

Peter Flipsen  
Dutch Immigrant  
Groote Beer  
July 23, 1955

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM  
**PIER 21**



My name is Peter Flipsen.  
I emigrated to Canada with  
my wife and one child. We arrived in Halifax on 23 July 1955 by ship -  
the Groote Beer. As we got off the ship into the building on Pier 21 we  
came to realize that we were in a new country and had to start a new life.  
After all the formalities were done we boarded the train to Edmonton  
which took 4 days. Here we started our new life with a total of \$100 in  
our pockets. We had a difficult time in the beginning with English and  
finding jobs. I did all kinds of work, cleaning floors and odd jobs. I  
finally mastered enough English to go look for a job with a future. I had  
to learn a new trade; I found work in a steel fabricating shop where I took  
my apprenticeship as a boilermaker. After 4 years of that I got my  
certificate of qualification as steel fabricator and I had a good career.  
Canada was good to us after that. 1967 we bought our own house and  
brought up 5 wonderful kids. My wife and I where very fortunate to live  
in this country which was very good to us. I am retired now but I lost my  
life partner and wife to cancer in 1993. The kids are all grown up and  
live on their own.

Yes Canada is a great country and I am proud to be part of it. I am  
dedicating this story to my late wife and partner Klazina Flipsen. I  
hope in the future to go back where I came in this great country.