

UIREDIL IN SETAVIL – COMPILED BY: STANLEY KRANYC – STANE KRANJC

*CANADIAN - SLOVENIAN TIMELINE
1497 – 2014*

*CRONOLOGY OF CANADIAN AND SLOVENIAN HISTORICAL EVENTS
IN CANADA.*

*KRONOLOGIJA KANDSKIH IN SLOVENSKIH ZGODOVINSKIH DOGOTKOV
V KANADI.*

Canada is a land of immigrants from all parts of the world. Many came to this land way before this country even had a name. Scientists believe that the first people came to Canada 30,000 years ago, crossing the “Land Bridge” that at one time linked Siberia with Alaska. Precisely when or why they came, no one really knows.

The first Canadians were: Inuit’s, Iroquois and Huron’s

The following are some milestones in Canadian history before Slovenian people arrived to Canada.

Inspired by Christopher Columbus, in 1497, John Cabot sailed from Bristol England, across the Atlantic to find the Orient, instead he landed in North America near Labrador and claimed a new continent in the name of King Henry VII of England.

1535 - Two native sons of Iroquois Chief Donnacona traveling with Cartier on St. Lawrence River refer to their village Stadocona- Kanata. The name Canada is similar to Kanata which in Huron-Iroquois language means a village, settlement or colony. Later all of the territory north of St. Lawrence River was named Canada.

1608 – Samuel de Champlain found settlement Quebec

1660 – As per first Census there were 3,418 people in Canada.

1739 – As per Census, 42,701 people were registered in Canada.

1759 – British Commander James Wolf and French Commander Louis- Joseph Montcalm died in the battle of the Plains of Abraham. Four years later Britain took possession of Canada

1792 Captain George Vancouver explored the coast of mainland and Vancouver Island.

1793 – John Grey Simco Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and founder of Toronto, Ontario.

1812 – In the battle between USA and Canada, British General Isaac Brock was killed in Queenston Heights near Niagara Falls. The war ended in 1814 and the borders between Canada and USA were restored and never changed.

In the 1825 Census there was a total of 637,151 people living in Canada, 479,228 in Quebec called Lower Canada) and 157,923 living in Ontario (called Upper Canada.)

1834 – Town of York becomes city of Toronto

SLOVENIAN ROOTS IN CANADA REACH BACK TO 1855

Most Slovenians left our homeland, because of the poor social and economic conditions. With love of our families and of our land, we left with heavy hearts and empty hands with a hope for a better life for ourselves and our children. Canada accepted us with an open heart and open arms and gave us an opportunity to build a great life for ourselves and for future generations

The first known prominent Slovenian in Canada was Bishop Friderik Baraga.

Friderik Baraga arrived from Slovenia (which was known as Austria at that time) to New York on New Year's Eve of 1830. His life and contributions to people in North America are well documented in Marquette, Michigan, USA. In 1853 he was consecrated a Bishop of the Upper Peninsula, Michigan. He later became Bishop of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

Baraga and Father Franc Pirc made some visits to Indian settlements on the north side of the Lake Superior prior to the year 1855. However it was in 1855 that Bishop Baraga accepted responsibility and administration for the large diocese, along the northern shores of Lake Superior, Sault Ste. Marie, Garden River, St. Joseph Island, Fort William, Goulais Bay and south to Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario.

WE CAN JUSTLY CLAIM THAT SLOVENIAN FOUNDATION IN CANADA WAS FORMED IN THE YEAR 1855 as documented in the book, " Po Baragovi Dezeli" written by Tone Zrnec CM with help of Slovenian sculptor France Gorse (note pages #112 – 119), Ontario Canada, published 1969 in Toronto.

This is one of the most important books outlining Baraga's work in the USA and Canada. Information in this book is written on the basis of Baraga's archives in the USA and the Department of Indian affairs and Northern development in Ottawa. Based on the information in this book in 2005 I wrote a letter as the President of The Canadian Slovenian Historical Society (CSHS) to the Prime Minister of Canada, Paul Martin. I informed him of Slovenian's beginning in Canada and our planned 150th anniversary celebration in July 2005 in Slovenian Summer camp near Bolton, Ontario. Mr. Martin responded with a congratulatory letter addressed to Canadian Slovenian Historical Society. From that time on the date 1855 is used worldwide as the beginning of Slovenians in Canada.

Baraga's tireless work among Indians, settlers, fur traders, production of the Ojibway grammar and dictionary is still in use today. Canadian Ministry of Citizenship and Culture erected a plaque by the church Baraga built in 1862, in Goulais Bay Ontario. It honored Baraga's contributions to Canadian people and to the country. To the best of my knowledge Baraga is the only Slovenian in Canada with such an honorable plaque.

1855 – Bishop Frideric Baraga accepted the responsibility for the large part of the Province of Ontario from Thunder Bay to Toronto and Hamilton.

1857 – Ottawa was chosen (by Queen Victoria) to be the new capital of Canada.

1859 – Goulais Bay, Ontario. Bishop Baraga purchased 20 acres of land with the objective to build the church for Indian people.

1859 to 2008 - January 10, 1859 was the coldest day in Toronto in the past 149 years. The temperature was –32.8 C. Report by Environment of Canada, Star Library.

1861 – Canada’s first horse-drawn streetcars using steel rails were introduced on Yonge Street in Toronto.

1862 – Goulais Bay, Ont. Bishop Baraga made a plan for the church, purchased material, hired carpenters and other workers to trim logs to construct the church “OUR LADY OF SORROW” at a cost of \$ 252.00. 150 years later this church is still serving Native people. To visit this church take road #17 North from Sault Ste. Marie, approximately 18 miles, turn left on road #552 and drive approx.4 miles, at a country road sign, turn right, drive 9 miles. The church is on the right side of the road on Native land by Lake Superior.

1867 – The birth of Canada. The provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario were united in the Dominion of Canada in the British North American Act. John A. MacDonald was the first Prime minister of Canada. The first session of Canada’s parliament was held on July 1, 1867 – Now celebrated as Canada day.

1868 – Bishop Frideric Baraga died on January 19th, 1868 in Marquette, MI.USA.

AMERISKI DRUZINSKI KALENDAR – (AMERICAN FAMILY Almanac) issued in the year of 1936, by Jugoslovanska Delovska Tiskovna Druzba (Proletarec) 2301 So. Lawdale Ave. Chicago ILL. and printed by Adria Printing Company, 1838 N. Halsted St. Chicago ILL. In this book Slovenian writer Valentin F. Rucigaj outlined Slovenian organization and life of Slovenians in Canada- SLOVENC I V KANADA, Pages #72 -77. Rucigaj obtained information from Main offices and leaders of Slovenian Support associations and Yugoslavian support organizations in Canada.

As per Rucigaj’s book:

Around 1910 Slovenians arrived to Saskatchewan mostly from USA. They settled on the farms around the towns of Saint Front and Queel Lake.

Others came to British Columbia and Alberta to work in the mines.

They settled in Canmore, Alberta and Trail, British Columbia.

During the years 1924 and 1929 around 4800 people arrived from Slovenia.

In 1930 immigration was closed due to the depression and some Slovenians returned home.

In 1935 Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota - SNPJ had 14 establishments in Canada with 254 members.

In Alberta towns: Canmore, Coleman, and Mountain Park.

In British Columbia in Nanajmo, Frnie, Vancouver, and Princeton.

In Manitoba: Winnipeg

In Ontario: Kirkland Lake, Schumacker, Toronto, and Sault Ste Marie.

In Nova Scotia: New Waterford C.B. and Sydney.

1870 – As per unofficial documents, Slovenian immigrants settled in Quebec. They were known as Austrians. A Slovenian business was operating at a turn of the century was a Montreal lumber company owned by Peter Jereb. Most of Slovenians worked in mines in towns of: Chicoutimi, I'Abitibi, Val d'Or, Royuan, and Noranda

1870 – Manitoba became 5th Province of Canada.

1871 – British Columbia joins Canadian Confederation.

In 1871 Census 3,689,257 people registered.

1873 – Prince Edward Island joins Confederation

1874 – The North West Mounted Police was formed.

1875 – First known hockey game in the world was played in Montreal.

1879 – Canadian Parliament declared November 6th Thanksgiving national holiday. In 1957 the date was changed to the second Monday in October. First Thanksgiving Day in Canada was celebrated in 1578 in Newfoundland by Martin Frobisher. He held a formal ceremony, giving thanks for surviving the long journey from England to North America.

1883 – Standard time was adopted by Canada.

1885 – Trans Canada railroad was completed. .

1887 – The first transcontinental train arrived in Vancouver.

1890 – First Slovenian arrived to Rossland, B.C. Canada. By 1912 there were six Slovenian families and 20 single men there.

1893 – Governor General Lord “Stanley Cup” was awarded for the first time to Montreal AAA Amateur Hockey Association.

1896 – Klondike Gold Rush in North West Territory Yukon, Canada. Anton Stander was among four men who discovered “Eldorado” gold deposits by “Bonanza Creek”, Yukon. To date this was the richest gold deposit in the world. Stander was known as a “young Austrian” from the province of Unterkrien (Region of Slovenia). Slovenia was part of the Austrian Empire and this is why Stander was known as Austrian. Stander became one of the Eldorado kings, living the rich life. With his good looks and plenty of gold he had no problem stealing Max Emdlemen's girlfriend (ex-dance-hall girl) Violet Rayman. He gave her anything she wanted. Later he married her. For their honeymoon they traveled to San Francisco with the plan to travel to China. They had the finest stateroom on the ship (Humboldt) and he had hundreds of pounds of gold as pocket money. The problem was that Stander was a heavy drinker. His

drinking and jealousy drove Violet away, but not before she took everything he had. She took his gold, the hotel in Seattle and all the profits from his gold land claims. After he lost everything he attempted to return to Klondike, hoping for another Eldorado. He worked on the boats peeling potatoes in the ships galley to pay for his trip. Sick and broke he got as far as Alaska Panhandle. He died in the Pioneer's home at Stitka, Alaska. His wife Violet died in 1944 leaving \$50,000 estate.

Thanks to Pier Burton for much of this information.

1899 – Canada sends 1000 soldiers to South Africa to join the Boer War.

1905 – Province of Alberta and Saskatchewan join Confederation.

1910 – Janez Planinsek (Eskimo Charley) Slovenian explorer, arrived to Canada and lived among Indians and Eskimos in Northern Canada. Read the book “GOSPODAR GOLEGA OZEMLJA” It is a story about his historic expedition from the Artic to the Tropics written by: Cvetaka Kocjancic.

1910 - As per USA Census, there were 106 American Slovenians born in Canada.

1912 – The Slovenian community in Trail B.C. numbered about 100. The men were working in local smelters.

1912 – Grand Forks B.C. Hotel was owned by Slovenian Mr. Frankovic.

1912- It was the worst winter in the past 100 years. Lake Ontario froze solid. Near the shore the ice was 1metre thick. You could skate from Toronto to Hamilton.

1913 – Slovenians arrived to Saskatchewan from USA to work on the farms in the area of Saint Front, Queel Lake. Some of them bought farms and were still there around the year 1935.

1914 – Oil was discovered in Alberta.

1914 – Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany. Canada as member of British Empire is engaged in the war.

