

Family feels at home in Canada after escaping martial law

by Helen Murray
It took many months, but the Joseph Plecke family, of RR3 Acton, finally feel at home in Canada.
Plans for a Canadian Christmas in a new home were suddenly thwarted in their homeland of Poland when martial law was imposed in December, 1981. The Pleckes, Joseph and Eva and children Joanne and Michael found themselves unable to leave the country, in spite of having all the necessary travel papers, and airplane tickets.
They were to leave just days after that fateful day in December, to start a new life with Eva's father, Hans Rosenkranz, just north of Ospringe.
After several weeks of red tape, not to mention a lot of running around because telephone service was cut off, the family was finally allowed to leave the country on one of the first planes out.
The four arrived in Ontario with no knowledge of the English language, and with only a few suitcases of possessions. Joanne found herself in a school surrounded by children and adults with whom she could not communicate, while her father faced the prospect of going to school just to learn the language, and then hope he could get a job in the tightening Canadian job market.
Now, one year later, the Pleckes have settled into their new lives, learned the language, and toured southern Ontario to get an idea of their new home.
It was a tough winter last year for the family, but by June their lives started turning around. Joe graduated from a language course in Kitchener a week early. He was accepted for a machinist job at K-M Mechanical in Milton, and in his broken English, was able to communicate with fellow workers.
In the meantime, eight-year-old Joanne was rapidly catching on to the language and making many friends. Irene Sinclair was a big help to the

young girl and her parents as a translator for the first few months. Without her, the Pleckes admit, life would have been extremely difficult in the communication department. Joanne has since changed schools and is attending a separate school in Erin.
Commuting to Milton from north of Ospringe, Joe points out, is a new experience for him. In Poland, he notes 30 kilometres is a long way to drive, but in Canada, it is a necessity when the country is so big and communities are so far apart.
Joe admits his English has improved greatly since he started his job. He explains it is different to sit down in a classroom and try to learn the language, than to actually sit with other Canadians and actually speak it. He feels this is why Joanne has caught on to the language so quickly, because it is all she hears all day.
But at home, the family still speaks Polish. Eva is home all day with Michael, and does not have the contact with others that the other half of the family does. As a result, her English is not nearly as advanced.
And every time she goes shopping she is with either her husband, father or Mrs. Sinclair, and speaks Polish with them. This could change this spring, says Joe, when he teaches her how to drive, enabling her to get out on her own more.
Getting the job was the turning point of his life in Canada, Joe reveals. Suddenly he no longer felt like a visitor to the country. He could support his family again, and he felt finally belonged. They have many Polish friends in Guelph, also making them feel more settled.
The family admits they will never return to Poland to live. They gladly accept the Canadian 10 and 11 per cent inflation rate. It's a far cry from the 100 to 300 per cent rate they found themselves facing at home in Poland.

