

Janina's Contribution to Polish and Canadian Communities

July 5, 2022

Support of Federacja a long family tradition

Janina's support of Federacja is a long running family tradition, with her mother Jadwiga Runcewicz helping grow the organization since the 1950's not long after the family's arrival from Poland to Canada in 1947. Janina aspires that daughters and grandchildren will continue the tradition.

Dedicated Service to Federacja

As Federacja President, Janina has been a hard-working organizer who is full of ideas and inspiration. She is not only a great organizer of all our events but most importantly a true and great friend. Janina, in particular, never refuses a request for help. We can always count on our President to visit the sick, take someone to a medical appointment or assist with important paperwork. For over six decades Janina has been supporting Federacja at annual Kawiarenki and regular contributions of the Informator, the national Federacja Polek umbrella organization. Her house has always been open (pre-covid) for the needy. And since the Federacja does not have its own location her home was the gathering center for hosting prayers, meetings and celebrations such as birthdays, Christmas and special occasions. Celebrations also took place at St. Casmir's with masses in honour of Federacja members. Janina was also proud to represent Ogniwo #4 (Federacja's Chapter name) at regional conferences in Edmonton and Ottawa.

One wonderful tradition was the annual Polish picnic in Chilliwack hosted at Janina's country acreage filled with music, bales of hay, good food and celebrations. Many awards and celebrations were held there - seeing off Polish consuls, notable birthdays and awards of recognition. Other special events were boat trips up

Indian Arm and down the Fraser River to celebrate accomplishments, enjoy each other's company and marvel at the local natural beauty.

Janina's many contributions to Federacja and the Polish community have included:

- Gold medal from KPK (Polish Canadian Congress) 2014
- Certificate of recognition - From the Polish Consulate in 2015: za dziesięciolecie cichej, systematycznej, ofiarnej i pokornej pracy na rzecz całej społeczności polonijnej zamieszkałej w Brytyjskiej Kolumbii oraz dostrzeganie problemów pojedynczych osób
- Order of The Knight's Cross from the Polish Government May 8 2016
- Certificate of recognition- Consulate General of Poland, in 2018

These all represent activities that go the heart of the Federacja's goals of increasing Polish culture and traditions, moral and financial support of women and people of Polish origin. Janina is continually supporting those that are far from family and need support especially in those hard moments such as organizing funerals.

Highlights and big moments

Notable highlights among the regular activities and efforts was leading the Federacja for 13 years as President. Helping organize the 60th anniversary celebration - a smashing success with dancers, speeches, singing and much to celebrate. Supporting and fundraising for the Pope John II statute at the archdiocese of Vancouver was also very important and a lasting contribution. Supporting and being on the board of the Kopernik Foundation for 9 years and Vice Chair for three was important to Janina to ensure

that the Polish community elders were supported. She remains an honorary board member.

Strengthening Ties between Polish, Canadian and Women's Organizations

In addition to those many core activities supporting the Federacja and Polish community, Janina also recognized the importance of building ties with other Polish, Canadian and Women's organizations. A few of the many organizations she was involved with and built bridges to included the Canadian Polish Congress, B.C. Catholic Health Association Board and the Vancouver Council of Women Health Representative, to name a few. An example of some of the amazing benefits of these cross-connections was Janina's leadership to showcase Polish Culture at the annual Migrants and Refugees Days hosted by the Archbishop.

An example of building bridges between the two communities was an annual nun-appreciation dinner between Parishes. One memorable year was when a Chinese community catholic parish highlighted Polish culture, preparing Polish food and history.

As a Polish community, we feel very accomplished in all that we do through not only the service of our members but also because of the leadership of our Federacja President. Thanks to Janina, our organization is very active in Vancouver. Janina has always believed that a good life is a life of service. And she has put this into practice inspiring those around her good example.