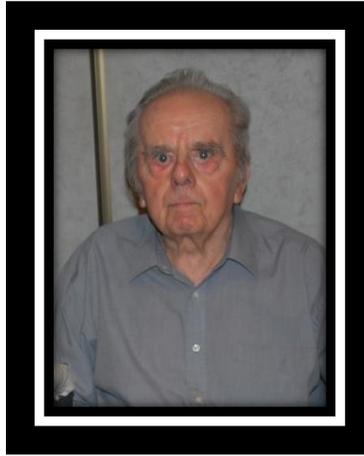


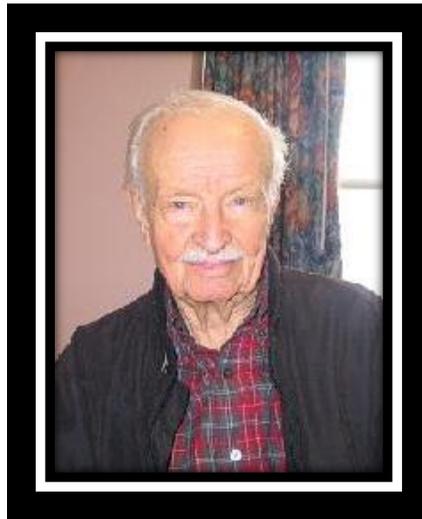
Seniors of the Month - June 2020

Jan Krasnodebski



Mr. Krasnodebski has been with us at Copernicus Lodge since 2016. He was born in 1927 in Warsaw, Poland. He is a veteran who served in WW2, the AK, and the Warsaw uprising. He was in a German War camp as a prisoner of War as part of the 2nd Polish Corps in Italy. He has travelled extensively, to countries including England, USA, Australia, India, Japan, Israel and South Africa. He has an engineering background and education from England. His most notable achievement was partaking in building the first nuclear plant in Canada. He was a member of Standard Writing Commissions in the field of Engineering. He is proud to have worked for Ontario Hydro for 36 years. He loved to ski and was able to enjoy this sport in Canada, U.S.A, France and Switzerland. There is not a day where Jan does not check the stock market and he is always interested in politics and current world events.

Josef Cermak

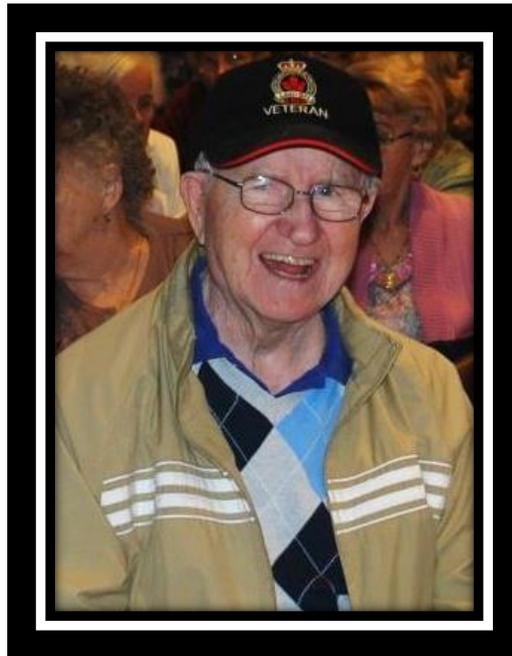


Mr. Cermak was born in Skury, Czechoslovakia in 1924. He has lived at Copernicus since 2015 and has many talents which he happily shares with the community of residents and anyone he comes across. He is a retired lawyer and wrote many books and anyone that knows him can testify to the fact that he seems to know the varied histories of all people in the Czech and Slovak community, a testimony to how well known he was and continues to be.

Anyone who has had the chance to get to know him may without a doubt say that his intellect simply radiates from him. Among his many notable life achievements, he was the president of the Board of Sokol Canada, and actor in “Nove Divadlo” theatre productions.

He continues to be an avid supporter of all Sokol functions and takes a particular interest in the success of coming generations. In addition, he is a very computer savvy gentleman and a respected member of the Czech and Slovak Canadian community. He is also a wonderful folk singer, and staff and residents are always delighted to hear him sing!

