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QUEEN'S PARK'S BIGGEST SPENDERS REVEALED

By Antonella Artuso

TORONTO - The annual expenses of Queen's Park members are in and the top spenders, as usual, are the northerners who have to journey the farthest to the Toronto legislative buildings.

NDP MPP Gilles Bisson of Timmins-James Bay spent \$151,993 on travel and accommodations, including \$65,409 to travel to and from Toronto and \$49,899 within his riding.

Former NDP leader Howard Hampton, who represents Kenora-Rainy River, was second on the list with travel and accommodation expenses of \$141,811 in 2010-11. That includes \$61,550 in travel from the riding and \$50,022 for travel within the riding.

The lowest spenders? That would be Liberal MPP Mike Colle of Eglinton-Lawrence and Liberal MPP Greg Sorbara of Vaughan, who didn't bill a dime for travel and accommodation expenses.

Members' expenses for their offices and support staff were also released.

Hampton spent the most, \$296,767, including \$248,812 for support staff.

Tory MPP Frank Klees of Newmarket-Aurora paid the most rent for a constituency office (\$52,264).

If travel, accommodation and office budgets are combined, Bisson remains the biggest spender at \$438,578 and Hampton stays in second place with \$449,550.

Locally, Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Toby Barrett spent \$254,506 on office space, supplies, communications and support staff. This is within the \$268,651 that the province allocates to MPPs in southern Ontario for these expenditures. Barrett's support workers cost a total of \$176,648 in 2010-11.

As for travel and accommodations to and from Toronto, Barrett claimed \$32,367 over the past year. This includes \$5,405 for travel between his home in

Port Dover and Queen's Park and \$8,696 for travel within the riding. Barrett claimed \$14,484 for accommodations in Toronto last year.

Taxpayers spent a total of \$31.1 million on MPP expenses in 2010-11.

Source: <http://www.simcoereformer.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=3151326>, Antonella Artuso, QMI AGENCY Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

Rwandan war criminals in Toronto: Victims

By Tom Godfrey

Members of the Rwandan community say torture victims who survived the 1994 genocide that claimed the lives of 800,000 Tutsis have seen war criminals in Toronto stores and on the TTC. Community members complained that "dozens" of Rwandan war criminals are hiding in the city. "I am one of thousands of torture survivors who want justice," said Patrick Sharangabo, 30. "I want something done for my father, uncle and others who were brutally killed."

Sharangabo recalled on Wednesday how he was hacked by a Hutu mob wielding machetes and left for die in a mass grave after suffering wounds to his head, arms and legs. He was found and survived the nightmare. Sharangabo, who came to Canada as a refugee in 1999, wants his attackers and others who instigated the genocide returned to Rwanda to stand trial. Sharangabo estimated he lost about 100 family members during the genocide. He said most of the attackers fled to refugee camps in Congo, where some were later accepted by Canada as government-sponsored refugees. John Rukumbura, of the Rwandese Canadian Association of Toronto, said community members have seen some of those respon-

sible for the genocide in Toronto stores and on the subway. "Many of the Rwandan war criminals are right here in Toronto," Rukumbura said. "People have seen them first-hand in the community and it is very frustrating." He said there are "several dozen" war criminals in Toronto and Montreal and community members who witnessed some of them have filed complaints with police. Rukumbura said the accused killers usually show up at Canadian borders to file refugee claims with documents from African countries like the Congo, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Officials of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) said those sought for crimes against humanity are among 20,000 immigration offenders wanted on warrants in the Toronto area. Some 1,400 of those are for people allegedly involved in serious crimes.

The Canadian Police Association, along with NDP and Liberal MPs, have called for the identities of the fugitives to be made public so citizens can assist with their capture.

The CBSA have refused to release the identities or mug shots of the fugitives, citing privacy laws. CBSA officials said latter day war criminals who took part

in acts of ethnic cleansing have also snuck into Canada from Balkan states, such as Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro. Death squad members from Central American countries have also found refuge in Canada. Rich Hitchens, of the Centre of Genocide Education, in London, Ont., said he's heard from members of the different communities who've seen their torturers in Canada. "Communities across Canada will tell you that they have seen people here who were involved in crimes against humanity and should be arrested," Hitchens said.