1916 – Original Parliament buildings in Ottawa were partially destroyed by fire.

1917 – The National Hockey League was formed.

1917 – Canadian forces attacked Germans at Vimy Ridge in France. After six days of fighting and a loss of 3,600 troops Canadians were victorious.

1917 – French munitions ship exploded in Halifax, killing over 1,000 people and destroying 6,000 homes.

1918 – In September “The Spanish flu” struck Toronto. The flu arrived with soldiers returning from World War I battles.

1918 – Daylight savings time was introduced in Canada.

1918 – For the first time Canadian Women vote in the Federal election.

1918 – On Nov. 11, 1918 at 11 am World War I ended. Canada lost 60,000 troops. 5000 Canadian troops remained in Russia – Siberia helped White Russians turning back Red Bolsheviks revolution. They were pulled out of Vladivostok Russia in the summer of 1919, before Reds took over.

1918 – 1945 Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota (SNPJ) existed in Canada. It was discontinued because Canadian Slovenians felt it would be best to form their own organizations.

1919 – June 28, The Treaty of Versailles was signed, officially ending the First World War. The western part of Slovenia “PRIMORSKA” was given to Italy.

1919 – 1939 – Rado Genorio estimated that approximately 4,600 Slovenians entered Canada and 1234 returned home.

1920 – Koroska Plebiscite. Out of approximately 100,000 Slovenians living in Koroska, 59.4% voted to stay in Austria, 49.96% voted to join Yugoslavia. Koroska was lost to Austrian Empire.

1921 – Use of the maple leaf as Canada’s emblem was authorized by King George V.

1921 –INSULIN was discovered in Toronto by Frideric Benting and Charles Best.

1921 – In the first Grey cup game played in Toronto, Toronto Argonauts defeated Edmonton Eskimos.

1922 – A first injection of insulin was given to a 14 year old boy in Toronto.

1924 – Between 1924 and 1930 approximately 100 Slovenian families lived in, Nova Scotia most of them lived in the town of New Waterford. SNPJ owned the first Slovenian home in Canada.

1924 – Andy Stritof, Slovenian Artist immigrated to Canada. Read the book “UNHAPPY REBUL” The life and Art of Andy Stritof. Written by Cvetka Kocjancic

1925 – First six young and single Slovenians arrived to Winnipeg. All six of them married women of Ukrainian decent.

1925 – Slovenians began to arrive to Calgary and surrounding towns in Alberta.

1925 – In the book “Ameriski Slovenec” printed in 1925 in Chicago, Joze Zavrtnik wrote that there were 4 Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota (SNPJ) Associations in Canada. Assoc. #70 in Canmore, Alberta, Assoc. #276 in Bankhead, Alberta, Assoc. #109 in Nanaimo B.C. and Assoc. #508 in Fernie, BC. In all four Associations there were 186 members including 24 children. Zavrtnik also writes that Slovenians were working in many other parts of Canada from New Waterford, Nova Scotia to British Columbia. The towns mention are: Frenchmans Butte in Quill lake, Vankhead, Saskachewan, Bellevue, Coleman, Banff, Evergreen, Botha in Alberta, Ladysmith, South Wellington, Swanson Bay, Vancouver, Grand forks, Rossland, Trail, Cassidy and Sider, British Columbia.
They were employed on the farms, mines and factories.

1927- Slovenian Cultural Association in Canada, LIRA (The Lyre) was founded in Windsor, Ontario.

1927 – St. Joseph Kranjsko Slovenska Catholic Society (Kranjsko slovenska katoliska jednota) existed in Toronto. The society had a Drama and a choral group.

1928 – Kranjska slovenska katoliska jednota (KSKJ) was organized in Edmonton by Jozef Kastelic. In Canada KSKJ had approximately 1000 members during the period between the two wars.

1928 – Explosion in Timmins, Holinger Gold mine, 39 men perished, including some from Yugoslavia and among them were probably some Slovenians.

1928 – Slovenian Club Zvon was founded in Windsor.

1929 – 1933 Janez Planisek traveled with his two children and Irish friend from Saskatchewan to the Caribbean islands and back to Montreal by a canoe and a sled pulled by dogs.

1929 – 1930 – Canadian Voice – Kanadski Glas, was published in Winnipeg. To the best of our knowledge this was the first Slovenian newspaper in Canada. It lasted only one year.

1930 , January 27, – Alojzij Mattew Ambrozic was born in town of Gabrije, Slovenia.

June 4, 1955, was ordained priest in Toronto

May 27, 1976, Axiliary Bishop of Toronto.

March 17, 1990, Arch Bishop of Toronto

February 21, 1998, was made Cardinal

Pope John Paul II appointet Cardinal Ambrozic to Vatican Committee dealing with, Economy, culture, worship and immigration.

Cardinal Ambrozic died on August 26, 2011 in Toronto at age 81.

Funeral was held on Aug. 31, 2011 at Saint Michael Cathedral in Toronto.

1930 – Immigration to Canada was stopped during the depression years. Many of our people were unemployed and they traveled all over Canada looking for work. Wherever they went there were more people then jobs. As hard as life was they did not ask for government help

“Relief”- because they were afraid to be deported. Anyone that was in Canada less than 5 years and asked for government relief could have been deported.

1930 - Around 1930, the first Slovenian Home in Canada was built by SNPJ members (Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota) in the town of New Waterford Cape Britain, Nova Scotia.

1930 – SNPJ- Sydney, Nova Scotia originated.

1930 - Princeton B. C. Explosion in a mine. Several Slovenians were victims in that explosion.

1930 – Canada put an end to fruit imports. Slovenians began to settle in the Niagara region and started fruit farming.

1931 – Slovenians in Montreal joined Slovak parish. In 1934 Ivan Kramar was serving in the Slovak church committee and in 1938 Martin Pivar replaced Kramar. Pivar arrived to Montreal in 1927

1932 – On initiative of Vijem Sitar, Slovenian “Pipa Club” was formed in Kirkland Lake, Ont. To be a member it was a must to own and smoke a pipe. If a member was found in public without a pipe he had to pay a 10 cents penalty. 10 cents was an hour wage.

1932 – Kirkland Lake Drama Club presented first two comedies in Slovenian language in Canada. “Mayors Daughters”- Zupanova Micka and “Three Rascals” Trije pticki.

1932 – The Struggle - Borba, voice of communist’s newspaper was published.

1932 - St. Laurence River was developed into a seaway taking ships to the Great Lakes.

1933 – “PIPA Club” joined “Slovenian Mutual Benefit Society Bled – Slovensko Kanadsko Podporno Drustvo - SKPD” Kirkland Lake, Ont. The Society had 91 members and \$21.40 in the bank. The first President was Matija Spehar.

1933 – Slovenian Choral and Theater Society Triglav was formed in Kirkland Lake, Ont. In 1938 they merged with the first Slovenian library.

1934 – Joseph Vincec asked Slovenian priests in Lemont USA to send a Slovenian priest to Hamilton, Ontario. In the same year father Bernard Ambrozic made his first visit to Canada and began religious services among Slovenians in Ontario and Quebec. Services continued until 1946. Father Ambrozic was uncle of Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic.

1935 – SNPJ- Canmore, Coleman and Mountain Park, Alberta were formed.

1935 – SNPJ - Nanaimo, Fernie, Vancouver and Princeton, British Columbia were formed.

1935 – SNPJ was formed in Schumacher, Toronto and Sault St. Marie, Ontario.

1935 – SNPJ- Winnipeg, Manitoba was formed.

1935 – SNPJ was formed in Noranda Mine, Rayn, Quebec

1935 – SNPJ section No. 648 held first Slovenian picnic in Toronto.

1935 – The Bank of Canada was opened.

1935 – Slovenian Catholic family society was formed in Hamilton by father Bernard Ambrozic. Who was the uncle of Cardinal A. Ambrozic.

1936 – Valentin Rucigaj writes in “Ameriski Druzinski Kolendar 1936” that there are approximately 6000 Slovenians in Canada, between 4000 and 5000 worked in gold mines, mostly in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta.

1936 - Several Slovenians were working in gold mines, 600 miles north of Winnipeg in Flin Flon around the town of Sheridan.

1936 – A singing group ‘ Vigred” originated in Sudbury, Ont.

1937 – The St. Joseph Society was founded in Hamilton by Rev. Bernard Ambrozic.

1937 – Dramsko Drustvo SKPD, United with “ Pevsko Drustvo” Triglav, Kirkland Lake.

1938 – Roman Catholic church “Secret Heart” was consecrated in the vicinity of Vineland – Beamsville, Ont. With the encouragement of Father Ambrozic, most of the labour was provided by Slovenians. The painting of Slovenian Madona – Marija Pomagaj was installed with the hope of the church becoming a Slovenian church. This hope was not realized, because no resident Slovenian Priest was available. The painting of Madona was donated to Slovenian Church Marija Pomagaj on Manning Ave. Toronto.

1939 - Canada declared war on Germany. In total almost 42,000 Canadian service personnel died in World War II.

1939 – Val-d’OR Quebec, Slovenian organization “Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota” was established. Most men worked in the gold mine. They arrived to Val d’Or in 1870 ties as Austrian citizens. In the mid-fifties around 200 Slovenians still lived here, by 1970 most of them died or moved to other parts of Canada. Many are buried in this town.

1939 – Vzajemna Podpora “Ljubljana” was formed in Val-D’or , Quebec

1940 – Canadian Unemployment Insurance was implemented.

1940 – Slovensko Kanadsko Podporno drustvo in Kirkland Lake was changed to Vzajemna Podporna Zveza Bled. Bled Mutual Benefit Society

1940 – Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Triglav “Noranda, Quebec was founded.

1940 - Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Krka” was formed in Timmins, Ont.

1941-1947 – Drustvo “Slovenski Rudar” was founded in Malartic, Quebec.

1941- Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Zvezda” was formed in Vancouver, B.C.

1941- Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Jadran” was formed in Thunder Bay – Port Arthur, Ont.

1941- 1949 – Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Planinska Roza” Pascalis-Perron, Quebec.

1941 – Canada declares war on Japan after Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

1942 - 1958 – Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “ Slavcek “ was formed in Windsor, Ont.

1942 – 1950 “Edinost “ was formed in Toronto “ Edinost Unity” Newspaper was published by the Canadian Yugoslav Federation.

1942 – Secret heart church in Vineland – Beamsville was renamed to “St. Helen’s” and is still a spiritual place to many Slovenians

1942 – Association of Canadian Slovenians - Zveza Kanadskih Slovencev was founded in Toronto. In 1944 they established a branch in Kirkland Lake. Later for a short period of time they joined “Council of Canadian Southern Slavs” Svet Kanadskih Juznih Slovanov.

1942 – In the Dieppe Raid in France 1,000 Canadians were killed and 1,800 captured.

1943 – Planika organization was formed in Windsor Ontario; “Lira” members joined “Planika”. Members of “Lira” and “Planika” then formed a new organization, “Zvon”

1943- Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Novo Mesto” was formed in St. Catharines.

1943 - 1963 – Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Planina” was formed in Hamilton.

1943 – Vzajemna Podporna Zveza “Sloga” was formed in Kirkland Lake, Ont.

