



Invitation of J. Drapell, pg. 8



J.A. Klínka Memories of Hero, pg.8



Czechs in Texas, pg. 9



MAY 30, 2013

No 11 (2821)
Volume 64 • \$2.00Published every other Thursday
26 issues in 24 mailings a year
ISSN 08329-2668

NOVÝ DOMOV



THE NEW HOMELAND

Pravda vítězí!

CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER www.masaryktown.ca

IMMIGRATION MINISTER JASON KENNEY ANNOUNCES TIGHTER REGULATIONS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM

By: Debra Black, Immigration Reporter

The Conservative government has once more tightened the rules around immigration — this time changing the family reunification program to make it more difficult for parents and grandparents to be accepted.

New applications to the parent and grandparent program had been temporarily suspended for two years to deal with a substantial backlog of applications. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney announced Friday that applications will be accepted again starting Jan. 1, 2014.

Only 5,000 new applications a year will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis, so the system can get rid of a substantial backlog, Kenney said at a news conference.

In September 2011 there was a backlog of 165,000 people who had applied under the parent and grandparent program with a wait time of more than eight years, he said, adding that when the program reopens the wait time will be three and a half years.

Ottawa will continue to allow 25,000 people into Canada under the parent and grandparent program this year. And the minister said that number is likely to remain the same over the next few years.

The minister also announced that the super visa, which allows parents and grandparents into Canada for lengthy visits, will become a permanent fixture of the immigration system.

But those who hope to bring their parents or grandparents to Canada as permanent residents will face tougher criteria. First of all, the minimum necessary income equivalent for sponsoring parents and grandparents will increase by 30 per cent.

That would mean in a household of four — a husband and wife and their sponsored parents or grandparents — the minimum income would have to be \$55,000 a year, Kenney said. Sponsors will have to be financially responsible for their parents or grandparents for 20 years, rather than the current 10 years, he said.

What's more, the maximum age of dependants of parents who are sponsored has been lowered to 18 years of age, making it difficult for other siblings to come to Canada.

Previously, other children of parents, who were 22 years old or older if still in school and dependent, could also



be sponsored. Now, the minister said those over 18 must apply independently to visit or immigrate to Canada. Toronto immigration lawyer Lorne Waldman called the changes "retrograde."

"For a minister who claims to be pro-immigration and pro-family reunification these changes simply aren't consistent with that position," said Waldman.

Waldman said it appears the program is only for those who have a lot of money or those who are lucky enough to be part of the first 5,000 applications.

Many who had previously been included in the application process will be cut out, he said.

"Increasing the financial obligations requirements is going to mean sponsoring your parents will be beyond the reach of many," he said.

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/05/10/immigration_minister_jason_kenney_announces_tighter_regulations_for_family_reunification_program.html, May 10, 2013

Re: Ottawa tightens family criteria
Thank you to Immigration Minister Jason Kenney for continuing his war against the well-being of those who come to live in Canada. Just like he

has suggested and implemented rules that make it difficult for refugees to seek medical assistance, denying families the opportunity to care for their parents only furthers my conviction that Kenney does not understand what it means to holistically promote the health of his country's population. I would remind him that many people, including those coming as immigrants and refugees find satisfaction in caring for their parents, but I seriously question if he or the government he represents actually understands this. Yaseen Zubairi, Toronto

In general, I'm not a fan of the current federal government but I do agree with Jason Kenney's immigration reforms and, in particular, this last restriction on the "family reunification" area. This has been abused and misused for years with parents and grandparents arriving as baby-sitters and soon becoming active participants in the medical and social services.

In the GTA you can see the result if you have occasion to go to any immigrant neighborhood medical clinic. You have to wait in line for the processing of rows of old immigrant parents and grandparents waiting for medical services, often bringing their grandchildren as translators. Meanwhile, Canadians who have worked and contributed to the system all their lives are patiently waiting their turn behind a sea of newcomers.

We need immigrants, and they are welcomed better in Canada than in any other country — as a one-time immigrant, I can attest to that — but we need people who can contribute something to our economy. Surely, when you are ardently seeking your immigration approval you are not making it conditional on bringing your whole extended family with you. Sigmund Roseth, Mississauga

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2013/05/15/kenneys_family_reunification_reforms.html, May 15, 2013

More than 70 per cent of Markham's population comes from visible minorities, according to Statistics Canada's National Household Survey. Real estate agents Jacqueline and Jim Wong have lived in their quiet residential Markham neighbourhood for 14 years.

Over that time they've seen the demographics of their community change greatly, particularly in the past five years with the increase of Chinese and South Asian people moving to their city and buying homes. Jacqueline Wong, who emigrated from Malaysia more than 30 years ago, points to her own street as an example. About 85 per cent of the people who have bought homes in recent months are Chinese. The draw: "They feel very comfortable with Markham." What's more, there's no municipal land transfer tax, it's close to Toronto, housing is more affordable and it's very safe, she said.

