



## Site Dedication for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> a site dedication ceremony took place in Ottawa for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism marking an exciting new step on the journey to the Memorial.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and Arif Virani, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism), joined Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair of Tribute to Liberty, for the ceremony.

During the ceremony, remarks were given by Minister Joly as well as Mr. Klimkowski, and Walter Friesen from the Mennonite community, and Peter Trinh from the Vietnamese community. Mr. Trinh's daughter, Kimberley, presented a plant that symbolizes the communities that fled oppression and were able to take root and flourish in Canada.

Mr. Klimkowski also acknowledged major donors to the project who have donated \$25,000 or more: The Republic of Hungary, Senator Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski, Erast and Delores Huculak, Ian Ihnatowycz and Marta Witer, James and Louise Temerty, Ludmilla Temerty, Latvian Relief Society of Canada, Republic of Georgia, Republic of Latvia, Canadian Polish Congress, Republic of Estonia, Taiwan, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

For video clips of speeches from the event, [click here](#) for Minister Joly's remarks, [click here](#) for Mr. Klimkowski's speech, [click here](#) for Mr. Friesen, and [click here](#) for Mr. Trinh.



Minister Joly addresses the audience.

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

Tribute to Liberty's Newsletter 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).

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In his remarks, Mr. Klimkowski said:

*I find it gratifying that we commemorate the victims of communism on the eve of 100 anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, the revolution which led to unspeakable horror and pain.*

*We must remember those who became part of our Canadian Heritage, I quote, "From their unquiet graves, the victims of Communism cry to Heaven not for vengeance but for justice. We cannot give that to them. But we can give them and their families the assurance that they have not been forgotten by History until justice arrives in a higher court."*

*My friends, communism failed only because it was communism. The promise of utopia that led to Hell on Earth.*



Ludwik Klimkowski

Walter Friesen told the following story:

*My father was born in South Russia, now the Ukraine, in a Mennonite village about halfway between Zaporozhe and Odessa. The Mennonite community had moved to Russia in the late 1700s and was well established and highly productive in the Russian economy. Most were farmers, industrialists, and educators. This was also a close knit community of Anabaptist Christians. After the Russian revolution the communists implemented policies that would strip people of the means to survive with a strategy of removing all leaders, teachers, ministers, etc. from the communities. Most of those removed were never seen again. The communists also removed all grain and horses from the communities, thus the remaining people had no food, or means of growing food, and many died of starvation, diseases that set in, or were killed outright by the communists. My uncle, as a young boy, was one of those that had to go through the villages and count those that had died. My*

*grandfather did not live to come to Canada.*

*This memorial is very important to ensure that through the passage of time, these events are not forgotten, and that future generations will identify with the evils that were perpetrated by the communists. The acts continue in communist countries to this day. Canada is a wonderful country and I am very thankful that my parents were allowed to come here as they fled from the terrors of communism.*



Walter Friesen

Peter Trinh told the story of his family:

*My name is Trinh Huy Chuong. I was born in 1964 in Vietnam.*

*As a victim and a survivor of the most malicious doctrine in history—communism, I feel so humbled to stand here to tell you about our suffering. In fact, it's only a very little part in compared to the millions who suffered and who continue to suffer.*

*My mother, who I love the most of my life, Nguyen Thi Xuan Uyen, was one of many women who dedicated their lives to serve under the young democratic regime in the South of Vietnam.*

*Her father was a well-respected judge to the Nguyen dynasty. In the early 1950s, she left her comfortable life to enlist in the Women's Armed Force Corporation (WAFC) in the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam. These women have been forgotten for their role in the Vietnam War.*

*In 1973, she retired from the Army and worked at the General Hospital and Blood Bank of Danang City until it fell into the hands of the Communists on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 1975.*

*Being a nurse and midwife, my mother had only*



*helped people, but under communism she was accused of a crime because she served the regime of South Vietnam. Like millions of others, she was sent to a “re-education camp” and all her personal possessions were confiscated, including our home. We were forced to go to the so-called “new economic zone” in the deep jungle.*

*Life in the new economic zone was terrible! Let me tell you, we lacked all basic necessities—no clean water, no food, no medicine, no clothes, no blankets, no mosquito nets. We lived in fear and hopelessness and suffered from malnutrition and disease. Many many died. My mom died in 1982 from a malaria infection while I was enroute to Canada for freedom.*

*I know, I witnessed, I survived and I am a victim because I was there! I thank you for your time to listen to our story and I thank you for your kindness; together we all are witnesses of this tragedy.*

*Thirty years ago this country opened its arms generously—this is the land of hope, liberty, safety and opportunity. A paradise on earth! Now 3 decades later, from nothing we have everything.*

*Thank you Canada! Merci Canada!  
May God always Bless Canada!*



# History Unhidden

## A Family in Hiding

It all started here, in Ottawa.

It started almost 69 years ago today - when my parents made a life-changing decision. Not only would it alter the West's view of a former ally, but their decision would shape the course of our own lives – forever.

We became '*A Family in Hiding*'.