RCMP Sgt. Marc Menard said anyone with information on crimes of humanity that took place abroad can go to any police station and file a complaint. Photo: Toronto Sun Internet Source: <http://www.torontosun.com/2011/07/13/rwandan-war-criminals-in-toronto-victims>, tom.godfrey@sunmedia.ca



CZECH REPUBLIC FIFTH 'MOST PEACEFUL' COUNTRY

By Raymond Johnston

The Czech Republic shot up to being one of the world's most peaceful countries based on its low crime rate, relatively stable government

The Czech Republic rose to fifth most-peaceful country in the world, beaten only by Iceland, New Zealand, Japan and Denmark in the 2011 Global Peace Index published by Australian nongovernmental agency Institute for Economics and Peace. In the 2010 survey, the Czech Republic ranked 12th and was as low as 17th in 2008.

The report has been issued annually since 2007 and uses 23 indicators to measure ongoing domestic and international conflict, safety and security in society, and militarization in 153 countries. Factors include the number of police relative to the population, level of violent crime, potential for terrorist acts and political stability. Internal peace accounts for 60 percent of the score and external peace for 40 percent.

Source: <http://www.ceskapozice.cz/en/news/society/czech-republic-fifth-%E2%80%98most-peaceful%E2%80%99-country>, May 27, 2011 Photo: Prague, wikipedia

Prague Metro is the only underground railway in the Czech Republic (and currently the only dedicated rail track). Metro is incorporated into Prague's public transportation system and its operator is a joint stock company Transport Company of Prague. Currently, the underground metro system consists of three lines (A, B, C) and 57 stations, of which three pairs are the transfer - ie, connecting multiple routes together. Prague metro network is measured together have about 60 miles. The emergence of the metro goes right away into history, the first section was opened because the 9th May 1974. Currently, the underground Metro system consists of three lines (A, B, C) and 57 stations, three pairs of Which Are The transfer - i.e., connecting multiple routes together. Prague metro network with Measured together have about 60 miles. The emergence of the metro goes right away into history, the First Section, WAS Opened Because the 9th May 1974.

The history of the Prague metro began in 1966 when the building started the first section of the future C line prior to that date ten years planning and arguing about the form of the Prague underground. The first proposal came even as early as 1898. The first part of the new subway was not running up to 76 years later, in 1974. In 1978 he opened the first section of line and station and the museum became a transfer station. Station B was begun

in 1977 and the first part was completed in 1985. The Prague metro is currently composed of three lines named A, B and C. The scheme is already building the line D which should begin in 2010 and the end of 8 years later.

Line A: The shortest line and measures 11 km long and goes from the Dejvice Hostivař. The construction of the line and started already in 1973. To open it was already mentioned in 1978. On the line and has a total of 13 stations, the train passes the normal speed for about 23 minutes. Carrying capacity is the top 20,320 people per hour at a time of reduced traffic demands, then about 10 500 people. A line is marked in green.

Line B: Shortest linka-Linka B is longer than the line and includes 24 stations and its total length is 25.6 km. Line B is denoted in yellow, and the train when it passes the normal speed for 41 minutes. Construction of

the B line was opened in 1979 and the first section was opened in 1985. The transport capacity of the line is the peak of about 21 000 people, off-peak around 10 500 people. Fringe stations are Zličín and recently opened Black Bridge.

Line C: The last line is the line C. Line C times the 22.7 km and its length is 20 stations. The train

Transmission line capacity is at the tip of about 26 900 people, then 12 off-peak 600th Line C is marked in red.

Prices of Prague metro: Fares in Prague's public transport time and the standard applies to all types of public transportation (subway, bus, tram, some trains). A ticket to Prague's subway, you can raise a number of ways. Per-

haps the most interesting novelty in the form of so-called SMS ticket. To get the ticket, just send an SMS with the text DPT the telephone number 902.0626 and you turn on the phone arrives with a ticket valid for 90 minutes on all types of Prague's public transport - even underground.

Another option is buying a ticket vending machine or for sale. Senate seats and the current prices can be found at the site of the City Transport Company of Prague. Prices of traditional pa-

per tickets are further divided according to zones, passenger age and duration. Ticket must be before the first use of public transport to mark the turnstiles.

