

Keeping Record

They move quietly among us, observing, analyzing and recording. They note the critical moments of DFAIT's story, the passing of diplomatic and trade milestones, the accomplishments of key figures, the evolution of Canada's role and relationships in the world.

As DFAIT turns 100, at no time has the work of our departmental historians been so evident. *Our World* salutes the efforts of those who keep the departmental record—and who have been instrumental in putting together this special centenary issue.

Fittingly one of the oldest organizational groups within DFAIT, the Historical Section was created in 1950. Under the leadership of scholars such as George Glazebrook, A.E. Blanchette, Don Page and John Hilliker, it has a long tradition of providing a balanced and neutral perspective on the work of the department. With 27 volumes of documents on Canada's international relations thus far and two volumes of the department's official history, as well as Web, outreach and academic activities, the Section is an integral component of DFAIT's policy development and communications efforts.

The Section, which today is part of the Policy Research Division, is made up of historians Greg Donaghy, its head, as well as Mary Halloran and Janice Cavell. Donaghy and Halloran are currently co-authoring the third volume of the department's history and have organized a series of thoughtful and successful conferences leading up to DFAIT's anniversary. Cavell is working on the latest volume of documents, and, along with researcher Mark Eaton, has put together a fascinating book of historical records that tell DFAIT's story.

Senior Departmental Historian Hector Mackenzie, also in the Policy Research Division, conducts research, writes and lectures on the history of Canada's international relations and is the organizing force behind the O.D. Skelton Memorial Lecture Series. The lecture last December showcased Skelton



photo: Mike Pinder/DFAIT

Those who keep the departmental record: DFAIT historians (left to right) Hector Mackenzie, Greg Donaghy, Mary Halloran and Janice Cavell.

biographer Norman Hillmer; memorable past speakers include Louise Arbour, Allan Gotlieb, John de Chastelain and Margaret MacMillan.

The historians have been a critical part of DFAIT's 100th anniversary, which will culminate in our June 1, 2009 celebrations. There is even a centennial stamp from Canada Post, as well as a new plaque in the Headquarters lobby marking the century.

Our historians' contribution to the department is indispensable, not just in this commemorative year but always. Their knowledge and skill offer reference points and insights that provide a vital link between our storied past and a more informed future. *Affaires étrangères*

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Welcome Home

With much relief and thankfulness, we welcome home our friends and colleagues Bob Fowler and Louis Guay. We echo the sentiments of senior government officials, staff and all Canadians who rejoice at their release and safe return to Canada.

Those in the department who were involved in this complex and sensitive matter have been commended for their tireless contribution to its success, along with other government departments and agencies, the UN and Canada's allies and friends abroad. Efforts continue to be made to resolving the cases of other Canadians who remain in captivity in various parts of the world.

We wish Bob and Louis and their families well as they recover from their ordeal.



photo: Serge Fournier

Bob Fowler (left) and Louis Guay arrive on Canadian soil on April 28.