

I. INTRODUCTION

The Baltic Countries

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania lie on the Baltic Sea in northeastern Europe. Though small, they are strategically significant for European trade and security. As a result they have experienced a turbulent history and a long road to independence.



OUR SHARED HISTORY

0300	PREHISTORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Ice Age in the region, first known habitats along Baltic coast Peat, oldest known settlement established in Estonia Territory of Estonia is subdued by Charlemagne Baltic tribes arrive on Baltic coast 	
1000-1500	PRE-VIKING/VIKING ERAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic to the continent increases First people (Estonians) engaged in trade, allegedly Baltic Establishment of traditional villages & village society Wiking raids & later raids around Baltic Sea First mention of Lithuania's name in written record of Scandinavian chronicles, Germany 	
1500-1800	WESTERN CRUISES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bishop Albert from Germany founds Riga German crusades conquer & Christianize Latvia, Estonia & create Livonia, ruled by Teutonic Knights of Livonia King of Denmark conquers Northern Estonia Feudal system with Baltic German nobility as privileged social class Lithuanian tribes are united by Mindaugas, who is crowned King Livonian Order purchases Northern Estonia from Denmark Lithuania is Christianized but remains occupied by crusaders Protestant Reformation spreads to Latvia & Estonia From the Terrible Abduction Livonian Order Livonia is redistributed to Lithuania, Denmark & Sweden 	
1800-1900	RUSSIAN DOMINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltic lands are conquered by Russian Empire, which governs outposts & local lords in Baltic German nobility Increased Russification First confined assembly, including King Friedrich, occurs in Riga Estonians & Lithuanians receive status Modern Lithuanian statehood 	
1900-1918	REVOLUTION & FIRST WORLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revolution in Russia spreads to Baltic provinces, causes fighting in Baltics First World War & occupation by Imperial German Army Revolution in Russia, collapse of Russian Empire Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declare independence War of Independence in the Baltics 	
1918-1939	YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace treaties with Soviet Russia Western region ruled by Poland Baltic states adopt democratic constitutions Major land reform initiated, Baltic German estates largely expropriated, redistributed among peasants & veterans of independence wars Political union, end of parliamentary democracy in Lithuania League of Nations, end of parliamentary democracy in Estonia & Latvia League between Baltic States League of Nations, League of German Youth 	
1939-1945	SECOND WORLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Order Post & beginning of Second World War, Soviet military bases established in Baltic States, membership (Sovietization) of Baltic Germans from Estonia & Latvia Incorporation of Baltic states into Soviet Union Secret mass deportations Baltic States occupied by Nazi German troops Red Army occupies Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania More than 140,000 Lithuanians, 75,000 Estonians, 85,000 Lithuanians die in Germany & Estonia 	
1945-1989	ANNEXATION BY SOVIET UNION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-occupation of Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania by Soviet Union Forced deportations, Baltic Popular Fronts Christianization & Soviet mass deportations Death of Stalin De-Stalinization & Khrushchev Thaw Soviet Union's policy of Perestroika in Soviet Union 	
1989-1991	REVOLVE EXPANSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GP (Gediminas Pavilion) complex in Lithuania, Estonia & Riga Coastal opens doors to European refugees, first Polish war veterans arrive Baltic Labour Progress movement GP's new European concept for independence comes Canadian first boat refugee arrives First Swedish war ship USSR chief embassy from Sweden arrives in Canada 	
1991-1993	INDEPENDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First demonstrations against Soviet regime Engage Revolution, Baltic Popular Fronts founded, Estonia declares sovereignty Abolish Charter of newly 2 million people from Tallinn to Helsinki Lithuania declares independence 	

ESTONIA

Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic with a population of 1.3 million. Its capital is Tallinn. Estonians revere nature and about half of the country is forested. Estonia has a long tradition of music and choral singing. After being ruled by Denmark, the German knights of the Livonian Order, and Sweden in and following the middle ages, Estonia became part of the Russian Empire in the 18th century. The country declared independence in 1918 but was occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, then occupied by Nazi Germany in 1941 and re-occupied by the



Soviet Union in 1944. Estonia re-established its independence in 1991.