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Meaning Metro: The importance of the Prague metro is really huge. The number of daily passengers reached dizzying number 1 000 000 Share in the Prague subway stop is 43.8%. The original plan foresaw a stop shipment ratio of 1:1:1 between the three primary modes of transport (metro, tram, bus). Metro connects the center of Prague in boundary locations and housing estates (South City, Black Bridge,...) and allowing smooth movement in Prague, and also thanks to the following for tram and bus lines.

If you are going to Prague to be on holiday, it is necessary to allow investment in public transport tickets. In today's crowded Prague metro is the only way to quickly and easily be getting from your hotel to the center of Prague .. *Czech Tourism*

DO YOU KNOW THE PRAGUE METRO ?



There was the woman sitting right in front of the Royal Alex theatre with her cap firmly outstretched for loonies and toonies when we exited from a play a few Fridays ago.

Along Queen St. W. the tattooed and pierced skin-heads have been perched in their usual spots for the last few weeks displaying handmade signs asking for spare change as their poor dogs (as in unfortunate) lie beside them.

And on Nathan Phillips Square Wednesday, I watched as a man hit up each and every person trying to enjoy one of the first warm days of summer.

Like the annual return of swallows to San Juan de Capistrano, the pesky beggars are back bugging Toronto residents and tourists. At least one member of the Rob Ford regime strongly believes it's time to revisit the idea of a panhandling ban. I'm talking about an anti-panhandling bylaw — similar to one now in place in cities like Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Saskatoon and even Fredericton and Moncton, N.B.

Deputy mayor Doug Holyday said the will is there on the current council to step up controls.

"We don't need to reinvent the wheel here ... there are other jurisdictions that have strong panhandling laws in effect and that's what we need here," he said. "It's time to move in that direction." He feels a panhandling bylaw should make it illegal to obstruct the sidewalk and in-

clude fines and possible jail time.

Holyday said he recently spoke to Chief Bill Blair who informed him officers is-

Buddy can you spare a crime 149

Tighter restrictions needed on Toronto panhandlers

By Sue-Ann Levy, Toronto Sun

sued 3,000 citations to panhandlers last year but none of them stuck.

"He thinks we need stronger controls," he said, referring to laws with teeth.

At the moment aggressive panhandling is prohibited under the Safe Streets Act but only under certain conditions. A beggar would have to threaten physical harm, use abusive language or solicit while intoxicated to be charged.

Panhandling near ATMs, public toilets, transit stops and while a vehicle is stopped at a light is also prohibited under that Act. But it's hard to attach meaningful consequences to citations under the SSA since denying a panhandler a driver's licence or a vehicle permit does not work for obvious reasons.

In fact, in a Feb. 19, 2008 memo to the Police Services Board, Blair reported "many panhandlers ignore the charges and

penalties and do not leave the streets."

Holyday said the chief thinks we get a lot of panhandlers from other cities where begging is banned because our rules are so lax.

"He's right ... we're far too accommodating," he said.

During David Miller's era there were many calls from business and two councillors in particular — Jane Pitfield and Case Ootes — to crack down on panhandling.

According to a May 2007 report from the city manager and city solicitor, City Hall has powers under the City of Toronto Act to imple-

the "needs" of beggars in addition to the city's homeless population.

Since the fall of 2008, an extra \$5 million a year (on top of the \$9 million spent on the homeless) has been poured into the program specifically to target beggars.

Phil Brown, general manager of shelter, support and housing, said "outreach" services are now provided 24-7 by a team of 71 social workers citywide although their focus is on downtown. They deal with anyone who is "street-involved" — focusing on panhandlers they've seen more than three times, he said.

If the panhandlers they encounter are homeless, they help them find permanent housing. Those already housed get a case

manager who works with them to help them stop panhandling, Brown said. But Holyday feels throwing money at the problem is "simply not working." "I don't see any result... the problem is self-perpetuating and people keep coming here because we are so lenient," he said. "It's high time we solved this problem once and for all."

Source: <http://www.torontosun.com/2011/06/01/buddy-can-you-spare-a-crime> June 1, 2011

Photo: A survey found

just over 400 panhandlers on Toronto streets, of whom nearly three in four were homeless. (tannis Toohey/Toronto Star file photo)



It is the young generation that will carry forward the stories of our community, our customs, and our history. Undoubtedly, Tom Kral and Kristina Kottova belong among some of the most well known young people in our community as each one in their own way attracted the spot light.