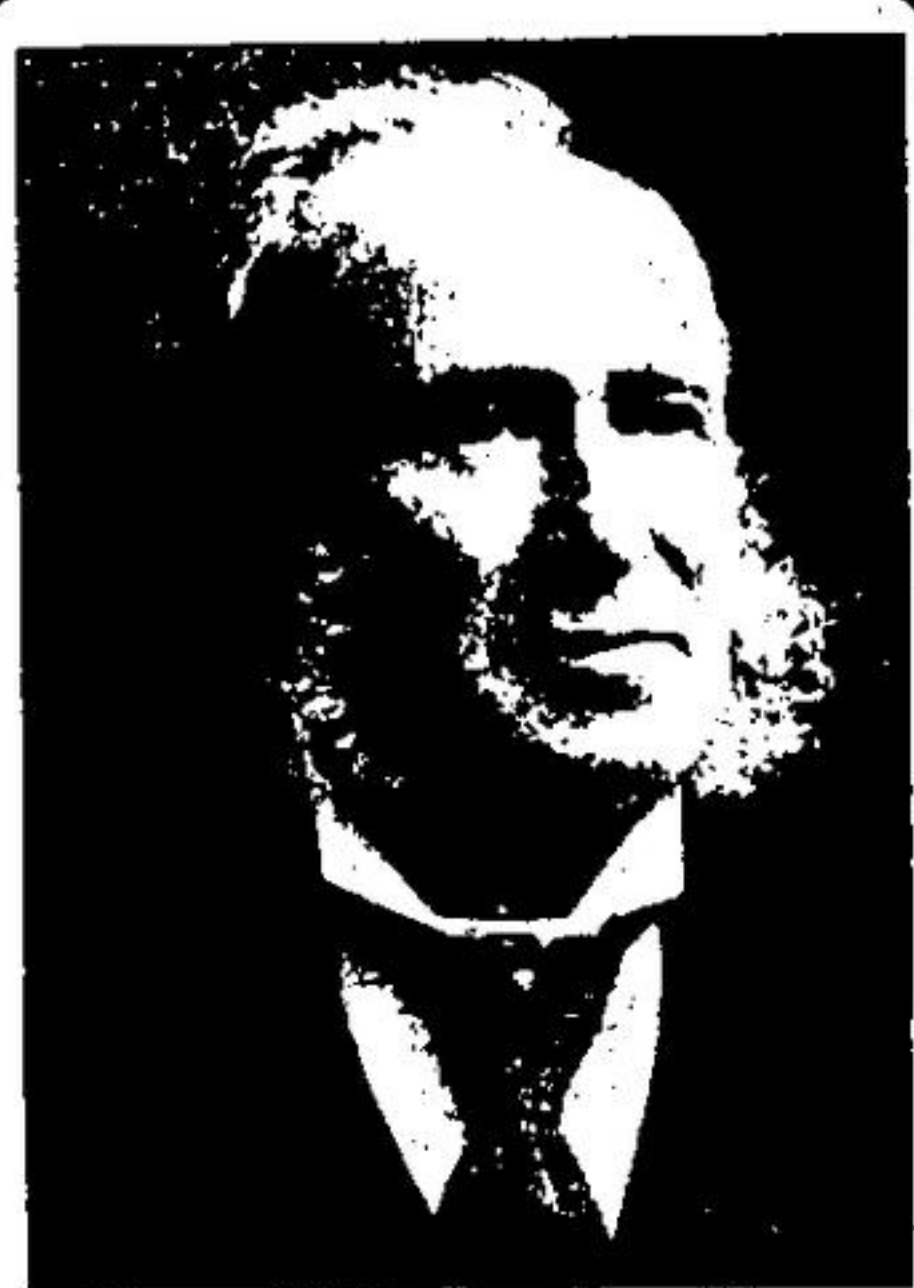


The Plecke family is finally settled into the Canadian way of life. Joe and Eva, and children Joanne and Michael came to the area last year, shortly after the imposition of martial law in their homeland of Poland.
When the Pleckes left the strike ridden country last year, a car would cost two year's wages, payable in cash only, no credit, or loans. He does not even guess what that same car costs now, after the year his countrymen have gone through. A recent letter from relatives in Poland told him

one egg costs approximately one hour's pay. As a result, breakfast for a family of four, with just one egg apiece and nothing else would cost half a day's pay. His sister wrote that the cost of a New Year's Eve celebration party was about one month's pay, but he admits he does not know if that was at one of the cheaper or more expensive spots in town.
As for the lifting of martial law, Joe says he only knows what he has seen on television, just like everyone else. The letters from home do not mention it.
But he says, the Polish people are sure that the government is bad. They feel the government is able to change the situation but won't.
Joe thinks the people in his country are getting tired. Joe himself thinks Solidarity (the country's main union with a membership of 10 million) had the right ideas, in wanting a better life for the members, but went about it the wrong way, and too fast. He says it took the United States and Canada many years to achieve what we have, but Poland wanted it overnight.
He elaborated that Solidarity wanted the stores full of clothing and meat all at once, and they wanted higher salaries immediately.
Joe says he believes the future of the country is in the hands of the government, and that the time for the people having anything to say is over.
It upsets Joe when he hears Canadians complaining about their inflation rate and other economic woes. He really doesn't think a country with only 11 per cent inflation is justified in their complaining. At least, not after living in Poland and lining up for food, if they could find a store with any to sell.
The Pleckes like Canada and its people. Joe said Canadians are very kind to foreigners, and are always willing to help.
For the Pleckes, Canada is a Utopia.

newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, January 19, 1983



SHERIFF, CRAWFORD MCKINDSEY
1858-1882

Second sheriff held office for 24 years

by Mac Sprowl

Halton Sheriff Robert (Mac) Sprowl has researched the history of all 10 Halton sheriffs since 1856. This is the second in the series.

Sheriff, George Crawford McKindsey was born at Trafalgar, Upper Canada, March 29th, 1829, son of William and Jane McKindsey. His parents were natives of the North of Ireland. They came to Canada in 1819 and settled in the County of Halton.

He attended Common School, and was privately tutored. Appointed Sheriff in 1858 to 1882, he married Teresa Crawford, October 19, 1859.

In 1871, principally through the exertions of Mr. Sheriff McKindsey, a charter was obtained for the Oakville, Milton, and Guelph railway. The scheme was coldly received by the people of Guelph and consequently expired.

Sheriff McKindsey became president of the British Canadian Gold Fields Exploration and Development Company in 1896.

In 1872 he became President of Milton Fair. He ran as a conservative in the federal elections of 1872, but was defeated by John White MP by 135 votes. He was also defeated in 1882. Crawford McKindsey was also a Justice of the Peace and a Captain, in the Militia during his career.

He was appointed to the Canadian Senate, January 11, 1884, at the age of 54 years, giving him the title of Honourable George Crawford McKindsey. He sat 17 years in the Senate and died at Milton, February 12, 1901, at the age of 71 years.

Winterfest in February

Winterfest 1983 is scheduled February 12. This community event is being organized now by the Halton Hills Recreation & Parks Department. Any service group wishing to participate in any way is urged to contact the Recreation Department at 877-5185, ext. 41 immediately! Winterfest is scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 1983 with the 19th as an alternate day in case of poor weather. Watch your newspaper for more details.

Halton School Board

\$4 million tied up in Crown Trust

You need a licence

From strippers to wrecking yards, the Town of Halton Hills issues 44 various business and trade licences, which last year added \$21,786 to the coffers.
There have been no stripPer or adult entertainment licences issued in Town, but if it happens, it will cost the owner of the establishment \$2,500 a year.
While lottery winners are few and far between, the Town came out a winner by collecting \$5,582 in lottery licence fees in '82. The previous year more lotteries operated within the town limits and produced \$8,308 in revenue.
There's a \$10 licence fee on cigarette vending machines, which raised \$160; three billiard halls paid a total of \$140 and three bowling alleys paid \$135.
Four amusement arcades paid a total of \$1,200 and 91 pinball machines throughout the Town cost \$910 in licence fees. Five auctioneers paid \$250. Catering trucks also need a licence from the Town and five licences yielded \$500. The catering truck driver, too, has to pay a licence fee of \$5, adding another \$50.
Both driving schools and the instructors must be licenced with four driving schools paying a total of \$200 last year. Seven instructors paid \$70. In addition, the driving school vehicles must have a licence costing five dollars. Nine of them were licenced last year.
And a carnival costs money, too. Three carnivals came to Town last year and paid a total of \$540, or \$180 each.
Hawkers and peddlars must have a licence and last year paid \$450. Owners of dog kennels are included in the list of licences and 30 of them paid \$750 to the Town.
Laundromats and restaurants also fall in this category, with four laundromats being charged \$80, and 43 restaurants \$490. Newspaper vending boxes don't stand on Town streets for nothing either. They yielded \$99. Even the movies theatre paid \$50 for a licence last year.
Taxis are a lucrative field for the municipality. Fourteen taxi owners paid \$350 and 67 taxi drivers paid \$35. One taxi broker licence cost \$25.
Wrecking yards must have a licence, and there are seven of them within the Town boundaries who paid \$140.
Most tradesmen also have to have a licence. Plumbers, electricians, heating contractors, garage owners and drain contractors added \$6,765.
Dogs, too, did their bit for the Town, by contributing \$25,659 in dog tags.