"It's a great community," added her husband, Jim Wong, who came to Canada from a small village in China in 1960. "It's very attractive for young families." Safety and a sense of peace was the magnet for Ramanathan Lambbotharan, a Sri Lankan family physician, who has lived and worked in Markham for over a decade.

Markham is Canada's most diverse community, according to Statistics Canada

By: Debra Black Immigration Reporter

Neither the Wongs nor Lambbotharan are surprised by the fact that Markham is now Canada's most diverse community with the highest proportion of visible minorities than any other city, according to Statistics Canada's National Household Survey.

A total of 72.3 per cent of the population comes from visible minorities. People from China make up the bulk of the community at 52.9 per cent. Two other emerging visible minority groups are prevalent in Markham — the South Asian population with 26.4 per cent and the black community with 4.5 per cent.

In 2006, according to Statistics Canada, Markham's Chinese population was at 34.1 per cent and South Asian at 17.2 per cent.

Other GTA communities — Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto — aren't far behind when it comes to visible minorities.

And while some dispute the accuracy of the National Household Survey — many groups suggest it underestimates visible minorities and foreign born individuals — no one disputes that the face of Markham is evolving.

Go anywhere in Markham and the region's diversity can be seen in the faces in shopping malls and those behind the wheels of cars that tear along congested Highway 7.

And signs on many of the strip malls along Highway 7 are bilingual — English and Chinese. There are even some Chinese roads, like Sun Yat Sen Ave., Filipino streets, like Rizal Ave., and South Asian byways, such as Karachi Dr. and New Delhi Cres.

"I do believe that we did a lot of things to accommodate new immigrants when they move to Markham," said Regional Councillor Joe Li. "We make them comfortable. We're the only municipality that hosts a national day for every community. When you walk into the city hall, you see the diverse workforce in the city and if you look at council you can see the diversity there, too."

Markham council has three ethnic Chinese members from different parts of the world and one Sri Lankan councillor — that's four out of 13, Li proudly points out. And so far, there is no tension within the growing South Asian community. "They live side by side in harmony."

Source: http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/05/09/markham_is_canadas_most_diverse_community_according_to_statistics_canada.html, May 09, 2013

Dear Friends,

*I greet you from far away even though my heart of a soldier is with you.
It is with deep affection I recall my brothers in arms.
I keep in high esteem their courage and sacrifice.
Their bravery and those who were helping them had significance.
They deserve our gratitude.*

The message aired - five days before his death - to participants gathered in the Prague Orthodox Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius on the 70th Anniversary of heroic death of the seven Czechoslovak paratroopers and many civilians in the aftermath of the killing the infamous Nazi hardliner Reinhard Heydrich

Robert Matula passed away in Victoria, last year on June 12. He was 92 years old and was one of the last two remaining paratroopers trained in the United Kingdom during WW2

ly in the occupied countries and territories, as per Winston Churchill's call: "Set Europe Ablaze".

At the beginning of July 1943, Robert met a young woman - Violet Cather-

gence - was to organize small partisan squads to interfere with the re-treating Germans as the Red Army advanced on the eastern front. The WOLFRAM group made contact with a local partisan group and a civilian resistance organization, and also cooperated with the Russian Intelligence group parachuted into the area in advance of the Red Army. (That such a cooperative effort was soon forgotten in postwar politics not only in the liberated Czechoslovakia but worldwide, was a bitter disappointment to Robert - in as much as it changed his life and that of many other people). The timely delivery of the plan outlining German defences around the Ostrava region to the Russian Army HQ - 1st Ukrainian Front - was WOLFRAM's major coup since much of the town, its infrastructure, and industrial plants, were spared from destruction, and many civilian and soldiers' lives were apparently saved.

In skirmishes with the enemy Robert used his Sten-gun sparingly but well when necessary, both in the mountains and later in forests near Brno, where he and his comrades had to move from German encirclement when the snow came. They marched over 200 km, mostly at night, in a double digit subzero temperatures to establish a new operation site. During the spring of 1945 he was instrumental in liquidating a German motor column on the move with a dozen high ranking Wehrmacht officers. Despite limited weaponry and ammunition he and his co-fighters kept disrupting German moves & communications, and destroyed several of their armoured vehicles. To survive in encounters with the enemy seemed to be little short of a miracle. He recalled how he and his three comrades had to share a tiny space

> 10

GENERAL ROBERT MATULA

By Dr. Jan A. Klinka

who were dropped and saw action in the German occupied Czech lands. He lived a long, often undeniably hard, yet also rich and in many ways rewarding life. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Chemainus and of the Chemainus Senior Club for a number of years. He also belonged to Legionnaires' Groups in Britain and the Czech Republic. His life was celebrated in the hall of the Chemainus Legion Branch No.191 on July 22, 2012.