1943 - Bled (B.M.B.S.) received private insurance federal charter with branches in Kirkland Lake, Val’d’Or, Timmins, Noranda Malaric, Windsor, Toronto, Sudbury, Pascall Peron, Port Arthur, and Vancouver.

1944 - 1950 – Vzajemna Podporna zveza “Vidmar “ was founded in Mountain Park, Alberta.

1944 – Normandy, allied troops attack the beaches. Canadians take Juno Beach.

1944 – Records in National Archives in Ottawa indicate that during the Second World War, 145 Canadian Slovenians enlisted and served in the Canadian Army and 2 served in Canadian Air Force.

1944 – Records of foreign language press of Canada at National Archives in Ottawa indicate that Slovenians were publishing the publication “EDINOST” at 206 Adelaide St. W. Toronto, circulation was established in 1941.

1944 – Branch of Association of Canadian Slovenians was established in Kirkland Lake, Ontario. For a short period in 1945, they joined the Council of Canadian Southern Slavs – Svet Kanadskih Juznih Slovanov.

1944 – CCF Party in Saskatchewan wins the election. Tommy Douglas becomes first Socialist premier in Canada.

1944 – One of the worst Toronto snowstorms ever occurred on Dec. 11, 1944. 48 cm of snow fell and killed 21 people.

1945 – James McGuigan Archbishop of Toronto was named Cardinal by Pope Pius XII.

1945 – Bled Mutual Society – Vzajemna podporna zveza Bled had 14 branches and approximately 800 members in Ontario

1945 – Approximately 60 Slovenians lived in Montreal, Quebec.

1945 – May-7th, Germany surrendered unconditionally to western Allies and Russia. After five years, eight months and six days, World War II ended.

1945 – May-8th, V Day, Allies defeated Germany, Hitler Nazis.

1945 - Americans dropped first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, killing over 100,000 people. Prime minister of Canada, Mackenzie King stated; “men have at last not only found but created a Frankenstein which conceivably could destroy the human race”.

1945 - As per Toronto Daily Star, Monday May 7th in the WWII, tragically more than 42,000 Canadians gave their lives. Canada emerged from the World War II as a strong middle power.

1945 – The United Nations was formed on October 24, 1945.

1945 - At least 90,000 people are believed to have perished on the Slovenian territory during the four year war and its aftermath. Yugoslavian communists killed over 10,000 Slovenians (Domobranci) after the war ended.

1945 – May, Canadian Army Major Paul H. Barre serving in the British 8th army in Klagenfurt, Austria, convinced British Army commanders not to return approximately 6000

Slovenian civilians, 2550 men, 3000 women and 550 children from Viking Austria to Slovenia, at that time controlled by Yugoslavian communist party. Had they been returned, communists would probably kill most if not all of them, as they killed 10,000 Home Guards (Domobranci) returned by the British from Austria, prior to Major Barre's intervention. Many of these saved Slovenian refugees (approximately 7000) they later immigrated to Canada and became prominent Canadians. One of them was (at that time 15 years old), Arch Bishop of Toronto, Dr. Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic. Major Barre was born in 1906 and died in 2005 in Montreal. One of the saved Slovenians Wrote: "You can surely rest in peace and history P.H. Barre. Your act of courage has saved more people than you may ever know" Cardinal Ambrozic wrote "Major Bare had a heart of compassion and courage" Ambassador of Republic of Slovenia Veronika Stabej wrote: "The life and action of Major Bare touched many people who wouldn't be here today without him"

1947 – 1951 – Slovenians arriving to Canada, were mostly political immigrants. Estimated number of political refugees emigrants is approximately 7500 (Peter Urbanc and Eleanor Tourtel)

1947 – The Slovenian Farmers Home – Dom Slovenskih Kmetov, was constructed in Beamsville, Ont. The home was sold in 1957.

1947 – The lowest temperature in North America was recorded at Snag. Yukon –64c (-83 F).

1947 – 1948 – Approximately 50 Slovenians worked on the farms and railroads around the town of Batowa, Ontario. They were mostly political immigrants. Over 50 years later some Slovenians still live there. However most of them moved to Toronto.

1947 – Drilling for oil started in Alberta.

1948 - Ignac Krizman organized a choir of 20 Slovenian men working on the railway. Later became known as "Moski Pevski Zbor Fantje na Vasi".

1948 First Slovenian mass was celebrated at Martyrs Shrine in Midland, Ontario. Hwy 12 w. East Midland.

1948 –Father Dr. Jakob Kolaric arrived to Canada. He was the first Slovenian Priest that exclusively dedicated himself to Canadian Slovenians. Later he returned and died in Austria.

1948 – Slovenian Sport Federation was established in Toronto – Gymnastic team "Slovenska telovadna Zveza" They own 100 acres of hunting land near Bancroft , Ont.

1948 – Ivan Zuzek formed Polka band "Quintet Zuzek".

1949 – In Timmins Ont. Krka Association was formed.

1949 – In Noranda Quebec Triglav Association was formed.

1949 – The Slovenian Cultural Association was established in Toronto, led by Stanko Brunsek.

1949 – Holy Name Society was founded in Toronto.

1949 – Slovenian Bishop Dr. Gregorij Rozman first visit to Toronto. In 1954 he visited newly constructed Slovenian Church Our Lady Help of Christians on Manning Ave. Toronto. Rozman also visited many Slovenian immigrants in different parts of Ontario, Quebec and USA. He died and is buried in Lemont, USA. In 2013 his body was relocated to Slovenia, Ljubljana where he served as Bishop prior to the end of WWII, 1945.

1949 – First publication of the Word of God – Bozja beseda, published by Slovenian parishes (Vincevian fathers) in Toronto. Over fifty years later it is still the most read publishing by Slovenians in Canada.

1949 – Our Lady Help of Christians church Choir was established in Toronto.

1949 – First Slovenian mass in Toronto was held in the Catholic Church of the Mount Carmel in Toronto.

1949 – Newfoundland joins Canadian Confederation.

1950 – First Church Committee on Manning Ave. was formed.

1950 – Slovenska Narodna Zveza - Slovenian National Federation of Canada was established in Toronto.

1950 – Bled Buletin was published in Kirklan Lake, Ontario.

1950 - Rado Paznar formed Polka band “Sunshine Trio.

1951 – Approximately 1000 Slovenians lived in Montreal.

1951 – 1970 – Third and to date last wave of Slovenians economical immigrants immigrated to Canada.

1951 – Slovenian Club of Manitoba was founded. In 1996 it changed its name to Canadian Slovenian Cultural Society – Kanadsko Slovensko Kulturno Drustvo.

1951 – Bishop Baraga Society “Barogovo Slovensko Drustvo” was founded in Montreal. They have a summer camp in St. Lazre, Quebec and Folklore group. The organization holds annual picnics on their grounds. Most of the founding members were from Prekmurje.

1951- The organization “Zvoncek” was formed in Windsor, Ontario. A year later members of “Zvoncek joined the organization “Zvon”

1952 – The Slovenian Anti-Communist Fighters – Drustvo Slovenskih Protikomunisticnih Borcev ,”Tabor “, was established in Toronto. On the grounds of Canadian Martyr’s Shrine in Midland, Ontario they erected memorial monuments in honor of over 10,000 Home Guards who lost their lives during and after WWII, due to atrocities committed by Communists in Slovenia. For over 50 years they organize an annual pilgrimage to this Martyrs Shrine grounds in Midland, Ontario.

1952 - Our Lady Help of Christians church choir was founded by Rev. Mirko Rener. Jurij Erzen was the organist.

1952 – First television station began transmitting in Montreal.

1953 - Vzajemna Podpora “ Gorica “ was formed in Toronto.

1953 – Slovenian school on Manning Ave in Toronto was started. Father Janez Kopac was its first Principal.

1953 – Our Lady Help of Christian’s church committee purchased land to build the church on 609 Manning Ave., Toronto, at a cost of \$ 9,700.00.

1953 – First Slovenian Credit Union Bank “ Janez Krek “ was formed in Toronto with branches on 646 Euclid Ave. Toronto and now on 747 Browns Line, Etobicoke, Toronto.

1953 – Slovensko Prosvetno Drustvo “Slap” was formed in Welland, Ont.

1954 – First Slovenian Catholic Church in Canada “Our Lady Help of Christians” Marija Pomagaj was constructed, on 611 Manning Ave in Toronto at a cost of \$38,765.

1954 – Slovenian State “ Slovenska drzava” was published in Toronto and continued publishing by Slovenian National federation for nearly 50 years.

1954 – Drustvo “Nova Gorica” was formed in Toronto

1955 – Slovenian Theater – Slovensko Gledalisce was founded in Toronto by Vilko Cekuta

1955- Aloysius Ambrozic was ordained into priesthood and celebrated new mass in Slovenian church on Manning Ave. in Toronto.

1955 – Baraga Association was formed in Toronto.

1955 – Stane Lamovsek formed Polka band “Triglav”

1956 – Drustvo “Turjak” was formed in Noranda Quebec.

1956 – The Slovenian Canadian Center was established in Toronto as non-profit cultural and information services for Slovenian immigrants.

1956 – Slovenian Evening Bell – Vecerni Zvon – was established in Toronto. Campgrounds with a hall, chapel, swimming pool and camping are located near Tottenham, Ont. In 2006 they celebrated their 50th anniversary.

1956 – The Slovenian Radio program operated in St Catharine's, presenting Slovenian music and a Slovenian theater Club.

1957 – Slovenian Summer Camp (SSC) purchased 22 acres of land. The grounds were opened for camping in 1958. In 1967 and in 2006 more land was purchased and presently SSC owns 57 acres of land, which has a Main Chapel, 4 smaller chapels, a gazebo with a dance floor, a Hall (Baraga Home), a large swimming pool, 3 “balina” lanes, a Bar, observation terrace above the sports field, Children's play grounds, soccer, baseball and volleyball play grounds. There are 131 cottages and trailers on these grounds and 242 members. It is one of the largest Slovenian recreational grounds in Canada. The camp is located near Bolton, Ont, (17196 Mount Wolfe Road, south of highway 9). On the SSC 40th anniversary, Book 40 years of History, Culture and Religion was published. Editor Stane Kranjc.

1957 – Slovenia Credit Union Bank was formed in Toronto. The Main office is located at 725 Browns Line, Toronto, ON M8W 3V7. Two other offices are: on 618 Manning Ave. Toronto and the other is on 23 Delawana Drive, Hamilton, ON. L8E 3N6.

1957 – Vzajemna Podpora “Turjak” was formed in Noranda, Quebec.

1957 – Holiday Gardens Slovenian Country Club. At a meeting of Drustvo Bled Edinost, held in Toronto on July 3, 1957, Frank Kraljic, Joze Obreza and Janez Zupancic made a proposal to form a new organization with their own property. The following year membership approved the proposal and in 1961 the property was purchased in the township of Pickering, Ont. This was the birth of Holiday Gardens. The Slovenian Country Club has a hall, swimming pool and campgrounds

1957 – Father Joseph Casl began to form a Slovenian parish in Montreal.

1957 – Slovenian school was established in Montreal.

