

WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Windsor is in southern Ontario, near the U.S. border. Lithuanians came to the city as early as 1927, but the largest group of immigrants arrived in 1948 and later, especially during the 1950-52 period.

LCC. The local Lithuanian community considers April of 1950 as the founding date of the chapter. 34 Lithuanians met at the home of the Zatorskis family, decided to establish the Windsor chapter of the LCC and formed a Provisional Organizing Committee for that purpose.

The Windsor chapter organized the IV Lithuanian Days in 1956 and the IX Lithuanian Days in 1962. The organizing committee for the former was chaired by V. Barysas. M. Kizis was the chairman of the IX Lithuanian Days organizing committee. The Windsor chapter used to organize Independence Day and Mother's Day celebrations and Deportation commemorations. It used to collect clothing for the Lithuanians in Suvalkai and participate in Windsor's Freedom Festival. It often invited folk-dancing groups, musicians and theatre troupes from Toronto, Hamilton and Detroit to perform.

In Windsor, as in other chapters, LCC activities focussed on publicizing the soviet occupation of Lithuania. The area's Lithuanians noticed that the local population had not even heard of Lithuania. The mayor of Windsor proclaimed a Lithuanian Day for the first time in Canada on the occasion of the IV Lithuanian Days in 1956. As well, Minister of National Health and Welfare Paul Martin congratulated the Lithuanian community. Contacts with CBE radio and *The Windsor Daily Star* newspaper were maintained. A 1959 report indicated that "Lithuanian music and song can be heard almost every Saturday on CBE's "Traditional Echoes" program. On special occasions, such as Lithuania's Independence Day, the entire half hour is devoted to Lithuanian history, music and song. The program is broadcast on the CBC network, so it is heard across Canada and in the United States. The executive committee of the Windsor chapter of the LCC not only supported this worthwhile program, but also actively fought to maintain it whenever there was a danger that it might be cancelled. The committee would write to CBC executives and urge Lithuanian organizations to do the same." Petras Januška was the one who devoted the most effort to the program.

LCC chapter chairs: E. Zatorskis, P. Januška, V. Kačinskis, Eugenija Butavičienė, P. Dumčius, Dr. Česlovas Kuras, V. Čerškus, Paulius Kuras, V. G. Pacevičius-Carruthers and Č. Kuras.

School. Marija Pečkauskaitė School of the Windsor chapter.

Library. A small library established by the Windsor chapter operated in 1955-56. O. Ražauskienė was the librarian.

Organizations. Friends of Lithuania Minor; Lithuanian Catholic Federation *Ateitis*; Scouts; supporters of the Lithuanian High School in Hüttenfeld, Germany; Lithuanian Front; Choir of the Windsor Chapter; Windsor Girls' Quartet *Aušra*.

Parish. St. Casimir's Parish, Windsor.

Statistics. According to the 1951 Canadian census, there were 265 Lithuanians in Windsor at the time. In 1961, there were about 150 who had immigrated after the War and fewer before the War. At the 1971 convention of the National Council of the LCC, it was reported that "...about 210 Lithuanians live in the Windsor area, which includes Tillbury, Leamington, Kingsville and Chatham. There is no lack of participants at

Lithuanian events, but general meetings are sparsely attended.” A 1984 report to the LCC’s Culture Committee indicated that there were 150 Lithuanians in the chapter, with 46% of these active in community events.