

Boyanowsky Family

Dmitri (Mike) Boyanowsky

- Dmitri was born in the county of Kitsman, district of Bukovina, province of Chernovitz, in western Ukraine, on October 13th, 1908.
- He was raised on his parents' farm. He completed several years of schooling before going to work on the farm.
- His family was not wealthy, but comfortable. They were of a class known as Kulaks, peasants who were relatively affluent or at least not poor.
- He left for Canada at age 19 to make a better life for himself, and arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, aboard the White Star Line's twin-propeller passenger steamship, the *S.S. Arabic*, on April 10th, 1927.
- He traveled with men from his home area including Walter Lubinski and Emilian Bulauca (Mike Bulawka), both of whom later lived for many years in the Red Lake District.
- Ukraine was under the administration of Austria at the time of his birth. However, when he came to Canada, Ukraine was ruled by Romania. His Canadian immigration record shows his name in its Romanian translation, Dumitru Boianovschi, even though he was Ukrainian.
- Mike labored on farms in western Canada until he had re-paid his passage.
- He made friends with some Ojibway people in Sioux Lookout, Ontario and lived with them for a time to learn what he could about their language.
- He drifted to northern Ontario and found employment in paper mills, working for several years for the Abitibi Paper Company.
- He married Katarzyna in 1933.
- After being laid off from the paper mill, Mike set off for Red Lake. He arrived by scow (a barge towed by a tugboat) in May 1936.
- Although the mines were temporarily not hiring, Dmitri arrived at a time when a large forest fire gripped the area and threatened mining properties. He was hired as a firefighter and worked long hours for about 50 days.
- Dmitri was very happy to be hired by the Red Lake Gold Shore Gold Mines, Limited, in Red Lake. He crushed rock manually with a 14-pound hammer before it went to the milling process. Such physically-demanding work made the days long and exhausting.
- He went back for his wife and daughter in the summer of 1936 to bring them to Red Lake from Iroquois Falls.
- Dmitri was unemployed for over one year after he contracted pneumonia working at Gold Shore, and was bedridden for weeks. There was no compensation for his illness at that time and when he did not recover quickly his job was given to another person.
- He was later hired at Hasaga Gold Mines when it opened in Red Lake in 1938, then employed by Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines, Limited, as a mechanic. He earned 45 cents per hour which was then considered a decent wage.
- In 1939, in the months immediately preceding the start of the Second World War, the Cochenour-Willans Gold Mines, Limited, began producing gold. Dmitri was hired as a mechanic. The hourly wage was higher than what he earned at the Madsen Mine.
- While employed at Cochenour, Dmitri lived in the bunkhouse during the weekdays and came home to be with his family on the weekends. In summer he travelled by boat taxi, and in winter he either cross-country skied or skated across the frozen lake route to Red Lake.
- During the Second World War, Dmitri and his family moved to Toronto so he could become a certified mechanic.
- He greatly enjoyed learning and working at the de Havilland Canada aircraft manufacturing company in what is now Downsview area of Toronto.
- Dmitri became proficient in welding and working on lathes.
- He was very proud of being part of the team which built the famous DH.98 Mosquito, a bomber which became one of the most potent fighter aircraft during the Second World War.
- It was while living in Toronto that Dmitri became a Canadian citizen on March 22nd, 1944.

- For the first six months after returning to Red Lake, Dmitri worked for the Heath Gold Mines, Limited, a property in Todd Township.
- According to his Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines employment record, Dmitri was re-hired on August 18th, 1945. Just over one year later, he was promoted to the position of shop mechanic.
- By 1949 he was variously head mill welder and mechanic, and by 1964 he was first machinist.
- He left Madsen's employ on June 4th, 1966 after over 20 years of service.
- Dmitri was instrumental in organizing a union for gold miners of the Red Lake District. Ultimately, he was betrayed when some men revealed to management the role Dmitri was playing.
- Dmitri planned and constructed a building on Howey Street (near Lizabeth General Store, now Mitchell's Midtown Grocery) and rented it to organizations and businesses. Until the late 1980s, one half housed the Red Lake office of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, while the other was home to the Children's Aid Society.
- The Griffith Iron Ore Mine near Ear Falls was Dmitri's final place of employment. He worked as a mechanic at the mine from shortly after its opening until his death.
- A cardiac arrest ended Dmitri's life on May 26th, 1973. He was five months shy of his 65th birthday and retirement.

