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The Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor
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Telephone (519) 256-4172 from 4:30p.m., Fax (519) 256-4172 from 9:00a.m. to 3:30p.m.

Windsor, February 26, 1999

Mr. Mike Hurst,
Mayor,
The City of Windsor,
350 City Hall Square West,
Windsor, Ontario
N9A 6S1

FILE COPY

The Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor petitions the Council of the City of Windsor to support the Polish Community's request to initiate a twinning process between the City of Windsor and the City of Lublin in Poland.

Background

Lublin with a population of over 370,000 is the largest city in Poland, east of the Vistula River. It received its municipal charter in 1317.

Lublin's location on the historic main North-South and East-West trade routes brought it into contact with Asia, Byzantium, Scandinavia and Western Europe early in its development. Traces of these varied influences are evident in its architecture and its people. Lublin has the oldest Jewish cemetery in Poland, dating to 1541, and two very old Muslim cemeteries.

It was then only natural for Lublin, with its international trading environment, to crystallize its mediaeval international contacts into schools.

Lublin has five very well respected universities. The Catholic University of Lublin is the only Catholic university in Poland and includes among its retired faculty Pope John Paul II. Other schools of higher learning include Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, The Medical Academy (a full medical school), the Agricultural Academy and the Lublin Technical University. All are degree granting institutions.

Lublin's history has been fraught with changes in jurisdiction. It has been part of the Tatar empire, the Russian Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire as well as being occupied by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. All these conquerors left their marks. The most visible and solemn being the infamous Nazi concentration camp "Majdanek", now restored as a memorial to the thousands of people killed there in gas chambers during the Second World War.

Lublin's City Hall, a renovated ancient monastery building, is located in the city center, known as the Old Town, or "Starówka", which dates from the fourteenth century. The city public spaces have recently been completely renovated including a pedestrian esplanade linking the municipal buildings with the largest banks and office buildings.

Lublin has a strong automotive manufacturing sector producing cars, trucks, buses, tractors and a large facility which makes world class helicopters. Lublin also has a very modern ferrous foundry which supplies the automotive industry.

The topography of Lublin closely approximates that of Essex County. The farm land is productive with main crops being grains and hops.

Resolution

Since the City of Lublin has a significant number of parallels with Windsor as well as great potential for future commercial, cultural, academic and technological cooperation with our City, The Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor asks the Council of the City of Windsor to support the Polish Community's request to begin a twinning process. Your support will allow us to develop a vision to build a virtual bridge and vibrant relationship between the citizens of Lublin, Poland and Windsor, Ontario, Canada in the coming millennium.

Enclosed is a list of organizations supporting this petition.

Yours truly,

Jerry Barycki,
President

List of organizations supporting petition to begin a twinning process-the
City of Windsor and the City of Lublin in Poland.

Organization Name:

Signed by:

1. V. Rev. Peter Sanczenko, Pastor,
Holy Trinity Church *Peter A. Sanczenko*
2. Sr. Magdalena Budniak, Superior,
Polish Ursuline Sisters *Sr. Magdalena Budniak*
3. Msgr. L. Wawrzyniec Wuuk, P.A., Pastor-Emeritus,
Holy Trinity Church *Msgr. L. W. Wawrzyniec*
4. Mr. Richard Orszet, President,
Polish People's Home Association *Richard Orszet*
5. Mr. Anthony Blak, President,
River Gardens (Windsor) Inc. *Anthony Blak*
6. Mr. Stanley Niec, President,
Polish Village of Windsor, Carrousel of the Nations *Stanley Niec*
7. Mr. Albert Flis, President,
Polish Canadian Centre Association of Windsor *Albert Flis*
8. Mr. Andrzej Oczachowski, President,
Polish Canadian Alliance, Branch 20 *A. Oczachowski*
9. Mr. Pawel Bochus, President,
Polonia Sports Club *P. Bochus*
10. Mr. Jan Skiba, Commandant,
Polish Army Veterans Association, Branch 126 *Jan Skiba*
11. Mrs. Elizabeth Gorzelnik, Leader,
Polish Scouts Association of Windsor *E. Gorzelnik*
12. Mr. Richard Kusmierczyk, President,
Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc. *Richard Kusmierczyk*

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