Robert was born in Czechoslovakia during the formative years of its statehood but events that shook the world, as it were, caused him to spend most of his life away from his motherland, and accept new citizenship initially in the UK, and later in Canada.

As a young, strong man, Robert worked in the Ludvik coal mine, close to his birth place Radvanice by Slezska Ostrava. When the Nazis occupied his country in 1939, he refused to work for them; instead he looked for ways to fight them. He was 19 when left for Poland - as a number of his countrymen did - and via France ended up in the French Foreign Legion in Algeria until the war broke out. Then he was stationed in the Czechoslovak military depot in Agde, on France's Mediterranean coast, and when the Germans invaded France, he fought as a heavy machine gunner with his infantry regiment until the front there collapsed.

After evacuation to the UK he continued training in units that later formed the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade - assigned to the British Army - which were destined for deployment after the "D-Day". He helped in building coastal defences in southern and eastern England and became a tank driver, and then later an instructor of tank drivers. He was sent on several courses run by the Special Operation Executive in its Special Training facilities. These were schools for agents destined to operate against the Germans on all fronts, especial-

ly in the occupied countries and territories, as per Winston Churchill's call: "Set Europe Ablaze".

The change in his status, how-



ever, had no effect on his unambiguous consent to take part - under the leadership of his commanding officer Capt. Josef Otisk - in a dangerous mission behind enemy lines. He was selected along with five other of his countrymen for a comprehensive training in the techniques of unconventional sabotage, and guerrilla warfare in the Scottish Highlands. Afterwards, they all went through parachutist training at Ringway near Manchester, and at a "spy school" in Hampshire. Their clandestine group received the code name WOLFRAM and was moved to an Allied base in southern Italy where they waited for available aircraft and favourable weather. On the one moonless night in September 1944 a Royal Air Force Handley Page Halifax bomber equipped for Special Duties - manned by a combined Canadian & New Zealand - crew dropped them into the eastern border mountains of the occupied Czech lands - the Beskydys.

Their major task - besides intelli-

INVITATION: STARS FROM ABSTRACTION TO DEPICTION

A New series by Joseph Drapell

The Museum of New thanks its six interns for organizing this exhibition in the absence of the artist (due to illness). Curated by Morgan Copeman with the assistance of Shellie Zhong, Rachelle Sabourin, Olga Klosowski, Melissa de Sousa, and Olivia Appiah-Kubi, the exhibition is accompanied by a new essay "The Quiet Revolutionary: The Unsettling Innovations of Joseph Drapell" by Dr. Kenneth Carpenter, York University.

This new series explores archetypal imagery that evokes land, air, water, and such. Influenced by astronomy and the New New esthetics, these landmark paintings reveal an exciting and controversial new phase in Drapell's oeuvre. Viewer participation: see how you can complete one of the installed works.

Second floor exhibition:

To contrast the new work with his "classic" paintings, the curator, Morgan Copeman, installed a selection of works from 1973 on including the first of Drapell's Quartets titled "The Birth of the World" (1976 - 1992). This quartet has never been exhibited due to the size of the works.

The exhibition will run until June 29th 2013, museum hours: open every Saturday 2pm to 4pm, free admission

The Museum of New was originally founded by artist Joseph Drapell and poet Anna MacLachlan in 1998 to promote the art of the New New Painters and others. To complement the Museum's wider mandate, last year the gallery doubled in size to 5,200 sq.ft. with the addition of a second floor. Located in the heart of Toronto's Queen West District, the entire



Letní

Česko - Slovensko - Kanadský sportovně rekreační tábor

Tábor plný pohybu pro malé sportovce i nesportovce.

Tradiční i netradiční sporty všeho druhu.

Noční hry a spousta zábavy taky nebude chybět.

Na tomto táboře jsou všechny aktivity přizpůsobeny věku účastníků.

- 26. Červenec až 9. srpen - Powassan, North Bay Area
- sportovně rekreační camp pro děti od 7 do 15 let pod vedením zkušených vedoucích
- ubytování a stravování ve sportovní akademii MAK Sports Academy (www.maksportsacademy.com)
- Cena za camp: \$790 včetně vyzvednutí a dopravy zpět (Trasa autobusu: Toronto, Barrie, North Bay)

vice info na:

info@maksportsacademy.com nebo tel: 705 724 5125

PRODÁM LUXUSNÍ STAVEBNÍ POZEMEK



v soukromém vlastnictví v Jevanech u Prahy o rozloze 9729 m². Jevany jsou luxusní milionářská oblast, takové české Beverly Hills.



