

Bauza Family

Brunonas (Bruno) Bauza

- Brunonas (Bruno) Bauza was born on November 6th, 1922 in Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania.
- As well as Lithuanian, he also spoke German and Russian.
- In his early life, Bruno suffered a great heartbreak when a brother committed suicide.
- He was very bright and had been a good student at university.
- In Lithuania, Bruno worked as an interior decorator for seven years.
- In Germany, he was employed for four years in a benzine refinery.
- Bruno served in the German army. Due to his service in Germany, Bruno would have been killed if he returned to his native Lithuania.
- Deeply scarred from his war experience, Bruno was frustrated with the lack of post-war work and food. When he learned of campaigns to bring Europeans to Canada to work in the mines, Bruno applied for the program.
- Only a short time after his marriage to Lotte, Bruno left on the ship during the summer of 1948.
- Bruno arrived in Red Lake and began working at the Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines, Limited on August 10th, 1948.
- Bruno planned to bring Lotte, Peter, and baby daughter Zina to Canada to join him.
- During the month in which his family arrived in the north, Bruno was promoted to the position of chute blaster underground at the Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines.
- On the last day of 1949 he left the mine's employ to take a new job with Hasaga Gold Mines, Limited which was situated in Red Lake proper and, thus, was much closer to home.
- Bruno was a talented painter and continued to paint beautiful pictures during his early days in Red Lake.
- Bruno died in hospital in Kenora, Ontario, on September 21st, 1980, shortly before his 58th birthday.
- He was buried in Red Lake Cemetery.

Lotte Bauza (nee Zeigler)

- Lotte Zeigler was born on February 25th, 1922 in the town of Nürtingen, in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. She also received her education there.
- For many years, Lotte's mother supported herself by working as a seamstress. Her first husband was killed in the First World War, but eventually she remarried.
- Lotte has fond memories of her parents and her siblings. "Our parents were so good to us. Our father always had time to play with all of us and we loved him so much. He died from leukemia when he was only 44 years old."
- Lotte's mother lived to be 82 years old. The end of her life came when she had dementia and fell down the cellar stairs.
- Lotte worked in an office as a clerk and delivery assistant, but she longed to be a dressmaker like her mother.
- When she was 18, Lotte fell in love with her boss's son, Heinz Willi Koch. His father was the foreman of a tooling factory which manufactured precision gears. He was very fond of Lotte and, at a function at which he was being honoured, the senior Koch introduced Lotte to his son. "We saw each other and that was it," Lotte remembered.
- She and Heinz were married in 1940 in his birthplace of Esslingen, Germany.
- Their son, Peter Karl Koch, was born on December 11th, 1941 in Nürtingen on the day that Germany declared war upon the United States.
- Lotte's joy at being a young wife and mother was tragically short-lived, as her husband had to leave not long after their wedding to serve in the army during the Second World War.
- After two years of military service, her husband was killed in a tank battle on the border of Hungary and Romania on October 10th, 1944 during the Russian advance in Hungary. A Russian soldier jumped onto the Tiger tank, surprising Heinz and five others, and threw a grenade at them. All six lost their lives. Lotte learned the news in a very cold way one day when she received a formal letter in the mail.