My siblings and I are first generation Canadians. Like many families before and after WWII, our parents were immigrants speaking a different language, from a far away country, and who would seek shelter in Canada. Through exceptional circumstances, all of their children would be born here on Canadian soil. And, we each have a different story to tell of growing up during the Cold War, and in hiding. This is my story.

It is a great release to be able to speak of it – openly, candidly and unafraid. For this liberating opportunity, I thank you all very much.

Otherwise typical kids, we discovered – much later in our lives - not only were our parents from a vastly different culture, speaking in harsh tones in an unusual language: ASTEROSZNA ("be careful!"), YEN ES NYU ("I don't know, not me ..."), but theirs was a story like no other new Canadians.

It's time for their true story, the details as yet unpublished. And, at last, in our young country's history, I believe we are ready for it.

First and foremost, please recall that the Soviet Union's Josef Stalin was a dictator - leading a vile dictatorship – one that very few people outside of the USSR understood back then. Today this fact is well-known.

Our parents grew up under his authoritarian rule. Raised as young communists in Soviet Russia, they became Red Army officers, seconded during WWII along with many students directly from university in Moscow. Each experienced front line duties.

When ordered abroad, they and their fellow officers at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa were given false documents and cover stories, intended to camouflage their *true* roles in Canada - the host country.

Each member of the embassy - to the last person – here and in other countries, were recruited soldiers belonging to one of the following three groups:

- GRU (Red Army intelligence),
- NKVD (secret police, a forerunner of the KGB), or to
- an intelligence arm that reported directly to Stalin, popularly known as 'SMERSH' - or "death to spies".

These operatives were in a **state of war-readiness** with a nefarious mission: to take-over host countries. Impossible mission? Well, as history tells us, the Soviets succeeded in many parts of the globe doing just that: Czechoslovakia, Hungary ... and even Cuba. The list goes on ....

I know it sounds like fiction ... a clandestine tale worthy of a Tom Clancy spy thriller ... but it is all true. The Soviets used a formula to take over one country after another, falling like dominoes in a seemingly innocent pattern of political will.

In September 1945, Canada was on its hit list. The Soviets were at war with us – and we did not know it.

The Soviet Embassy in Ottawa was located at 285 Charlotte Street where the current Russian Embassy stands today, overlooking the Rideau River.

Donated to the Soviets in 1942, the original manor (later aptly coded-named a '*Charlotte's Web*' of conspiracy) was outfitted with steel-protected chambers. This building burned down in 1956 when the Ottawa Fire Department was denied access. The embassy structure was then rebuilt into today's modern fortress.

In accordance with Soviet policy abroad, most embassy staff were housed at this grand mansion site. But, due to expanding demands for their clandestine ops across North America - during *and after* WWII - selected staff were housed elsewhere in Ottawa.

Our parents took an apartment at 511 Somerset Street, across from Dundonald Park. This beautiful setting became their home and later in 1943, for their infant son, my older brother, Andrei. This Ottawa apartment too is where my story begins.

By the end of August 1945, WWII was over. Our parents, along with all embassy staff, were keenly aware of the atomic bomb detonations over Japan that ended the Pacific War.

Most senior operatives knew a primary mission of

their Ottawa embassy was the transmission of secret coded traffic from North America to/from Moscow - including top secret data from the National Research Council and the very secret '*Manhattan Project*' – the development of the atomic bomb.

No longer theoretical, a nuclear arsenal was within the Soviet grasp. This top secret technology was now in Stalin's hands - including samples of enriched uranium from Chalk River, near Ottawa. The ramifications for the West and the rest of the free world were unthinkable.

At that crucial time, our parents were ending their tour of duty in Canada and preparing to return to their homeland. And, although a one-year assignment was the norm, our parents were working into their third year. They knew they must take action - and quickly. They understood and could prove the extent of clandestine operations against Canada - **a free country they came to admire**.

Gripped by this crisis, they feared the take-over of this beautiful country, one strategically positioned on the border of the Soviet arch-enemy – the '*Americani chort*' (or the "American devil", as spoken in embassy circles). They knew what Stalin could do with weapons of mass destruction.

In Ottawa, in key government offices, and throughout Canada, a secret Soviet '*Fifth Column*' had been deployed. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1945, this '*Fifth Column*' was described in my father's deposition\* to Canadian authorities as "**a preparation for war**" against the West. \* (available online)

Encyclopedia Britannica defines the '*Fifth Column*' as:

"a clandestine group or faction of subversive agents who attempt to undermine a nation's solidarity by any means at their disposal. A cardinal technique is the infiltration of sympathizers into the entire fabric of the nation under attack and particularly into positions of policy decisions and national defense. From such posts, **5<sup>th</sup> Column** activists exploit the fears of a people by spreading rumours and misinformation, as well as by employing the more standard techniques of espionage and sabotage."

Our parents had to warn the West. Knowing the extent of Soviet infiltration - they did not expect to live. And they planned accordingly.

They chose - by any means possible - to deliver the documents proving the extent of Soviet operations in Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain.

That they succeeded – against all odds - is a testament to their spontaneous decision, to no prior contact with the West and to their deep devotion to each other.

