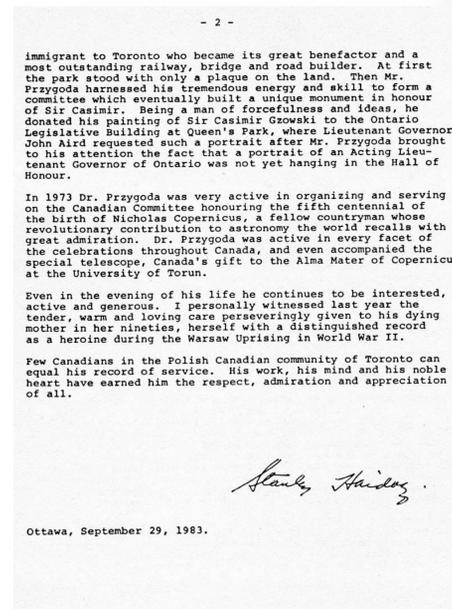
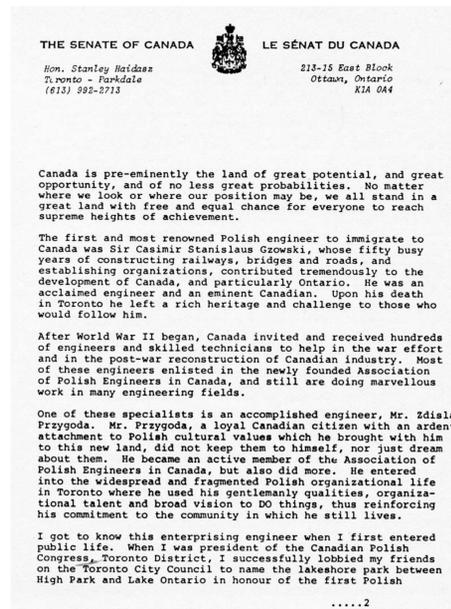


Zdzislaw (Dick) Przygoda

(1913-1996)

Architect, engineer, community activist



Zdzislaw Przygoda was well known both as an architect and structural engineer and as a community activist. His architectural drawings and conceptual designs of important structures in Ontario can be found at the Archives of Ontario (1008 drawings).

Born in Warsaw to Jewish parents, Przygoda received a M.Sc. degree from the Department of Civil Engineering at Gdansk Technical University in 1935. He fought as an officer of the Polish Army in the September 1939 campaign against the invading Germans. Arrested in 1942, he was a prisoner of German concentration camps Auschwitz, Natzweiler and Dachau. At war's end in 1945, he managed to escape to the American army lines and later worked for the American and French occupation zone administrators in Germany, repatriating stolen Polish machinery and equipment. He earned his doctorate in engineering at the Technical University of Munich, and in 1947 emigrated to Israel, where he worked as city engineer for Kfar-Saba and the City of Haifa.

Dr. Przygoda immigrated to Canada in 1953 and worked for several architectural firms before establishing his own consulting engineering firm. With the firm of Roy Orlando architects, he created architectural designs of over forty schools in and around Toronto, among them Queen Victoria Public School and North Western Catholic High School, and of some industrial structures, among them Maple Leaf Mills Ltd., Bata factory, the Monastery of Cistercian Monks (Mono Mills) and the University of Guelph. His most prestigious project was the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, Ontario. He designed construction of building sites for apartment buildings, shopping centres and commercial buildings (e.g. the Woolworth store on Parliament St. in Toronto).

His life achievement was the centennial project of erecting a memorial statue of Sir Casimir Gzowski in Toronto. Listed in *Polish Contribution to Arts and Sciences in Canada* (1969), he published nine books, among them a historical book on development of Canadian buildings (1967) and a book on service to Polish Canadian community.

Dr. Przygoda was a leader in the Polish Canadian community, active in the Polish Canadian Research Institute, the Canadian Polish Congress and Polish Engineers Association of Ontario.

He earned many awards and distinctions, among them the Heritage Toronto Award; the Sons of Martha Medal, the Professional Engineers Association of Ontario (1977); Canada's Centennial Medal; Honorary Member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute (Fort York Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion).

Photos from top left clockwise
• Zdzislaw Przygoda • The McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario, designed by Dr. Przygoda / Photo – Ewa Szozda • Congratulatory letter from Senator Stanley Haidasz, 1983 • Casimir Gzowski monument in Toronto, a centennial project implemented by Z. Przygoda
Other photos – family archives