- At 22, Lotte suddenly found herself a widow with a three year old child to support.
- For some time, she worked in the tooling factory for her father-in-law as a driller and riveter in a factory which made U-boats for war use.
- Despite her grief, Lotte reached out to others in need. She completed a six-month course in first aid and volunteered with the Red Cross Society division which searched for and treated people who were injured in collapsed buildings and in rubble.
- Lotte met her second husband, Brunonas (Bruno) Bauza—a Lithuanian soldier—when he boarded at her residence. They were married in 1948.
- Shortly after their marriage, Bruno left for Canada to work in the mines. Lotte was again parted from a man she loved and wondered if she would ever see him again. She was also expecting their first child, Zina.
- Lotte and her two very young children, Peter and Zina, embarked for Canada in July 1949.
- Once in Canada, Lotte found it difficult to find her way. She soon realized that there was no one to help her, and she spoke absolutely no English and had great difficulty making herself understood.
- She boarded the first train she saw, destination unknown. Lotte constantly wondered where they were. They had only a small amount of Canadian money and nothing to eat.
- With the help of strangers along the way, the family finally made it to Red Lake. At first, Lotte was disappointed by her new home, but eventually grew to love it.
- Lotte recalled the Christmases of her childhood: "The 6th of December was Santa Claus day. Before he came to visit we were very good children. When you were good you got candy, oranges or cookies. The badly-behaved children on his list got a piece of coal or an old potato. If you were really bad, he tried to shove you into his big sack and threatened to take you into the bush and leave you there. We were scared to death when he opened his sack and tried to shove you in." As a young boy in Germany, Lotte's son, Peter, had a similar experience, as Lotte related: "When Peter saw Santa Claus open that sack, he just ran and hid underneath the table."
- In May 1973, Lotte began her career at the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital where she worked in child care, then later in the warehouse.
- Dimitri (Mike) Boyanowsky, a patient whom Lotte knew, died on her second day of work.
- She recalls the excellent training she received from nursing supervisor Eileen Tan.
- Lotte worked at both the old and new hospitals simultaneously for a period as she helped move the old facility into the new.
- Lotte devoted many years to taking care of her husband Bruno after he suffered a devastating stroke at a relatively young age. She was his sole caregiver for 10 years until a local physician discovered her plight, and insisted on arranging for help.
- Like her mother, Lotte was a talented seamstress and dressmaker. She made all dress clothes for herself, her husband, and her children, and she was well-known for the wedding dresses which graced many brides in the Red Lake District over the years. Lotte also had loyal customers, including Lesia and Stephen Dayneka, who returned for years to have clothing made.
- Swimming has been a lifelong passion for Lotte. There are few people in the district who have immersed themselves in the water of Red Lake for over 55 summers, but Lotte is one of them. For her, the exhilarating feeling of being intensely alive while in local water has never lost its luster. For many years, she and her friends Eleanor McEwen and Ella Salt have been devotees of the Kinsman Beach.
- Herself an immigrant, Lotte has always had tremendous empathy for new Canadians. For many years, until she began losing her eyesight, she could be called upon to translate documents and correspondence.
- Lotte's love of travel has taken her on many trips back to her homeland of Germany, and to visit her daughters in Florida and Montreal.
- For decades, Lotte has lived in her cozy home on Gold Shore Road. Her flower gardens and her welcoming, loving nature beckon family and friends alike.

The Couple

- When the Nazis discovered that Lotte's residence could house more people, they forced her landlady to accept soldiers as boarders. One of them was Brunonas (Bruno) Bauza.
- The landlady asked Lotte to give one of her late husband's dress shirts to Bruno, who had very little. Lotte and Bruno met because of this shirt.

- "I thought he was very gentle and handsome," noted Lotte.
- Their fondness grew into love and they were married in 1948 in Nürtingen, Germany.
- When Bruno left for Canada in 1948, they were expecting their first child together.
- Lotte, Peter and Zina joined Bruno in Canada in 1949. Since they were not displaced persons, Lotte and her children arrived in Quebec City rather than in Halifax.
- The Bauzas had three daughters: Zina-Ida Eva D'Onofrio (Montreal), Barbara Ann Moore-Bunny (Dryden), and Suzanne Jeanette (Suzie) (Florida) all of whom were lovingly raised and educated in Red Lake.
- The Canadian family remains in contact with Bruno's nephew and two nieces who live in his birth city of Kaunas, Lithuania, where they are all physicians.
- Lotte and Bruno sent parcels of medical supplies and stethoscopes to the family, as what they had during the Soviet era was of poor quality.

Peter Karl Koch

- Peter Karl Koch was born on December 11th, 1941 in Nürtingen on the day that Germany declared war upon the United States.
- He was the first child born to Lotte Bauza.
- His father was Heinz Willi Koch, Lotte's first husband, who was killed in a tank battle while serving in the Second World War. Peter was nearly three years old at the time.
- Peter's father's family asked that he keep his surname, Koch.
- Some of Peter Koch's earliest memories are from the life-changing trip across the ocean to their new lives: "The voyage on the *S.S. Samaria* was a young boy's dream. There was more food than I had ever seen, as Germany then still lived with strict food rations. To make things even better, we hit a huge North Atlantic storm and most passengers were sea sick. There were few people about so I had all the ice cream I wanted, plus the run of the ship. I played soccer with the sailors until one of them accidentally kicked my ball over the side and we watched it bob in the ocean until we were out of sight."
- Peter was seven years old when they immigrated to Canada.
- Peter has lived, attended school, and worked in the Red Lake district for over 60 years.
- He married Sandra Ellen Susan McRae on May 16th, 1964 at St. Francis Xavier R.C. Church in Balmertown. They shared a long, happy life of 40 years together before Sandy's death at age 59 on December 9th, 2004.
- Peter worked for many years as engineer in charge of the surveying department of Campbell Red Lake Gold Mines, Limited.
- One of his most rewarding jobs was helping to plan the then nine hole golf course of the Red Lake Area Golf & Country Club. Later, he also planned the expansion into an 18-hole course. It is the most northerly 18-hole golf course in the province.
- For more than 25 years, Peter has been a devoted executive board member and leader of the club. In 2010 he received a honorary life membership in the Red Lake Area Golf & Country Club.

