

Hans Spring
Swiss Immigrant
Saxonia
May 30, 1958

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM PIER 21



After a three-month student exchange to the USA, I was determined to emigrate to the New World.



However, a Canadian Scout at the Jubilee Jamboree in Birmingham, UK, convinced me that I would be wise to choose Canada as my new home. Preparations were made and the voyage on board the Saxonia was most enjoyable. I shared the meals with five other young people, all but one fellow immigrants. Each night

brought bingo or horse races, and one of us managed to win a bottle of wine every evening. What fun we had. I took up nightly dancing with the one Canadian in our group, a young lady from Toronto. She gave me her address, learning that I was headed that way.

A short shore leave in Quebec, and then up the St. Lawrence during a star-filled night to Montreal. The train brought me to Toronto. I found a room with kitchen use in Sunnyside, bought some groceries and was down to my last \$20. I found a job in my field as machinist after 10 days, joined a Rover Scout Crew as Skipper, and got to like Toronto. I also managed to be invited to my shipboard dancing partner's home in Rosedale for dinner, and returned the favor a bit later at an Hungarian Restaurant. I graduated from Teacher's College three years later, found my wife (also an immigrant, from Wales) and enjoyed 31 years in the teaching profession. Now retired permanently in Nova Scotia, we are both happy that we made that fateful trip across the sea.