1957 – The Canadian dollar reached a top record of \$1.06. Technically, the Canadian dollar was worth as much as \$2.78 in late 1800. In early Canadian history our dollar was pegged to gold or was regulated by the government. In 1950 the dollar began trading freely on global market. The Bank of Canada recognized the 1957 value of \$1.06 as the official record.

1958 – Slovenian Holy family society was changed to The St. Joseph Society. In Hamilton they purchased a Hall on Beach road. After the Parish of St. Gregory was established the hall was sold and the proceeds of \$ 9,235.41 were donated to St. Gregory church building fund.

1958 – Slovensko Drustvo Vancouver – The Vancouver Slovenian Society was formed in Vancouver, B.C. The Society owns the hall on 5762 Sprott Street, Burnaby, BC. The Society has a choir, Folklore group and a Hunting & fishing club.

1958 – Slovenian School was started in Montreal

1957 – Walter Ostanek formed his own band. He was nominated 13 times for the Polka Grammy and awarded the Grammy three times. He also received the Order of Canada and the Canada walk of Fame.

1959 – Slovensko Prosvetno Drustvo “Simon Gregorcic” was founded in Toronto. The picnic grounds are located in Newmarket, Ont. on highway #9, 4 km. east of highway 400. They have a large hall, 4 Balina lanes, a swimming pool, an outdoor dance floor, children play grounds and campgrounds. The first president was Ciril Smrdelj. Joe Kanalec served as president over 25 years. The Association formed Simon Gregorcic Choir led by Justina Grison.

1959 – Folklore group Carnation “Nagelj” was founded in Toronto, by Ciril Sorsak. . Prior to this date they were known as “ Mladi Dom” It is recommended that you read a book “Slovenska Folklorna Skupina Nagelj”. Author Milica Trebse Stolja. Published in 1999, at Nangelj 40th Anniversary.

1959 – Slovenians purchased a Slovenian home on Pape Avenue, Toronto.

1959 – Slovenian Sports Club “Slovenski Sportni klub” was founded in Toronto.

1959 – Slovenian Cultural and Social Club - Slovensko Kulturno in Druzabno Drustvo “Triglav “ was founded in London, Ontario. The hall and picnic grounds are located in outskirts of London. The club has a Folklore group and orchestra.

1959 - 1962 – Vzajemna Podpora “Planica” was formed in Burlington, Ont. It later joined Planina in Hamilton. Ont.

1959 – First Slovenian sisters Lidija Krek and Cecilija Prebil arrived from Argentina to the Slovenian Parish, Our Lady Help of Christians. The sisters left the parish in 1964.

1959 – Rev. Janez Kopac began Slovenian School. Classes were held at the Parish of Christ the King Parish in Long Branch. At that time Slovenians in West Toronto didn't have the church or a Hall.

1959 – 1963. Slovenian academics of America published their bulletin “Vestnik”

1959 – Rev. Tone Zrnec Pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians formed Children Choir, Girls Choir and Youth Choir.

1960 –The House of Commons approved The Canadian Bill of Rights

1960 – Slovenian Sports Organization (STZ) was organized by Celar Golobic and Frank Crtomir Gormek. The objective was to attract young people to get them involved in outdoor and gym activities and to become Canadians and to keep Slovenian culture.

1960 – First “Slovenian Day” was celebrated on Slovenian Summer Camp, Bolton, Ont. on 28 August 1960. The main objectives were to unite Slovenians in Canada, preserve Slovenian Culture, identity, and to demonstrate Slovenian contributions to Canada and to Slovenia. The main speaker was Eng. Bozidar Golob. Other speakers that addressed the guests were: J. Sustarsic from Hamilton, Dr. Stane Bah from London, Ont, I Kukovica from St. Catharines, T. Koncan from Sudbury, I Marn President of Holy Name Slo. Parish, Toronto. Master of ceremonies was Dr. Peter Klopčič. Folklore “Ngelj” under direction of Ciril Sorsak, played “Sunshine Trio”. Replica of the island Bled was constructed on Slo. Summer Camp pond, by F. Brenc Sr. and O. Mauser. This event became an annual celebration. In 1991 the celebration was moved to June in honor of June 25th Slovenian independence day.

1960 – Slovenian Home Association was established. “Slovenski Dom” on 864 Pape Ave. in Toronto.

1960 – First “Corpus Christi “ Procession, on the Slovenian Summer Camp grounds was attended by hundreds and in 1977 by more than 3000 Slovenians. After 47 years annual attendance is still well over 1000 people.

1960 – Slovenians in Hamilton Ont. united to celebrate the Christmas holidays. Father Andrej Prebil from Toronto, wrote to Slovenian priests in USA to inform them that Slovenians in Hamilton need a priest.

1960 – Father Dr. Alojzij Tomc arrived to Hamilton from Argentina.. Fund raising to build the church was started.

1960 – Womens Choir – Zenski Pevski Zbor under guidance of Rev. Tone Zrnec and Silvija Kolaric was formed in the parish of Our Lady Help of Christians in Toronto. These girls are now all mothers and grandmothers and are still active singers.

1960 – Rev Franc Sodja founded the first Choir of the Parish “The Miraculous Medal”. Nace Krizman was the first organist.

1960 – Canadian Dollar exchange rate was \$ 1.05 US

1960 – Land for new church on Browns line, Etobicoke Toronto was blessed.

1960 - 1972 Slovenians in Sudbury, Ont. Started Slovenian school on Saturdays

1961- 1965 – Slovenian Thought “Slovenska Misel”, published by Drusvo Slovencev Baraga (Slovenian Baraga Association) in Toronto.

1961- Second Slovenian Catholic Church “ Our Lady of Miraculous Medal “ was constructed on 739 Browns Line, Etobicoke, Toronto and was dedicated to “ Our Lady of the Miraculous

Medal” At that time there were approximately 120 Slovenian families in the Parish. Rev. Janez Kopac was the first pastor.

1961 - “Slovenian school “ Our Lady of Miraculous Medal was established in Toronto.

1961 – Slovenians in Hamilton purchased land (vineyard from Anton Ritlop) to build the church, to form Slovenian Parish of St Gregory the great and Slovenian center.

1961 – Drustvo Baraga in Montreal purchased land “Slovenska pristawa” near St Lazar, Quebec

1961 – Sportno Drustvo Slovenia – Slovenian Sports Club, was formed in the parish of Our Lady of The Miraculous Medal in Toronto.

1961 – Slovenians living in Kitchener – Waterloo Ont. met for the first time and discussed the possibility of forming a Slovenian club.

1961- Marjan Resnik formed a band “Orkester Sedem”

1961 – VPZ Bled purchased land in Pickering and later changed to Holiday Gardens.

1961 – Doctors in Saskatchewan went on strike, trying to defeat the Medicare.

1962 – Slovenians in Kitchener – Waterloo formed Slovenian Cultural Society “SAVA”, 32 members attended the first meeting.

1962 – Permission to build St. Gregory The Great church in Hamilton was granted by the city of Hamilton.

1962 – First Slovenian Scout groups in the parish of Our Lady Help of Christians on Manning Ave. Toronto, were established. The leaders were Stanko Brunsek and Peter Cekuta and Its President was Dr. France Habjan.

1962 – On the recommendation of Father Franc Sodja, the first Slovenian Scouts group was established in the parish of Our Lady of The Miraculous Medal in west Toronto. Its first leader was Blaz Potocnik and the Presidents were: Tine Tekavcic, Stane Kranjc, Franci Cerar, Ludvik Stajan and others serving for shorter period of time.

1962 – Drustvo SAVA-(Slovenski Akademiki V Ameriki).The first meeting was held on September 14, 1962 in Hart House. The objective of this organization was to unite Slovenian Students in North America. As per SAVA minutes organization operated until 1970.

1962 – Slovenian parish in Winnipeg was established and in 1963 commenced religious services in their church “Our Lady of Lourdes”, 95 McDonald Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0J3. Approximately 200 Slovenian families lived in Winnipeg. The first pastor was father Jozef Mejac. He arrived to Winnipeg in 1963.

1962 – Trans Canada highway was completed.

1962 - Last hanging in Canada took place in Toronto's Don Jail. Ronald Turpin and Lucas were executed for murder. Hanging was abolished in Canada 14 years later, in 1976.

1962 – Association Slovene Catholique was formed in Montreal. They started the work to organize "St. Vladimir" Parish in Montreal.

1962- Men's Choir "Triglavski Fantje" was founded in Edmonton.

1962 – Andrej Pahulje founded band "Veseli Studentje" and later changed to "Karavanci"

1963 – Slovenian school started in Montreal.

1963 – First "Catholic Day" was celebrated on Slovenian Summer Camp, Bolton Ont . Catholic day's celebrations continued annually until 1986. Some of the themes were: Youth, Vatican Council II, (1967) 1200 anniversary of Christianization of Slovenians, Bishop Baraga, Bishop Martin Slomsek, Bishop Gnidovec, The Holy Eucharist, What are our real values, Mary Mother of God our Mother, Christian joy, The Family, Proper use of time.

1963 _ Vzajemna Podporna Zveza "Slovenija" was formed in Kitchner, Ont

1963 – Planina, Hamilton and Planica joined into one organization "Planica"

1963 – Slovenian Saturday school started in Hamilton.

1964 – St. Vladimir parish was established in Montreal. Father Casl was first Priest in this new Slovenian parish.

1964 – Drustvo "Slovenski Park" was formed. The Campgrounds are located near, Cambridge, Ontario (Highway 401 & highway 6) RR #22 Cambridge, Ont. N3C 3V4. On the grounds they have: Hall, Chapel, Swimming pool, Balina lanes, a Soccer field, and Campgrounds.

1964 – Bishop Joseph F. Ryan approved the formation of Slovenian parish in Hamilton named St. Gregory the Great.

1964 – St. Gregory the Great Parish and bulletin "VSTNIK" was published in Hamilton, Ontario.

1964 – Slovensko - Kanadsko Drustvo – Slovenian Canadian Association was formed in Edmonton Alberta. The Association owns a large cultural home.

1964 – Martin Pusic formed the band "Veseli Vandrovcki" They were the first place winners on Polka Band Festival in Toronto, 1978 and 1979.

1964 – After considering over 2000 designs, the new Canadian flag, Red Maple Leaf was approved by Parliament.

1965 – Caravan of Friendship Radio program, started in Toronto by Frances Starcev on the CHIN radio station.

1965 – Members of The Slovenian Parish in Montreal purchased land “Slovenska Pristawa”, near the town of L’Epiphanie , approximately 50 km north-east of Montreal.

1965 – “Slovenian Girl Guides” were established in the parish of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal on Browns Line, Toronto. Their first leader was Elsie Kranjc.

1965 – Slovensko Kanadsko Drustvo Calgary – Canadian Slovenian Club of Calgary, Alberta was formed. The club owns a Cultural Hall.

1965 – Slovenian Parish of St. Gregory hall was constructed in Hamilton.

1965 – Vzajemna Podpora “Oton Zupancic” was established in Oshawa, Ontario.

1965 – Canada’s new maple leaf flag was raised for the first time on Parliament hill in Ottawa.

1965 – Youth Club was established in Parish of The Miraculous Medal. Its first president was Marjan Ulcar, followed by Millie Koscak, Vanda Koscak and Marija Babic. In 1970 the Youth club was renamed to “Slovenian Youth Organization”. The members’ age was set between 17 and 25.

