

## Anniversary Celebration on 11 November, 2012, in Windsor

On 11 November 2012, on the initiative of the Windsor-Chatham Branch of the Polish-Canadian Congress, there was a celebration of the 94th anniversary of Poland regaining independence. Taking part in the Anniversary Celebration were representatives of the clergy and Polonia organizations, as well as young people and war veterans. It is thanks to the veterans that today we can live in freedom and safety.



The Anniversary Celebration was preceded by a Holy Mass. Veterans, scouts, the ensemble “Tatry” and representatives of Polonia organizations took part in it. The presentation of the colours underscored the significance of this most important festival of the Polish Nation.



Poster for Anniversary Celebration



Left to right: Com. P. Bas, L. Bortkiewicz, J. Palimąka, E. Barycka

*“Ninety-four years ago, the Polish Nation, under the leadership of Marshal Pilsudski, once more regained its independence, after 123 years of subjugation. With considerable effort, it later fought the Bolshevik invaders to stay free. It was aided in this by the twenty-thousand-strong Blue Army of General Haller, made up of citizens of Polish heritage, recruited from the United States and Canada and trained on Canadian soil, at Niagara-on-the-Lake. We always should remember the contribution of the “American” Hallerczyks”. With these words, this annual celebration was opened by the President of the Polish-Canadian Congress, Windsor-Chatham Branch, Ms. Ewa Barycka.*





More than 150 people attended the Anniversary Celebration, filling the hall of the *Dom Polski*. Those present were not disappointed, as witnesses to a very interesting, cultural and patriotic event. Everyone will remember for a long time this literary-historical-musical spectacle, titled “The Road to Freedom”, directed and developed by Danuta Pogorzelska. Appearing in the programme were the song and dance ensemble “Tatry”, the theatrical-vocal group “Płomień”, the Polish Language School, the vocal group “Iskra”, and the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association. When the curtain fell, a standing ovation expressed the greatest, possible appreciation

and gratitude to all, who had taken part in this spectacle. It was one of the most interesting anniversary celebrations of Polonia to take place in the *Dom Polski* in recent years.



Thanks to the sponsors, the Polish People's Home Association, the Polish Army Veterans Association, Post 126, the Polish-Canadian Business and Professionals Association of Windsor and Mr. Józef Palimąka, it was possible to rent the hall and provide some modest refreshments after the event.

In closing, the significant presence of young people in this event is worth noting. As active contributors to the programme, they gained a better understanding of their Polish roots, rich culture and history, and Polish language. Words of deepest appreciation should go to all those, who teach our young people, many of whom were born in Canada, the Polish language and strong patriotism for the homeland of their forefathers.

Jerzy Barycki

Translated by Frank Simpson