



# TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

## News

*Commemorating the Victims of Totalitarian Communism*

Volume 2, Issue 2  
Spring 2010

*Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of totalitarian Communism in the National Capital Region.*

*Board of Directors:*  
Alide Forstmanis, Chair  
Teresa Berezowski  
Christine Chi Dang  
Reet Marten Sehr  
Gerry Kokodyniak

*Honorary Chair:*  
Charlie Coffey, O.C.

*Honorary Patron:*  
Philip Leong

*Founding Partner:*  
The Open Book Group

*Tribute to Liberty News is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca).*

*For more information about Tribute to Liberty see our web site: [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca)*



**Tribute to Liberty**  
P.O. Box 84558  
2336 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7  
[info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca)  
[www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca)

Charitable #: 814999660RR0001

### ***Tribute to Liberty Receives Charitable Status!***

We are pleased to announce that Tribute to Liberty has received charitable status from the Canada Revenue Agency. We are now a registered charity and can issue tax receipts for donations!

This marks the end of a long process that began in late 2008. Anyone who has been involved in an organization that has applied for charitable status with the CRA knows it has strict guidelines for what constitutes charitable activities, as well as long wait times for processing applications.

Now that we have our charitable status in hand, we ask that all those who made pledges to donate once we received our charitable status make their donations now. To donate, you can use the donation form on the last page of this issue of the newsletter, or, go to our web site at [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca) and donate online via paypal.

We really need your donations now to continue with the process of building the memorial. We will be holding a national design competition; however, before we can launch the competition we need to have a significant amount of funding in place. This is a requirement of the National Capital Commission (NCC). We work with the NCC and must meet its policy guidelines for building a memorial on federal land.

If you are not already familiar with our fundraising campaign, *The Pathway to Liberty*, I will tell you a bit about it in this space.

The NCC has a policy against donor recognition at a memorial site. So, we have created a way to recognize our donors. The *Pathway to Liberty* is a virtual pathway on our web site. Donors can purchase a virtual brick for the pathway for \$100. Bricks can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication. The idea is that this virtual pathway full of stories and dedications leads us to the actual memorial.

This is a wonderful opportunity for victims of Communism to tell their stories, or for family members or friends to honour the memories of victims. These stories need to be told. These stories are the stories behind this memorial.

Here is an example of a dedication on the *Pathway* from Vitezslava Plsek:

*In memory of my husband, Vlastimil, who spent over 11 years in a Communist concentration camp and was forced to work in uranium mines in Jachymov in what was then Czechoslovakia. I hope that the memorial to victims of totalitarian Communism will also wake up all of those people who still think that Communism is good.*

You can visit the *Pathway* online at <http://www.tributetoliberty.ca/pathway.html>.

Please help us to build this memorial—which will be a lasting testimony to the victims of Communism for many future generations.

Alide Forstmanis  
Chair of the Board  
Tribute to Liberty

## ***More Successful Screenings of The Soviet Story in Canada***

After the successful Toronto screening of *The Soviet Story* in January, Tribute to Liberty decided to bring the film's director, Edvins Šnore, back to Canada for additional screenings in the spring.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> *The Soviet Story* was screened in Ottawa, and on May 13<sup>th</sup> it was screened in Edmonton. Both screenings were huge successes—hundreds came out in both cities to see the award-winning documentary on the big screen.

The Ottawa screening was held at the Mayfair Theatre, and was attended by over 300 people. Special guests at the screening were Minister of International Trade, Peter Van Loan; Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney; MP Alex Atamanenko; and MP John Duncan.

On the morning of the Ottawa screening Mr. Šnore and Tribute to Liberty board chair Alide Forstmanis were interviewed on the Steve Madely show on News Talk Radio 580 CFRA. This interview was an excellent opportunity to tell Ottawa listeners about both the memorial to victims of totalitarian Communism and the film and screening.

The Edmonton screening was held at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex and was attended by over 200 people. Mr. Šnore was present at this screening in addition to the Ottawa screening.

During the Q&A sessions after the screenings many in the audience voiced their gratitude for the work Mr. Šnore has done to educate the public about the crimes of Communism by making his film. The director met and talked with members of the audience before and after the screenings.

Mr. Šnore told us that he is very happy with having met with the Ukrainian, Polish and other communities during his visits to Ottawa and Edmonton, and was also very pleased by the large audiences, plus the positive responses to the film.

The Ottawa screening was organized by the Free Thinking Film Society, and sponsored by Tribute to Liberty and KONTAKT TV. The Edmonton screening was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Edmonton, with a great deal of work and support from the League of Ukrainian Canadians, the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, the Edmonton Latvian Society "Imanta," and was sponsored by Tribute to Liberty.

Tribute to Liberty, whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of totalitarian Communism in Canada's National Capital Region, is an enthusiastic supporter of *The Soviet Story*, a film that does a phenomenal job of bringing the reality of Communism's crimes to light.

A new version of *The Soviet Story* is now available—with subtitles in 30 languages—and can be purchased through the film's web site, [www.sovietstory.com](http://www.sovietstory.com), or through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



## ***Vietnamese Community to Hold Fundraiser for Tribute to Liberty***

On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> the Vietnamese community is holding a fundraising dinner for Tribute to Liberty and the memorial to victims of Communism to be built in Ottawa.

The event will be held at the Bright Pearl Seafood Restaurant and includes a 10-course-meal. Tickets are \$40 per person, \$20 for children. The Bright Pearl is located at 346-348 Spadina Avenue. Tel: (416) 979-3988.

