



OUR STORY

Pozdravljamo vas s prvo izdajo novic Kanadskega slovenskega zgodovinskega društva!

Kanadsko slovensko zgodovinsko društvo

Poročilo predsednice Jožice Vegelj



Pobuda za ustanovitev zgodovinskega društva v Kanadi je prišla iz Slovenije, ki je prirejala izredno poučne seminarje za izseljenke arhivarje. G. Stane Kranjc je kmalu po obisku tega tečaja z velikim navdušenjem pričel z zbiranjem podatkov o Slovencih v Kanadi, nato pa pridobil sodelavce in tako je bilo 21. junija 2002 ustanovljeno Kanadsko slovensko zgodovinsko društvo (KSZD), ki je bilo uradno registrirano 22. julija 2003.

Ustanovni člani odbora so bili: Stane Kranjc, dr. Anne Urbančič, Frank Brenc, Jožica Vegelj, Jože Slobodnik, dr. Franc Habjan, Ema Pogačar, dr. Janez Vintar, Jerry Ponikvar, Dorothy Lenarčič in Florjan Markun. Pozneje so bili v odbor izvoljeni še Mary Rožmanc in Frank Majzelj. Takoj po ustanovitvi so bile določene sledeče smernice:

Cilji Kanadskega slovenskega zgodovinskega društva so:

- Ohraniti zgodovino Slovencev v Kanadi
- Iskati, pridobiti in ohranjati zgodovinske podatke, rokopise in umetnine Slovencev v Kanadi
- Pridobiti stalne in primerne prostore, v katerih se bo hranilo arhivsko gradivo
- Zbirati finančna sredstva, da se dosežejo zgoraj navedeni cilji
- Arhivsko gradivo urediti po pravilih Kanadske arhivske zveze, da bo dostopno študentom, raziskovalcem in zgodovinarjem, ki arhive raziskujejo.

Po uradni ustanovitvi KSZD je ravno Urad za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu finančno podprl to ustanovo, da se je lahko pričelo resno delo. G. S. Kranjc je že več let zbiral naslove slovenskih organizacij, klubov in ustanov in jih naprosil za opis njihovega delovanja. To je bilo tudi prvo arhivsko gradivo.

Že leta 2002 je odbor za ostarele v Domu Lipa dal dovoljenje Kanadskemu zgodovinskemu društvu, da lahko uporablja manjši prostor, ki ga je bilo treba primerno urediti. Isto leto se je KSZD včlanilo v Kanadsko arhivsko zvezo (KAZ). Njihovi strokovnjaki so pregledali prostor, izmerili vlago in odobrili, da je prostor primeren za ohranjanje arhivskega gradiva. Prav tako pa naše članstvo pri KAZ predstavlja poroštvo, da slovensko arhivsko gradivo ne bo izgubljeno v primeru, če sami ne bi več mogli delovati v teh prostorih.

Naslednji izziv je bil, kako obvestiti vso slovensko skupnost o našem delu? Ker smo zbrali že kar nekaj skupinskih slik in nismo poznali oseb, smo pričeli z razstavami teh slik ob različnih prireditvah. Navzoče smo povabili, naj nam povedo, "**Kdo smo?**". Odziv je bil zelo dober, raslo je zanimanje za delo zgodovinskega društva in s tem tudi darovi arhivskega gradiva. Sledilo je še vabilo "**Povejte nam kaj**", ali snemanje govorne zgodovine, kjer posamezniki pripovedujejo o svojih življenjskih izkušnjah.

Soba, v kateri smo hranili zbrano arhivsko gradivo, je postajala vedno bolj polna. Uvideli smo, da bo en sam prostor premajhen. Uvidevni člani odbora v Domu Lipa so nam dovolili uporabo sosednje sobe, v kateri se sedaj hrani vse arhivsko gradivo. Tu veljajo pravila Kanadske arhivske zveze, da ima dostop do arhivskega gradiva le arhivist, raziskovalci pa lahko določeno gradivo, ki jim ga poišče in dostavi arhivist, pregledajo v sosednjem prostoru.

KSZD je v desetletju dela zagotovila vse možnosti, da se ohrani slovenska kultura, doprinosi kanadski skupnosti in uspehi Slovencev. Kaj lahko sedaj še storimo? Prav vsak Slovenec, vsako društvo, vsaka organizacija in vsak klub ima svojo zgodovino. Ohraniti je treba čimveč te preteklosti. To lahko dosežemo le, če bomo shranili naša življenjska doživetja in če bomo ohranili zgodovinske podatke o delovanju naših organizacij.