1965 Matija Labar founded a band “Alpine Assemble”.

1965 – Francka Starcev produced Yugoslavian radio program, “Caravan of Friendship”.

1966 – Slovenian Folkloric Dance Group’s “SOCA” first performance in Hamilton.

1966 – Slovenian Choirs “MAJOLKA” and Children Choir were established in Hamilton, Ont.

1967 – Slovenian Sisters of Mary (Marijine Sestre) arrived to the Slovenian parish, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal in Toronto. S. Antida Tavcar and S. Teodozija Judnic. In 1968 two more sisters arrived to Canada, they went to the Slovenian parish in Montreal, Quebec. In 2013 they sold their home in Toronto and returned back to Slovenia.

1967 – Slovenian Youth Club was established and Slovenian school started in Windsor, Ontario. The School ended in 1989, because there were not enough students.

1967 – Death penalty in Canada ended.

1967 – Slovenian Summer camp (SSC) purchased second piece of land consisting of 30.15 acres and in 2006 the third piece of land adjacent to the current property was purchased consisting of 20.42 acres. All three pieces now amount to 62.21 acres.

1967 – Slovenian National Home “Slovenski Narodni Dom “Lipa Park” was established. It opened in 1969 on Oille Road - Pelham, near St. Catharines, Ont.

1967- Slovenian Canadian Association Edmonton purchased 3 acres of land with school buildings on it – later renovated into a Slovenian home.

1967 – First Slovenian day in Quebec was organized on Slovenian Summer camp grounds near Montreal.

1967 – Albin Zamernik formed a band “Veseli Alpinci”

1967 – Expo 67 Fair opened in Montreal.

1967 – Canada celebrates its centennial.

1967-In Winnipeg Frank Sotolsek formed band “Kvintet Slovenia” and “Karavanke”

1968 – Cultural Society of Canadian Slovenians “Slovensko Kulturno Drustvo Thunder Bay” originated.

1968 – Slovenian Society “Slovensko Drustvo Sudbury” Ont. was established. The first president was Joze Mikolic. In 1968 the society bought some land on Wolfe Lake to hold picnics and other Slovenian cultural activities

1968 – Slovenian Dramatic group and Choir was formed in Calgary.

1968 – Association “SAVA” Kitchener – Waterloo purchased 3.8 acres of land with an old Mill and an old house, located between Hopewell Creek and Grand River.

1968 – On CHIN FM – 107, Toronto - The Caravan of Friendship Radio program was established and was shared with other Yugoslavian nationalities.

1968 – Canadian official language act was introduced making English and French the official languages.

1969 – Slovenians in Windsor purchased a building and named it Slovenian Home.

1969 – Slovenian schools in B.C., Edmonton and Alberta were established.

1969 – Sports Club Slovenia – “Slovensko Sportno Drustvo” was founded in Hamilton.

1969 – Hamilton, St Gregory first church committee was formed and they elected the first President, Rado Marusic.

1969- Elk Hunting and fishing Club were established in Waterloo, Ont.

1969 – Old Smokey ski resort was purchased by Slovenian business group in Beaver Valley, Kimberley, Ont.

1969 – Frank Ferkulj formed a band “Four freshmen”.

1970 – Slovenian Orchestra “Lojzeta Slaka” from Slovenia visited Slovenians in Canada.

1970 – Slovenians in Windsor changed the name of their organization from “Zvon” to “Windsor Slovenian Cultural Club Zvon”

1970 – Slovenian Sports Club started playing soccer on Slovenian Summer Camp.

1970 – Frances Stainbacher and Frank Zorman produced a radio program.

1970 – Front de Liberation du Quebec kidnaps British Diplomat James Cross and Labour Minister, Pierre Laporte. War measures act is invoked. Later Cross is released and Laporte was found dead.

1971 – Slovenian Hunters and Anglers Club “Slovensko Lovsko in Ribisko Drustvo” was established. The first meeting was held in the Slovenian church hall on Browns line, Toronto. When the founding members asked Father Janez Kopac for the room to hold the meeting, Rev. Kopach asked why they needed the room. He gladly gave the permission with a comment “ we are all hunters, you are hunting animals, we are hunting souls” The Camp, hunting grounds, two halls and swimming pool are located 80 km North of Toronto, near the town Everett, Ontario. For several years this organization is publishing annual journal, “Lovski vestnik” containing articles on hunting and fishing activities and Canadian Slovenian business directory.

1971 – Slovenians join Toronto’s Multicultural “CARAVAN” with Slovenian Pavilion “Ljubljana” in the church hall on Manning Ave.

1971 – 1978 – Exodus of Slovenians from Province of Quebec, mostly to Ontario. Quebec started a program to separate from Canada.

1972 – Inauguration and blessing of Slovenia home in Calgary.

1972 – Slovenians in Calgary join Multicultural Society in Calgary

1972 – Dance group “Triglav” started in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1972 – Hamilton Youth section formed Folklore group, “Soca”.

1972 – Canadian Slovenian Group for Cultural exchange was organized in Toronto.

1972 – Hockey team Canada defeats Soviets Hockey team. Paul Handerson scores the winning goal.

1973-1983 - Canadian Slovenian Cultural Exchange group - Kanadsko-Slovenska Skupina za Kulturne Izmenjave was established in Toronto.

1973 – With the encouragement of the Slovenian School Principal, France Cerar and with help of many co-workers the Dance Group “Mladi Glas” was formed. Mario Ulcar took the responsibility to produce a tree act play, a children’s fable - Bedak Pavle- (Paul the Full). In 1974, under the direction of Johm Mesec rehearsals, they formed highly refined folklore dance group.

1974 – Slovenian Inquiry (Slovenska Anketa) in Canada. As per Dr. Peter Urbanc’s report, the inquiry covered approximately 700 people, mostly families.

Inquiry divided Slovenians in Canada into three groups:

1) Era, Old Emigrants; Slovenian Emigrants up to year 1944, covered 1000 - 1500 people.

2) Era, Political emigrants up to year 1951 – 8.000 people.

3) Era, Economical emigrants up to year 1973 – 15.000 people.

As per this Inquiry, the total number of Slovenians living in Canada in the year of 1974 was approximately 24,500 people. Up to 1991 only 8000 Slovenian people were registered as Slovenians in the Canadian Census.

1974- Slovenian Club of Manitoba purchased 7 acres of land, 30 km. from Winnipeg. In 1977 a new hall was constructed.

1974- The Slovenian Linden Foundation was founded with the objective to build a Senior Citizens home for Slovenians in Canada.

1974 – First “Baraga Day” in Canada was celebrated on the Slovenian Summer Camp in Ontario. Holy Mass was celebrated in the newly constructed hall. The hall was blessed and named “Baraga Home” by celebrant and homilist Rev. Janez Kopac. Baraga day celebrations continued until 1986.

1974 – Folklore dance group “Mladi Glas” was formed in Toronto.

1974- Slovenian library commenced in Hamilton Ont.

1974 – Association “SAVA” Constructed a new hall and the official opening was on May 10th 1975.

1975 – CN Tower, the world’s tallest freestanding structure in the world, was completed.

1975- Sport organization “Sport Club Slovenia” was formed in Hamilton Ontario.

1975 – 350 Slovenian families lived in Hamilton and surrounding area.

1975 – Slovenian Association Ottawa, “Slovensko drustvo” in Ottawa, Ont. was founded with approximately 60 members.

1976 – Slovenian Hunters and Anglers Club in Toronto began to publish its annual publication “Lovski vestnik”.

1976- Aloysius Ambrozic became Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.

1976 – Bled (B.M.B.S.) constructed new cultural center in Beamsville, Ont.

1976 – Planica Hunting and Fishing Club “Lovsko Drustvo Planica” was established. The members own 223 hectares of hunting grounds and hunters homes in Bancroft, Ontario.

1976 – Slovenian Sport Club - Slovensko Sportno Drustvo “Triglav” was established in Montreal, Quebec.

1976 – Slovenian School in Ottawa was established and was supported by the Slovenian Association in Ottawa and by the Ministry of Multiculturalism.

1976 – Frank Krmelj started a baseball tournament on the Slovenian Summer Camp. In 1992 Mario Ulcar started T-Ball and softball tournaments for children 6-13 years of age. Mario Ulcar also started softball tournaments for high school players. On the recommendation of Skrl youth soccer games were added to the baseball schedule. To date all games are very popular.

1976 – Canadian dollar traded higher than American.

1976-79 – Monthly magazine “Dnevnik Diary Toronto” was published by Ivan Dolenc, Cvetka Kocjancic and Stefan Cafuta.

1976 to 1978 - Slovenian school, Association “SAVA” was led by Tjasa Skof.

1976 – During the third Baraga day celebration, Bishop Baraga statue which is opposite of the Baraga home on the Slovenian Summer Camp was blessed by Bishop Aloysius Ambrozic. The statue was made by Artist France Gorse and is inscribed in Slovenian English and Ojibway.

1977 – “Radio Club” Slovenian Evening “Slovenski vecer”, produced weekly a radio hour show and was the first on radio station CHIN in Toronto and later in Oakville Ont. Station, CHWO. The Program was produced by Frances Steinbacher, Cvetka Kocjancic and Maria Ahacic Pollak.

1977 –Movie of Slovenian culture and life in Alberta was produced by the Ministry Of Culture of Alberta.

1978 – Slovenian Canadian Council “Slovensko Kanadski Svet” was formed in Toronto. The Council members were: The Slovenian Christian Democratic Association, The National Federation of Canada, The Slovenian Anti-Communist fighters, John Krek Slovenian Credit Union, Slovenian Parishes Credit Union, The Slovenian Theater Club, The Slovenian Association Baraga and Slovenian Academics in America – SAVA. (Slovenska Krscanska Demokraticna Zveza, Slovenska narodna zveza, Društvo protikomunističnih borcev, Zupnijska Kreditna Zadruga, Slovensko gledališce, Baragova Zveza and Društvo slovenskih akademikov Sava in USA. “Slovenska Drzava” was their newspaper.

1978 – Slovenian Heritage School in Hamilton became part of Hamilton-Wetworth school board.

1978 – Slovenian Youth Club was formed in Hamilton, Ont.

1978 – Slovenian cultural organizations in Southern Ontario organize polka bands festival featuring seven Slovenian bands from Canada and USA.

1978 – Oct 16, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla from Poland was elected Pope John Paul II. He was the first non-Italian Pope since 1523 - 455 years. Few of his first words were “Be not afraid”.

1979 – Men’s Choir “FANTJE NA VASI ” was formed. As per information by one of the founding Choir members, Alojz Rigler, the choir was formed in Toronto under the leadership of Nace Krizman. It was not formed in Smith Fall, or Batowa Ontario, as reported in some Slovenian papers.

1979 Slovenian Cemetery: Our Lady of Miraculous Medal parishioners purchased land for 400 graves at Assumption Catholic Cemetery located 6933 Tomken Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L5T 1N4, at the intersection of Tomken and Derry Roads. In the midst of the graves is a statue of Our Lady of the Miraculous medal with Slovenian and English inscription: HERE SLOVENIANS WAIT FOR RESURRECTION. The second section with graves was purchased. This section is dedicated to Bishop Anton Slomsek

1979 – Dance group “Planika” (Edelweiss) in Toronto was founded by Nevenka Stajan with the help of Gloria Zizek. These young dances gradually graduated to an older dance group, Mladi glas.

