

1.2 WHO WE ARE



The Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor (PCBPAW) is a Canadian not-for-profit organization, provincially incorporated on June 24th, 1997, in Windsor, Ontario. The founding members of the PCBPAW were: Jerry Barycki, Anthony Blak, Robert Fallenbuchl, Artur Glab and John Jedliński. The main objectives of the organization are to support and promote Polish-Canadian business development within the community, to create and maintain a strong Polish-Canadian business lobby and to support educational, charitable and cultural activities of the Polish-Canadian community. All our activities are well documented in various newspapers, television and social media as well as in our archives.

The Co-founders of Our Corporation



Jerry Barycki
Civil Engineer



Anthony Blak
Credit Union Bank
Manager



Robert Fallenbuchl
Life Insurance Agent



Artur Glab
Civil Engineer



John Jedliński
Lawyer

Business Activities

The activities of the PCBPAW began on October 14th, 1995, when the first Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner was held at the Dom Polski Hall, 1275 Langlois Avenue, in Windsor, Ontario. Since then, every year (except in 2009), Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinners are held. Each event has a high-profile keynote speaker, special guest speakers, business and professional people and community representatives. The PCBPAW supports and promotes various initiatives, for example, the official opening of the European Market in Windsor (1999) and the national petition in support of the waiving of visa requirements for Poland (2008). The PCBPAW was invited by the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade to present a profile of the association and a summary of its activities (2017). Another example of our business activities is initiating and maintaining the Windsor-Lublin partnership during the last twenty years. Several business trips between our twin cities were organized in the past; the last one was the Windsor-Essex Development Mission to Poland (2019).

Windsor-Lublin Partnership

Windsor-Lublin business relations began in 1994, when Joe Ouellette, the owner of the Windsor firm Acrolab Ltd. established his branch company in Lublin. The PCBPAW spearheaded and kept active international relations between Windsor and Lublin, Poland, since the official agreement was signed in Windsor, in 2000. For example, benefits from this relationship include the gift from Lublin to Windsor of the Goat Fountain brass sculpture in 2008 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Polish community in Windsor and the creation of the display on Pope John Paul II as a result of cooperation between the Catholic University of Lublin and the PCBPAW. Several official visits were held by both cities and various reports were published. For example, the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, received the title *Dr. Honoris Causa* at the Catholic University of Lublin (2003) and Joe Comartin, MP, Windsor-Tecumseh, Ontario, and later Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, visited Lublin (2006). During the 10th (2010) and 15th (2015) Anniversaries of the Windsor-Lublin partnership, the Mayor of Windsor, Drew Dilkens led delegations to Lublin.

Collection of National Displays

Since 2007, the PCBPAW has been involved in obtaining and/or creating nine national displays. Six of them were created with a major partner, the Leddy Library of the University of Windsor. In 2017, the collection was completed to form the Canada 150 Exhibition. It consists of three thematic groups. The first group presents Canadians of Polish heritage, namely: Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, one of the noblest and the most successful engineers on this continent; Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski, the first Polish-Canadian Member of the House of Commons in the first Parliament of Canada; and Members of the Canadian Parliament of Polish heritage. The second one is about reasons for Polish gratitude to Canada: the Odyssey of Wawel's Treasures, held in safekeeping by Canada from 1940 to 1961; the Polish Army Training Camp "Kościuszko" at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, during WWI; and the Polish Army Recruiting Station in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, during WWII. The third group presents Poles with worldwide fame: Pope John Paul II- Poland's Gift to the World; Maria Skłodowska-Curie- the Greatest Female Scientist of All Time; and Fryderyk Chopin- brilliant Polish composer and prince of the romantic pianists. During Canada's 150th Anniversary celebration in 2017, the collection and selected displays were presented in various cities and places in Canada, including the Federal and Province of Ontario Parliaments. For example, the official opening was on April 23rd, 2017, at the Leddy Library, University of Windsor, then a major presentation of the collection was at the Ontario Parliament in Toronto on May 29, 2017. In 2017, the Polish Post Office issued a special edition of Polish stamps with pictures of Sir C.S. Gzowski and A.-É. Kierzkowski. Our most recent display (2019) was of Major Jerzy Radwanek, political prisoner in the Nazi German concentration camp, KL Auschwitz (1940-1944), awarded the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" for helping some of the imprisoned Jews to survive.

Polish Weeks in Windsor

The PCBPAW was asked to initiate and then be involved in the organization of five Polish Weeks in Windsor, namely in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2013. All of them included various events promoting the history and heritage of the Polish Community in Windsor. In 2008, during Polish Week in Windsor, the Polish Community celebrated the 100th Anniversary of settlement in Windsor. The book and video, "One Century of the Polish Community in Windsor, 1908-2008", were published. Also, in 2008, a special gift from Lublin to the citizens of Windsor, a brass Goat Fountain, was installed in the Riverside Park, along the Detroit River.

Support of Young Leaders of Polonia

The Association from its beginning has supported and sponsored the activities of young Polonia, for example, the Polish-Canadian Young Leaders Conferences Quo Vadis (since 2009), Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinners, Polish Weeks in Windsor, and young leaders' events at Queen's Park, Toronto, and the Federal Parliament in Ottawa. Also, the PCBPAW supports activities of the Polish Canadian Students' Association in Windsor and Polish Students' Initiative in Canada (PISK), an organization coordinating student groups across Canada.

Achievements

Since the establishment of the PCBPAW, the Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to make positive changes for the Polish communities in Windsor, Canada and Poland. Most of these achievements are documented and accessible to the public in various publications, readily accessed through Google. Since 1995, the organization attracted many individuals to work on its projects. The PCBPAW receives money from various sources in the Polish Community in Windsor, Canada, and from Poland. For many years, the Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc. is our major sponsor and we are grateful for this. The PCBPAW believes that money, used to document our past and present and to promote the history and heritage of the Polish Community in Windsor, Canada, is well spent. Today, many such documents are accessible to the public as electronic files and provide long-term benefits to all.

We Are Looking to the Future

Many existing Polish organizations have been shrinking over the years, since emigration from Poland ended. To keep Polonia active, input from the younger generation is needed. Also, the amalgamation of small, existing Polonia groups is required to create stronger organizations. The PCBPAW is working hard to support and attract young people and to support their involvement in public and professional life as well as in activities of the Polish Community in Windsor and Canada. This process slowly is taking shape and requires understanding and cooperation from all of us. Working together, we can build a stronger Polonia; working with our youth, we build our future. The future of Polonia in Canada is in the hands of the younger generation.

Our PCBPAW Board of Directors for 2020-2022 term



Our Honorary Members 1995-2020

Hon. Dr. Stanley Haidasz (1996), Dr. Andrzej Garlicki (1997), David Cassivi, June Cox, Jesse Flis, Joseph Ouellette (2001), Rt. Hon. Herb Gray (2002), Andrzej Pruszkowski, Dr. Jacek Junosza-Kisielewski (2003), H.E. Prof. Bogdan Grzeloński (2004), Hon. Susan Whelan, Piotr Semeniuk (2005), Hon. Joe Co-martin (2010), Józef Palimaka (2014), Drew Dilkens, Percy Hatfield, Jerry Barycki, Anthony Blak, Robert Fallenbuchl, Artur Glab (P.H.), John Jedliński, Gerry Koski (2015), Natalia Kusendova, Dr. Frank Simpson (2018), Sen. Prof. Józef Zajac (2019)