Tom, with his culinary arts and willingness to share in the Czech culture, brings the Czech and Slovak cuisine to the many community events imbuing them with a true homey feel. His Queen Street Prague restaurant enamors many Canadians with a love

of our food and culture. Kristina, the Czech-Canadian Vice Miss is known for her willingness to participate in so many community events. They won our warm affections for their professionalism with which they carry out their work in our community and Canadian society.

These two young lives were joined in marriage on Saturday June 11th, 2011, and as they enter their new life together, we asked a few questions to find out how they fulfilled their dreams and what their plans ahead are.

Would you say that your wedding was more Czech or Canadian in terms of the traditions you upheld?

Tom: I believe our wedding truly reflects us, a mix of both traditions, but I would say more on the Czech side since it's a lot more humorous and fairy-tale like.

Kristina: I agree, it was a pretty good mix, but leaning towards Czech traditions. The ceremony itself was performed by the Humanist Association of Canada, so we could shape it according to our preferences - that freedom was possibly more Canadian. It was very nice because it was a nice mix of really beautiful rituals and symbolism that we chose for its special meaning for us. As for the reception, we definitely had lots of Czech traditions there - the set of pranks that my family put together was probably the most typical feature of a Czech or Moravian Wedding.

What kind of traditions did you have?

Kristina: These pranks are really tasks devised by family, friends and community to test the newlywed's ability to live together. The first test for us was one that was to "predict the future" - the tradition when we had the water/vodka shot. My dad approached us and we had to pour ourselves a small shot of clear liquid. We didn't know which one had vodka and which one had water. The person who accidentally chose the vodka shot is supposedly going to wear the pants in the family. Tom won. The next prank was to show the past - probably something my mom came up with - we each had to show how we 'caught' the other. My mom organized this by representing us with an animal - I was a kitty, and a bunny represented Tom. A third prank was to demonstrate if we are ready to start a family - we had to change the diaper of a 'baby' (doll). The diaper was dirty! It had mustard in the diaper, and it looked really realistic. Our guests were taken by fits of laughter, and there are some really funny photos of our expressions while cleaning it up. The fourth prank was the traditional shattering of a plate for the 'shards of luck' that we then had to sweep up. The last prank, organized by my maid of honour, Anna, was the sharing of our first meal. We had to share a bowl of soup with one spoon so we had to feed each other. We had one big bib so we wouldn't get dirty with all that splashing soup; eating from the same plate is hard! Our friends prepared other surprises in the form of really cool shows and the presentation. Two of our friends performed a medi-

eval fight for us and gave us the opportunity to cut the cake with a sword - something that turned out to be quite difficult with a four foot blade that's sharp on both ends... we figured out that we had to use a sawing motion to cut the cake, it was a fun challenge.

Did you know about the kinds of pranks that would be played on you ahead of time?

Tom: I had a general idea of what to expect but you never know when Kristina's mom is involved with the preparations. There were a few surprises for me.

Kristina: I had some idea, because some of these "tests" are favorites like the baby, the plate, and the first meal. I kind of expected them because they were all at my brother's wedding too. It was nice though, at least I

not running off while he still had the chance (laughs). Otherwise I think the wedding day played out quite smoothly.

Most people hire a wedding planner for this kind of wedding; how did you manage to put everything together yourselves?

Tom: Well event catering is what I do and love. This was like planning the party of our lives. Having all the contacts makes it a lot easier, plus I catered many weddings already, but this was tricky because I didn't want to work the day-of. My staff was wonderful and did an excellent job. We also didn't want to rehearse the day; it was all to be the way life should be, unexpected and full of surprises. After all one should have the courage to face their wedding day without rehearsal, as life doesn't offer any either.

Kveta, arranged the flowers, some of our friends performed at the wedding for entertainment, and it all worked together beautifully. It was particularly difficult for my mom and my sister in law, Anna, who were running back and forth from Victoria, BC to be at my side the last four weeks before the wedding, helping me to put it all together. If it weren't for all the various people coming to help us with things, it wouldn't have been so wonderful. It would take the whole page to name them all, but please let me thank everyone once more.

