

The Story of George Flosman

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George Flosman of Greensville

George Flosman came to Flamorough in 1951 after fleeing from the communist occupation of Czechoslovakia following the Second World War. Before the war, the Flosmans had been millers in southern Bohemia secretly selling flour at pre-war prices, ignoring the Nazi quotas. George's father, Frantisek (Frank) Flosman, was considered a war hero for his actions during the war.

Frank's brother was a prominent Member of Parliament, and asked the family to hide the former Czech foreign minister and anti-communist Hubert Ripka at the family mill after the Soviets liberated the country from Nazi-rule.

The Flosmans hid Ripka, along with two French attaches, until a French plane could land in a local field and spirit the ex-foreign minister away to safety. The Flosmans were implicated in Ripka's escape, and 11 year old George joined his family on a Soviet "hit list."

Alerted by a friend that the Russians were coming, Frank decided to hide his family in a specially outfitted truck and try and sneak across the border. Posing as a farmer gathering wood, he approached the border (described by Winston Churchill as the infamous "Iron Curtain"). When the border guards looked the other way, Frank (and his hidden family) accelerated toward West Germany. The truck was soon stuck in the mud, and sirens began to wail. George's father exited the truck, gun in hand, prepared to fight. Luckily an American patrol surrounded the truck and rescued the family. After spending a year in a refugee camp, the Flosmans were issued a visa to immigrate to Canada. After working in south western Ontario, they settled near Carlisle and began farming between the 7th and 8th concessions. In 1974, George Flosman began Eicom Ltd, a welding shop in Greensville where the family finally settled in 1980.

George's son, Robert Flosman, remains a famous and beloved history teacher at Waterdown District High School who founded the Waterdown Museum of History in 2013, and was awarded the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Rt. Hon. Juile Payette in 2017.

Mike Flosman and the 1982 Constitution Act

It was the Flosman's welding shop that produced the steel frame for the canopy protecting Queen Elizabeth II when she signed the Constitution Act in Ottawa on April 17th, 1982. George Flosman's son Mike made sure to scratch his name into the frame (just above where the throne would be located) so the Queen could read it that day.