Na pozemku lze vybudovat luxusní rezidenci s bazénem, tenis, kurty, event, malým golfovým hřištěm. Velkou zvláštností tohoto pozemku je

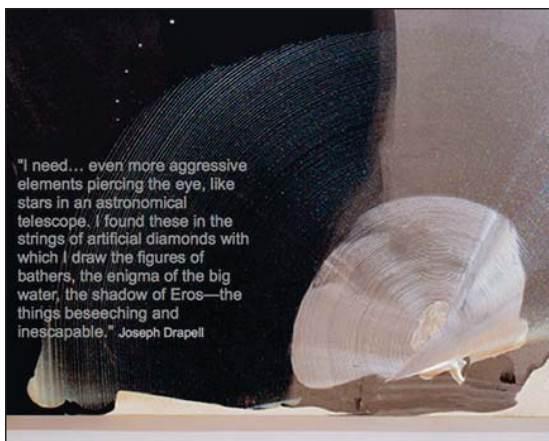
130 m dlouhá pláž, pozemek je ojedinelý. Na jeho hranici je elektrárna, vodovod a kanalizace. K pozemku je příjezdová obecní cesta. Výhled z pozemku je do krásné přírody, kolem samé lesy a rybníky. Vzdálenost do Prahy autem je kolem 20 minut. Cena pozemku: 100 USD/m²

KONTAKT: VÁLKOVÁ KVĚTOSLAVA

E-MAIL: VALKOVA.K@EMAIL.CZ

TEL.: 00420 774 726 538





"I need... even more aggressive elements piercing the eye, like stars in an astronomical telescope. I found these in the strings of artificial diamonds with which I draw the figures of bathers, the enigma of the big water, the shadow of Eros—the things beseeching and inescapable." Joseph Drapell

venue is now available to artists and curators who want to explore new exhibition possibilities.

Contact: info@museumofnew.com, 123 Bellwoods Avenue (rear) Toronto, M6J 2P6, T: 416 603 4111, web: www.museumofnew.com

DĚTSKÝ TÁBOR HOSTÝN

existuje od roku 1954. Nachází se 80 km na S od Montrealu v lesích Lanaudierského pohoří. Tábor vlastní pláž na jezeře Lafond. Tábor pro děti od 6 do 16 let bude letos od 30. června do 20. července. Cena: 375\$/1týden, 950\$/3 týdny. Za každé další dítě ze stejné rodiny je sleva 10%. Daně se neplatí. Sociálně slabé případy se řeší individuálně. Výhody pro děti: kvalitní program, dobré jídlo a levné poplatky. Vydáváme potvrzení na daňové účely! Do tábora přijímáme i děti, které nemluví ani



česky, ani slovensky. Ať si děti přivedou svoje kamarády či kamarádky. Hledáme placené kuchařky (možná kompenzace za pobyt dětí) a vedoucí k dětem. Přihlášky na dětský tábor a na práci v něm jsou k mání na internetu: www.hostyn.org.

KONTAKTY: ředitel dětského tábora:

RNDr. Josef Maxant, tel. (450)465-4844, fax: (450)923-4159, camphostyn@gmail.com; sekretářka: Viera Šebénová, tel. (514)385-5153, hostyn@live.com; prezident asociace Hostýn: Zdeněk Nosek (514)365-8863, tel. v létě do tábora (450)222-2006.

POSÍLEJTE SVÉ DĚTI A VNOUČATA DO TÁBORA, CHCETE-LI UDRŽET JEHO ČESKOU A SLOVENSKOU TRADICI.



Tradiční houskové a vídeňské knedlíky můžete objednat na 416 596 1737. Lze též koupit v prodejně Brandt, 1878 Mattawa Av. Mississauga.

PREDAM DOM S DVOMI BYTMI,

v malebnej dedinke na Nové Scotii (St. Mary Bay vidieť z okna). Dom ma 3-poschodovú stajnu (stajna, sklad, dielna), organickú záhradu, jazierko a potok. Dom je na 1,21-akrovom pozemku. V prípade záujmu poslem fotky. Cena \$ 160.000. Možnosť dohody.

TEL.: (902) 645 3970 EMAIL: AAPFEL@SEZNAM.CZ



Hopeful that the roof wouldn't cave in, this bakery stayed open after the blast to feed victims and responders.

