

Note: The research for this project is based on personal testimonies by pioneers, interviews up to 1993 and documents from Government Archives, local Press news and the Minutes of the Greek Council Meetings and General Community Meetings. Originals and copies of the sources used in the study are kept in my personal archives.

The remaining two decades 1994-2014 are not included in this research. The events are too recent to be subjected to historical evaluation. The necessary resources were not available to me.

I hope that this gap will be filled by a younger researcher, who will accept the challenge to complete the history of our Community.

Jlz

**GREEK IMMIGRANTS IN THE QUINTE AREA - A BRIEF
HISTORY 1897-1993**

(Excerpts were taken from:

"John L. Zikopoulos, BA, L.ès L.

A HISTORY OF THE GREEK CANADIAN COMMUNITY OF
BELLEVILLE, TRENTON AND DISTRICT Inc 1897-1993.")

Belleville, October 1993

THE IMMIGRANT

By Frederick J. Haskin

I am the immigrant.
Since the dawn of creation
my restless feet
have beaten paths across the earth

...

My wanderlust was born

out of craving for liberty
and better wage
for the sweat of my face

...

I entered with fine hope.
My brawn is woven
in the fabric of your nation.
I poured my blood
on the alter of labour,
I sacrificed to your god of toil.

...

And yet I am your problem.

...

My children will be your children.
Your land will be my land,
because of my sweat and blood.

...

And yet I am your problem

Canada and Greek Immigration.

... People of Greek origin form an energetic, growing element in the Canadian population. In 1901 the census indicates that there were 200 Greeks in the whole of Canada. In the Quinte area there were 2.

TABLE
Greek Immigration into Canada. From the Federal Bureau of Statistics Census Figures

Year	Number of Immigrants in Canada	Number of Immigrants in the Quinte area	Remarks Known arrivals in the Quinte area
1871-1900	39	1	Epirotes
1901	200	2	M. Pappas
1911	3614	9	The first Greek Family of M. Maraskas 1912
1921	5740	15	Menas Maniatis 1922 P. Tsouroulis 1927,
1931	9444	39	
1951	14000	92	
1971	56000	340	
1981	250 000+	640	

Between 1492 and 1600 Greek sailors are mentioned in the chronicle of the time as having taken part in exploratory expeditions in the new world of North America. These Greek sailors were immigrants in Spain, Portugal and Italy, as their latinized names indicate, and were skilled navigators: Johan Griego, Don Theodoro, Nikkolao Matteo, and Pedro di Candia.

In Canada the first Greek sailor was Apostolo Valeriano del Fucca in 1592. The straights Fucca in North Vancouver were named after him.

During the period 1850 - 1900 adventurous Greeks crossed into Canada. The first Greek immigrants were coming to Canada through the intermediary step of the U.S.A. Towards the end of the century immigration to Canada became direct from Halifax and Montreal they began pushing west, as the railways were opening the vastness of Canada.

Canada began to be known to Greeks after the I WW. Canadians served with the Allied Forces against the Axis. A contingent landed in Salonica and took part in the

theatre of war area. One of the most distinguished Canadians who served in Salonica, Greece was the Most Honourable Lester B. Pearson.

In 1916-1918 a local physician, Dr George Sampson Cronk, served in Salonica as surgeon with the R.A.M.C Stronger ties were .

There are 27 Canadians who died in action and are buried in Greece in graves marked with the Canadian Maple Leaf. There are three Canadian burial places in Greece: Cemeteries in Salonica, in Lemnos and in Piraeus.

During the II W.W. years the small local Greek Community became active in the Greek War Relief fund. G.W.R.F was a Canada wide drive. The local Greeks did the same. Chairman of the local G.W.R.F drive was the prominent and prosperous at the time S. Pappas and Secretary J. Kikkes. S. Pappas was de facto the leader of the Greek Group. Immigration of course had stopped during the war years. The fund raising activities is the first trace of organization. Immigration of course had stopped during the war years. The fund raising activities is the first trace of organization. A list from the fund raising survived. It reads as a "who's who" of restaurants on down-town Belleville. A list from the fund raising survived. It reads as a "who's who" of restaurants on down-town Belleville.

1941 GWRF Record

address	buisness	owner
145 Front Str.	Capitol Lunch	M. Maniates
174 Front Str	Pete's Restaurant	P. Tsouroulis
185 Front Str.	Diana Grill	
188 Front Str.	Esquire Grill	W. Fortis
209 Front Str.	New Services Lunch	S. Strategakes
219 Front Str.	Vanity Fair	G. Lambros
227 Front Str.	Pappas Billiards	S. Pappas
291 Front Str.	National Billiards	J.Annis- G. Poulos
318 Front Str.	Nick's Restaurant	N. Tsangaris

During the II WW L. Maraskas served as an officer with RCAF and he was wounded in active service in the European Front. He was a second generation Greek, son of the pioneer M. Maraskas. He is a well known lawyer in the city.

