

Peter Fountas

Interviewee: Peter Fountas, Kingston, Duration:12:58, January 2 2018			
Interviewed by: Paula Antonakos; Translation and summary: Athina Peidou			
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Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:18	1965		Peter comes from Athens. He immigrated to Kingston in 1965.
0:42			Peter took the train from Halifax. It was Halloween. The night he came, it was very cold. He will never forget when he went to the grocery store to buy bread, and all they had was sliced bread. He couldn't find a French loaf and wondered how he could live here without bread. He eventually found it.
1:30			Peter came in the end of October to Halifax. He was 11 years old.
2:00			He remembers Greece. Peter was born in Athens but grew up in the village of Petrina outside of Megalopolis, Arkadia.
2:17			Peter's father left in 1956. He moved to Belleville to work and bring some money back. He returned to Greece in 1958. They stayed in the village until 1965. Peter's father moved to Canada again a few months before his family did to prepare his family's settlement.
2:42			Peter had a great time on the ship. He was in a cabin with his mom and his brother and another gentleman named Yianni. Peter's mother and brother got sea-sick. Peter spent time with Yianni and had a great experience during the 11-day trip. He still has tremendous memories of it. There were very rough seas.
3:51			People from Spain came with boats and people could buy things, such as dolls for her children. After arrived, they took a train to Kingston.
4:45			Peter left in 1973 from Kingston to go to Toronto. He worked with a friend there and when his friend decided to move back to Greece, Peter decided to move back to Kingston.
5:17			Peter worked as a car salesman at Kingston Toyota. In 1977 he decided that Kingston was not enough for him so he moved again to Toronto and took up school at the University of Toronto. He worked during the day and took night school.
5:41			Peter worked as a financial collector (CBC Canada bond credits) for 6 months and was attending classes in the evenings.
5:57			He had the experience of a lifetime there. He made a lady come in the middle of the winter to pay a bill. She was a lady with two kids, as her husband had left her. Peter enforced that she pay the outstanding bill. However, in the end he gave her back the money and decided to quit the job.

6:25			He decided to start working as an account manager in Mississauga. He stayed there for a year. Then he found out that he could do part-time courses at Queen's and that is why he decided to return to Kingston.
6:47			(Going back to Parent's immigration) Peter's cousin Tom Anagnostopoulos had a house here. When Peter's family moved to Kingston they stayed in Tom's house for a month. Then Peter's parents worked at the Superior restaurant for a year.
7:20			Nick Valsamis owned a restaurant called Ms. Kingston Delicatessen. Peter's father took over the restaurant since he "didn't like to be bossed around" and wanted to own his own business. The delicatessen had been bankrupt many times, and the man who sold it just wanted to 'make a quick buck'. They didn't expect it would be a successful business. When Peter's father owned it, on the weekends the sales were approximately 48 dollars. On Monday the sales were approximately 9 dollars. It wasn't even enough to pay the electricity.
8:05			Peter's mother worked very hard and increased the sales. To Valsamis' surprised, Peter's father was able to pay the outstanding \$1100 he owed him. In 1972 they sold the restaurant.
8:30			The Ms Kingston Delicatessen was located next to the clothing store. It is close to where the Toucan and Chez Piggy's is now. That courtyard behind there was his playground.
9:22			When Peter came back from Toronto in 1973, his father helped him to open a restaurant called Hellas restaurant. Things didn't go well, because it became the Greek coffee shop, where everyone went to gossip.
10:11			In 1980 Peter decided to change the restaurant's name to Ruby's. Ruby's was a very successful business. His brother was a minor shareholder in it too. Peter was bored, however, and didn't want to stay there.
11:00			He entered into a contract with Brenton MacCannel. He had the option to become an owner. He took over in 1983. Peter and his brother made an arrangement and bought the business out. They got a second mortgage to do so.
12:02			It was a family business. Peter and his brother Chris renovated the upstairs floor and rented out the apartments. From then he continued his business of buying and selling houses.