

Marg. Conley & Mae - welcome, appreciation & song.

Back on bus by 5:00.

We follow the eastern side of Kaminisseg Lake to Barry's Bay on Hwy 62.

Mount Madawaska - ski area.

Barry's Bay - Hospital recently enlarged to which Comb. W.I. donate \$500 per year. Now have nursing home.

Note Polish Catholic Church on your left. Built in 1914 it overlooks the lake. A monument was erected between church & rectory honouring Pope John Paul II. The Street in front of the monument has been renamed Karol Wojtyla Street & the monument bears these words:

"The parishioners of St. Hedwigs honour the first pope from Poland, John Paul II, dedicating this street in his name, Karol Wojtyla St., May 1980." Pope John Paul had visited Barry's Bay prior to his becoming Pope.

They fly Canadian and Polish flags.

We here leave Hwy 62 & go onto 60 on which we will remain until Renfrew.

See wooden water tower (only 2 left in Ont.) & old railway station. (now Ont. Trailblazers Sr. Citizens Club) St. Lawrence C'Toole Irish Church on your left after passing water tower & station. Next door to church is Paul Yakabuski's home. (13 & 7 kids). He is also building a new home in the village.

On left Dartline bus & garage (Mae's brother).

As we proceed down 60 you will see the line (now abandoned) of the Ottawa, Arnprior, and Parry Sound Railroad built by lumberman J.R. Booth in 1894. Western grain came east & Ontario lumber went west over this line rather than by Great Lakes route which was seasonal. (Later taken over by C.P.R.).

Wilno - Canada's Polish Capital. Between 1858 & 1864 sixteen Polish families settled here (Hagarty Township). Later between 1864 & the 1890's they were joined by 250 families. The area resembled the Kaszubian region of Poland from where they came. Watch for Kaszuby road. Remember Kaszuby is  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between here & Combermere.

1870 - small log chapel

1888 - first permanent church - wooden - St. Stanislaw - burned in 1936

Present church, St. Mary's, built in 1937.

In honour of the 12 million victims of World War II concentration camps, an urn of ashes from Poland was placed in this church in 1968 by the Polish Association of Political Prisoners.

Also a plaque for 4 young Wilno men who died in Europe in W. War II.

This was primarily a farming area - later a great income from lumbering.

The schools teach in English but Polish classes are offered on Sat. mornings.

They support a mission in India and collect "Pennies for India" during Lent.

Across the road from the lookout was one of the first aid posts along this stretch of highway.

Read aloud while on lookout:

On Lookout Plaque at Wilno:

Canada's first Polish Settlement.

The first group of Polish immigrants to Canada, some 300 in number, established a settlement in this area in 1864. Adverse social conditions and political unrest in their partitioned homeland encouraged them to leave. They cleared the land and rapidly established a thriving agricultural community. During the 1880's the village founded here was called Wilno after the birthplace of the Rev. Ludwik Dembski, one of their spiritual leaders. In 1875 the parish of Wilno was organized and a chapel, dedicated to the Polish saint Stanislaus Kostka, was built. The Canadian Atlantic Railroad linked Wilno to Ottawa in 1894. This district, which received a new wave of Polish immigrants in the early 1900's, retains much of its cultural heritage.

Wilno - Fair on Aug. Civic Holiday - music, crafts, food, kids activities, workshops, etc.

On your left on Hwy 62 is Bonnechere Prov. Park for the campers!

After leaving village watch for the bridge over Bonnechere where it runs into Golden Lake } we follow its path now to Renfrew & Castleford & end of Opeongo Trail.

Algonquin Indian reservation one option - museum & crafts centre not active in May. We are going along north shore of lake - Indian reservation is on south on Ruby Road.

Best stop Golden Lake Village - "Snowbird" Tour 3/4 hour