Joseph Solarski



Joseph (Joe) Solarski has resided on 6 South for the past seven years. He is 95 years old and he has lived at Copernicus Lodge since 2008 when he and his wife Kazimiera moved into one of the independent units.

Joe was born in Wiślica, and in 1929, at the age of four years, accompanied by his mother Emilia, left Poland for Canada where he was reunited with his father, Joseph.

Within a year, the united family welcomed the arrival of Joe's brother Stanislaw (Stan) and together they resided in the area around Queen and Bathurst Streets in Toronto, close to the centre of the Polish community at St. Stanislaus Church on Dennison Ave.

Joe attended St. Mary's school and St. Michael's College School. Throughout his childhood, sports were a big part of his life and Joe became an accomplished softball pitcher and played football at St. Michael's.

In 1944, while in his final year at St. Michael's, Joe enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and following basic training in Toronto and Montreal he was

shipped overseas where he served the last year of World War II on an RCAF airfield in England.

Returning to Canada in 1947, Joe completed high school and enrolled in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto.

In 1954, with the assistance of his wife, he opened Solarski Pharmacy across from St. Casimir's Church on Roncesvalles Avenue. Toronto's Polish community had moved west and the church and Solarski Pharmacy served as the heart.

During the 50 years that Joe owned and operated the Pharmacy he was an active member of the community belonging to The Knights of Columbus and other organizations.

In the mid-1970's with serious discussion underway to build a seniors home for Toronto's Polish Community, Joe joined Father Michael Smith among others becoming one of the founders of Copernicus Lodge.

A proud Polish-Canadian, Joe Solarski, WWII RCAF Veteran; Pharmacist; and Copernicus Lodge Founder provides a lasting legacy of which his three children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren are very proud.

Jerzy Nartowski



Mr. Nartowski has been with us at Copernicus Lodge since 2016. He was born in 1938 in Lwow, Poland. He prides himself as being quite the world traveller, having been to England, India, Asia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile and claims to have even travelled 5 times around the world!

He was a medical courier for 10 years and a volunteer at Unicef, one of his most notable lifetime achievements. He even worked alongside Mother Teresa in India. He is a gentleman with class who enjoys wine and dining and is very active in the Copernicus community. He also has a twin brother.

He is a very social and friendly individual and currently serves as the President of our Resident Council.

Kathleen Stroud



Mrs. Stroud, who likes to go by “Kay”, is a lovely lady who has been with us at Copernicus Lodge since 2019. She was born in Shanghai, China in 1926, and lived in Hong Kong, and Victoria, B.C., before moving to Ontario. She loved working with children and one of her most notable life achievements is having contributed to the design of the first ever curriculum for Ontario daycares which to this day, serves as the framework which no doubt shapes the current development of our youngest community members.

She enjoyed travelling, reading and gardening. She is a happy mother of 3 sons and 2 grandchildren. She enjoys all types of sports and active games and her energy is contagious to whoever comes in contact with her!

Richard Opitz



Mr. Opitz was born in 1920 and recently celebrated his 100th birthday. He has lived at Copernicus since 2011. He is a WW2 veteran officer who fought alongside the forces of freedom from the first day of the war until the last, and later fought in the Polish II Corps in the Battle of Monte Casino, a pivotal moment in history.

He was very active in the Polish Canadian community, doing lots of volunteer work and participating in WW2 veteran affairs. He has been blessed with 4 children, 3 grandchildren and 1 great grand child. He is a very warm soul and everyone who comes in contact with him can attest to that!

Scholl Valentine



Mrs. Scholl was born in Latvia in 1918 and has been with us at Copernicus Lodge since 2018. She recently celebrated her 102nd birthday, a truly beautiful age. Valentine is a WW2 veteran and served with the 8th British Army, travelling to Persia and Palestine amongst other endeavours.