Estonians began to arrive in Canada in the early 1900s, with a large wave of immigration taking place after the Second World War. In 1944, 72,000 fled to Sweden and Germany to escape Soviet rule, and of these nearly 14,000 immigrated to Canada. Many were professionals and settled in cities after completing required work terms on Canadian farms. Today, Toronto has the largest Estonian community in Canada.

LATVIA

Latvia is a democratic parliamentary republic with a population of a million. It is one of the world's greenest countries and its capital Riga is the largest Baltic city. Latvia has a rich cultural heritage, including *dainas* or folk songs that date back well over one thousand years. From the 13th to the 20th century Latvia was controlled at various times by German rulers, and by Poland, Sweden, and Russia. It became independent in 1918 after the collapse of the Russian Empire and end of the First World War, only to be occupied and



annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. Latvia re-established its independence in 1991.

The first Latvians came to Canada in the 1890s as refugees from Tsarist Russia and most settled in Manitoba and Alberta. In 1900, Latvians fled to Western Europe at the end of the Second World War to escape Soviet rule, with 15,000 eventually immigrating to Canada. Many were professionals and settled in Ontario. Today, Toronto has the largest Latvian community in Canada.

LITHUANIA

Lithuania is a parliamentary democracy with a population of 2.9 million. It is a lowland country with many forests and lakes, and a long tradition of literature and music. Lithuania was the last nation in Europe to be Christianized and the only Baltic country that did not become Lutheran with the Protestant Reformation – it remained Catholic.



Lithuania came under Russian control in the late 18th century. It declared independence in 1918, but in 1940 was illegally annexed by the Soviet Union. Lithuania regained its independence in 1991.

In the 1800s the first Lithuanians to immigrate to Canada were soldiers, followed by labourers around 1900. After the Second World War large numbers of Lithuanians fled to Western Europe to escape Soviet occupation, with 20,000 eventually immigrating to Canada. Soviet delays in recognizing Lithuania's independence led to more immigration in 1990-91. Today, most Lithuanian Canadians live in Toronto.

BALTIC GERMANS

Merchants first came to Latvia and Estonia as Germans, missionaries and crusaders in the 1200s. As German crusaders Christianized and took control of the area, a social system emerged in which Germans were the upper class and the indigenous population the peasantry. The captured territory between Lithuania and northern Estonia was known as Old Livonia and became part of the Holy Roman Empire. Old Livonia was also integrated into the Hanseatic League, an organization of German merchant communities that dominated commercial activity in northern Europe from the 13th to the 15th century. Lithuania did not have German elite, though some of its cities had a small German trading class. The economic and social dominance of the



power in the region until the end of the 19th century. After Estonian and Latvian independence in 1918, however, they lost much of their land and corporate interests. Some left, but many stayed and adapted to a new role as an ethnic minority in a democratic state.

At the beginning of the Second World War the Baltic Germans were resettled to occupied Poland and Germany.

After the war, about 2,500 immigrated to Canada, which today has the largest Baltic German community outside of Germany. Baltic Germans have a unique German accent and have a distinct culture shaped by their 800 year history in the Baltic region. Their legacy in the Baltic region includes many buildings, institutions, and influences on





























KANADOS LIETUVIŲ
MUZIEJUS-ARCHYVAS



LITHUANIAN
MUSEUM-ARCHIVES
OF CANADA

MUSÉE-ARCHIVES LITUANIEN DU CANADA

lithuanianheritage.ca

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Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society

An Introduction to the Baltic Germans of Canada

By Barbara Habib
Wednesday November 12th, 2014
Tartu College

Lecture by Barbara Habib

Loop All

FREEZE



„Changing or replacing the pictorial material of the entire society was an important part of Sovietization.“ Sofi Oksanen





Baltic Communities in Canada

Collectively they have made many contributions to Canada, particularly in the realms of academia, the arts, amateur sports, agriculture, architecture and the construction industry. Vibrant and well connected to their homelands, they continue to play an important role in Canada's cultural mosaic.



