

a scattering of seeds

THE CREATION OF CANADA

A Scattering of Seeds - The Creation of Canada is a series of 52 documentary films exploring the dreams, daring and determination of Canada's first immigrants. It is a journey into the hopes and triumphs of those who built a nation, interpreted by Canada's best independent documentary filmmakers.

The series draws on a rich archive of home movies, photographs, letters home, diaries and oral history. These are personal portraits celebrating the diversity of the first families who arrived during Canada's formative years of nation building. From the early French, Irish and African-American settler to the Chilean music teacher and Chinese painter, this kaleidoscope of images and experiences is unparalleled in Canadian filmmaking.

By personalizing the stories of immigrants, *A Scattering of Seeds* makes the stranger immediately familiar and the beginnings of this country a shared experience. There is conflict, oppression and the occasional sinking of hearts, yet the resolve and character of these immigrants is what built our nation and allows it to grow. At the root of each story is the instinct to contribute something, to leave something, to mark the efforts of a life. Who we were before we became who we are is our lasting legacy and our greatest teacher. *A Scattering of Seeds* demonstrates a profound understanding of the sense of community that continues to shape a country still in transition.

"... an evocative anthology of personal stories which tell Canadian tales, not through great men, but through the unsung heroes who, in their own sometimes very small ways, helped build a great nation."

Antonia Zerbisias, Toronto Star

PRODUCERS

PETER RAYMONT • LINDALEE TRACEY

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

Canadian Television Fund created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry
Telefilm Canada - Equity Investment Program • Rogers Cable Network Fund • Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund
Rogers Telefund • Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit • Millennium Bureau of Canada
Citizenship and Immigration Canada • Canadian Heritage-Multiculturalism • Parks Canada
World Heart Corporation • The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH

History Television • Le Réseau de l'information de la Société Radio-Canada • Vision TV • TVONTARIO
Knowledge Network • Saskatchewan Communications Network
ACCESS - The Education Station

PRODUCED BY WHITE PINE PICTURES
1998-2001 • 52 x 30 MINUTES EA.
JRH / ADULT
WEBSITE: www.whitepinepictures.com