Our History

The **Canadian Slovenian Historical Society** was established on June 21, 2002 and registered as a nonprofit corporation on July 22, 2003.

The first Board of Directors were: Stane Kranjc, Dr. Anne Urbančič, Frank Brence, Jože Slobodnik, Jožica Vegelj, Dr. Franc Habjan, Ema Pogačar, Dr. Janez Vintar, Jerry Ponikvar, Dorothy Lenarčič and Florjan Markun.

The objectives of CSHS are:

- To preserve the history of Slovenians in Canada,
- To seek, locate and acquire historical data, manuscripts and art of Slovenians in Canada,
- To acquire and establish a permanent location to store the manuscripts and display art,
- To raise funds in order to finance the above stated goals and objectives,
- To make documents available to students, scholars and historians interested in researching the archives

Every new organization faces many challenges and so did the CSHS. Slowly, step by step, challenges were successfully resolved with the help of many Slovenians who shared our passion to preserve the Slovenian culture and contributions of Slovenians shaping part of Canadian history.

In 2002, agreement was reached with the Board of Directors at Dom Lipa to allow us the use of a small room for archival purposes.

Our first project was to contact all Slovenian clubs and organizations to provide us with their history.

We also developed new programs and activities of CSHS. The display of photographs held at social events “**Kdo smo?**”, allowed us to talk to people and encourage their participation. At least four displays are shown every year.

Our oral history project, called “**Povejte nam kaj - tell us your story**”, involves interviews of individuals narrating their life experience. Numerous interviews are taken yearly in various regions of Canada.

Our outreach program offers a practical, hands-on seminar to any group of Slovenians interested in collecting archival material. So far we have visited and worked with our distant Slovenian organizations in Vancouver, Manitoba and Quebec.

A large collection of the archival material gathered through the years had to be classified. With the help of a professional archivist and capable Slovenian volunteers we developed the program for the classification of archival material in accordance with the rules of **The Canadian Archival Association**. This program is now in progress and more than five thousand documents have been processed.

Our continuing challenge is to reach all Slovenians and encourage them to participate so that CSHS Archives preserve the true picture of the Slovenian presence in Canada.



*The First Board of Directors:
Front row from left: Jože Slobodnik, Jožica Vegelj, Stane Kranjc, Dr. Anne Urbančič, Frank Brence
Back row: Florjan Markun, Dorothy Lenarčič, Jerry Ponikvar, Dr. Janez Vintar, Ema Pogačar and Dr. Franc Habjan*



“Threads Connect the Canadian Slovenian Community”

A CSHS-sponsored submission had the privilege of being selected in a competition, to present an exhibit at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, in Queen’s Park, Toronto. Over a six month period from October 2010 to March 2011, visitors to the legislature were able to view this prominent exhibit. It featured beautiful examples of traditional Slovenian folk costumes for men and women as well as delicate lacework. Representing CSHS are Anne Urbančič and Dorothy Lenarčič, pictured at the completed display case. Special thanks go to Jožica Vegelj for organizing the exhibit contents and to Haley Shanoff, Exhibits Coordinator at the Ontario Legislature, for her generous assistance.

From our archives It Happened 20 Years Ago

Rallies in Support of Slovenia:

The Slovenian Information Centre was our source of information and kept the media informed of our efforts and protests. Volunteers: Dorothy Lenarčič, Leander Škof, Andy Pahulje and others worked hard at getting the message out.

Sunday, June 30, 1991 - In London, Ont. Magda Razpotnik organized a rally of Slovenians, in support of democracy in Slovenia. Three days later London media televised a Slovenian mass and procession, bringing local attention to the cause of Slovenian independence. In Hamilton, the Rev. Franc Slobodnik organized a rally which brought out the mayor and 1,000 supporters.

Saturday, July 6, 1991 - Approximately 1,000 Slovenians and their supporters gathered at Queen's Park, Toronto.

Our message to the Mulroney government was that it must act to stop the violent aggression of the Yugoslav Army and it must recognize Slovenia's independence. We received excellent television coverage on the event, helping to build public support and sympathy for our cause.

Wednesday, July 24, 1991 - Slovenians held a Candlelight Vigil at Nathan Phillips Square (Toronto City Hall) to mark the first month's anniversary of Slovenia's independence. The recently formed Slovenian Youth Council of Canada took a leading role in planning this event. Community leaders addressed the crowd and more media coverage was given.

It Happened 50 Years Ago in Hamilton, Ont.

Na sliki vidite člane gradbenega odbora v Hamiltonu, ki je bil izvoljen v nedeljo, 12. marca 1961.

