

**ALAN EDMUND WHEELER**  
**Professor Emeritus, Brock University**



Biography: Born in India, Alan Wheeler grew up in Alberta, where he began his teaching career in 1964. After a five-year science teaching assignment in East Africa, he pursued doctoral studies and joined Brock University in 1977. He retired as Professor Emeritus in December 2005 but continues to teach part time and serve as academic advisor on an ongoing education project with China.

His presentation on *Wanderlust: Curse or Blessing* is an introspective analysis of his lifelong compulsion to travel. Wanderlust, that irresistible compulsion to see as much of the world as possible, is probably what lent its allure to what James Stewart's character in the classic movie, *It's a Wonderful Life* called 'the three most exciting sounds in the world ... anchor chains, plane engines, and train whistles.'

Alan's particular affliction with Wanderlust has resulted in living abroad in Africa and Asia on extended long term assignments and short-term consultancy assignments in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore, Somalia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Egypt, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Travel, he contends, can be far more than merely 'broadening' one's mind. For him, it has been a life altering experience which continues to shape his world view.