Katarzyna Boyanowsky (nee Choma)

- She was born the youngest of 12 children in the village of Ostraszynze (or Ostrasensye; spelling may be erroneous), Galicia, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now western Ukraine) in 1907.
- Her Canadian immigration record listed her given name as Katarzyna but her name was spelled variously as Katarina or Kay. Her husband Mike called her Katia or Kasha.
- Growing up there was little opportunity for Katarzyna to attend school.
- She vividly remembered that there was a great amount of publicity in her homeland about the opportunities and riches to be had in Canada. The prospect of forging a "better life" greatly appealed to the young woman.
- Katarzyna came to Canada with her 29-year-old sister Sofja Choma Lewicka (Lewiski), and her sister's children, Stefanja (age one year), Wladyslaw (age three years), and Michal (age four years). They left Europe on the Canadian Pacific Line's ship, the *S.S. Montcalm*, arriving in Quebec City on August 16th, 1929, and travelled by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Of their 12 siblings, Katarzyna and her sister, Sofja, were the only ones who immigrated to Canada.
- Katarzyna had been sponsored by a wealthy Jewish family in Winnipeg and went immediately to live and work with them. She fondly remembered being treated very well by this family. She worked hard for the next two years, moving from kitchen work to the position of governess in the home.
- She moved to work in Ansonville and Iroquois Falls, Ontario in approximately 1931.
- Her and Mike were married in 1933.
- She arrived in Red Lake in summer 1936.
- Some of Katarzyna's sister Sofja's family came to live in Red Lake in the late 1930s as well, including her son Stefjan Lewicka (Lewiski). The family later moved to Craigend, Alberta. The youngest son, William (Bill), served on the town council of Edsel, Alberta.
- Katarzyna spent her days caring for her children, gardening, and making a home.
- In the last years of her life, Katarzyna said that while she missed her family in Europe, she had no regrets about starting over in Canada. She had a deep appreciation for her chosen country.
- Katarzyna lived in her home on Howey Street until she suffered a massive stroke, which was followed by prolonged hospitalization.
- She died at the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital on March 25th, 1985 at the age of 77, and was buried next to her husband in Woodland Cemetery, Balmertown.

The Couple

- Mike and Katarzyna met first in Winnipeg, then later in Iroquois Falls.
- They were from the same country, had some similar experiences and hardships, and love bloomed.
- In order to save money to build a home and life together, Dmitri and Katarzyna chose to have a very simple wedding. The ceremony was performed on January 9th, 1933 in the small Anglican Church in Iroquois Falls.
- They had their first child, Lesia, that same year in 1933.
- Dmitri was laid off from the paper mill and they worried about how they would live. A short time later, he heard of the booming gold mining District of Red Lake, in northwestern Ontario. Word was that jobs were plentiful because dozens of mining companies were doing exploratory work in the area, and that several gold mines were already producing. Dmitri set off for Red Lake in 1936.
- After securing a job with Red Lake Gold Shore Gold Mines, Dmitri travelled to Iroquois Falls to bring his wife and daughter to Red Lake. They travelled by train and then flew the rest of the way to Red Lake during the summer of 1936.
- Once in Red Lake, they rented what could charitably be called a shanty. Katarzyna remembered that their residence was comprised of only one room which was barely large enough for one person and decidedly cramped for two adults and a child. There was no electricity or running water. This building stood in the vicinity of the present group of houses across from the Brewer's Retail store and near the present residences of the Chevrier and Gangloff families.
- When Mike and Katarzyna both became ill around 1937, there was no money and very little food. Red Lake merchant Mychajlo (Mike) Kressall brought groceries to the Boyanowskys. Both Mikes were from neighbouring communities in the province of Bukovina and were friends. Kressall assured them that the bill could be repaid only when Dmitri was back at work.
- When Mike was hired as a mechanic for the Cochenour-Willans Gold Mines, the family moved into a better house on what became Howey Street and situated across the street from the present West End Groceries.
- During the Second World War, the Boyanowskys sold their house and saved enough money to move to Toronto so that Dmitri could become a certified mechanic, and be better positioned for higher-paying employment.
- The family returned to Red Lake in about 1944, where they were fortunate to re-purchase their former home. "The local mine managers let us use dynamite boxes for furniture and walls in our two-room shack. The kitchen was filled with wonderful food and used for entertainment. Singing and playing instruments was the norm. My parents were singers, but I did not inherit that ability," Lesia noted.
- The Boyanowsky home was one of the first in Red Lake to have installed an electric light suspended from the ceiling into a single socket. The light was for reading and replaced the kerosene lanterns. "We were told it was unnatural to subject ourselves to electricity, and potentially, to cancer," laughs Lesia.
- All parents – especially immigrant parents - were anxious for their children to be better educated than they were, and to enter meaningful professions. Dmitri and Katarzyna were no exception.