.... In 1952 total membership in the community was 185. In 1963 the first community Directory suggests a population of 246. In 1968 this rose to 356. The Directory of 1976 shows 427.

.... In 1986 the Directory contains 166 entries. This indicates mostly family units which are distributed as follows:

Location Family Units

Port Hope	2
Tweed	2
Stirling	1
Marysville	1
Desseronto	1
Wellington	1

Location	Family Units	Location	Family Units
Belleville	87	Port Hope	2
Trenton	34	Tweed	2
Napanee	7	Stirling	1
Picton	6	Marysville	1
Brighton	5	Deseronto	1
Bancroft	3	Wellington	1
Campbellford	3	Brighton	3

«To remember the deeds of the past»

« Ηδεία εστί του μεν παρόντος η ενέργεια,
του δε μέλλοντος η ελπίς,
των δε γεγενημένων η μνήμη.»

Αριστοτέλης.

«It's pleasant to act in the present,
to hope for the future and
to remember the deeds of the past.»
Aristotle.

I. The Pioneers and the First Immigration Wave: 1897-1941

...Thirty years after Canada's Confederation the first Greek immigrant arrived in the area in 1897. He had crossed the border from the States as it was the trend at the time. He was known with the toponymic "Epirotes" (= the man from Epirus) rather than his real name Nasios. ... A few years later M. Papas arrived in the city in 1900, the precursor of the Peloponnesians in the area. The first Greek family of Maraskas arrived in 1912. Minas Maniatis hailed from Minor Asia in 1921. In 1928 the first Cypriot appeared in the City, the forerunner of today's Cypriot group, while in 1941 the W. Fortis became the leader of the Cephallonian families. . . .

...Between 1897-1941 there were 67 immigrants in the city of Belleville, Trenton and area originating from the following places: Epirus, Mesenia, Arcadia, Macedonia, Laconia, Minor Asia, Cyprus, Cephalonia, and Constantinople...

...During the Second WW The Greek War Relief Fund was established. A record of contributions by Greek immigrants survived and it reads as a Whose Who of downtown Belleville: Capitol Lunch (M.Maniatis), Pete's Restaurant (P.Tsouroulis), Diana Grill, Squire Grill (W. Fortis), "New Services Lunch (S. Strategakes), Pappas Billiards (S.Pappas), National Billiards (J.Annis, G.Poulos), Nick's Restaurant (N.Strategakis).

This was the nucleus from which the Greek Canadian Community sprang forth...

II. The Second Immigration Wave 1941-1962

... Already the Community had 2 kinds of immigrants, the "Palioi" and the "Kainourgioi", "the old ones and the new ones". The former were established and were the natural leaders; the latter had numerical superiority but they were absorbed

with the rigours of adaptation to a new country. As soon as an element of stability had been achieved by the newcomers, some stirrings for formal organization had begun. The Greek group in Belleville was considered part of the wider Greek Orthodox Parish of Ottawa. The cycle of separation from the roots and adaptation had been completed by the pioneers. The first generation of Canadian-Greeks were born. Right after the war the flood gates of immigration had opened. There was a dramatic increase in the Greek population. The total membership in 1952 was 185 persons in the area. The cycle of immigrant experiences began all over again....

III. The Organisation and Building Phase: 1962-1976

... By 1963 the first community Directory lists a population of 246. In 1968 this number rose to 356. The Directory of 1976 shows 427. The Greek Community was bulging. Changes took place in the sixties within the immigrant Greek population. The present Greek Canadian Orthodox Community of Belleville, Trenton and District was born out of those changes... . . . One factor for change is attributed to the rites of procreation. The Greek Community Register of Sacraments shows a total of 134 Marriages, 217 Baptisms and 30 Deaths. The second factor was the new wave of immigration.

...The first organisational meeting took place under the Chairmanship of the titular Bishop of Elea Athenagoras in February 1963. A Steering Committee was struck consisting of: W. Yeotes, A. Manjures, G. Poulos, J. Koutoulakis, P. Zegouras and L. Tsihlias. One of the first results from the organizational meetings was to secure the services of the Rev. C. Glouftsis....