Mrs. Scholl is a poet and writer who has documented her incredible, but challenging life story in a series of memoirs which are read by many to this day. She recently wrote a poem titled “Prosba do Boga” which can be appreciated below:

PROŚBA DO BOGA

Wiem że już prędko odejść muszę
Przyjmiesz mnie Panie do swej chwały
Tobie polecam moją duszę
Boś sprawiedliwy i wspomniały.
Nie będą żegnać mnie sztandary,
A ludzie prętko też zapomną
Nie byłam przecież bohaterem,
Ale osobą, zwykłą, skromną.
O jedno proszę Cie – mój Boże –
Daj mi śmierć – cichą i pogodną,
A póki jestem tu na ziemi,

Daj żebym była Ciebie godną.
Niech nad mym grobem nikt nie
 płacze –
Odhodzę w inny świat daleki,
Zostawiam życie me tułacze
Aby szczęśliwą być na wieki.

--Walentyna Scholl

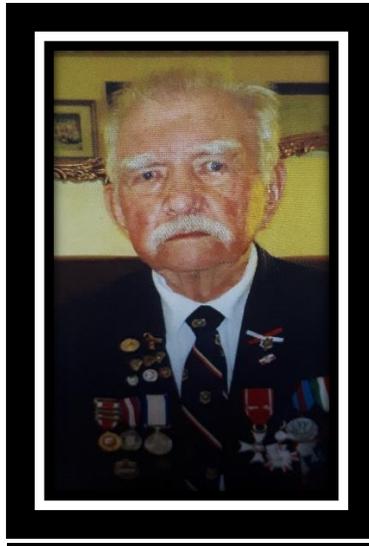
Jan Gasztold



Mr. Gasztold was born in 1926 in Poland. He has been with us at Copernicus Lodge since 2017. He is a proud WW2 veteran and served in the Air Force Academy, specifically in all engine aviation in Egypt. He finished Mechanical Engineering at Ryerson University, and worked in American Motors, Chrysler for many of his working years.

He is a proud and active member of the Veterans Association and participates in all commemorative Veteran events organized by Copernicus. Jan has a very positive outlook on life and is a very active individual within the Copernicus community!

Stanislaw Lasek



Mr. Lasek was born in 1925 and has lived at Copernicus Lodge since 2017. He was born into a very large family of 9 children in Poland. In 1940, he was transported to Siberia where he endured 6 long years and was one of the 5 children from his family to survive. He was a WW2 veteran and received the Nobel “Krzyz Rysztituta” for his service. Mr. Lasek has a very deep faith and when asked what is most important to him, Mr. Lasek points to a picture of Jesus that he found in Kazakhstan, which hangs in his room to this day.

From the first day in Canada, he was and continues to be an active member of the Veteran’s association and has fulfilled many notable roles within the organization. He is proud to have organized, for a total of 10 years, trips/camps for Polish Canadian Scouts and was the founder of “Sztandar gr. 21”.

Among other notable achievements, he was the curator of “The Raymond Foundation” for many years and also played a pivotal part in

founding Credit Union in Oshawa. He has also received the following medals:

- Złoty Medal Wojska Polskiego
- Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi RP
- Krzyż Oficerski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski
- Krzyż Zesłańców Sybiru
- Medal Pro Memoria

As evidenced by all his contributions, Mr. Lasek is and continues to be a well-known and appreciated member of the Polish Canadian community who through his work, made a large impact on the young generation.

Adela Tylak



Mrs. Tylak was born in 1925 and has been with us at the Lodge since 2011. Prior to moving into Copernicus Lodge LTC she was a tenant in the Copernicus Lodge apartments where she lived there for approximately 14 years. She is a retired nurse who cared for the elderly in her last 20 working years. She is an incredibly resilient individual who despite many hardships in her life, one of them being enduring German War Camp Oswiecim during the same time as Polish Saint-St. Maximillian Kolbe.

She is described as true survivor by anyone who comes to know her life story. She always loved to sing and her daughter enjoys listening to her singing old war songs. Mrs. Tylak also enjoys playing Bingo, listening to music, attending daily mass and happily participates in all special events at Copernicus.