1979 – Slovenian Linden Foundation “Dom Lipa” purchased 6 acres of land at a cost of 300,000 dollars, to construct a home for Slovenian Seniors in Canada, it is located at 52 Neilson drive, Etobicoke, Toronto, M8W 3V7

1979 – Dance group Planika – Bled, was established in Beamsville, Ontario.

1979 – “Nagelj” Folklore group celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

1979 – Slovenian Canadian Volleyball team was established in Edmonton, Alberta.

Slovenian Society Ottawa published its bulletin "Med nami".

*1980 – Slovenians in Hamilton make the decision to build the church.
St. Joseph Association contributed \$49,335.*

1980 – Slovenian Folklore dance group "Triglav" was formed in London Ont.

1980 – The Slovenian Chess Club (Slovenski Sahovski Klub) was registered with Canadian Chess Association.

1980 – Quebec Referendum, Quebecers voted 60% against the sovereignty.

1980 – Canada's National anthem, "O Canada" was approved by Parliament.

1981 – "Slovenian Okanagan Association" in Kelowna B.C. was formed with 67 members in attendance. The first President was Ignac Konte.

1981 – Canadian Government and all provinces except Quebec agree to patriot the Constitution.

1982 – Slovenian parish in Montreal moved to renovate the church on 3470 Boul. St. Joseph E. East end of Montreal near the Stadium. The first Church was sold to Chinese Alliance Church in Montreal.

1982 – First "Dom Lipa" Walk- a-Thon to Slovenian Hunting and Fishing Club, Alliston, Ontario.

1982 – Slovenian church St Gregory the Great in Hamilton was constructed and blessed. It is located at 125 Centennial Parkway North, Hamilton, Ont., L8E 1H8.

1982 – Ensemble Folklorique group "Rozmarin" was formed in Montreal.

1982 – Dominion Day holiday is changed to Canada Day.

1982 – Queen Elizabeth signs Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

1984 – St. Gregory parish purchased land for 300 Slovenian graves at the "Gate of Haven" cemetery in Burlington Ont.

1984 – Fonder of the first Slovenian Parish in Canada, Dr. Jacob Kolarich CM dies in Austria.

1984 – Book – Slovenians in Canada was published. Editor Dr. Peter Urbanc

1984 - Slovenians join Heritage festival in Hamilton.

1984 – Pope John Paul II visited Canada in September; it was an 11 day coast to coast visit.

1984 – First Canadian astronaut entered space on USA Shuttle Challenger.

1985 – Zbornik Slovenske telovadne zveze – Slovenian sport federation was published.

1985 – The Lipa Park Button Box Club was organized by Slovenski Narodni Dom in St. Catherines, Ont.

1985 – 1995 – Several Slovenian Bands were formed: Iskre, Majolka, Petovio, Alpski Glas, Zvoki Slovenije.

1986 – Holiday Gardens Slovenian Country Club started to build a new hall. Construction was completed in 1988.

1987 – Slovenian Linden Foundation “Dom Lipa” was completed. The first residents moved into Dom Lipa in January 1988.

1987 – Slovenian theater Group, “Slovenska Igralska Skupina Toronto” (SIST) Slovenian Theater Group was established.

1987 – Slovenski Narodni Dom, Lipa Park “Dramska Skupina” (Drama Play group) was formed.

1987 – Pope John Paul visited Canada and lead aboriginal mass in Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

1987 – Stock Market “Black Monday”- Stocks around the world plummeted. Toronto TSE dropped 400 points.

1988 – Slovenians in Calgary participate in Calgary Winter Olympic games.

1988 - Sport Club Slovenia joined Hamilton-Wentworth Slovenian Cultural Society.

1988 – Hamilton-Wentworth Slovenian Cultural Society (HWSCS) was established at Slovenian Parish of St Gregory the Great in Hamilton, Ont. The members of HWSCS were: Slovenian Heritage School-Slovenska sola, Soca Slovenian Folkloric Dance Group – Folklorna skupina Soca, Slovenian choir - Slovenski Pevski Zbor, Slovenian Youth Club – Slovenski Mladinski Klub, and Sport Club Slovenia – Sportni klub Slovenia. HWSCL is an independent Society.

1988 – Canada – USA Free trade agreement is signed.

1989 – First “Dom Lipa” Walk-a-thon to Slovenian Summer Camp, Bolton, Ont.

1989—Aloysius Ambrozic became Archbishop of Toronto.

1989- Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce (CSCC) was established in Toronto with approximately 100 members, achieving legal status in 1990. Its first president was Joe Slobodnik followed by Frank Brence, Mike Luzar and Joe Cestnik.

1989 –Book SPD Simon Gregorcic was published, Editor: Milica Trebse Stolfa.

1989 – Geographica Slovenika – Slovenci v Kanadi was published. Editor: Rado Genorio.

1989 – Konferenca Zdomiskih Slovencev (1990 changed to Canadian Slovenian Congress) held several meetings in Slovenian Senior citizens home “Dom Lipa” to discuss and prepare the foundation to form Canadian and World Slovenian Congress.

1990 – Canadian Slovenian Congress (CSC). Slovenians in Canada were the first in the world to form Slovenian Congress. (Kanadski Slovenski Kongres -KSK) The objective of the CSC was to unite and represent all people of Slovenian origin in Canada who support democratic political system and Human rights. It was also to protect the rights of Slovenian people in Canada, Slovenia and in other parts of the world, to help Slovenia attain its Democracy, independence and world recognition and to promote good relations between Canada and Slovenia. CSC Branches: Windsor, Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver. CSC is a member of “World Slovenian Congress”. The first President of CSC was Dr. France Habjan, followed by Stane Kranjc and Frank Rihar.

1990- Kongresne Misli. Canadian Slovenian Congress started to publish Glasilo Kanadskega Slovenskega Kongresa “Kongresne Misli”. Publishing ended in 1997 when Kongresne misli joined a new bimonthly publication, Glasilo Kanadskih Slovencev.

1990 – Flood victims relief fund committee was formed. Canadian Slovenian Congress invited leaders of 24 Slovenian organizations and all three Slovenian Parishes in Ontario, with the objective to form organization to help flood victims in Slovenia.

In 1991 the name Flood victims Relief Fund was changed to “All Slovenian committee” VSO . “Vse- Slovenski Odbor” In this committee were more or less the same people as in the Flood victim’s relief fund committee. The objectives of the committee were changed to Co-ordinate activities of Slovenian organizations in Ontario to help Slovenian people morally, politically and financially to attain their independence and recognition of the Democratic Republic of Slovenia. In the framework of the VSO operated a newly formed “Slovenian Information Center”, Radio “Glas Kanadskih Slovencev” and “Relief Fund” in support of Slovenia. Stane Kranjc was again elected as VSO first President, followed by Frank Novak, Alojz Kocjancic, Marija Ahacic Pollak, Joe Slobodnik. Later on VSO name was hcanged to “ All Slovenian Cultural Committee – VSKO. Presidents of VSKO were: Ivan Plut, Florjan Markun and Marjan Kolaric.

1990 – Drustvo - organization “VSTRAJNOST” widows organization was founded in Toronto, the first president was Cveta Arhar.

1990 – Coordinating Committee – Koordinacijski Odbor – Niagara was formed to coordinate the activities of Slovenian organizations in the Niagara Peninsula.

1990 – *Sv. Vladimir v Montreal* book was published. Editor: Rev. Franc Letonja.

1990 – Dance group “Lastovice” was established in Montreal.

1990 – The first post-war democratic elections were held in Slovenia. 89% of Slovenian people voted for independence and the Communist Party lost its power.

1990 – *Alpski Glas* was formed by Andy Kuri and Louis Lovsin.

1990 – Slovenska izseljenska matica (SIM) in Slovenija included representatives from Slovenian immigrants on their board of directors. Lojze Kocjancic was elected to represent Slovenians in Canada.

1991 – On the 25th of June, Slovenia officially declared its independence. The next day a new State of Slovenia was attacked by Yugoslavian army. The War lasted 10 days. Slovenia successfully defended their new country and was victorious in establishing independence and democracy. In 1992 Slovenia attained World recognition.

1991 – On the 25th of October, the last Yugoslavian soldiers left Slovenia by boat from Koper.

1991 – Canadian Census – 8050 people in Canada registered as Slovenians.

1991- Slovenian Information Center “Slovenski Informativni Center” was established by the All Slovenian Committee in the framework of the VSO. Its first leader was Leander Skof, followed by Cvetka Kocjancic.

1991 – “World Slovenian Congress”- WSC - was established on June 26th and June 27th in “Cankarjev Dom” in Ljubljana. Ten elected delegates from the Canadian Slovenian Congress (CSC) and two delegates from the “Slovensko Kanadski Svet” attended the meetings and played important roles in various committees forming the World Slovenian Congress. During the aggression on Slovenia, CSC delegates, Dr. France Habjan, Jozica Vegelj and Stane Kranjc helped in Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana with translations of Slovenian government publications and communications with western media. Congress delegates were: Dr. France Habjan, Dr. Zlatko Verbic, Dr. Srečko Pregelj, Father Valentin Batic, Stane Kranjc, Joze Kastelic, Ciril Sorsak, Jozica Vegelj, Lojze Kocjancic, Milan Stefanec. Representing Slovensko Kanadski Svet were Marta Jamnik and Mr. Muhic.

1991 – *Voice of Canadian Slovenians – Glas Kanadskih Slovencev*, Weekly Radio Program was established in the frame work of VSO All Slovenian Committee. VSO Committee elected Marija Ahacic Pollak as its first leader.

1991 – Slovenian day on Slovenian Summer Camp was organized by Slovensko Kanadski Svet, Kanadski Slovenski Kongres, Vseslovenski Kulturni odbor and Slovenian Summer Camp. Over

3000 people attended. We were demanding that the Yugoslavian army stops the aggression on Slovenia and recognizes the independent Republic of Slovenia. Canadian media, TV, radio and newspapers were in attendance to report our demands.

1991- Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce was formed.

1991– Slovenians in Canada organized many demonstrations and protests against Yugoslavian attacks on Slovenia, demanding the end of aggression and recognition of The Republic of Slovenia. After 10 days of aggression the war ended. Read the book “Razprave in Gradivo” published in Ljubljana, 2002 by the Institute for Ethnic Studies, Matjaz Klemencic.

1991 – 1993 Cvetka Kocjancic prepared Bulletin “Vojna v Sloveniji” and publication “Kanadska Slovenska Kronika”. A complimentary edition was mailed by All Slovenian Committee to most if not all Slovenian organizations in Canada.

1991 – Under the direction of Maria Ahacic Pollak, Women Choir “Plamen” originated in Toronto.

1991 – Federal tax GST 7% of the cost of many goods and services is implemented.