.... From 1963 until 1969 a long list of priests served the spiritual needs of the Community: The Reverends Papademetriou, P. Michaellides, J. Koulouras, P. Karahalios. The Rev. N. Avgoustinakis served the longest. In 1969 Rev. E. Bardouniotes became the first regular Parish Priest. After his transfer the Revs Paraschou, Porphyris and Stamatelos would visit occasionally until the retired Bishop Theodosius assumed the role of the Parish Priest.

... The Philoptochos Society was formed in 1964 Its first President was Georgina Maniatis, daughter of Menas Maniatis, the Great Benefactor of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. In 1964 the Ontario Provincial Chartered was received under the name of "Greek-Canadian Community of Belleville and District Inc.", to be followed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of N. and S. America religious Charter in 1967 under the Name "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish"...

...The Dictatorship in Greece in 1967 and the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974 shook the Community...

... The AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope Chapters were formed in 1971.

... The culminating effort for the decade was the building of the Church. On July 23/1972 amidst pomp and ceremony the sod was turned and the foundation stone was laid. The first Service "under our-own roof" at long last took place on Xmas Eve 1972. Before that date the religious services were held at Saint Thomas Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist, Knights of Columbus and Saint George's on Station Street.

... On June 1973 the Community celebrated the Official opening of the Church Building. Bishop Theodosius, officiated assisted by Rev. N. Avgoustinakis. The Service was carried by C.J.B.Q. A commemorative booklet marked the event.....

..... No generosity however can be compared to M. Maniates' contribution to the building of the Church. He bought the Iconostasis for \$7.000.00 in memory of his daughter Georgina. In his will he bequeathed to the Community an amount equal to the mortgage at the time of his death with one stipulation: Every year after his death a memorial Service to be held on Aug. 15, the day of the Assumption, in his memory. The Community declared M. Maniates Great Benefactor and a special Scroll was presented to him by Archbishop Iacovos in Ottawa. He died on July 31/1975. The Church received \$25.000.00 from his will. A portrait of his hangs at the entrance of the Church. Every year on August he Community holds a special memorial Service. The Great Benefactor is remembered.....

...IV.THE PERIOD of Expansion: 1976-1986

...There was a change of guard in the administration of the Community. Two projects became the target of initiatives during the decade. The reconstruction of the Church's roof and the building of a Community Centre known today as "Greek Hall"... It was completed in 1985...

... Along with the Community Hall a new Parish Priest came to the Community, after the transfer of Father Marinos. The Rev. Vasilios Emmanuel came directly from Greece...

v. THE WIND-UP PERIOD: 1987-1993

... During this period 2 new priests served the Community. The Revs Decavallas and Bardouniotes. ... The original Hall was expanded further for more capacity. AHEPA and Philoptochos offered financial help for the decoration of the new Hall. The Community took part in the demonstration in Ottawa for the Macedonian question... .Rev.Andreou became the new Parish priest in 1992....

The Greek Community Model of Organisation.

.....The Orthodox Greeks in Canada are generally organised into Communities, each incorporated under a Provincial Charter and governed by a an elected Council.

At the same time the Orthodox Community has an Ecclesiastical Charter granted by a Greek Orthodox Archdiocese under the climate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.....

.... This dual identity does not always work well, because of inherent conflicts between lay and clergy jurisdiction.

....The aim is to preserve the culture, religion and language. For this reason each community usually has an Orthodox church and organises a Catechetical and a Greek Language School. The Church serves as well as an ethnic, cultural and religious centre for the parishioners.

....The Greek Canadian Community of Belleville, Trenton and District Inc. is organised on the dual model.

The Organisational Milestones

- 1) The Fundraising for the G.W.R.F in 1941 brought the Greek immigrants together.
- 2) On June 1963: The 1st organisational meeting took place.
- 3) In 1964 the Greek Community received its Provincial Charter .
- 4) In 1964 The Philoptochos Society was formed
- 5) The Ecclesiastical Charter was received in 1967.
- 6) AHEPA and its affiliates were established.

Significant Events by Year 1897-1993

1897 arrival of the first Greek in the Quinte area.

1922 Arrival of Menas Maniatis.

1941 Greek War Relief Fund- 1st written record of contributors from Quinte.

1963 The first organizational meeting

1964 Provincial Charter received

1964 Philoptochos Society established.

1967 Ecclesiastical Charter

1967 Dictatorship in Greece

1971 AHEPA and Affiliates established

1972 Building of the Church

1973 Official Opening of the Church

1974 Invasion of Cyprus

1975 Death of Menas Maniatis, the Great Benefactor.

1976 Consecration of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

1981 George Zegouras was elected Mayor

1986 Official Opening of the Greek Hall

1988 Silver Anniversary Celebrations

1993 30th Anniversary Celebrations