## ***Land Allocation Update***

Tribute to Liberty is working with the National Capital Commission to find the right piece of land for the memorial. As soon as there is concrete information to share an announcement will be made.

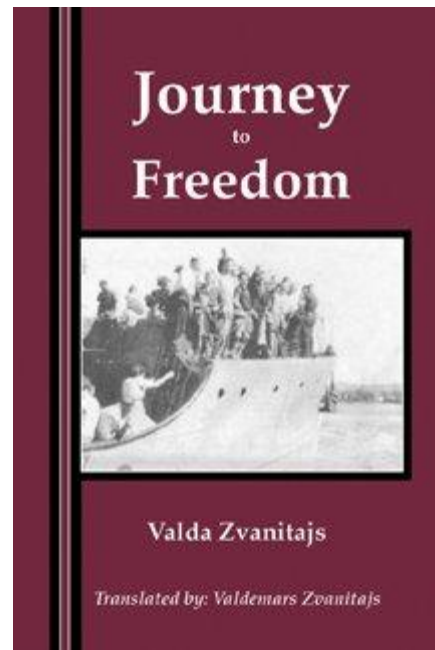
## ***History Unhidden: Journey to Freedom***

*Journey to Freedom* is a true story of a family torn apart by WW II, and the struggles of a mother and her two young sons to survive in a foreign country, without knowing the language or having the support of relatives. It describes the difficulties faced and the obstacles overcome by Valda Nadolskis and her sons Valdis, 5, and Juris, 4, during their four years in Sweden after fleeing war-torn Latvia on a tiny fishing boat in March 1945. The unlikely journey across the Atlantic Ocean in a small surplus Navy trawler to begin a new life in Canada shows the resiliency of the human spirit and the drive to succeed which has motivated many new-comers to this country.



*Journey to Freedom* tells of what happened to one family in the aftermath of the war. However, there were three separate families involved, and not all were fortunate enough to reach safety and freedom in Canada. My father, Antons Nadolskis, was one of a group of seven brave men in Ventspils, Latvia, who helped many people escape to Sweden. However, his hope of being on the “last boat out” was not realized and the Communists sentenced him to 10 years in Siberia for helping people escape Latvia. He returned to Latvia in the 1950's a broken man, forever separated from his family. Vilis Zvanitajs, my step-father, had been a prosperous farmer not far from Ventspils and had married and had a step-daughter. After the Red takeover in May 1945, he fought as a partisan, or “forest brother” until he and 14 companions were able to escape to Sweden in the autumn of 1945. There is nothing known of his wife and step-daughter; it is likely that they perished in Siberia.

My wife's family, Edgars and Nina Broders, and their daughters Inara and Dace, escaped to Poland before the end of the war and were able to survive in the Gdansk area until 1946. They were smuggled to Sweden by a Latvian sailor on a Swedish ship under the noses of the NKVD.



They were locked up in the bilges of the ship with the water reaching almost to their necks. Dace still has an irrational fear of small damp spaces. They lived in Sweden until 1951 and then legally immigrated to Canada. Edgar's two brothers were not as lucky: one was arrested by the NKVD and died in Siberia in 1946 and the other remained in Latvia under the Communists. In a cruel twist of fate, his grandson, who was a policeman in Latvia, was sent to clean up Chernobyl, and as a result of the exposure to radiation there his young son has suffered genetic and cancerous complications.

The war scattered members of these three families across the world: we have relatives in Canada, Latvia, Australia, France and Germany

Submitted by Valdis Zvanitajs.

## ***Tribute to Liberty Launches a Resources Section on its Web Site***

Tribute to Liberty has added a new section to its web site that includes resources for those interested in reading about the crimes of Communism. The section includes a page of “general resources” and a page of “resources “by community. This resource section will continue to be developed. Please email us at [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca) if you have a resource to suggest. Tribute to Liberty welcomes your suggestions.

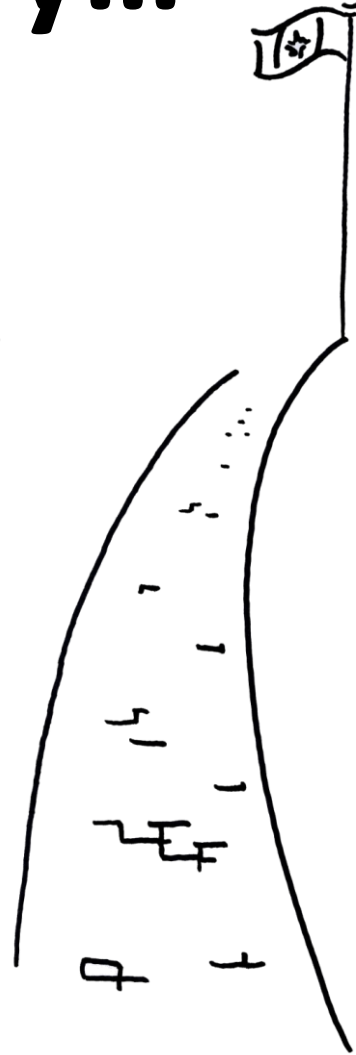
# Tell Your Story...

## And help build the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$100 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial.

Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication. Donate today at: **tributetoliberty.ca**.

*For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit [tributetoliberty.ca](http://tributetoliberty.ca).*



---

### Mail-in Contribution Form

Don't forget to enclose your story, message or dedication!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to remain anonymous: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to Tribute to Liberty and mail to:  
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001