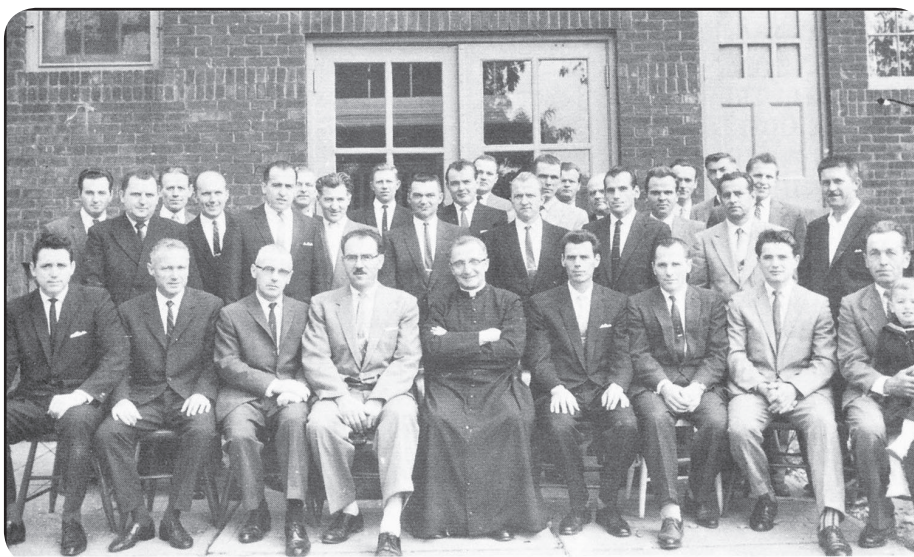
The first general meeting of the Hamilton and area Slovenian community was held on Sunday March 12, 1961. Father Tomc told the people the necessities, possibilities and opportunity for a Slovenian Hall in Hamilton "... to serve our spiritual, social and cultural needs".



At Queen's Park, Toronto



Candlelight Vigil at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto. Notice the new Slovenian flags at all of the demonstrations. These were hastily sewn by volunteers.



Meet our Archivist



Frank Majzelj was born on July 5, 1950 in Metlika, Slovenia. He married Marica in 1972 and migrated to Canada in 1973. They settled in Hamilton where Frank found work in Defasco and has been there ever since. Frank and Marica have two children both born in Hamilton.

Frank Majzelj

Frank felt the need to be part of the Slovenian Community and joined many groups whose mission in life was to preserve the Slovenian heritage and promote Slovenian values.

He joined Slovenski Park, St. Gregory the Great, Slovenian Church in Hamilton, Hamilton Wentworth Slovenian Cultural Society, Belokranjski Club of Toronto, Slovenia Relief Fund and All Slovenian Cultural Committee. Frank served on the Boards of these organizations and still found time to go to school, obtaining a Certificate in Genealogical Studies Canadian Records at the National Institute for Genealogical Studies of information at the University of Toronto. He was the President of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International - Ontario Chapter and Treasurer at the Canadian Slovenian Genealogical Foundation. He joined the Canadian Slovenian Historical Society and is now the Archivist.

Frank has donated many hours of work for our cause and maintains meticulous records of the time spent on various projects for all the Directors and other volunteers.

Vabimo vas - pridružite se nam

Sodelujte pri naši akciji **“Povejte nam kaj!”** in **“Kdo smo”**. Obiščite nas v naših arhivskih prostorih, kjer smo vam na razpolago vsako prvo soboto v mesecu od 10:00 dopoldne do 3:00 ure popoldne ali pa po dogovoru. S skupnim prizadevanjem bomo ustvarili našim naslednikom pravo sliko o kanadskih Slovencih.

Love History?

If you are at all interested in the history of the Slovenians in Canada and in the history of your parents and/or grandparents, join us! We welcome new members and volunteers. Call: Jožica Vegelj: 905-664-5240 or e-mail: jjvegelj@gmail.com.

Pred petdesetimi leti

Ali se še spominjate, kaj se je zgodilo pred 70, 50 ali štiridesetimi leti? Ali še veste, kako je izgledal vaš prvi dom? Kakšno je bilo vaše okolje, ko ste prišli v Kanado? Morda še hranite vam dragocene spomine! Vse to je nenadomestljivo arhivsko gradivo, ki bo za vedno ohranjeno pri Kanadskem zgodovinskem društvu. V poštev pridejo fotografije, razglednice, pisma, morda kovček, s katerim ste prišli v Kanado, in še in še...

See us at the Slovenian Day Celebrations

June 26, 2011

Bled Planica Social Club, Beamsville, ON

July 3, 2011

Slovenian Summer Camp, Bolton, ON

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