While West, Texas, Burned, Its Famous Czech Bakery Kept the Kolaches Coming

By Dana Liebelson, Jaeha Lee, and Tasneem Raja

There's a Czech bakery, deli, and gas station combo in tiny West, Texas, that's world-famous for serving up fruit kolaches and hot chubbies to locals and tourists driving on I-35 between Dallas and Austin, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the last 29 years. Last night was no

school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, the owners of Blue Colony Diner fed hundreds of volunteers, policemen, firefighters, and first responders, earning the nickname "The Food Angels." The morning after Hurricane Sandy struck, David T. Holmes III turned it's a Wrap, his lunch cafe in Plainfield, New Jersey, into a relief station for 10 days, offering



victims free coffee, soup, power, and a place to sleep. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Joann Guidos kept Kajun's Pub open so that "the lonely and broke would not endure the ordeal alone." Homeowners fleeing the deadly June 2012 wildfires in Colorado congregated at Bob's Coffee Shop in La-

exception. In the wake of the massive explosion and fire that rocked a fertilizer plant just three miles down the road, Czech Stop kept its doors open—and the kolaches coming—almost without interruption.

"I rushed up there after it happened because one of my employees said the ceiling was falling in," says Barbara Schissler, president of the Czech Stop empire, who's worked there since it opened in 1983. "One of our freelance carpenters recommended that we close the doors, but when I showed up, I saw only the ceiling tiles were buckling, so I reopened. The only thing we did was cut the gas pumps, because we were expecting another blast."

When the plant exploded at 8 pm, there were about seven employees on shift. Fifteen minutes later, fire trucks and police cars started rushing down the street to the site of the accident. Not long after, injured victims started walked in.

"Two women in a truck stopped by. One's leg was bandaged and bulging, and she had a few cuts on her arms and legs," says Schissler. "I don't know why they decided to stop here first. When you're in shock, you're not always thinking. We did whatever we could to make them feel comfortable, gave them ice water." Several more people with cuts and bruises stopped by through the night, but Schissler said her usual customers were missing. "All the bakery regulars were out there on the scene, helping out."

In the morning, Czech Stop was ready to help first responders who stopped by, donating cases of water and handing out free food and drink. The store is also planning on donating baked goods to the Red Cross.

Like many local bars, diners, and coffee shops in many other towns rocked by calamity, Czech Stop has transformed virtually overnight into a hub of refuge. After December's

porte, to figure out, over danishes, where the megafire was headed next.

A Jalopnik writer from Texas says when he first heard about the West Fertilizer explosion, his first thought was whether anyone was hurt. His second thought was whether the



Czech Stop was okay. "It's no surprise that, when I turned on the local news last night, the news producers had thought to call the Czech Stop and put an employee on the air," he wrote. "It's what everyone knows." This tiny community of around 3,000 boasts a remarkably vibrant and long-standing Czech heritage. In 1859, a popular Czech reverend immigrated to Galveston to minister to German Protestants, and many of his compatriots followed. By 1990, almost 300,000 Texans claimed some Czech ancestry according to the Texas State Historical Association, seeding this part of Texas with Eastern European languages, cultures, and cuisines. "Most notably, the Czech pastry 'kolache' (pronounced koh-law-chee) is still served today in restaurants and rest stops from Columbus near Houston all the way up to West," says Jalopnik's Hardgree. "It's a soft, sweet dough filled with some fruit, cheese, chocolate

or some mixture of all of those. It's fantastic."

Czech Stop has been a fixture in town since it was opened in 1983 by Bill Polk, a former marine who bought the shop from a national chain and took it over with one employee, a small menu of sausage, kolache, and a handful of fruit and poppy seed pastries. Its got lots of Czech neighbors in town. There's Picha's Czech-American Restaurant, known for its sausages and kraut. You can pick up a kroje at Maggie's Fabric Patch, a dress traditionally worn by Czechs and Slovaks at communions, weddings, and funerals. A Czech-language radio station broadcast from here until just a few years ago. West is also home to a branch of Sokol, a Czech organization that started in Ennis, Texas with a mission to help young community members become leaders through the practice of gymnastics.

Today some 75 percent of the town can claim some Czech origin according to Radio Praha, the Czech Republic's state radio station. Today, the Czech Ambassador to the United States is scheduled to visit West in a show of support and solidarity. "The

Czech authorities and the media are closely watching the latest news from this little outpost of Czech life in Texas," writes Radio Praha reporter Rob Cameron. West's mayor, Tommy Muska, agrees. "It's a lovely little town. Everybody's got a Czech last name it seems," he said. (Muska's Czech, too.) Author and journalist Brendan McNally, who grew up in Dallas but now lives in Pelhřimov with his family, tells Radio Praha that Czech Stop's kolaches put West on the map.

Last night's tragedy has hit close to home in more ways than one: The bakery's office manager lived three blocks away from the fertilizer plant, and lost her house to the explosion. But Schissler and her crew plan to keep serving up kolaches and coffee 24 hours a day, business as usual. "We've never seen anything like this, but we've never

Source: <http://www.motherjones.com>, Thu Apr. 18, 2013

GENERAL ROBERT MATULA

► from pg. 8

with pigeons in a bitterly cold, drafty loft for nearly two weeks in order to escape the Germans' repeated searches. On another occasion, he faced a few German officers who sought a night's lodgings in the forester's house where WOLFRAM had found a temporary refuge while holding his handgun at the ready under the table. He also remembered how he once looked eye to eye with a German soldier unexpectedly in the forest with his Stengun unloaded.