DISTRIBUTED BY McNABB & CONNOLLY
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- #1 *Something from Nothing: The Shumiatcher Saga* - DIRECTOR: DAVID PAPERNY - LOCATION: CALGARY, ALBERTA**
In the first film of the series, the legendary Shumiatcher family of Calgary is profiled.
- #2 *The Force of Hope: The Legacy of Father McGauran* - DIRECTOR: LINDALEE TRACEY - LOCATION: GROSSE ISLE, QUEBEC**
The heroic efforts of an Irish priest to comfort thousands of dying immigrants are traced.
- #3 *The Road Chosen: The Story of Lem Wong* - DIRECTOR: KEITH LOCK - LOCATION: LONDON, ONTARIO**
We follow Lem Wong who laboured in Chinese laundries from Vancouver to Cape Breton Island.
- #4 *For the Love of God: The Mennonites and Benjamin Eby* - DIRECTOR: ANN KENNARD - LOCATION: ST. JACOB'S, ONTARIO**
The story of Benjamin Eby and the history of the Mennonite community of St. Jacob's, Ontario.
- #5 *Breaking the Ice: The Story of Mary Ann Shadd* - DIRECTOR: SYLVIA SWEENEY - LOCATION: WINDSOR, ONTARIO**
The spotlight falls on black woman Mary Ann Shadd, abolitionist, integrationist, and teacher.
- #6 *Acadian Spirit: The Legacy of Philippe d'Entremont* - DIRECTOR: PETER D'ENTREMONT - LOCATION: PUBNICO, NOVA SCOTIA**
Peter d'Entremont explores his own ancestry in the Acadian community of Pubnico, Nova Scotia.
- #7 *Sons and Daughters: The Italians of Schreiber* - DIRECTORS: PATRICIA FOGLIATO AND DAVID MORTIN - LOCATION: SCHREIBER, ONTARIO**
We follow the progress of a whole village as they move from Calabria, Italy, to the town of Schreiber, Ontario.
- #8 *Watari Dori: A Bird of Passage* - DIRECTOR: LINDA OHAMA - LOCATION: TASHME AND VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**
This is the story of Irene Tsuyuki, a Japanese Canadian who was interned in the B.C. interior during the Second World War.
- #9 *The Impossible Home: Robert Kroetsch and his German Roots* - DIRECTOR: CARL BESSAI - LOCATION: HEISLER, ALBERTA**
German prairie roots are explored as novelist and poet Robert Kroetsch is profiled.
- #10 *Passage from India* - DIRECTOR: ALI KAZIMI - LOCATION: VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**
We meet Bagga Singh, who journeyed from a remote farming village in the Punjab to work in sawmills in B.C.
- #11 *The Fullness of Time: Ukrainian Stories from Alberta* - DIRECTOR: HALYA KUCHMIJ - LOCATION: ALBERTA**
We trace the history of the Spak family from the first Ukrainian settlement in Alberta to grandson writer/filmmaker Harvey.
- #12 *The First Seeding* - DIRECTOR: RICHARD BOUTET - LOCATION: QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC**
The legacy of Louis Hébert, the first farmer to sow wheat in Quebec, is examined.
- #13 *A Land as Green as the Sea* - DIRECTOR: TOM RADFORD - LOCATION: EDMONTON, ALBERTA**
A family comes from Scotland to Alberta and goes on to found a Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper in Edmonton.
- #14 *First Lady of the Yukon* - DIRECTOR: DAVID ADKIN - LOCATION: DAWSON CITY, YUKON**
Martha Black became the first woman Member of Parliament from the Yukon.
- #15 *An English Sense of Justice* - DIRECTOR: LINDALEE TRACEY - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO**
T. Phillips Thompson, grandfather of Pierre Berton, Toronto newspaperman, and champion of the poor and working class.
- #16 *Brothers from Vietnam* - DIRECTOR: CARL BESSAI - LOCATION: EDMONTON, ALBERTA**
Carl Bessai's personal account of sponsoring a Vietnamese "boat" family and their relationship over the years.
- #17 *New Norway: The Immigrant Trail* - DIRECTOR: TOM RADFORD - LOCATION: ALBERTA**
The legacy of three generations of a Norwegian family who emigrated to Alberta in 1912.
- #18 *Straight Arrow* - DIRECTORS: ANNA AND GEORGE PRODANOU - LOCATION: NORTHERN ONTARIO**
The story of Janusz Zurakowski, a Polish aviator who became an Avro Arrow test pilot.
- #19 *The Magnificent Abersons* - DIRECTOR: LAURENCE GREEN - LOCATION: DAUPHIN, MANITOBA**
Jane Aberson's letters home became a "how to" column for other Dutch emigrants.
- #20 *Voice of Freedom* - DIRECTOR: JACQUES HOLENDER - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO**
Ugandan refugee Opiyo Oloya became an important part of Toronto's African culture through his community radio programme.
- #21 *Saga of Hope* - DIRECTOR: JULIANN BLACKMORE - LOCATION: GIMLI, MANITOBA**
Two Icelandic families are followed as their fortunes are made and broken in rural Manitoba in the early 1900s.
- #22 *The Stowaway* - DIRECTORS: PATRICIA FOGLIATO AND DAVID MORTIN - LOCATION: ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND**
A profile of Antonio da Silva, a Portuguese stowaway who arrived in Newfoundland in 1920, and went on to open a boarding house which became home away from home for the famous White Fleet.
- #23 *Opening Night* - DIRECTOR: MARIE-CLAUDE HARVEY - LOCATION: MONTREAL, QUEBEC**
George Farhood, a Lebanese immigrant to Montreal in 1889, and his son, opened one of Quebec's first Francophone theaters.
- #24 *The Wanderer* - DIRECTOR: SUN-KYUNG YI - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO**
Korean immigrant Rev. Sang-Chul Lee settled in Toronto in the 1960s. He became the moderator of Canada's United Church.
- #25 *The Boatswain* - DIRECTOR: JANKO VIRANT - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO**
Recently arrived Serbian poet, Radovan Gajic, is the caretaker and community leader of a high-rise apartment building in Toronto. The building is a magnet for other Serbian immigrants.
- #26 *The Haitian Heart of Love* - DIRECTOR: CARLOS FERRAND - LOCATION: MONTREAL, QUEBEC**
Haitian Jesuit, Karl Lévêque arrived in Montreal in the 1970s. He used sport, religion and community radio to rally his community and to build bridges into Quebec society.