Instructors Kim Newcombe and Kristi Champ, extreme left and right, enjoyed their summer working with children after graduating from the Recreation Dept.'s program.

Recreation dept. develops leadership training program

Halton Hills Recreation Department has developed a new leadership program for youth 13 years and over. Leadership training will be provided on topics such as program planning, games leadership, discipline, song leading and more!
The program provides training for any future leadership role—babysitting, coaching, recreation, leadership, etc.

Lisa Pointner is returning to the Recreation Department to instruct Leadership Development which will run for seven weeks commencing Thursday, January 27, 1983. Certificates will be awarded to all participants who have 100 per cent attendance. Register NOW at either the Recreation Office, 40 Mill Street, East, Acton or 25 James Street, Georgetown or call 877-5185, ext. 60 for more information.

Halton Hills in area picked for toxic waste

Part of Halton Hills and a large part of the built-up area of Milton are being considered as possible sites for disposing of toxic industrial wastes, a press release from the Ontario Waste Management Corp. (OWMC) disclosed this week.

The area within the so-called Golden Horseshoe of Ontario at the western end of Lake Ontario from Oshawa to Niagara Falls, has been selected as the immediate focus of the search for suitable liquid industrial waste treatment and disposal sites. The area selected contains soil conditions which offer greater potential for natural protection required for facilities, Dr. Donald Chant, chairman and president of the OWMC maintains.

Dr. Chant said the decision to focus on the so-called Golden Horseshoe stemmed from estimates

that show waste is generated in and around the Golden Horseshoe. About 58 per cent of these wastes are in liquid form.

Dr. Chant estimates that of the 1.5 million tons of industrial wastes produced in Ontario each year, his corporation will dispose of 150,000 to 350,000 tons. The rest would be handled by industries.

In the search for sites, Dr. Chant said the first preference would be for land zoned for industrial uses but said he would be astonished if local opposition doesn't erupt over the site selected.

"The fact is these facilities have to go somewhere and somebody is going to be unhappy," Dr. Chant said.

The OWMC was set up by the province in 1981

and began its search after rejecting a 760-acre site in South Cayuga that has been approved by the province. Alternate sites should be identified by April, Dr. Chant said.

The map accompanying the release indicates sites would be considered in the south end of Halton Hills in an area below 15 Sideroad, including most of that part of Milton. A large part of the City of Brampton is also included in the search. See adjoining map.

Should suitable sites not be found in these zones within the Golden Horseshoe, the search will be broadened to other regions of the Province. Transfer stations will almost certainly be located in other parts of the Province, although specific areas for them have not yet been identified.

Escarpment review public in February

The two year long review of the Niagara Escarpment master plan, released in 1979 is completed and should be in the hands of the NEC January 28, but will not be revealed to the public until the week of February 11 to 18.
The three OMB members, Armour McCrae, Walter Shives and Dean Henderson, on loan for the study, heard 740 submissions on hearings on phase one alone, and eight hearings for various sections of the 450 mile long escarpment.
Each of the 44 municipalities in the

escarpment area will receive copies of the 1500 page Phase One report, as will all public libraries.
The phase one report deals generally with the escarpment, but the phase two report deals with particular areas where objections were registered.
The complete report will be available from the government book store at a cost of almost \$30, but phase one will be available in a tabloid newspaper available to the public.
NEC Director Ron Vancart warned there would be a fair amount of security

surrounding the release of the report to the Commission members and the Minister and the release to the public. He stressed every report would be numbered and told the Commission members they would be responsible for keeping it confidential.
The 17 member Niagara Escarpment Commission was set up by the province in 1973 to help protect the whole escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory from the pressure of development. The escarpment sprawls over eight regions and counties.