To be sure, Robert never used the word "Hero" in reference to himself and felt uneasy if someone tried to refer to him as such. He never had a need to make himself a centre of attention, to talk (God forbid to brag) about his war exploits and/or his life struggles as a veteran and immigrant. That is, unless he judged a listener to be trustful enough and show a genuine interest and understanding. No wonder that only a few knew of him.

From his war and post war collection of awards, he was most fond of his two Czechoslovak War Crosses, the Czechoslovak Medal for Gallantry in the face of the enemy, and the King's Commendation for Bravery - Mentioned in Dispatches by King George VI from 9th of January, 1945. He felt joy at having received an honorary citizenship of his birth place - nowadays part of the statutory town of Ostrava - and at being promoted to the rank first of a Colonel, and then to a Brigadier General, yet he had some feeling of regret as well since it all came too late in his life.

After the war, Robert was appointed to the Military Academy to teach physical preparedness in the Commando-like style. Unfortunately, the ensuing "cold war" brought new practices and politics into the Military, quite contrary to his personal views. So he withdrew from the Army, decommissioned as a 1st Lieutenant, and started working as the automobile depot's supervisor for a chain of freshly nationalized textile factories in northern Moravia. Still, unable to compromise his convictions and unwilling to risk persecution, or worse, by the newly installed Communist regime, Robert choose to escape from the country of his birth once again. He crossed the Czech border hills into the American sector of Germany - with the proverbial revolver and a toothbrush in his pocket - having dispatched his wife and daughter to London from Prague by airplane on the same day. He fought the Nazis but could not fight the Communies - to his regret - the same way! For a married ex-soldier with a child and a lack of funds, life in postwar Britain was surely not an easy walk. Robert had to rough it through, as best as he could. He found work in

the office of Oxford Thames Conservancy, supplementing his meagre earnings with night work in town parks. Only after getting better paid piece work in a new Jaguar car factory could he breathe somewhat more easily. The father of three children by now - and both parents being war veterans - they became eligible after a wait of several years for a small government-built house. Despite such significant improvements, however, Robert's employment was never certain. There were many dismissals and interruptions in production owing to strikes. He wanted for himself and his growing family more security and better opportunity, and hoped that Canada might be that Promised Land. It may be said that his dream, despite a series of trials and tribulations that he faced on ar-



Robert Matula with former BC Lieutenant Governor, Steven L. Point at Candlelight Vigil, Chemainus, B.C. September, 2009

rival, was, by and large, fulfilled. On retirement from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, where he worked in a boiler-repair shop - and for the last 15 years - as a maintenance man of diesel locomotives, he built his house with the assistance of his son Bobby on the land that he and his wife had bought on Vancouver Island.

He never forgot his fallen "Brothers-in-Arms" - the paratroopers, more than half of whom perished. Based on the promise they had given to each other - to erect a memorial to honour those who would die in the fight - Robert toiled untiringly at collecting the funds needed, and the monument stands now in Prague as a silent reminder of the great sacrifices offered in the name of the highest cause. One quite extraordinary talent Robert possessed was his ability to assess the qualities of character in a person. To do so quite reliably from a relatively short observation and interaction and anchored in his varied life experience, was truly amazing! Amongst the positive ratings of Robert Matula's performance on his Army Profile, one finds a descrip-

tion: "irascible-too excitable" which seems puzzling. This does not fit in his behaviour patterns but made good sense eventually: why, he could hardly ever let go any perceived injustice, deceit or cheat unanswered, be it in his youth, army, work place or elsewhere! It goes without saying that in his boyhood, and even later on some occasion, certain things simply could not have been resolved otherwise than by means of fists.

Robert's work ethic, practicality and industriousness were impressive throughout his childhood, during the years of providing for his family, and even during his senior's active days. As one of his stories went, he learned his mother's cooking well and enjoyed practising his culinary art later wherever he could, provided he had time and the necessary ingredients. It could not come as any surprise then that he used to be called on to make highly popular fruit dumpings for the whole plantation when he was stationed in Warwickshire's Walton Hall during those long gone war years. And his "kolache" - sweet bun-like creations filled with baker's cheese and topped with jam - were, by the testimony of all who had a

chance to taste them, out of this world.

It would be nearly impossible to find a more generous and hospitable person than Robert used to be, no matter how hard one tries. Many, perhaps all, who got to know him well, would agree. To leave his house or garden without some sort of treat or a bag of veggies or apples in a season, would be unthinkable.

