I. INTRODUCTION

The Baltic Countries

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania lie on the Baltic Sea in northeastern Europe. Though small, they are strategically significant for European trade and security. As a result, they have experienced a turbulent history and a long road to independence.

ESTONIA

- Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic with a population of 1.2 million. Its capital is Tallinn. Estonians were never a minority and the upper class in Estonia. Estonia has a long tradition of music and choral singing. After being ruled by Denmark, the German knights of the Livonian Order, and Sweden in the 15th century, Estonia became part of the Russian Empire in the 18th century. The country declared independence in 1918 but was occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, then occupied by Nazi Germany in 1941 and re-occupied by the Soviet Union in 1944. Estonia re-established its independence in 1991.

- Estonians began to arrive in Canada in the early 1900s, with a wave of immigrants taking place after the Second World War. By 1954, 72,000 fled to Sweden and Germany to escape Soviet rule, and of those nearly 15,000 immigrated to Canada. Many were professionals and settled in cities after completing required work terms on Canadian farms. Today, Estonia has the largest Estonian community in Canada.

LATVIA

- Latvia is a democratic parliamentary republic with a population of 1.9 million. It is one of the world's smallest countries and its capital Riga is the largest Baltic city. Latvia has a rich cultural heritage, including dozens of full songs that date back well over 10,000 years. From the 13th to the 20th century Latvia was controlled at various times by German rulers, and by Poland, Sweden, and Russia. It became independent in 1922 after the collapse of the Russian Empire and the end of the First World War, only to be occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, Latvia re-established its independence in 1991.

- The first Latvians came to Canada in the 1880s as refugees from Tsarist Russia and most settled in Manitoba and Alberta. 10,000 Latvians fled to Western Europe at the end of the Second World War to escape Soviet rule, with 15,000 eventually immigrating to Canada. Many were professionals and settled in Ontario. Today, Latvia has the largest Latvian community in Canada.

LITHUANIA

- Lithuania is a parliamentary democracy with a population of 3.5 million. It is a landlocked country with many forests and lakes, and a long tradition of literature and music. Lithuania was the last nation in Europe to be Christianized and the only Baltic country that did not become Lutheran with the Protestant Reformation; it remained Catholic.

- The state of Lithuania emerged in the 13th century when it was created under Mongol rule, the Lithuanian grand duke was crowned king. In the 16th century the Grand Duchy of Lithuania became one of Europe's most powerful states, forging a powerful alliance with Poland.

- Lithuania came under Russian control in the late 18th century. It declared independence in 1918, but in 1922 was illegally annexed by the Soviet Union. Lithuania regained its independence in 1991.

- In the 1990s the first Lithuanians to immigrate to Canada were soldiers, followed by laborers around 1990. After the Second World War large numbers of Lithuanians fled to Western Europe to escape Soviet occupation, with 10,000 eventually immigrating to Canada. Soviet delays in recognizing Lithuania's independence led to more immigration in 1990-91. Today, most Lithuanian Canadians live in Toronto.

BALTIC GERMANS

- Germans first came to Latvia and Estonia as merchants, missionaries and crusaders in the 12th century. As German crusaders Christianized and took control of the area, a social system emerged in which Germans were the upper class and the indigenous population the serfs. The captured territory between Lithuania and northern Estonia was known as Old Livonia and became part of the Holy Roman Empire. Old Livonia was also integrated into the Hanseatic League, an umbrella organization of German merchant communities that dominated commercial activity in northern Europe from the 13th to the 15th century. Lithuania did not have a German elite, though some of its cities had a small German trading class.

- Finnish Germans, who lived in the region until the end of the 19th century. After Estonian and Latvian independence in 1920, however, they lost much of their land and corporate interests. Some left, but many stayed and adapted to a new role as an ethnic minority in a democratic state.

- At the beginning of the Second World War the Baltic Germans were mostly occupied Poland and Germany. After the war, about 4,000 immigrated to Canada, which today has the largest Baltic German community outside of Germany. Baltic German Canadians have a unique German accent and have a distinct culture shaped by their five-year history in the Baltic region. Their legacy in the Baltic region includes many buildings, churches, and institutions.
KLAM
Kanādas Latviešu Archīvs un Muzejs
Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society

An Introduction to the Baltic Germans of Canada
By Barbara Habib
Wednesday November 12th, 2014
Tartu College

Lecture by Barbara Habib
„Changing or replacing the pictorial material of the entire society was an important part of Sovietization.“ Sofi Oksanen
Baltic Communities in Canada

Canada’s Baltic communities are small but significant. Collectively they have made many contributions to Canada, particularly in the realms of Academia, the arts, science, sports, agriculture, architecture and the construction industry. Vibrant and well connected to their heritages, they continue to play an important role in Canada’s cultural mosaic.