Immigrating to Canada

In 1948, shortly after Lotte and Bruno were married, Bruno left his family to go work in Canada. He had learned of campaigns to bring Europeans to work in the mines, and so he applied for the program and was accepted.

At the time, the Bauzas were expecting their first child, Zina. "We could not come over with Bruno as we were not displaced persons and Canada was not allowing Germans in," explained Lotte's son, Peter Koch. "We were to follow when he earned enough money for our passage."

A year later in July 1949, Lotte and her two very young children—Peter (7) and Zina (1)—left behind very sad family members when they embarked for Canada. After saying a tearful farewell at the train station in Stuttgart, they travelled by train to France to the port of Le Havre. There they boarded the Cunard Line ship, the *S.S. Samaria*.

Zina had her first birthday aboard the ship to Canada, but had also been very ill during the entire voyage across the ocean. Once they arrived in Canada, Lotte sent Peter across the street to a small store

to purchase milk for the baby. "Thank goodness milk and milch sound the same," said Peter, as he didn't speak any English.

Since they were not displaced persons, Lotte and her children arrived in Quebec City rather than in Halifax. Lotte soon realized that there was no one to help her find her way anywhere.

"I remember standing on the side of the road by the train station with all of our possessions, my pack sack and two suitcases," said Peter. "My mother had my sister, Zina, in her arms plus another suitcase. She spoke absolutely no English. Being seven years old and in a strange land was all a new adventure for me, but my mother displayed a lot of strength and pulled us together."

"With the milk in hand for Zina, my mother decided that we could not just stand at the station waiting for help that was not going to come. So, we boarded the first train she saw, destination unknown. When the conductor came to check our tickets he told us we were on the wrong train and directed us to where we had to go. Once on the train we thought we were home free and would soon be at our destination of Red Lake. Little did we know that we were days away from our new home."

Lotte constantly wondered where they were. She had great difficulty making herself understood to English-speaking people. They had only a small amount of Canadian money and nothing to eat.

Lotte and the children, however, had a saviour. "I will never forget the kindness of the old gentleman who ran a small store on the train," explained Peter. "He took us under his wing, made sure we had something to eat, told us where we were, and informed the conductor that we had to get off at Red Lake Road. This man spoke German and was Jewish. He treated us so well even after what the Germans did to his people during the war."

Lotte and the children got off the train at the tiny Red Lake Road station with the belief that they had arrived at their new home. However, neither Bruno nor anyone else was there to greet them. Lotte later learned that Bruno had not received the telegram in which she informed him of his family's arrival. He did not expect them for another two weeks, but had already made arrangements for a taxi to meet them at Red Lake Road.

Again, Lotte was stranded and forlorn, with no idea as to what she should do. "Once again good fortune smiled upon us," said Peter. "A man in a taxi passed by and saw us. He spoke German and offered to take us to Red Lake, which we thought was a couple of kilometres from the station."

"After what seemed like an eternity on the road we came over the hill which approaches downtown Red Lake. We got our first look at Howey Bay and Red Lake. My mother said, 'look at all the nice summer homes by the water' not realizing that this was our new home and downtown," Peter remembered.

After finally making herself understood to someone, Lotte received directions to her new home on Gold Shore Road. "When my mother saw this dilapidated two-roomed log cabin, she sat on her suitcase and cried. We had left a city in Germany which had stone houses and a summer home in my grandparents' orchard which looked like a palace compared to this one bedroom, kitchen place," said Peter.

During their first winter, Lotte and Peter marveled at all the snow. They had never seen snow at Christmas. That holiday was a precious time for Lotte, and she worked hard to maintain in Canada the traditions of her family back home.