

Rina Elisa and Tarcisio
Caron
Italian Immigrants
Homerick
December of 1957

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM
PIER 21



My Story
by Rina Elisa Caron



Recently my daughter Stephanie and her husband Chris Gillard went to Halifax to take their son Micheal to start his first year at Dalhousie University, so they took advantage of this occasion to drive around and admire and discover the beauty of

Halifax. They also visited Pier 21. When my daughter heard that her parents also landed there (my husband Tarcisio March 17, 1956; Rina, December 17, 1957) she was very happy and excited and asked me to write my story. So I will mentally go back to those days so many years ago.

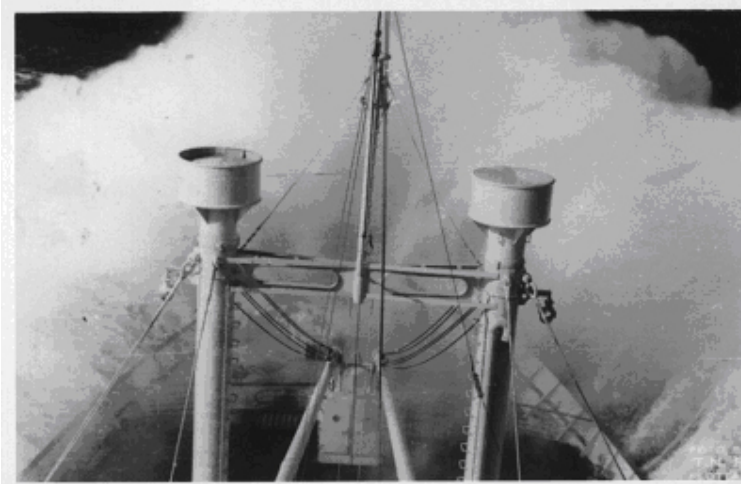
We both came from Vicenza (Veneto) an urban city rich in traditions; unique museum theatres; and villas bearing the signature of Andrea Palladio the noble genius of antique architectures. It is also the important center where gold jewelry is manufactured. The gold fair attracts visitors from around the world to purchase precious objects from the golden art.

I left Vicenza in the early morning of December 6, 1957 boarded a bus along with ten



other girls - all brides to be. And one boy, a groom to be. We arrived to the seaport of Genoa in the evening, soon after we started our adventure on board the beautiful and huge ship the Homeric. The Homeric was made of Greek construction equipped with a first class passenger lounge; a dining room where they served good meals; and a theatre where we could watch a movie every night. Our cabin had two double bunk beds and a bath; we were very comfortable, until we reached the high seas.

The water had been calm and flat as a sheet of glass, however



threatening waves sprang to life. The wind was so strong during the night you could hear the splash of water beating furiously against the side of the ship. When we walked to or from the cabins it was like climbing a mountain or sliding like a bowling ball!

It was quite an experience crossing the ocean through a winter storm. Finally after 12 days we arrived safely, eureka!

All the passengers went up to the deck jubilant jumping with joy congratulating each other under a crystal clear blue sky. On our left we had our first glimpse of Canada, 'the promise land'.

The landscape was very pretty; its sheer loveliness greeted us. After a couple of days of travel by train I arrived in Ottawa. Here we have lived ever since arriving at Pier 21. My husband worked as a baker (now retired) and I had a job as a seamstress until our children were born; two boys and a girl. After they were born I stayed at home to care for them. Now they are grown up and settled doing well for themselves with children of their own. We are the proud



grandparents or four boys, all very happy and proud of their Italian origin.

We would like to applaud and express gratitude to the team of men and women who accomplished this project, as the Pier 21 museum which now stands as a permanent memorial for the immigrants who chose Canada as their adopted country. Immigrants helped shape Canada's social and cultural history. It really is a great country. We are happy to live here.

Thank you.
Rina and Tarcisio Caron