Were you surprised at some of the traditions?

Kristina: Well, I got to see some of the traditions at my brother's wedding in the Czech Republic four years ago, so although I wasn't sure which traditions we

it isn't that different since we've been living together for a long time. I might do a little bit more work around the house, because now I feel like it's my duty to take care of the household, but otherwise we both still go to work/school as before; we still have our regular routine.

Tom: It's a big relief knowing that the person whom you love so much is committed into a relationship forever; the deal is sealed. Somehow I do feel like I'm at the next stage of life as a man, maybe it's when I see the ring on my finger it always reminds me of my wife.

Why did you choose Masaryk-town as the venue for your wedding?

Kristina: We chose Masaryktown for many reasons.

Tom: I like the fact that we both played there as kids. Both my sisters had their wedding receptions there, and Kristina and I fell in love at the altar where we got married three years later. It has so much meaning for us and it is a beautiful park space.

Kristina: Both our families have a strong history with the Czech community and with the area. My brother had his Canadian celebration of his wedding there, and my parents had their silver wedding renewal of vows there when they planted the only Maple on the grounds and named it the Tree of Hope to celebrate the many families, that were lucky enough to find a new home in Canada. It just seemed like a nice continuation and blend of traditions for both our families.

How did you feel throughout the day? Was it an overwhelming transition to the next part of your life?

Kristina: The preparations were probably more overwhelming; stress building up leading up to the day - I even learned to crochet just to relax a little! Everyone was so busy and I felt that half the things that were supposed to be ready weren't because we (let's be honest, mostly I) kept forgetting about them. But I think it was mostly exaggerated details, you just have to let those things go, particularly on the day of. Still the day was emotionally overwhelming, particularly the ceremony. Tom and I were both in tears throughout the whole thing, every word reminded us of how close we are, how important this day is, and how wonderful our life together will be - but I think that's how it should be. I think that's the most difficult part of the wedding to get through emotionally. But then the rest of the day went by with laughter - one prank to the other, one entertainment to the next, photos, dancing, eating... the day goes by in a flash. Overall, I think we were both more overjoyed rather than overwhelmed on the day-of. Tom: It was magic. Honestly I was very anxious to get the wedding day over with, but when it came I just breathed and looked into



wasn't too surprised - it's a very nerve-racking day, and I was able to laugh at Tom's reaction.

What are you most grateful for with the wedding day and how it played out?

Tom: I'm really grateful of how everybody really enjoyed themselves; they felt like they were part of it. The kids had fun, and the weather with a tiny shower was perfect!

Kristina: Yes, it was a wonderful day put together by so many people, and we felt very lucky to have so much friendship and love around us all day. I arrived on time to the park, but then until I made it to the chapel I was slightly behind schedule. I guess I'm most grateful for Tom actually waiting for me at the chapel and

Kristina: I really don't think it would have been so easy if Tom and I didn't work in the industries that we work in. It's insane that he catered the wedding, but he managed to not worry about the food and really enjoyed the day. He made the wedding a real King's Feast. Everyone will remember the amazing food he prepared. On the other hand, I had a lot of contacts for the more artistic parts of the wedding: the photographers, the decorations, etc. And everything else was just kind of put together with our friends and family. My mom made my wedding dress and the flower girl dresses, she helped me plan the ceremony and decorated the chapel, and dad made our wedding wine. Tom's mom,

would have (my mom tried to keep us on our toes by describing all sorts of silly pranks she was planning) I knew I should be ready for it.

Tom: I was definitely surprised to see there was a mess in the diaper (laughs). My family never had such crazy traditions but it's nice to see we are put to the test... we passed with flying colours.

How does it feel to be standing beside each other as husband and wife after years of knowing each other? Do you feel a difference, some change?

Kristina: Getting married is, in my opinion, one of the most important events in a person's life, so at first it seemed like a huge change for me. However, once everything settled down again,

Tom and Kristina...

from pg. 9 my bride's eyes, and I was at ease. It was truly magical.

Where do you want to settle down, and why particularly there?

Tom: We plan to move to Vancouver Island where we can be close to Kristina's family. We love it out there; it seems like the best place to raise up a family. Toronto is great but the mountains are calling us ... and we must go...