Children

Lesia Dayneka (nee Boyanowsky)

- Lesia was born on September 22nd, 1933 in Iroquois Falls.
- She came with her parents to Red Lake in 1936.
- She remembers delivering her father's daily lunch: "I was sent up into the Hasaga headframe with his lunch pail. I waited for him to finish eating and then took his lunch pail back home."
- Lesia also has fond memories of being allowed to attend dances in the cookery of the Hasaga Gold Mines. Lesia notes, "The children of the miners were allowed to play until they tired and curled up under the benches and tables, out of the way of the dancing adults. My father played the guitar and mandolin for those dances."
- Lesia was almost 10 when her brother Ehor was born.

- Lesia received her primary, elementary and secondary education at Red Lake, beginning in 1938 at the Red Lake Public School.
- She was especially fond of her primary teacher, Mildred MacLaren, who – to the entire district's horror – perished in the Red Lake Hotel fire of July 1st, 1945. "I had cut my foot open while chopping wood so I could not go to the site of the fire. The sky was all aflame," she recalled.
- As a child, Lesia developed a love of reading and learning which has continued throughout her life. She remembers being fascinated by the books of Lucy Maud Montgomery.
- Lesia remembers her and Ehor being told by their father that they "would be cut off while in university if we joined any organization. Only art was allowed in our house – singing, dancing, painting, writing, and reading was predominant."
- Lesia adored and respected her father and has fond memories of how, despite his physically-demanding occupation, he was very happy to make time for his children. "My father and I spent as much time as we could in the bush, snaring fish in Buffalo Creek, fishing along the shore lines and collecting wood for heat and cooking. We did not have a refrigerator so we caught only what we could eat at one meal. My father cleared land with an axe, and tilled the land by shovel. From what grew in the garden, we could harvest enough vegetables for twelve months by storing them in the root cellar," she remembers.
- Lesia has fond memories of many of the carefree joys of a childhood and youth in Red Lake. "We were told to play outside all year round. We built snow forts and snow tunnels. Skating and sliding were a joy. In summer we swam in the lake, built rafts and played hopscotch." She also skated on Howey Bay when she was six, and in summer even played on the docks. Most Red Lake children were water-smart.
- When she was in her late teens, Lesia was a bridesmaid at many weddings.
- With her friends, Lesia ran in the 1949 "Queen of Red Lake" pageant. These contests were usually hosted by the Kinsmen Club.
- In 1949, as she was walking home after a waitressing shift at the Lakeview Restaurant & Bakery, an Ontario government photographer approached Lesia and asked to take her photograph. The image shows Lesia, hands on her hips, posing in front of the mileage sign near the junction of Highway 105 and Howey Street. This photograph graced a popular Red Lake District post card for many years. Nearly 60 years later, portraits were taken of her at nearly the same spot.
- Following graduation from grade 12 at the Red Lake Continuation School (as the high school was then called), Lesia completed a senior secretarial course at the Shaw School in Toronto.
- While studying in Toronto, Lesia met Dr. Stephen Dayneka, her husband-to-be, on a blind date set up by Stephen's godfather.
- They were married at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church in Red Lake in 1951.
- In 1954, Lesia was employed at Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines as a clerk-stenographer.
- Throughout Stephen's decades of dentistry practice in Red Lake, Lesia worked as office manager. They did all of this while raising five children.
- Lesia and Steve instilled in their children the importance of education, sports, art, music, and culture, and all five and their families have done them proud. Leslie (Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dental Surgery) practices in Calgary, as does her husband Joseph Dort, a University of Calgary professor of head and neck surgery. Natalie (Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy) is at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa. She and her husband, Bruce Webster, live in Orleans, Ontario. Andrew (M.D., Harvard University), and his wife, Dr. Janet Reid, a diagnostic radiologist, practice in Cleveland, Ohio. Mark holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology and was a geologist for over 10 years. He also has a College Diploma from Humber College in Funeral Services and has been a Funeral Director for the past 18 years. He still plays classical piano. He currently works in Ottawa and lives in Kemptville, Ontario with his wife, Sheri Rowan Dayneka. Sheri has a College Diploma in Journalism, has worked for the provincial government, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in Timmins for over 10 years, and has spent 13 years in Revenue with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Kemptville. Sheri is also a relative of Angus Rowan, who founded Rowan Red Lake Mines in 1936. In addition to their career achievements, the Daynekas, their spouses and children are also accomplished in music and sports. Leslie, Natalie, Andrew and Mark are alumni of the Royal Conservatory of Music.
- Grandchildren: Alex, Jillian and Stephen Dayneka; Erika, Malcolm and Joe Dort; Shannon and Mathew Webster