#27 *Má Vlast (My Homeland): The Jiraneks In Canada* - DIRECTOR: TOM RADFORD - LOCATION: EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Michael and Renata Jiranek escaped the Soviet invasion of their Czech homeland and came to Canada with the dream of coaching figure skating. Within ten years they had taken Kurt Browning and turned him into a national figure skating champion.

#28 *René Richard: Painter of the North* - DIRECTOR: JEAN-FRANÇOIS MONETTE - LOCATION: ALBERTA AND BAIE ST. PAUL, QUEBEC

In 1909, 14 year old René Richard arrived in Montreal from Switzerland. His family moved West to farm in Alberta, and within a few years he began a series of adventures to the "great white north", where he began to paint the beauty he saw. He was awarded the Order of Canada.

#29 *Sleight of Hand* - DIRECTOR: LAURENCE GREEN - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO

Born in Malta, in 1898, John Giordmaine immigrated to Canada in 1919. Giordmaine soon started entertaining his co-workers with stories from Malta, songs on his flute and magic tricks. An amusing pastime soon became a full-time career.

#30 *Copyright: Leonard Frank* - DIRECTOR: ELI GORN - LOCATION: ALBERNI AND VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Leonard Frank came to Canada in 1892 and settled in Alberni on Vancouver Island. Overwhelmed by the beauty and grandeur of his new homeland, he started carrying a camera with him into the back country. Leonard Frank became one of Canada's greatest photographers.

#31 *Century Man: The Father Salamis Story* - DIRECTOR: STAVROS STAVRIDES - LOCATION: MONTREAL, QUEBEC

A young man left Greece in 1914, bound for Vancouver. Later, he returned to Greece and studied for the priesthood. He came back to Canada in the 1930's to become a parish priest. Still alive today at 102 years of age, Father Salamis is a legend in the Greek community.

#32 *Captain of Souls: Rev. William White* - DIRECTOR: FERN LEVITT - LOCATION: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Captain Reverend Dr. William Andrew White was born in Virginia in 1874, the son of ex-slaves. He came to Nova Scotia in 1900 to study theology at Acadia University and was the first black student there. White was ordained as a minister in 1906. When WWI broke out he enlisted in a segregated battalion and became the only black chaplain and only black officer in the British Army.

#33 *A Glowing Dream: The Story of Jacob & Rose Penner* - DIRECTOR: CATHY GULKIN - LOCATION: WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Jacob Penner, a Mennonite, emigrated from Russia to Canada in 1904. Rose (Shepak) Penner, a Jew from Odessa, emigrated to Winnipeg around 1900. The couple devoted their lives to socialist politics. Jacob was one of the organizers of the Winnipeg General Strike.

#34 *An Act of Grace* - DIRECTOR: SYLVIA SWEENEY - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO

Grace Bagnato was a pioneer, a social activist, an amateur politician and perhaps one of the most influential people in the city of Toronto in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. Like so many Canadians who have made significant contributions to their communities, she remains largely uncelebrated.

#35 *The Reluctant Politician: The Story of Irene Parlby* - DIRECTOR: DAVID ADKIN - LOCATION: LACOMBE, ALBERTA

Irene Parlby was born in London, England in 1868. She emigrated to the rugged frontier of the Canadian Northwest. She became a leading voice for farm women in Alberta from 1915 - 1935 and one of the "Famous Five" who led the fight for women to be recognized as "persons" in 1929.

#36 *A Sephardic Journey: Solly Lévy...From Morocco to Montreal* - DIRECTOR: DON WINKLER - LOCATION: MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Solly Lévy has been a mainstay of the Sephardic Jewish community in Montreal. He came here from Morocco with his wife and young family in the late 60s, and since then, as teacher, dramatist, singer and song-collector, stand-up comic, and radio host, he has been a passionate advocate for the Sephardic community and its traditions, while casting an affectionately ironic eye on its foibles and idiosyncracies.

#37 *Kaposvar: The Faith of Lajos Nagy* - DIRECTOR: STEPHEN ONDA - LOCATION: KAPOSVAR, SASKATCHEWAN

In 1889 Lajos Nagy and his family arrived to live in the settlement of Kaposvar as part of the first Hungarian colony in North America. Deep religious faith softened the hardship, but they had no church. Lajos Nagy helped build their first cathedral.