1992 – Hamilton, Slovenian senior citizens home “Villa Slovenia” was opened. Villa Slovenia was built by the Slovenian St Joseph Society located at 23 Delavana dr., Hamilton, Ont. L8E 1G3

1992 - 1993 – Slovenian day organized by VSO Vseslovenski Kulturni Odbor in Marineland with the objective to raise funds to help Slovenia purchase new medical equipment to treat skin diseases. Equipment was purchased in Germany and was presented to Maribor hospital by Marineland owner John Holer.

1992 – On the 13th of January “The Holly See” was the first state to officially recognize independent Slovenia.

1992 – On Jan 15th 1992 Canada and the world recognizes The Republic of Slovenia. All Slovenian committee –Vseslovenski Odbor (VSO) organized one of the largest celebrations in Canada at the Slovenian Center on Browns Line, Toronto. On this cold January night more than 1000 people attended and we were not able to accommodate all of them in the hall. Slovenians also celebrated in other parts of Canada.

1992 – Do to the referendum in Quebec, more Slovenians left Quebec and moved to other parts of Canada.

1992 – Walter Ostanek, three times Grammy Award Winner, Best Polka Album in 1992, 1993 and 1994. In year 2000 Walter received Order of Canada Award.

1992 – Canadian Slovenians support Macedonian quest for independent statehood and recognition. Stane Kranjc, President of VSO, Dr. Zladko Verbic, Special Representative of

Slovenia and Dr. Peter Klopčič, President of Slovenian Canadian Council met with President of Macedonia, Mr. Giragov and his delegation in the Royal York hotel in Toronto to convey our suggestions, support and best wishes.

Anthony Ambrozic published three books, "Adieu to Brittany", "In the Shadow of the Horsemen" and "Gordian Knot Unbound".

1992 Milan Stefanec formed band "Murski Val"

1992 – Confederation Bridge, 13 km long was constructed between PEI and the mainland.

1993 – Embassy of The Republic of Slovenia opened in Ottawa. First Ambassador was Marjan Majcen, followed by Dr.Bozo Cerar and Veronika Stabej, Tomaz Kunstelj, 150 Metcalfe Street, Suite 2101, Ottawa, Ont. K2P1P1.

*1993 – Unhappy Rebel book was published "The life and art of Andy Stritof"
Author: Cvetka Kocjancic. ISBN 0-919045-48-0*

1993 – "Slovenians in Canada, Directory of Organizations and Institutions" was published by Vseslovenski Odbor – All Slovenian Committee. The directory was organized by Cvetka Kocjancic.

1993 – On the 50th Anniversary, Vzajemna podporni Zveza Bled, Odsek St. 13 Beamsville, Ontario, book 1943 – 1993 was published, Author: Milica Trebse-Stolfa

1994, 1995, 1997, Elvis Stojko achieved World Figure Skating titles. In 1994 and 1988 Elvis received Olympic silver medals. In 1998 Governor General of Canada presented Elvis a Meritorious Service Cross. Stojko retired in 2002.

1994 – "Slovenski Park 30 Let - 1964-1994" book was published. Editor: Frank Pinter.

1994 – The North American free trade agreement between Canada, USA and Mexico takes effect.

1995 – Slovenian school commenced in Calgary with 33 students.

1995 – Belokranjski Foundation – Belokranjski Club was formed on Aug – 14th in Mississauga, Ont. This is a charitable cultural organization with 12 members.

1995 – Referendum was held in Quebec. The Quebecois voted against the separation.

1995 – The most remarkable find was made in an Archaeological Park at "Divje Babe" Primorska region of Slovenia. Ivan Turk and Janez Dirjec Archaeology ZRC SAZU excavated probably the oldest musical instrument ever made. They recovered a 45,000 years old Flue Pipe of the thighbone of the young cave bear. The pipe bore

three holes drilled into it at regular intervals to match spacing between the fingers of a man's hand.

1996 – Canadian Census: 25,875 people in Canada registered as Slovenians.

1996 – NATO - External Minister of Canada Lloyd Axworthy named Michel Bell as Canadian NATO representative to discuss Questions of NATO with various native group representatives in Canada including representatives of Canadian Slovenian Community: Frank Brence Joze Slobodnik Mike Luzar and Stane Kranjc. Slovenian representation strongly supported Slovenia's membership in NATO.

1996 – Voice of Canadian Slovenians (Glasilo Kanadskih Slovencev) was published by All Slovenian committee. Its first editor was Rev. Franc Slobodnik.

1996 – American and Canadian Slovenians jointly celebrated Baraga days in Toronto on the 31st of August and the 1st of September. This was organized by Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic and Slovenian parishes in Ontario. Parishes Coordinator was Stan Kranjc.

1996 – Gospodar golega ozemlja, book was published "Life of Janez Planinsek in Canada", known as Eskimo Charlie. Author Cvetka Kocjancic

1997- Voice of Canadian Slovenians (Glasilo Kanadskih Slovencev) was published in Toronto by All Slovenian committee.

1997 – The Slovenian Canadian Scholarship Foundation, Inc. was established in Hamilton, Ont. The objective was to encourage the youth of Slovenian descent to pursue post-secondary education, exemplify pride in their rich Slovenian cultural roots and traditions as Canadian citizens in leadership roles in the future. Its first President was Ed Kodarin.

1997- Winnipeg. Last Slovenian Priest Father Ovtar was transferred from Slovenian Parish in Winnipeg to Toronto and shortly after to Slovenia. Ovtar was the last Slovenian Priest in Winnipeg. Slovakian Priest Father Paul Hancko started performing mass in Slovenian and English.

1997 – Over two hundred and fifty Slovenian businesses were listed in "Lovski vestnik", mostly in Ontario. This number is incomplete since not all Slovenian businesses in Canada are listed in this publication.

1997 – Confederation bridge between Prince Edward Island and the main land was opened.

1998 – Slovenian Summer Camp Celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

1998 – "40 Years of History, Culture and Religion" Slovenian Summer Camp book was published. Editor Stane Kranjc. ISBN 0-9685392-

1998 – Men's soccer team was established in Edmonton.

1998 – 1994 Elvis Stojko (figure skater) won two silver Olympic medals. Elvis also won six world medals 3 gold, 2 silver and one bronze medal.

1998 – The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Quebec cannot secede unilaterally.

1999 – At the age of 100, Olympian Leon Stukelj visited Toronto. Stukelj's excellent gymnastics won three gold, one silver and two bronze Olympic medals. At the time of his visit he was the oldest living Olympian in the world.

1999 – Slovenian Sister, Dorica Sever arrived to Nunavut, to work as a missionary among Inuit people in Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Talayoak, Nunavut. Canada.

1999 – Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Joze Slobodnik opened his Consulate office on June 26. The location was 4300 Village Center Court, Mississauga, Ont., L4Z 1S2, near Highways 403 and Hurontario Street.

1999 – A new Territory, Nunavut, is established out of eastern Northwest Territories.

1999 – Between Jan. 2 and Jan 12, 74 inches of snow fell in Toronto. Mayor Mel Lastman called in the army to dig out Toronto.

2000 – Slovenians in most, if not all Slovenian establishments in Canada celebrate the new Millennium.

2000 – Walter Ostanek, Polka King and three times Grammy Award winner received "Order of Canada" award.

2000 – Women Soccer team was established in Edmonton.

2001 – Canada Census, 28,910 people registered as SLOVENIANS. Statistics Canada office indicates that a minimum of 3% of people in Canada do not register. Based on this fact we can say that as per 2001 Census Canada there were 30,000 Slovenians in Canada. Canadian Slovenian Congress believes that minimum 40,000 Slovenians lived in Canada.

2001 – Moski Pevski Zbor (Choir) BLED was formed in Beamsville, Ont. under the leadership of Ed Kodarin.

2001 – Slovenian Canadian Club Winnipeg, Manitoba, was established.

2001, Sep. 11 – (9/11) Terrorist attack on New York World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and crash in the plain in Pennsylvania claimed 3000 lives.

2002 – Canadian Slovenian Historical Society (CSHS) – Kanadsko Slovenasko Zgodovinsko Drustvo was established in Toronto. Its objectives are to research, compile, organize and preserve historical information and documents of Slovenians in Canada. The society archives

are in Slovenian Seniors Home, Dom Lipa on 52 Neilson drive, Etobicoke, Toronto. The society was initiated by its first President Stane Kranjc.

2002 – World youth day in Toronto. Pope John Paul II celebrated mass at Dawnswiew park. More than 750.000 pilgrims attended

2002 – Parish of St. Vladimir in Montreal had 350 registered families.

2002 – Canadian Dollar bottomed at 61.75 US.

2002 – Mat Stajan (19 years old Slovenian) was drafted by Toronto Maple Leafs and he scored his first NHL goal in the first game he played for Maple Leafs in Toronto.

2002 – Skater, Elvis Stojko (age 29) retired. Elvis achieved seven Canadian titles, three world championships, 1994, 1995, 1997 and two Olympic silver medals in 1994 and 1998.

2002 – Slovenski Narodni dom LIPA PARK celebrated its 35TH Anniversary and published a book “LIPA PARK” St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. It was published by NUK in Ljubljana, Editor: Milica Trebse Stofa.

2002- The World famous “LIPZZANER (LIPICANER) STALLIONS” performed in Brampton, Ont. Stan Kranjc was invited to attend and to write a report of the performance.

2002- Slovenski lazaristi v Kanadi book was published. Author: Rev. Tone Zrnec. ISBN 0-9682225-1-x

2002 – July 27, World Youth day in Toronto visited by Pope John Paul II 300,000 youth (including several from Slovenia) participants attended papal vigil in Downsview Park.

2002 – Slovenian Canadian Association of Manitoba was formed in Winnipeg.

2002 – Bled health insurance was discontinued.

2003 – “Pier 21” Halifax In honor of all Slovenians in Canada, Canadian Slovenian Community, Embassy of The Republic of Slovenia and Canadian Slovenian Historical Society, unveiled a commemorative plaque and a Slovenian flag was presented to Pier 21 National Historic Site. The plaque and flag are displayed in Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Commemorating Plaque wording:

“To all Slovenian women and men who made here their first steps on Canadian soil and brought their Slovenian culture to Canada”

“Vsem Slovenkam in Slovencem, ki so na tem mestu prvic stopili na Kanadska tla in v Kanado prinesli Slovensko kulturo.

This event coordinator was the President of Canadian Slovenian Historical Society: Stan Kranjc.