- Lesia herself was active in sports such as curling and bowling for many years. She and Steve enjoyed dancing, theatre, symphony, and opera.
- Lesia is a talented painter and photographer, and was one of the local artists who painted outdoor banners depicting various aspects of the heritage of the Red Lake District.
- Even after more than five decades in the practice of dentistry, Steve occasionally takes dental courses at the University of Manitoba. In 2004 he was deeply honoured when the Municipality of Red Lake recognized him for 50 years of professional dentistry health service to the Red Lake District. 2010 marks his 56th year of service to the area.

Ehor Boyanowsky

- Ehor was born in Toronto, Ontario on June 9th, 1943.
- He grew up hearing stories of the gold rush and the efforts made by those to settle and civilize the Red Lake District. He remembers: "As a child and teenager, I was a little odd in that I preferred to hang out with the old pioneers like Hans Pokolm and listen to their stories more than with my own peer group. I wish I had kept a journal."
- While attending high school, Ehor wrote countless columns for the *Red Lake District News* on local sports.
- Upon graduation from Red Lake District High School, Ehor attended the University of Western Ontario (Honours B.A., 1966), and the University of Wisconsin, Madison (M.A., 1968, Ph.D., 1971).
- He was a professor of psychology at Dalhousie University and the University of British Columbia.
- He later joined the Department of Criminology at Simon Fraser University in 1975.
- In his 35 years as a professor and criminologist at SFU, Ehor has published hundreds of papers, lectured widely, and been interviewed on television and radio. In 1993, he was a Fellow at the H.F. Guggenheim Foundations in New York City, and has served on dozens of associations and committees.
- He now has the honour of being Professor Emeritus.
- Ehor is the proud father of Jennifer Leigh Benyon, Thea Boyanowsky, and Alexei James Dmitri Boyanowsky.
- His 2010 book *Savage Gods, Silver Ghosts: In the Wild with Ted Hughes* was published to positive reviews. "It is a study of companionship, and love of poetry and wilderness that I shared with a close friend, Ted Hughes, who was the Poet Laureate of England," said Ehor.