Kristina: Yup, it's off to beautiful British Columbia, to settle down. We think it will be the kind of lifestyle we would like to lead, especially once we have kids. My parents are out there, and so is my whole family. Although it is sad to leave our family and friends here, we try to see the positive side and hope that they will all come visit us. Tom also has family in the west, so it's quite likely that his family would visit us out there together quite often. We'll visit for sure, because Toronto holds so many memories for us, but it has just grown to be too busy for us and the life we imagine in our future.

Do you have an idea of what you will be doing there?

Tom: I would really like to have my own kitchen in the wilderness, also to include some gardening. Culinary retreats for people who want to live a great life, and also teach kids more about their food. Our plan would be to build our dream house with my dream kitchen.

Kristina: Tom has his grand plans to fulfill his love of cooking in a healthy and natural way, and I'm looking forward to help him as much as I can, but for the time being, I'll probably help out with my mom's business of teaching hands-on science to kids in after school programs, and possibly teach ESL.

Perhaps the community was expecting your future to continue in Toronto, Tom, do you feel sorry to leave a business, which has been established for over 40 years by your parents and grandparents? You were doing very well.

Tom: I do feel it's the right time for our family to move on; the business is not only about me. My parents have worked very hard over the years, and they deserve a break. It's sad to see the end of our family establishment, but there are great and happy memories, and they will con-

tinue. We are hoping the Prague name stays but the business will need to restructure similarly like I did 6 years ago. I hope for the best transformation for our patrons on Queen Street as well as the Czech community.

How much do you count on your parents' help in your future?

Kristina: My parents will be helping us a lot for at least the first year once we move out there. It's a big step to move from Toronto to Victoria, and since we've got such crazy plans for where we'll be living, location is key. We'll be staying with my parents for a few months just to get a hold of the area, and then we'll see how things go. I'm very close with my family, they love Tom and I think he is close with them too - so I know they'll be willing to help whenever we need it. They're also looking forward to grandchildren, so I'm sure they'll be helping a lot once we have kids. I remember when I was still little, my mom used to jokingly threaten me to take care of my children if I didn't listen to her - she said she will teach them the silliest science tricks to bother the parents - me! I guess I will take her word for it.

Tom: Both of our parents are always very supportive in whatever we do, although we do not want to count on them, we are grown up and want to start our

own family. I can't wait.

Do you plan to have children in the near future?

Tom: Yes, we need some workers in our next adventure.

Kristina: (laughs with Tom at his answer) I would like to be a young mom, so I'd like to have children soon, but not quite yet. I think it's important to enjoy married life before you have kids. But if we do happen to get pregnant, then hey, it was just meant to be, and we'll be excited for their arrival. If I survived with my young parents, so will our children.

What do you think is the most important thing for a happy marriage?

Kristina: Courage. The willingness to accept and love the other for who they are, regardless of how they change, and the courage to trust the other no matter what. We are both equal - we have different strengths and weaknesses, but we are both one half of the whole, and we need to trust each other when we discuss what to do in various situations. Then, of course love is always important, as it changes tolerance into pleasure, but that goes without saying.

Tom: I think it's also very important to communicate, enjoy each other's company and respect each other's hobbies and interests.

Are you ready to give each other

enough space for the other's growth and ambitions?

Kristina: Yes, because if we don't grow, then we must be dead, and that wouldn't be good. Growth is important; it is a change that is full of promise and surprise. One doesn't want to be bored in life. Tom: We are definitely ready otherwise we wouldn't have made the decisions we have made. We have definitely grown by getting married.

What will your first step be?

Tom: As soon as the dust settles here we shall move to BC, where we would really like to get the land and start building. All depends on how it goes with Prague Deli, it could be a couple years or so, but destiny will give us the plan.

Kristina: I'm graduating from my undergraduate studies in November, and Tom is still trying to conclude the business, but once we get through that, a whole new adventure will start in BC. It's just so beautiful there

Have you managed to go on your honeymoon yet?

Tom: We had a beautiful week in Quebec City, stayed in a quaint bed and breakfast. We picked this city because it has that European vibe to it, plus it's quite romantic. It was great to get away from it all after the wedding preparations.

