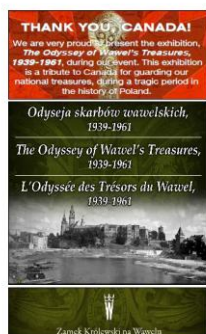


MEETING OF WINDSOR BUSINESS PEOPLE WITH PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG POLONIA LEADERS

The most recent and already the 17th Annual Dinner of the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor took place on November 23 of this year, in Windsor. About 100 people took part in it and a quarter of them were students and young professionals from Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor.



Programme of Annual Dinner

PCBPAW Banner

The evening began with the traditional reception for VIPs, during which participants were able to meet, renew contacts and take photographs as keepsakes.



Gathering of VIPs

The young Polonia leaders, taking advantage of the presence of the distinguished guest, the Hon. Howard Pawley, former Premier of Manitoba, held an interesting “roundtable” meeting with him. During the course of the conversation, he revealed that his wife has Polish roots. In the programme for the evening, the Premier had an additional opportunity to direct some words of recognition publicly to the young leaders for their attention to politics and their interesting discussion, as well as to the organisers and their support for youth.



Meeting of young people
with Hon. Howard Pawley



Hon. Howard Pawley

Jerzy Barycki, President of the Association for many years, followed tradition by opening the meeting. Later in the evening, successive speakers highlighted the work and accomplishments of this Polonia organization, which is so exceptionally active in Windsor and across Canada. Dr. Frank Simpson, who is well known to Polonia, adroitly kept the meeting on schedule, with the precision of a watchmaker.



Frank Simpson



Jerzy Barycki

As usual, the tasty meal included a “Polish contribution”, in the form of pierogies and wine that came from a Polish wine store near Leamington. During the dinner, the latest video movie, promoting the City of Windsor and Essex County, was shown.

The Keynote Speaker for the evening was the Federal Representative for Windsor-Tecumseh, recently elected to the position of Deputy Speaker of Canada’s House of Commons, Joe Comartin. In an interesting way, he presented his views on the origins and workings of Polish democracy, as well as the prospering Polish economy. He visited Poland in 2006. He was then in Warszawa and also Lublin, Windsor’s twin city since 2000. He presented several examples of good, economic cooperation of Canada with Poland, speaking also of his high regard for Polish political activity, not only in Europe, but also worldwide. He noted that there are plans for exchange visits in 2013 by a Polish parliamentary group to Canada and a Canadian one to Poland.



Joe Comartin



with his wife, Maureen

The next speakers of the evening were representatives of Polonia youth, Ania Barycka, from Ottawa, and Natalia Kusendova, from Toronto. They presented the results of the Quo Vadis (QV) 2012 Conferences in Calgary and Chicago. All of the conferences up to now had interesting educational and training programmes, designed to develop the knowledge of the young Polonia leaders. The overall number of participants in the QV Conferences to date amounts to about 700 people from 17 countries; the “QV” movement by now is a phenomenon on a global scale and enjoys ever-increasing interest. The young presenters spoke about the next QV Conferences, planned for 2013, in Connecticut, USA (August 2-4) and Sydney, Australia (September 27-29). Amanda Chałupa and Artur Klima gave an interesting, visual presentation on the planning of the QV Conference in Montreal (August 16-18, 2013). In addition, Artur Klima announced the formation of a new Montreal branch of the Polish Students’ Initiative in Canada (PISK).



Ania Barycka



Natalia Kusendova



Amanda Chałupa and Artur Klima present to Jerzy Barycki
official T-shirt of QV 2013 Conference in Montreal.

Next, Col. Walter Perchal, a speaker, who held audiences spellbound at each of the QV Conferences to date, convincingly emphasized the high quality of the programmes and the organizational skills of the young Polonia leaders. He stressed that in spite of their many responsibilities, related to family, studies and work, the young leaders are able to create a vision for a project and then bring it to reality.

Consecutive speakers, Consul Andrzej Janik, from Toronto, Karen Majewski, the Mayor of Hamtramck, USA, and Drew Dilkens, Councillor of the City of Windsor, congratulated the organizers, drawing attention to their activities in a Canadian setting and promotion of Poland in Canada. They gave recognition to the support, shown for the actions of the young, ambitious Polonia.



Walter Perchal



Andrzej Janik



Karen Majewski



Drew Dilkens

An unusually valuable presentation that evening was the new look for the photographic exhibition, depicting the odyssey of the national treasures of the Wawel Royal Castle, 1939-1961. The exhibition is a way of thanking the Canadian Government for keeping safe our valuable, national treasures during a difficult time in the history of Poland. The present version of the exhibition, joining Poland, Canada and Polonia, was initiated by the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, in Ottawa. The project was made possible by financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Beginning next year, the exhibition may be obtained on loan from the Polish Embassy in Ottawa.



Exhibition *The Odyssey of the Wawel Treasures, 1939-1961*



Sponsors

As the evening came to an end, there were thanks to all of the sponsors for their support and to the organizers for bringing the event to reality. Conversations, exchanges of information and business cards, as well as television and radio interviews, were an integral part of this Polonia business meeting for its guests. The programme was brought to its conclusion by an impressive performance from the Song and Dance Ensemble, “Tatry” of the traditional dance, Żywiec, which was rewarded with thunderous applause.



Song and Dance Ensemble, “Tatry”



Participants at the meeting

Taking advantage of this opportunity, it is worth adding that the Windsor Polonia is already planning the next Polish Week in Windsor, the fifth, for November 10-16, 2013. It will be yet another occasion in the series for promoting Polish culture and its rich inheritance in Canada.

Ewa Barycka

Translated by Frank Simpson

Photographs by John Liviero

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