

Irene Wiechno
Scottish Immigrant
Aquitania
March 20, 1948



I was three years old when we arrived in Canada. I do not now have any recollection of the journey or arrival at Pier 21. I came with my parents John and Helen Wiechno. My father was a sergeant in the Polish army and my mother was Scottish. Because of the limited opportunities for work in Scotland, my parents decided to immigrate to Canada. My father often discusses the arrival at Pier 21 and the train trip from Halifax to Montreal where we were met by friends of some relatives in Scotland. As I walked around Pier 21, many of the items on display I recall seeing in later years ie suitcases, style of clothing, etc.

My father has visited Halifax on a number of occasions but not since Pier 21 became a Canadian historical site. For me it was a very emotional and touching experience. So many brave people coming to a land that held such promise for them. Leaving family behind in worn torn countries must be one of the most difficult things one does in his/her life time.