OUR NUMBERS

Immense Latvian and Lithuanian Canadian ties across Canada, with over 100,000 people and organizations located in the Toronto area.

- 14,400 people in Canada report Estonian as their mother tongue (1,400 live in Toronto)
- 26,400 people in Canada report Latvian as their mother tongue (1,600 live in Toronto)
- 1,000 people in Canada report Lithuanian as their mother tongue (1,000 live in Toronto)

ACCORDING TO CANADA 2006 CENSUS



PEOPLE IN CANADA REPORT ESTONIAN HERITAGE



PEOPLE IN CANADA REPORT LATVIAN HERITAGE



PEOPLE IN CANADA REPORT LITHUANIAN HERITAGE

VEMU/Estonian Studies Centre

The Estonian Studies Centre archives materials that illustrate the life and activities of Estonians in Canada. It collects testimonies and preserves printed material, documents and diaries, photographs, audiovisual records, as well as artifacts (paintings, sculptures, etc.). VEMU is the emerging mission for Estonians abroad and a cultural hub, as an associate member of the Bloore Street Culture Centre.

Lithuanian Museum - Archives of Canada

LMAC collects and preserves historically significant archival materials and artifacts that document the activities and history of Lithuanians in Canada. LMAC's community engagement includes educational resource development, as well as programming and accessibility to the collections irrespective of geographic location.

Latvian National Federation of Canadian Latvians Act

All the members of the Latvian National Federation of Canadian Latvians Act are active in their communities and are committed to the development of the Latvian community in Canada.

3. HOMETLAND

Childhood Memories

Most of those interviewed for this project belong to the generation born in the Baltic region who have only childhood memories of the area. In the beginning of the 19th century, the Baltic provinces were part of Imperial Russia. The independence struggle was born at the end of the war and the Russian Revolution. Some through the prism of religious struggle, the founders of the Wars of Independence and the following 20 years of work developing their own national identity. The Baltic Germans, who lost their special status when the Russian Empire fell apart, found a new place in a transformed society.



ESTONIA FLORA & FAUNA

It is an important part of the natural heritage that helps define our country's identity. It could play a role in our future development.



ESTONIAN CULTURE

The Estonian culture is a unique blend of traditional and modern elements. It is a reflection of the country's history and values.

4. HOMETLAND

Golden Times

The golden times of the Baltic region were the years of the 19th and 20th centuries. It was a period of rapid development and progress. The region became a hub of industry and commerce. The people of the region were proud of their achievements and their contributions to the world.



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5. HOMETLAND

School of Life

The School of Life is a program that provides education and training for young people. It is a place where they can learn about their heritage and their country. The program is designed to help them develop their skills and their character. It is a place where they can find their place in the world.

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6. HOMETLAND

Baltic German Legacy Home in Estonia and Latvia

The Baltic German Legacy Home is a place where the legacy of the Baltic Germans is preserved. It is a place where their history and their culture are celebrated. The home is a testament to their contributions to the region and to the world.

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7. HOMETLAND

Latvian National Federation of Canadian Latvians Act

The Latvian National Federation of Canadian Latvians Act is a program that provides support and assistance to Latvians in Canada. It is a place where they can find their community and their heritage. The program is designed to help them develop their skills and their character. It is a place where they can find their place in the world.

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Soviet Union in 1944. Estonia re-established its independence in 1991. Estonians began to arrive in Canada in the 1920s, with a large wave of immigration taking place after the Second World War. In 1944-7, 20,000 from Sweden and Germany to escape Soviet rule. Of these nearly 14,000 immigrated to Canada. Many were professionals and settled in cities offering required work terms on Canadian farms. Today, Toronto has the largest Estonian community in Canada.

announced by the Soviet Union in 1940. Latvia re-established its independence in 1991. The first Latvians came to Canada in the 1920s as refugees from Tartar Russia and re-settled in Manitoba and Alberta. 100,000 Latvians fled to Western Europe at the end of the Second World War to escape Soviet rule, with 10,000 eventually immigrating to Canada. Many were professionals and settled in Ontario. Today, Toronto has the largest Latvian community in Canada.

