern Bloc. The toxic atmosphere of the end of the regime and chaos take hold in the Eastern Bloc countries. After five decades of a closed system, insecurity and social chaos follow the old regime. Guy Robitaille, a Canadian diplomat, is assigned to Budapest. His superiors task him with supporting his country's businesses. At the heart of this story is Hungary's pharaonic purchase of two new CANDU nuclear power plants. Life at the embassy is marked by numerous challenges: the demotion of demotivated colleagues, conspiracies, various alerts and the insidious presence of a mole operating in the shadows of the Chancery. The diplomat's daily life is exacerbated by the excesses of a colourful and galloping ambassador. As if that weren't enough, Robitaille becomes entangled in an illicit affair. A story typical of a rhapsody and an era.

Jean-Yves Dionne began his career in Canadian diplomacy in 1976. His overseas postings took his family to Bonn (1978), Abidjan (1982), Yaoundé (1987), Budapest (1989), Paris (2001), Rio de Janeiro (2005) and Lisbon (2013/14). Between his postings abroad, he held various marketing and administrative positions at the Department. In particular, he was appointed Deputy Director General and Intergovernmental Coordinator at the Secretariat of the VIIIth Francophonie Summit in New Brunswick (1999). Born in Cacouna, Quebec, Jean-Yves studied law, political science (University of Ottawa) and industrial relations (University of Montreal). He is married to Lucie Tremblay, his muse and former commercial agent at the ministry. Jean-Yves's many interests include geopolitics, international relations and conflicts, history and cultures, the complexity of interpersonal relationships, and the power issues that underlie human quests and challenges. He already has two books to his credit: *Secrets d'un père indigne*, a collective work that won the Gaston Miron Prize (2017), and *Diplomates en péril?* (2021), an autobiographical essay on Canadian diplomacy co-written with his wife, both published by Éditions de l'Apothéose. He is a member of the UNEQ (Union des écrivains du Québec) and the Association des Auteurs des Laurentides (AAAL). He is also an editor at Éditions Périclès, based in Saint-Sauveur.

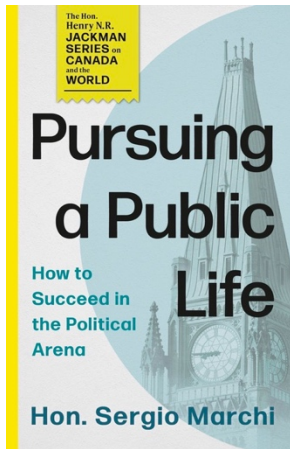


Undertaken at the request of the leadership of Canada's Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian communities, *Hearts of Freedom: Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees* is a product of the Carleton University based Hearts of Freedom Research Project. The book is a rich collection of oral histories based on interviews with 145 former refugees resettled across Canada. Told where possible in their own words, the stories in the book describe in graphic detail the pressures that led over 2 million people to flee their homes and risk their lives in small boats on the South China Sea, across the Mekong River or over land through jungles and mine fields. It describes the events that led to their decisions to come to Canada, their first encounters with snow, cold and Canadian food. It recounts their puzzlement at the kindness of sponsors, their struggles to find employment, occasional encounters with racism, and how Canada's multicultural policy

allowed them to retain their original culture and identity while gradually coming to see themselves as Canadians. At a time when we are assessing the benefits and challenges of our immigration and refugee programs, *Hearts of Freedom* documents the lives, experiences and contributions of people who suffered the worst excesses of war and oppression and survived to rebuild their lives in Canada.

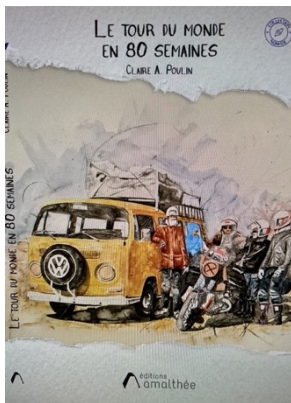
Michael Molloy, a retired foreign service officer, served in Japan, Lebanon, Minneapolis, Geneva, Jordan, Syria and Kenya. He was involved in refugee resettlement operations in Vienna and Kampala. As the Immigration Department's Director of Refugee Policy, he led the design and implementation of the refugee provisions of the

1976 Immigration Act including Canada's private refugee sponsorship program. In 1979-80 he was Senior Coordinator of the task force that oversaw the resettlement of 60,000 Indochinese refugees. He was Director General of Citizenship and Immigration operations in Ontario before serving as Canada's Ambassador to Jordan. Just prior to retirement, he was Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process focusing on the Palestinian refugee issue. Following retirement, he was Co-Director of the Jerusalem Old City Initiative. An Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University, he is also co-author of the acclaimed *Running on Empty: Canada and the Indochinese Refugees 1975–1980*.



Our politics are currently suffering formidable challenges. Our national discourse has become more polarized, increasingly divisive, and notably nastier. Consequently, many people are keeping their distance from public life, rejecting a political system that they deem broken and unrepairable. Public opinion surveys consistently reveal that public cynicism is at a record high, coupled by declining voter turnout. Many people are disengaged from public life. The Honourable Sergio Marchi - city councillor, member of Parliament, cabinet minister, and ambassador - relates his experiences over his thirty-year political career. He shares the adventures, policy decisions, and lessons learned in an effort to shed light on the inner workings of a public life, from nomination meetings, to campaigning, to governing, to make it easier for those interested in making a difference to take the plunge into an exciting, meaningful, and purposeful profession.

The Hon. **Sergio Marchi** has led a distinguished public life, as a community activist, city councillor, a Member of Parliament, and Minister for International Trade, Environment, and Citizenship and Immigration. After voluntarily leaving the political arena, he was appointed Canadian Ambassador to the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Agencies in Geneva. He lives in Quebec.



What if a trip around the world also became a journey of self-discovery? After open-heart surgery, Gaston, a passionate Quebec filmmaker, plunges back into the adventure that marked his life: 80 weeks on the road around the world, alongside Aline, his partner and most loyal ally. From the scorching Sahara to the forests of Central Africa, from the temples of Asia to the beaches of Latin America, Gaston and Aline travel through some 50 countries, driven by curiosity, courage and unwavering tenderness. Along the way, they encounter unexpected meetings, comical and sometimes dangerous situations, and above all moments of pure humanity, as only great journeys can offer. As the kilometres roll by, Gaston films the children of the world, questions his own history and discovers that the most moving landscapes are not always those we think they are: sometimes they are found within ourselves.

After completing her doctoral studies in France (Aix-en-Provence), which took her around the world, **Claire Poulin** worked in international cooperation (Dominican Republic and Tunisia). Then, in 1991, she joined the Canadian Department of International Affairs and was first posted to Argentina and France. From 2001 to 2005, Claire was Chief of Protocol and Director General of International and Interparliamentary Affairs at the Parliament of Canada. She subsequently served as ambassador to five countries (Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, El Salvador and Uruguay). Now retired, she devotes part of her time to writing. *Around the World in 80 Weeks* follows her first book, *Arthabaska – À la croisée des destins*, which she published in 2020.