**23,930**

**27,870**

**46,000**

**OUR NUMBERS**

Latvians, Lithuanians, Belarusians

Canada with over 200,000 foreigners. Ceitizens of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus are the largest Baltic communities in Canada.

**WORKING TOGETHER**

Partnerships between these three nations have always been strong, but since the fall of the Soviet Union, they have been even stronger. Each community has worked together to support each other, and to promote their shared heritage.

**Childhood Memories**

Many individuals have vivid memories of their time in their homeland. These memories often include family gatherings, traditional celebrations, and close relationships with friends and family.

**Golden Times**

Many individuals have fond memories of their time in their homeland. These memories often include family gatherings, traditional celebrations, and close relationships with friends and family.

**Lithuanian Museum Archives of Canada**

Located in Toronto, the museum is dedicated to preserving and preserving the history and culture of the Lithuanian community in Canada. It houses a collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs that provide insight into the lives of Lithuanian Canadians.

**VEMU/Visiting Studies Centre**

The center is dedicated to promoting Lithuanian studies and research. It offers a range of programs and resources for students and researchers interested in Lithuanian culture and language.

**Lithuanian Heritage House Museum**

Located in Edmonton, the museum offers a range of exhibitions and programs that explore the history and culture of the Lithuanian community in Canada.
Rīgā, 22. XI. - 1955. g.

Sveicināt svaini!

Paldosiet, ka jūs turējat ar savu varstību,
bet gribu paguvinot senojošo.
Mana dārgā vecākā bija māja izist 2 gados atpakaļ,
avīna jūsu jaunumā ir pilnīgi necietāma.

īpaši ir necietāma.
Latvijas pirmas neatkarības līka
naudas zīmes
Oļģerta Bernava darana
Baltic Communities in Canada

Canada’s Baltic communities are small but significant. Collectively, they have made many contributions to Canada, particularly in the areas of education, the arts, and construction. Although they may appear isolated in their homeland, they continue to play an important role in Canada’s cultural mosaic.

ECONOMIC TO CANADA (1949-1990)

- 23,930
- 27,870
- 46,690

The Baltic Countries

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Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

FIAT/IFTA Conference in Antalya, Turkey October 12-18th, 2002
Archival Cooperation and Community Building. BAAC 10

The first Riga Seminar ”Partnerships, Access and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage” at the Latvian Television September 30th-October 3rd, 2004

Organized/supported by the Latvian Television, Lithuanian Radio & Television, Estonian Television, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, Swedish Television and Norwegian and Swedish Embassies, Library and Archives Canada.
Archival Cooperation and Community Building.

BAAC 10

The Riga Planning Meeting in Riga April 2005

The new council was elected in Riga:
- President Piret Noorhani, (Estonian Literary Museum), Vice-President Rasa Miskinyte (Lithuanian Radio & Television), Vice-President Inga Vilcane (Newspaper Diena Library, Riga), Secretary Nora Licite (Latvian Television)

Board members: Tedd Urnes (NRK), Lasse Nilsson (SVT), Andris Kesteris (Library and Archives Canada), Reet Harkmaa (Estonian Television), Jan Aasmund Jakobsen (Norway), Ivi Tomingas (Estonian Filmarchives), Vilnis Auzinš (Latvian Museum of Photography), Eha Väinsalu (Estonian Television), Lelde Neimane (Occupation Museum, Riga) Alexander Jaransky (Lithuanian Radio & Television) and Egle Gudelyte (Lithuanian Radio & Television)
Lasse Nilsson:

„We got a glimpse of the work done by dedicated people in the national institutions under difficult political conditions, proud of their cultural heritage and at the same time aware of its importance for the future. Then it feels really important with the kind of networking and sharing of knowledge and experience that BAAC stands for and how it is manifested through, for example our conferences and workshops.”
Archival Cooperation and Community Building.
BAAC 10

The Riga Planning Meeting in April 2005
Archival Cooperation and Community Building.

BAAC 10

BAAC was founded at the Estonian Embassy on the Tyrgata in Stockholm on March 21st, 2006

Board members: Piret Noorhani (Estonia), Juozas Markauskas (Lithuania), Inga Vilcāne (Latvia), Andris Kesteris (Canada), Tedd Urnes (Norway), Lasse Nilsson and Lars-Gunnar Bengtsson (Sweden).

Member: Kristīne Pabērza (Latvia)
Archival Cooperation and Community Building.
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