2003 – *Parish of St. Gregory in Hamilton's records indicate the following: From year 1960 to 2003 there was: 834 baptisms, 336 weddings, 204 deaths, 421 first communions and 385 confirmations. .*

2003 – *Bled Society celebrated its 70th anniversary. In memory of all the members of the Bled society, a sculpture symbolizing a miner was erected at the entrance of the Bled property in Beamsville, Ontario.*

2004 – *Slovenia joins NATO. The ceremony was in Washington at the White House on March 29th. The representatives from all seven countries joining NATO: Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Lithuania attended the ceremony. On April, 2nd 2004 the flags of the seven new NATO members were hoisted at a NATO headquarters in Brussels.*

2004 - *Slovenia joined United Europe. The representatives of Canadian Slovenian Community lead by Honorary Council General of The Republic of Slovenia, Joseph Slobodnik and several Canadian politicians celebrate at Toronto City Hall.*

2004 – *Slovensko Kanadsko Drustvo in Edmonton celebrated its 40 Anniversary. A Book, 1964 - 2004 "Slovensko Kanadsko Drustvo" – Slovenian Canadian Association Edmonton, Alberta was published. Author: Milica Trebse Stolfa.*

2004 – *Drustvo "Slovenski Park" celebrated its 40th anniversary.*

2004 – *Gornik John (Janez) was the oldest known Slovenian in Canada and he died on October 12th, he was 102 years old.*

2004 – *Slovenian parish, Our Lady Help of Christians on Manning Ave. Toronto, celebrated its 50th anniversary. During these past 50 years records indicate that there were 2568 children baptized, 1172 couples married and 523 parishioners died. In 1962 there were 2875 registered parishioners, 180 children attended Slovenian school and there were 14 Slovenian teachers. The parish celebrated 7 new masses; the first new mass was celebrated in June 1955 by Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic.*

2004 – *Honorary Consulate General, Joseph Slobodnik and The Embassy of The Republic of Slovenia moved their office to Krek Credit Union building on, 747 Browns Line, Suite 201, Toronto, Ont.*

2004 – *Owner Branko Kavcic displayed at Simon Gregocic Park grounds one of the most historically rich automobiles ever constructed: "The 1969 Statuz Blackhawk Prototype" Car. This car was owned by Elvis Presley and was driven by many celebrities such as, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Dean Martin, Lucille Ball and others. In the past, this car was displayed in New York, Paris, Geneva and Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. Car was hand built in Turin at a cost that would exceed 2 million dollars today.*

2005 – *On January 13th, the temperature in Toronto reached a record high of 18C. This was the warmest day for all January and February ever recorded in Toronto. The temperature in*

the city of Toronto was first recorded in 1840. The previous record was 13.3C on January 13th in 1932.

2005 - Pope John Paul II died on April 2nd, at 9.27 PM in his apartment in the Vatican. He was a good friend of Slovenia and he made sure that the Vatican was the first country in the world to recognize Independent Slovenia. He visited Slovenia twice and Canada 3 times.

2005 – Cardinal Paul Ratzinger of Germany was elected Pope Benedict 16th, on Tuesday April 19th 2005.

2005 – On April 19th, the record temperature in Toronto was 27c.

2005 – On May 3rd, Slovenia's Hockey Team played Canada in the World hockey championship in Innsbruck, Austria. Slovenia was a newcomer and provided little resistance and Canada skated to an 8 to 0 victory.

2005 – On July 11th, the temperature reached a record 34C, surpassing the previous high set at 33.3c on July 11, 1949.

*2005 – John Vintar published a book “From Lipa to Javor – Od Lipe do Javorja”
ISBN: 0-7867-1317-8*

*2005 – Vladimir Urbanc published a book “Pozdravi iz Montreala”
Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana 220967936.*

2005 – On the 3rd of July, Slovenians in Canada celebrated its 150th anniversary of Slovenians in Canada, the 46th Slovenian day and the 14th anniversary of Slovenian independence. In 1855, Bishop Frideric Baraga accepted responsibilities for a large part of the Province of Ontario from Thunder Bay to Toronto. The celebration was organized by Canadian Slovenian Community and Canadian Slovenian Historical Society on the grounds of the Slovenian Summer Camp, Bolton, Ontario. In attendance were External Affairs Minister of Slovenia, Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, Slovenian Ambassador in Canada, Hon. Veronika Stabej, Honorary Consul of The Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Joze Slobodnik and over 1000 Slovenians from many parts of Canada, USA and Slovenia. At the celebration, External Minister of the RS Rupel decorated an “ORDER OF MERIT OF SLOVENIA” to Stane Kranjc, Father Tone Zrnec and France Habjan, for their many contributions to Slovenians in Canada and Slovenia. Bill Stajan, President of the Slovenian Credit Union, presented an award to Mr. Joe Slobodnik for his many contributions to the Slovenian community in Canada. On June 26th, Slovenians of Hamilton area celebrated Slovenian Day on the grounds of Lipa Park.

2005 – This year the world experienced record weather extremes. In the widely separated parts of the world we had: The hottest year, the worst Atlantic hurricanes, the warmest Caribbean waters, the most Arctic melting, and 26 tropical storms. The global average temperature during the last 125 years (1880-2005) increased from –0.2 to 0.6 degrees Celsius. It is almost certain that extreme weather conditions are caused by global climate change.

2005 – “Nitke zivljenja” book published by Marija Ahacic Pollak.
ISBN 961-90164-5-9 - 220595712

2006 – Forth Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Canada, Hon. Tomaz Kunstej replaced Ambassador, Hon. Veronika Stabej and was a guest speaker at the Slovenian Summer Camp’s celebration of the 47th Slovenian day, the 15th anniversary of the independent R.S. and the 100th anniversary of the death of poet Simon Gregorcic. At the celebration President of the Slovenian Credit Union presented to Stan Kranjc an award for his many contributions to Slovenians in Canada and many other parts of the world.

2006 – Slovenian (Prekmusko Drustvo Vecerni Zvon) organization, Evening Bell celebrated its 50th anniversary.

2006 – The life and times of Joseph Mihevc’s book was published in Canada
May 1945 – June 1948 “My Journey as a refugee” Written by Joseph Mihevc

2006 – The last 12 months has probably been the warmest we’ve seen in the last 60 years in Canada.

2006 – The first Canadian Slovenian Convention was held in November at the Slovenian church hall on Browns Line. Delegates from Slovenian organizations and establishments from most parts of Canada attended with the objective to elect a Representative of Canadian Slovenians as per new Slovenian laws approved by Slovenian Parliament. Stane Kranjc - (Stanley Kranyc) was elected with a large majority of votes. He represented all Slovenians in Canada, working directly with the Slovenian Government and Slovenian organizations in Canada.

2006 Dec. – Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic retired as Archbishop of Toronto. Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop of Edmonton, Thomas Collins as new Archbishop of Toronto.

2007 – On January 1st, Slovenian Tolar was replaced with EURO.

2007 – Slovenian Restaurant, Dining Room and Banquet hall “LINDEN – LIPA”, 160 seating capacity on 1574 The Queensway in west Toronto closed, after 28 years of operation. Reasons for closing given by its owner Paul Tomsic were, tough business, lots of hours, lots of stress.

2007 – Holiday Gardens Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

2007 – Ljubljana. For the first time in Slovenian history, Slovenians living outside the country elected a special body as the Government Council for Slovenians Abroad. Countries represented were: Canada, USA, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, BIH, (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Serbia, Germany, France and China. The inaugural meeting was formally held in the president’s palace in Ljubljana on July 3rd, 2007. Stane Kranjc was elected to represent Slovenians in Canada and was appointed by the President of the Slovenian Government, Hon

Janez Jansa as senior spokesperson for all council members. The council's main objective was to preserve Slovenian culture, identity and language.

One of Kranjc's most quoted statement by Slovenian media was: "We are glad to be here, you are ours and we are yours" Vi ste nasi" mi smo vasi"

2007 – On Nov.1st, the Canadian Dollar surged to its highest level since 1957 to \$1.06 USA. On Nov.2nd, the dollar was up to \$1.07

2007 – Dec 21st, Slovenia becomes a member of Schengen frontier free zone. Borders once guarded by machine guns and barbed wire under the former communist regime were opened, allowing free crossings between European Union countries.

2008 – Jan. 1st, Slovenia assumed Presidency of the United Europe.

2008 - Bled celebrated its 75th anniversary.

2008 - Slovenian Summer Camp celebrated its 50th anniversary.

2008 - The worst financial times since depression in 1930. Stock markets in USA, Canada and around the world dropped 40%.

2008 – Second meeting of the Representatives of Slovenians abroad – Members of Government Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians abroad was held in Ljubljana attended by Stan Kranjc.

2009 - Radio TV Slovenia filmed Slovenian organizations and had discussions with organizational leaders in Ontario and in Quebec. They presented four half hour programs on TV Slovenia in Maribor.

2009 – Third meeting of Representatives of Slovenians abroad was held in Ljubljana and attended by most Slovenian people representatives including Stan Kranjc.

2010 – Edmonton. Slovenian Hall on 67th Avenue, which was bought in 1967, fell victim to city growth. An old school that Edmonton Slovenians turned into a cultural center more than 40 years ago is facing the wrecking ball, because the city plans to widen 66th street. Members like to build a new hall.

2010 - Olympics in Vancouver. Canada had 14 Gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals. Slovenia had 2 silver and 1 bronze medal. Canada's men and women hockey teams won the gold medals, beating the Americans.

2012 – Stan Kranjc 6 year term as Representative of Slovenians in Canada and Member of the Republic of Slovenia Government council for Slovenians abroad ended in 2012. At the 2nd Convention of Slovenians in Canada Marjan Kolaric was elected as Stan's replacement.

John Doma was appointed by Slovenian Government as Honorary Council General in Toronto, replacing Joe Slobodnik.

2013- Slovenians celebrated Slovenian Independence on June 25th, at Toronto City Hall.

2013 – Slovenians in Edmonton constructed a New Slovenian Home.

2013 – Pope Benedict 16th retired and Pope Frances was elected “Habemus Papa”.

2014 – Started with a lot of snow and very cold conditions and continued into March 2014. During February Avsenik Concerts were held in Calgary, Vancouver, Mississauga – Toronto, Kitchener and Montreal. All went well and Slovenians had a great time.

2014 – Sochi, Russia – Olympics. Bout countries Canada and Slovenia had excellent performances and made us proud to be Citizens of these two great countries.

Canada had 25 medals: 10 gold, 10 Silver and 5 Bronze

Slovenia had 8 medals: 2 “ , 2 “ “ 4 “

Canadian Hockey teams Women and Men repeated their performance of 2010 in Vancouver and were both GOLDEN again. Slovenia also did very well, considering that this was their first performance in Olympics

Tina Maze of Slovenia had 2 gold medals and should change her name “ GOLDEN TINA”

As we look back and examine 159 years of dynamic Canadian Slovenian community, with over 36,000 Canadian Slovenians, successes and contributions made to Canada, Canadian Slovenian culture, and to Slovenia, we can be proud of our people perseverance, courage and cultural vitality, enriching our two nations, Canada and Slovenia.

Korenine Slovencev v Kanadi segajo nazaj 159 let, v leto 1855, ko je Skof Friderk Baraga sprejel administrativno odgovornost skofije na severnem delu Velikega jezera (Lake Superior) ter zgoraj omenjenh mest v Provinciji, Ontario.

Ko se ozremo na prehoheno pot Slovenk in Slovencev v Kanadi, ohranitev kulture, tradicij in doprinosov Kanadi, kanadski multikulturni družbi in Sloveniji, smo lahko ponosni na Slovensko kulturno vitalnost in obogatitev obeh nasih držav, Canade in Slovenije.

Historical data of events in Canada was obtained from various Canadian, American and Slovenian publications, Canadian National Archives, organization meetings minutes, organization leader write ups, my 30 years of Canadian Slovenian history research and many interviews with Slovenians in Canada and Slovenia. Some information was obtained by word of mouth and there may be some errors. However I did my best to present the information as accurately as possible.

Attache is “Bibliography”, “Viri” of the Events

Editor: Stane Kranjc. Stanley Kranyc

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