#38 *King of Hearts: Dreams of a Shepherd Boy* - DIRECTOR: LINDALEE TRACEY - LOCATION: OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Tofy Mussivand was a young man when he fled the Shah's Iran in 1957. After studying engineering and working across Canada, Dr. Mussivand left to pursue medicine and biomedical engineering in the United States. Bringing back extraordinary expertise, he settled in Ottawa, where his knowledge pushed the frontier of heart transplants and made the city an unlikely centre of world class heart technology and research. Highly skilled and personally driven, Dr. Mussivand invented an artificial heart that may well revolutionize the success rate of transplants.

#39 *Peaceable Kingdom: Nicholas Austin, Quaker Pioneer* - DIRECTOR: MARTIN DUCKWORTH - LOCATION: LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG, QUEBEC

It is not generally known that many of the refugees from the American Revolution, generally referred to as the United Empire Loyalists, had tried to remain neutral in the conflict. Pacifist Quaker Nicholas Austin was one such neutralist. He led a group to found a settlement around Lake Memphremagog in Quebec called Gibraltar Point where they could avoid harassment by Loyalists and others.

#40 *Pioneer Priest: Monseigneur Bourdel* - DIRECTOR: DONNA CARUSO - LOCATION: PRUD'HOMME, SASKATCHEWAN

In 1904 at the improbable age of 42, Constant Jean-Baptiste Bourdel left France against his doctor's wishes and settled in the emptiness of Saskatchewan's prairie. There, with his nephew and his nephew's wife, he started the first parish in Prud'homme. Bourdel was largely responsible for the creation of Catholic schools throughout the province and, to this day, local mass is celebrated in French.

#41 *The Yellow Pear: The Story of Gu Xiong* - DIRECTOR: AUDREY MEHLER - LOCATION: VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Gu Xiong was an artist living in Beijing in 1989. Through close contacts made as a student at the Banff Centre for Fine Arts, he escaped from China just after the Tiananmen Square massacre, leaving his wife and child behind. Gu Xiong settled in Vancouver, and continued his artwork. He soon got the attention of local galleries. Finally reunited with his small family, Gu Xiong earned a teaching post and the accolades of art lovers nationally and internationally. His work now hangs in the National Gallery in Ottawa and at galleries in Montreal and Toronto.

#42 *An Irish Woman's Kingdom: Kit Coleman* - DIRECTOR: LINDALEE TRACEY - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO

Well-educated, Kit Coleman arrived in Toronto in 1884 and married, only to find herself abandoned with two children. Turning to house cleaning and story writing, she earned a job on the women's page of a local newspaper. Chafing against low wages and Victorian propriety, she started one of the first advice columns and wrote forcefully on social reform and women's issues. Determined to break through the "boy's club", Kit finagled her way to the Spanish American War, becoming the world's first accredited woman foreign correspondent.

#43 *The Great Lone Land: The Life of R.B. Nevitt* - DIRECTOR: TOM RADFORD - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO

Richard Nevitt fled Savannah Georgia at the age of 14 after being drafted by the Confederacy. Settling first in Quebec, he studied medicine then signed up as a doctor with the RCMP's famous "Great March West" of 1874. Dr. Nevitt's care of local natives won him their respect; and his many sketches created a valuable historical record of the peaceful settling of the West. Nevitt continued practising medicine in Toronto, helping found the Women's Medical College and delivering a baby a day for the rest of his life.

#44 *The Other Side of the Curtain* - DIRECTORS: PATRICK REED AND LAURENCE GREEN - LOCATION: HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Elena Kudaba was an acclaimed young actress in Lithuania when WWII threatened to rob her of that dream. She escaped as a refugee just as her homeland fell behind the Iron Curtain of Soviet occupation. She emigrated to Hamilton in 1949. Within months of arriving, Elena Kudaba founded an amateur theatre troupe called Aukuras (Eternal Flame) for her community. Her career rose as dramatically as the curtain itself.

#45 *A Farmer from Amber Valley: J.D. Edwards* - DIRECTOR: DAVID ADKIN - LOCATION: NORTHERN ALBERTA

Jefferson Davis Edwards was one of many black Oklahomans who looked to Canada as a land of opportunity where they could live as full citizens. He settled with other black farmers in a place called Amber Valley in northern Alberta, raised a large family, and delighted in asserting his citizenship as a community leader. The Amber Valley baseball team that Edwards started left a deep impression on western baseball lore.