I admired his intuitive ability to find and appreciate humour in everyday situations, both past and present. How pleasing it was to be in the company of someone who had a knack for discovering lighter, sunnier sides of life! He had not lost his wit and sense of humour even in the most discouraging moments that he had to face, particularly in his last two years of life where health problems kept curtailing his much treasured independence.

I, for one, am extremely happy that at least some part of my adult life has been enriched by this proud yet unpretentious and good man. I also believe that General Matula's life story is decidedly inspirational in his native land and his chosen ne alike.

JEDNOU PROVŽDY...

ROMAN ŠTASTNÝ A JIŘÍ GROSMAN

AUTOR ROMAN ŠTASTNÝ:

V mém článku není zmínka o „palestinském národu“, „palestinském státu“ a také nic záporného o státu Izrael nebo jeho izraelském/židovském obyvatelstvu. I bez nápodoby Jiřího Grosmana kupodivu vím, že arabské kmeny, třebaže dnes žijí v uzavřených celcích nazývaných státy, nejsou národy v tom smyslu jak je chápeme v Evropě. Jsou to klany, nebo „tribes“.

Na historickém sledu osídlení území Kanaanu a Moabu hebrejskými kmeny není nic polemičického ani zmatečného. Biblický sled událostí velmi přesně souhlasí s nezávislými historickými záznamy. Mně byl výklad vždy srozumitelný a jasný v intervalu čtyř studií celé bible. Problém není historický biblický sled. Z mého článku byl redakcí vypuštěn zajímavý „interlude“, nebo mezihra, která v bibli hraje VELMI významnou roli. Ta pasáž vyjadřuje „stav myšlení Boha Yahweh a Abrahama“ - jak je prezentován v bibli, který je podstatný k chápání biblického příběhu a jeho dosahu až do dnešních dnů. Mimo jiné, má význam pro čtenáře a utváření jeho závěrů.



Kamenem úrazu a důvodem pro články je hlasování OSN (2012), zda by Palestinci měli mít nějaký nový status. I v Izraeli je část občanů, kteří jsou unavení neustálým nebezpečím teroristických útoků, neustálé hrozby války, i když vítězné. Mrtví vojáci jsou definitivně mrtví, ať jejich armáda zvítězí, nebo ne. Jaká může být spolupráce a mír mezi dvěma velmi rozdílnými společnostmi žijícími na malinkém území, když z toho zbývajícího pro Palestince je stále více užíbováno. Jestliže je těžko určit pro koho je Jeruzalém svatější - nechť se stane územím mezinárodním: doufáme, že tam budou žít Židé a Arabové poklidně. Uspořádání stát versus stát je jistě stabilnější než současný stav: nelze jej bagatelizovat pohrdávám... pomyslná práva pomyslného národa... "Za takového imperiálního, impertinentního prohlášení se opravdu nemusí stydět žádný rasista. Pomyslná práva pomyslných lidí, nebo dokonce „podlidí“ a celých takových národů, jsme v Evropě zažili několik během 20. století. (Také proto jsme v Kanadě.) Práva nejsou pomyslná, stejně jako lidé nejsou pomyslní, ať je to jeden člověk, nebo je jich pár milionů. Dokonce i zločincům přiznáváme určitá práva. Jsou snad Palestinci horší?

Antisemitů bych se rád zeptal PROČ nenávidí Židy? Pokud mají důvody, není příliš obtížné je vyvrátit: jsou obvykle založeny na mýtech, fantaziích a předsudcích. Pokud neuvedou žádné důvody a je to jen „cítění“, víme, že s hlupáky nelze diskutovat. Je třeba držet je co nej-dál od politické moci.

Obvinění Jiřího Grosmana z mého antisemitismu a rasismu odmítám úplně a beze zbytku. Necitím nenávisť ke člověku ať pochází z kterékoliv kontinentu - a chová se v Kanadě a v Evropě jako Kanadčan a Evropan.

Být kritický ke stavu na Středním východě neznamená být nepřítelem Izraele. Stejně jako kritizovat nesmyslné aspekty západní demokracie neznamená být fašistou, komunistou nebo nacistou.

Zdraví „pan“ Štastný, jakž zněl můj titul v Jirkově opusu.

ODPOVÍDÁ JIŘÍ GROSMAN:

K dopisu pana Štastného a polemice o našich rozdílných postojích vzhledem k „palestinské otázce“:

Pana Štastného za rasistu ani antisemitu nepovažuji, a pakliže tento dojem vyplynul z mých slov, tímto se mu omlouvám.



Pokud si vzpomínám, má zloba - dá-li se to tak vůbec nazvat - vyplynula jednak z tvrzení pana Štastného, že v Evropě neexistuje antisemitismus a také z jeho použití slova „kaf-tan“ v kontextu, který pro člověka židovského vyznění byl poněkud necitlivý.