Lithuania came under Russian control in the late 18th century. It declared independence in 1918, but in 1940 was illegally annexed by the Soviet Union. Lithuania regained its independence in 1991. In the 1920s the first Lithuanians to immigrate to Canada were soldiers, followed by labourers around 1900. After the Second World War large numbers of Lithuanians fled to Western Europe to escape Soviet rule. Soviet delays in recognizing Lithuania's independence led to more immigration in 1991-92. Today, more Lithuanian Canadians live in Toronto.

power in the region until the end of the 19th century. After Estonian and Latvian independence in 1918, however, they lost much of their land and various markets. Some left, but many stayed and adapted to a new role as an ethnic minority in a democratic state. At the beginning of the Second World War the Baltic Germans were resettled to occupied Poland and Germany. After the war, about 1,000 immigrated to Canada, which today has the largest Baltic German community outside of Germany. Baltic Germans have a unique German accent and have a distinct culture shaped by their 800 year history in the Baltic region. Their legacy in the Baltic region includes many buildings, institutions, and influences on language, literature and music.



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Rīgā, 22. x0. - 1955. g.

Sveicināti svaini!

Piedoļiet, ka jūs traucēju ar savu rakstu,
bet gribu paziņot sekotājos.
Mana dāve ar Al. sāka izirt 2 gadus atpakaļ,
bet patreiz viņa ir pilnīgi neciesama. Jū
tīkām dāvanas: kļūtas ol., ugv. d., ku
odertās neolēlu laikā
īve ir neciesāma



Be-
gijā 1918 g. 19. IX 1918 Ma

LATVIJAS BANKA
70385 7020
PIECDESMI LATŅU
PĒDĀSĀS DĪMĒS
PĒDĀSĀS DĪMĒS
PĒDĀSĀS DĪMĒS
1918

Latvijas pirmās neatkarības laika
naudas dimes
Oļģerta Bernāša dāvana

PIRMĀ
LATVIJAS BANKA



Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

FIAT/IFTA Conference in Antalya, Turkey October 12-18th, 2002



Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

The first Riga Seminar "Partnerships, Access and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage" at the Latvian Television September 30th-October 3rd, 2004

Organized/supported by the Latvian Television, Lithuanian Radio & Television, Estonian Television, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, Swedish Television and Norwegian and Swedish Embassies, Library and Archives Canada

Archival Cooperation and Community Building.

BAAC 10

The Riga Planning Meeting in Riga April 2005

The new council was elected in Riga:

President Piret Noorhani, (Estonian Literary Museum), Vice-President Rasa Miskinyte (Lithuanian Radio & Television), Vice-President Inga Vilcane (Newspaper Diena Library, Riga), Secretary Nora Licite (Latvian Television)

Board members: Tedd Urnes (NRK), Lasse Nilsson (SVT), Andris Kesteris (Library and Archives Canada), Reet Harkmaa (Estonian Television), Jan Aasmund Jakobsen (Norway), Ivi Tomingas (Estonian Filmarchives), Vilnis Auzinš (Latvian Museum of Photography), Eha Väinsalu (Estonian Television), Lelde Neimane (Occupation Museum, Riga) Alexander Jaransky (Lithuanian Radio & Television) and Egle Gudelyte (Lithuanian Radio & Television)

Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

Lasse Nilsson:

„We got a glimpse of the work done by dedicated people in the national institutions under difficult political conditions, proud of their cultural heritage and at the same time aware of its importance for the future. Then it feels really important with the kind of networking and sharing of knowledge and experience that BAAC stands for and how it is manifested through, for example our conferences and workshops.”

Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

The Riga Planning Meeting in April 2005



Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

BAAC was founded at the Estonian Embassy on the Tyrgata in
Stockholm on March 21st, 2006

Board members: Piret Noorhani (Estonia), Juozas Markauskas
(Lithuania), Inga Vilcāne (Latvia), Andris Kēsteris (Canada),
Tedd Urnes (Norway), Lasse Nilsson and Lars-Gunnar
Bengtsson (Sweden).

Member: Kristīne Pabērza (Latvia)

Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

