

Treasures, Youth, Success

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The Polish-Canadian Business And Professional Association of Windsor held their successful 17th annual dinner on Friday November 23rd at the Caboto Club in Windsor.

This year, the The Polish-Canadian Business And Professional Association of Windsor featured an exhibition featuring Polish Castle Wawel's Treasures. The exhibition was named "The Odyssey of Wawel's Treasures" or "Odyseja Skarbow Wawelskich" in Polish. This exhibition was centered on the years of 1939-1961. The exhibit was featured mainly as a tribute to Canada, who guarded Poland's national treasures during World War II.



The exhibit allowed for those who attended to realise how priceless the artifacts from the Polish royal Castle of “Wawel” in Krakow were to be transported to Canada in 1939. One of the treasures featured on the posters was “Szczerbiec”; the coronation sword that was used to crown Polish Kings in the years between 1320 to 1764. The Szczerbiec was the only preserved artifacts that made up the medieval Polish Crown Jewels. This exhibit was on display throughout the dinner as well as throughout the whole event itself.

Prior to the dinner, the Young Polonia was introduced and had the opportunity to listen to one of the invitees, the former Manitoba Premier Hon. Howard Russell Pawley.



Pawley lead an informative discussion with the students where they were able to retain advice among other things. He showed pictures from his book “Keep True” as well as explained some of the passages offering an insight on his life. A key emphasis was made on how those who are involved in politics, are usually people who genuinely care about the community and wish to change it for the better, a useful bit of information for the groups’ potential future lawyers, politicians, activists and leaders.

Pawley also ended up having the opportunity to speak to the attendees themselves towards the end of the banquet when he spoke in place of another Windsor MP, Mr. Brian Masse, who was unable to attend the event.

The dinner, served by the Caboto Club, was classy and of course included perogies, provided by the Cross Roads Café, to add a little taste of Poland as well as wine, courtesy of the Aleksander Estate Winery from Leamington.

The evening however, truly commenced with Mr. Jerry Barycki, the President of the PCBPAW, welcoming and introducing the Master of Ceremonies, Professor Frank Simpson from the University of Windsor.

The night featured keynote speaker, Mr. Joe Comartin, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and official Member of Parliament for the Windsor-Tecumseh region.



However, there were, among the regular guests, VIP guests that gave out greetings. These VIP included Consulate General RP of Toronto, Mr. Andrzej Janik, Dr. Karen Majewski, the Mayor of the city of Hamtramck in Michigan, Col. Walter Perchal the Director of the Schulich School of Business in Toronto as well as Drew Dilkens, Windsor's city councillor.

It was highlighted several times throughout the evening that Windsor, and Canada had a strong bond with Poland, especially with Windsor's sister city, Lublin, as mentioned by Mr. Joe Comartin as well as Drew Dilkens.

Consequently, guest speakers followed. They were Polonia's very own Young Leaders from Quo Vadis who represented the group's past conferences including ones in Calgary and Chicago, as well as their planned future venues in Sydney, Connecticut and Montreal.



The representatives' speeches captured the interests of the invited group of students from the University of Windsor as well as the interests of the dinner's other attendees which were mostly business professionals from Windsor, Detroit and Toronto. One theme reigned consistent in the young people's speeches: their thankfulness for this opportunity and continuous support. More information on the Quo Vadis Conference, can be found on their website at: www.quovadisconference.com.

In addition, this year the PCBPAW contributed \$1,450 for the Polish-Canadian Community in Windsor as well as \$3,300 for the Polish-Canadian Community outside of Windsor. These donations included 37 books about 100 years of Polonia in Windsor and support for the Quo Vadis Young Polish Leadership Conferences. Over four thousand dollars was contributed this year.

Finally, to conclude the tasteful soirée, the Polish Song and Dance Ensemble, "Tatry" vigorously danced a traditional Polish dance otherwise known as "Zywiec." The dancers, with their colorful costumes, put true Polish spirit in the air, not only by dancing, but also by singing a few joyful Polish folk songs.



The PCBPAW has, once again, hosted their annual event successfully and have conveyed their motivation to engage young people in Polonia to create better leaders of tomorrow who will keep ties with Poland while they live in Canada and serve Canadians.



All photos of the event were taken by John Leviero. The event was also captured on film by TV Detroit and is available on DVD.