It is also a testament to the many outstanding people - strong Canadians of courage, wisdom and action - who saved their lives - and in so doing, saved Canada to become what it is today: **a prosperous free country**.

It was a very difficult decision. Should they fail, they would die. They made plans for their infant son, Andrei, for his safety in Ottawa, his birthplace. They feared what would happen to their family held captive back in the USSR.

From the moment the Soviets knew of their escape, all of Stalin's vast resources were put into action to seek and destroy. Our parents became the target of every tool in this powerful arsenal.

Right up to September 5<sup>th</sup>, their very last day at the embassy, our parents were well-respected and secure in their top secret tasks in Ottawa. But, as defectors, they were subjected to relentless and destructive misinformation and persecution. And, it never ended.

Throughout the Cold War, this Kremlin retaliation was virtually unknown by the West. Not until decades later with the collapse of the Soviet Union was its true extent at last revealed and understood.

The '*Mitrokhin Archives*', written and published in 1999 by scholar Christopher Andrew of Cambridge University in the UK, and by senior Russian defector Vasili Mitrokhin, gives the details of this reaction (p.181):

*"For the rest of Gouzenko's life, the KGB tried intermittently and unsuccessfully to track him down."*

As is well-known today, my parents barely escaped with their lives. After giving their documents and depositions to Canadian Government authorities throughout the rest of September and October of 1945, and under careful guard, they made it to safe-houses in the Ottawa area, my mother expecting their second child.

After that, they were transferred to Camp X, a secret WWII training facility near Oshawa. Shortly after their arrival there, I was born and the rugged lake-side farm house became our home for the next two years. We remained under constant guard. And the interrogations continued.

By 1948, our small family moved to a countryside

home in southern Ontario, in a community that later became a rapidly expanding suburb of Toronto. Here, we lived in freedom under a new identity and cover story provided by the RCMP – one that we as growing children knew only as our parents' true foreign background.



We were taught to be Canadians, to speak only English (and eventually French), and to become fully steeped in the culture of this wonderful land of promise.

Until established in their livelihoods, our parents paid for their small farm, and new home and furnishings, *entirely* with earnings from their early life-stories that they wrote during the Camp X debriefings.

A popular movie '*Iron Curtain*' followed. In this depiction, and except for our parents' original names and Prime Minister Mackenzie King, all others were protected aliases.

Worthwhile to see, this unique classic film by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, also provides vintage scenery of the late 1940s downtown Ottawa.

Our freedom came at a very high price. After many depositions and testimony, our dad seldom ventured into the public eye. Our mother never did so until after his passing in 1982 - and only under great duress.

On the very few occasions he did appear publicly to convey a message, he wore the iconic hood – an image all too often misunderstood, even today. This measure was not for his personal safety but rather to protect our new identity **and his young family in hiding.**

As later became clear, this protected identity was known to the Soviets all along. Through their embedded agents in Western security operations, such as Kim Philby and others, our cover was compromised. Our dad and the family became known targets – a story as yet untold.

Throughout the Cold War - and charged with treason *in absentia* - our parents remained targets of KGB assassins sent abroad to “deal with” defectors and their families.

Yet, despite the challenges that their new lives demanded, too often compromised by embedded agents in their midst, and the considerable losses of a family overseas, they had no regrets. Canada was saved.

And despite these many hardships, we children became true first-generation Canadians. All of us survived, thrived and contributed as proud citizens of a democratic country.

Even though Soviet agents in *paid* positions of authority intentionally under-valued their materials and contributions, our parents remained steadfast: ***“One cannot be a traitor to tyranny”.***

During the long enduring decades of the Cold War, these undetected agents continued to work for Stalin's advantage and that of the subsequent Soviet dictators. Gratefully, by the early 1990's, and by the grace of God, the West won this debilitating war!

**It all began here in Ottawa.** The Cold War drama - and the subsequent arms race that still rages today – it all took root here in downtown Ottawa. By warning the West in 1945, our parents tried valiantly to end that ongoing underground war and what became a global proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Next year in 2015, when I celebrate my 70th birthday, I'll remember the trials and tribulations of a family in hiding, and the very high price of political freedom.

To their last day, and without hesitation, our parents each declared: ***“We made the right choice!”***

I agree, whole-heartedly.

Submitted by: Evelyn Ellen Wilson (*nee* Gouzenko) based on a presentation made in 2014.



# Canada's National Memorial to the Victims of Communism

is about people, families, and the suffering they endured under Communism.

Memorialize the name of a loved one forever on the Memorial's Wall of Remembrance with a donation of \$1,000.

Tell the story of a victim of Communism by buying a brick on the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial with a donation of \$200.

Donate today at [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca) or use the mail-in form below.

To contribute to the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa you can:

**1. Become a Brick Donor - \$200.00**

- With each brick purchased you can submit the story of a victim of Communism, or a message or dedication
- Please email your story, message or dedication to [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca) or include it on a separate piece of paper when you mail this form
- **Submissions will be published on the Tribute to Liberty website along with donor's names. Donors who wish to remain anonymous must indicate this in the space provided below**

**2. Donate to the Wall of Remembrance - \$1,000.00**

**3. Donations in any amount are welcome**

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