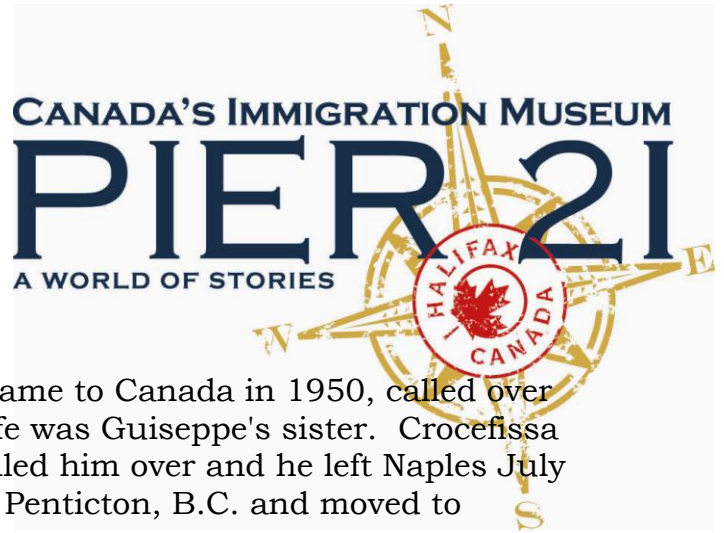


The Grossi Family
by Brad Craig
Italian Immigrants
Queen Frederica
June 14, 1956



Guiseppe and Crocefissa PannoZZo came to Canada in 1950, called over by Gerardo DiFonzo, as Gerardos wife was Guiseppe's sister. Crocefissa was Pasquale Grossi's sister, and called him over and he left Naples July 21, 1954. He worked on the CNR in Penticton, B.C. and moved to Vancouver B.C.

He stayed at Guiseppe and Crocefissa house, doing various jobs, such as Burlap and coal. He saved enough money to call his wife Livia, and children Antonia, Aldo and Rocco.

Livia and the kids, along with her first cousin Valentina PannoZZo, left Campodimele June 14, 1956 by automobile to Itri, where they caught a bus down to Naples. They were accompanied by various relatives, and stayed the night at a hotel in Naples. They celebrated a large going-away dinner that night, and Valentina, Livia and the children boarded the ship Queen Frederica the following day, June 15, 1956. The trip across the Atlantic lasted 8 days, with many experiences enjoyed.

Valentina and Livia were sea-sick for much of the voyage, and really did not leave their cabin very many times. Antonia, being 8 years old, looked after her brother Aldo, being 4, taking him around the ship and down to the dining room for meals. They tried to attend Bingo meets, but because they were so young, were asked to leave. Livia and Valentina relied on room service for their meals, and somethings they could not eat got chucked out the port-lite window. Livia mentioned that each time they opened the port-lite, her hand would get wet with the waves. Antonia can remember being up at the bow of the ship and the wind almost blowing them off. The majority of days coming across were nice and sunny, so the majority of time was spend out on the decks. Rocco, being only about 2 years old, was left with Livia.

The ship docked at Pier 21 in Halifax, June 23, 1956 where the family dis-embarked. Not knowing any english, Livia had the address they were going to in Vancouver on a piece of paper that she showed various people that steered them in the right direction. They boarded the CPR train in Halifax, and headed across to Montreal. The train must have been an old coal fired engine, as Livia was saying her white blouse was always black from the soot. The family shared seats on the train where they slept

sitting up. A gentleman on the train bought young Aldo a pillow to sleep on, and Livia was a bit worried about their intentions. The two men were asked to leave the train at the next stop.

Livia, Valentina and the kids boarded a CNR train in Montreal, heading west to Vancouver. The train trip across Canada took 5 days, arriving in Vancouver June 28th, 1956, at the Main Street CN station. From there, the family got a taxi to Guiseppes house on Franklin & Nanaimo. They arrived a day earlier than expected, and when Pasquale arrived home from work, they surprised him at the house.

Through the following years another two sons would be born, Paul and Frank. Pasquale made a good living at CPR in Port Coquitlam B.C., Very unfortunately to all of us.....we lost him to cancer in September of 1984. The children have grown up and married, have great careers, and Livia has grand-kids galore and lives a healthy, rich life in Burnaby, B.C.

She does not regret the move to Canada at all. The life they would have had in the small village of Campodimele could not in any way compare to what everyone has today.

She thanks Canada for giving them the opportunity to better themselves.