Kristina: We went for about 4 days. It was short, but very sweet. Tom had to go back to work, so we couldn't go for too long. We're also planning on going down south some time in the winter to escape the cold weather, and we might go with my brother and his wife, since they still haven't really had their honeymoon. We're all great friends, so it will be a lot of fun.

We would like to thank our parents for being so very supportive of us, all that we have would not be possible without them and in our future to come. They will always be in our hearts.

On behalf of the readers and the Czech community, we wish you all the best into your future life together.

Thank you for the interview and cooperation - vk -

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) or The Ex as it is also known, is Canada's largest annual community event. Taking place over the 18 days leading up to and including Labour Day, the CNE offers a wide variety of entertainment and events, midway rides and games, a working farm, parades and sports, international food and shopping, Kids' World, and a three-day air show. Over the course of its late summer run, the CNE attracts approximately 1.3 million people each year.

Founded in 1879, the CNE has enjoyed a distinguished history as a showcase of the nation; "the place" where people came to experience the "best and the brightest" from the latest innovations in technology and commercial products, to the greatest artists of the time. Although the CNE has changed over the years, it continues to be one of Ontario's great annual traditions. We are currently the seventh largest fair in North America, and our audience truly reflects the diversity and vibrancy of Toronto and the region.

The fair takes place throughout 192 acres of beautiful lakefront property at Exhibition Place and attracts a dynamic and diverse audience of people from the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario and parts of the United States. The CNE is an integral part of the fabric of Toronto and has entertained and educated millions of people while creating economic benefits for Toronto, Ontario, and Canada. An Economic Impact Study conducted by Enigma Research Corporation in 2009, reported that the CNE had a gross economic impact of \$58.6 million on the Greater Toronto Area and \$80 million on the province of Ontario in that year. The CNE is a provincially incorporated Agricultural Society and fulfills a key program of Exhibition Place, a local board of management of the City of Toronto. It has just received Eco Logo certification as the "greenest" fair in North America, and the most "en-

vironmentally friendly" large scale event on the continent.

Throughout its history, the CNE has demonstrated financial responsibility. In the last decade, it has contributed more than \$20 million in site fees to the annual operating budget of the Board of Governors (BOG) of Exhibition Place, in addition to \$7.3 million in operating surpluses. These contributions have been in-

Our Past and Present: The Fair

cluded in consolidated annual financial results from the CNEA and BOG for the benefit of the City of Toronto.

Exciting plans are in the works for the 2011 Canadian National Exhibition. Join us next summer for the 133rd CNE and 18 days of fun from Friday, August 19 to Monday, September 5, 2011. Let's Go to the EX!

One of the many ways the CNE helps to boost the local economy is through job creation. The CNE hires approximately 1200 people starting in the spring of each year to assist in the planning and production of the annual fair. An additional 3500 people are hired during the Fair itself by CNE partners including Emergency Services, Toronto Police, Toronto Fire, food vendors, exhibitors and concessionaires. For many young people growing up in Toronto, the CNE is their first employment experience.

With annual visitation of approximately 1.3 million people, the CNE gives companies an excellent venue to sell their wares and connect with their audiences face to face. Many corporate sponsors and over 700 exhibitors, including many Canadian and international businesses, contribute to the CNE. Exhibition Place attracts over 5.3 million visitors a year. We offer convention, exhibition and conference venues, sporting facilities, restaurants, nightclubs, and attractions in a

beautiful 192-acre parkland.

You can see many artists on the International Stage. Performing this year will also be the Czech group Jasénka, a folk dance ensemble. They will dance on August 24. - 31.

(see interview on pg. 1 in the New Homeland and events program <http://www.theex.com/concerts-events/artists-on-the-international-stage/>.)

Source: <http://www.theex.com/concerts-events/artists-on-the-international-stage/>.

Photo: Canadian National Exhibition Midway in 1904. The Toronto Industrial Exhibition later became the Canadian National Exhibition in 1904. None of the original 19th century buildings have survived, but the oldest existing exhibition buildings are about 100 years old, which comprise a national historic site, including the Press Building (1905), the oldest among them

Designed in 1912 by G.W. Gouinlock, this structure houses a detachment of the Toronto Fire Department during the annual CNE.