#46 *The Music Teacher* - DIRECTOR: PATRICIA FOGLIATO - LOCATION: TORONTO, ONTARIO

Born in 1886, Alberto Guerrero was a key figure in classical music in Chile as a composer, concert pianist and orchestra conductor. In the early 1920s this refined musical luminary was offered a position at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, a backwater in the classical musical world. Guerrero became the teacher of an entire generation of notable Canadian composers and pianists including Stuart Hamilton, Arthur Ozolins, William Aide and John Beckwith. Perhaps his greatest legacy was as the principal teacher of Glenn Gould.

#47 *Henry de Puyjalon: Lone Wolf of the North Shore* - DIRECTOR: JEAN-FRANÇOIS MONETTE - LOCATION: MINGAN, QUEBEC

Lured by tales of the Canadian wilds he had heard in Parisian cafes, Henry de Puyjalon crossed the sea in 1872. Passionate about nature, he began making long northern expeditions into the Mingan Archipelago - a necklace of limestone islands and reefs. De Puyjalon was commissioned by the provincial government to make mineralogical surveys, and was later hired as the Perroquet Island lighthouse keeper. There de Puyjalon raised a family and found the peace and purpose he had been looking for - environmentalism.

#48 *Wrestling with the Spirit: A Doukhobor Story* - DIRECTOR: DOROTHY DICKIE - LOCATION: BLAIN LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN

In April of 1899, Vanya and Loosha Perverseff (the director's great-grandparents) came to Canada with 2,300 other Doukhobors. Simple, devout, mostly illiterate peasants, the Doukhobors were pacifists, persecuted by the Russian government for refusing to bear arms for Czar Nicholas II. The Perverseffs settled in Saskatchewan and started a new life as farmers with the assurance of freedom.

#49 *Before His Time: Dr. Alfred E. Waddell* - DIRECTOR: LALITA KRISHNA - LOCATION: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

In 1923 Alfred Waddell set out from Trinidad for New York with dreams of becoming a doctor. But it was Nova Scotia's Dalhousie University that opened its doors for him to study medicine. Graduating in 1933, he faced the suspicions of Halifax's white and black communities who regarded him as an "outsider." Undaunted, Waddell brought medicine to far-flung black communities and spoke out against injustice.

#50 *The Travelling Reverend* - DIRECTOR: LINDA OHAMA - LOCATION: LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

Reverend Yutetsu Kawamura was only 26 years old in 1934 when he arrived in the dusty, southern Alberta town of Raymond. Reverend Kawamura headed the Buddhist Church that became the social centre for the Japanese in southern Alberta during the Depression and war years, taught Japanese classes, and was a travelling priest ministering all over the prairies.

#51 *The Furthest Possible Place: The Journey of Ana Maria Seifert* - DIRECTOR: MARTIN DUCKWORTH - LOCATION: MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Ana Maria Seifert was only 6 years old when her businessman father was put on the wanted list by Bolivia's new political regime and forced underground. Years later, as a student activist, Ana Maria was imprisoned herself. She finally fled to Quebec, joining the thousands of other Latin Americans looking for safety in that province during the 1970s. While scratching out a living through menial work and raising a family, Ana Maria studied biology at night. Finally graduating, she became a researcher in industrial health and a determined advocate for the work safety of low-wage earners, particularly other immigrant women.

#52 *Servant of God: German Painter, Berthold Imhoff* - DIRECTORS: LAURA TUREK AND HUNT HOE - LOCATION: SAINT WALBURG, SASKATCHEWAN

Against the harsh backdrop of pioneer prairie life just prior to World War I, Berthold Imhoff, a well-to-do German painter, planted his large family and built a large wooden home amid sod huts in rural Saskatchewan. He was an awkward farmer, but an avid painter who welcomed other immigrants into his studio. Often working for free, Imhoff painted the walls and ceilings of churches and cathedrals scattered across Saskatchewan. Barely surviving the Great Depression, he was later recognized by the Vatican for his acts of faith and kindness. His legacy endures in the beauty he brought to the prairies, and in the museum run by his descendants.