Nicméně, věřím panu Štastnému, že žádné antisemitické city v sobě nechová, a ač se naše názory na geopolitickou situaci v Izraeli radikálně rozcházejí, považuji tímto tuto kapitolu za uzavřenou.

S pozdravem Jiří Grosman

Pozn: Článek byl uveřejněn v Novém domově č. 7 ze dne 7. dubna t.r. pod titulkem *Tak jak to vlastně bylo s tím "prohnilým hlasováním"?*



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BOOK YOUR 2013 EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE!

Save up to \$2,758 per couple!

all-Inclusive European river cruising

- Open bar (all day and all venues)
- All gratuities
- FREE shore excursions
- Airfare from Toronto and transfers (optional)
- All port charges, taxes and fees
- Exquisite cuisine and outstanding service
- Modern and stylish ships with chic staterooms, most with French or full balconies
- Complimentary use of bicycles

davidmorris
INTERNATIONAL presents
AROSA
ESCAPE THE ORDINARY

RHINE - PANORAMIC ADVENTURES

Amsterdam to Basel (and reverse*)

A-Rosa Aqua - 7 nights June 21, 29* & Jul 6, 2013
Cruise only US \$2,799 per guest

RHINE - HISTORIC CITIES

Basel to Cologne

A-Rosa Aqua - 7 nights Jul 13, 2013

Cruise only US \$2,589 per guest

RHONE - A TOAST TO PROVENCE

Lyon Roundtrip

A-Rosa Stella - 7 nights Aug 10, 17 & 24, 2013

Cruise only - US \$3,099 per guest

Travelling Solo?

Single supplements are waived in Categories S & A!

All fares/offers are per person based on double occupancy in Cat. S Twin, in USD, reflect promotional savings, are for new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combinable with other offers, are capacity controlled, and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Airfare is available from Toronto. A-Rosa Cruises reserves the right to correct any errors or omissions and to cancel any offered product or service in the event of such error or omission. Additional restrictions may apply. Ship's Registry: Germany



**HEART
OF EUROPE
HOLIDAYS**

TICO: # 1810380

Heart of Europe Holidays

(a division of UNIGLOBE Enterprise Travel)

1221 Yonge St (near Summerhill Subway)

Toronto, ON M4T 2T8

416-504-3800 ext 4211

blanka@premieregroup.com

UNIGLOBE
Enterprise Travel Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL provides travel service



to individuals, groups and corporations within Canada as well as to the United States, Europe and the World.

Our services include consulting and booking of flights, cruises, hotels, all-inclusive packages, travel medical insurance, car rentals.

We are introducing a new service via Polimex:

SENDING PARCELS TO SLOVAKIA AND CZECH REPUBLIC

Surprise your loved ones overseas with a gift from Canada and save money on postage: **Example of market price:**

3 kg parcel, dimensions: 35 cm x 35cm x 35cm:

Canada Post - \$ 95.92 TNT courier - \$132.69

Polimex - \$ 2.99 per kg + \$20 fee = 28.97

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/intltravel

208 Bloor St. West, Suite 505, Toronto, ON M5S 3B4

tel. 416-922-7775 or 1-877-922-8775 cell: 416-939-6118



**INTERNATIONAL
TRAVEL**
Explore The World With Us

email: agatha@intertravel.ca
web: www.intertravel.ca

TICO Registration # 0016556

**Travel with confidence,
Travel with us!**

Restaurant Praha na Masaryktownu



ST-ČT 17.00-22.00 PÁ 17.00-23.00
SO 12.00-23.00 NE 12.00(14.00)-22.00
450 Scarborough Golf Club Rd.

volejte 416.289 0283

The world is a much smaller place.

Jet Airways provides excellent connections to Prague and Vienna.



Enjoy unmatched comforts every time you fly Jet Airways. Relax in our lie flat beds in Première or the comforts of our Economy, savor the sumptuous gourmet meals and a handpicked selection of wines. Unwind and relax with our award winning in-flight entertainment. With our interline partners, we take you to your preferred destinations. Therefore, next time you fly to home, flyJet Airways.

For further inquiries and reservations please visit our website: www.jetairways.com, call your travel agent or call on our toll free reservation number: 1-877-835-9538.

Flights to Prague	Dep.	Arr.
Toronto - Prague (Mon-Sat)	1820	1035*
Prague - Toronto (Mon-Sat)	0700	1230

Flights to Vienna	Dep.	Arr.
Toronto - Vienna (Daily)	1820	1200*
Vienna - Toronto (Daily)	0705	1230

*next day

JET AIRWAYS

*Aircraft will be changed in Brussels. Return flights from Toronto - Brussels operated by Jet Airways. European sectors are operated to Prague operated by Czech airlines, Brussels Airlines or Austrian Airlines. Schedule can be changed without notice.