

## Toula Leos

Interviewee: Toula Leos, Kingston, June 15th 2017, Duration: 24:36			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_LEOS_T_20170615A_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO.MP3	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:34	Born	Stadio, Arkadia	Born in Stadio, in the Peloponnese. She had 3 brothers. Toula's father owned a store and she had a great childhood. Didn't have hardships.
1:15		Thana, Tripoli, Arkadia, Greece	Toula's brother, Jimmy, immigrated to Canada and her father asked her to move to Canada as well to take care of her brother. Her brother was 15 when he moved.
2:22			Toula moved to Kingston in 1953. The Zekaios family invited Toula to their house.
2:01		Kingston, Canada	Toula worked at Queen's tea room. Then she and her brother rented the store. They worked there and then they bought an apartment.
2:16			Toula's brother George also moved to Canada in 1955.
3:10			Toula got married in 1963. It was a big wedding. She met her husband in Kingston. He came to Canada in 1944. She knew him for 10 years, they were friends. They got married in Saint George's church as there was no Greek Orthodox church at that point
4:18			In 1964 the community bought the Greek church, one year after her wedding. Everyone worked for the church. They were very excited for the new church. Toula went with Mr. Karkoulis to Greece to buy icons for the church. Everyone supported it.
5:19			They painted the church. They did lots of activities and raised a lot of money for the church. She describes running a folklore event one week where there were young girls in the community dancing. They raised a lot of money through this for the church.
5:54		Life in Kingston	Kingston, Canada

			things for the church now. They still do things, but not like it was in those days.
6:30	Life in Kingston	Kingston, Canada	There were many activities like dancing, cooking, Greek school etc. to raise money
6:50			Toula and Louis have 2 daughters. They are both teachers. Niki is married to a doctor and she lives in Sarnia. Marina was also a teacher and now she works at Pita-Pit. They are all very happy, and Toula is very happy.
7:42	Life in Stadio	Stadio, Arkadia	Toula's father was a butcher in Greece, and he also produced and sold wine. They were a wealthy family.
8:00			There was a lot of poverty in big cities but in the village Toula never encountered these conditions.
8:41			Toula lived during world war 2. She remembers it. Germans did not create many problems in the village. They didn't bother them. However, there was resistance coming from the mountains in later years and that is when people were killed by Germans. She remembers her parents hiding the kids. If a German was killed 10 Greeks had to be killed as a revenge, so during that time they were a little afraid. But other than that, no.
10:10			She doesn't remember a lot. She was 15. Toula never felt threatened and she was never starving. She doesn't remember anything negative happening to her family.
10:40	Life in Kingston	Kingston, Canada	During Toula's first years in Canada she sent mail to her parents. She couldn't call them in that time. At the beginning she wanted to leave and return to Greece.
11:01			She didn't like it here, because Toula was missing her friends, but later she made new ones. She got used to Canadian life.
11:30			Queen's tea room was full of students. She cooked there. They served beef, eggs and bacon, pasta, milkshakes (a lot of milk shakes!), ice-cream, ice cream sandwiches...
12:20			There were days that the store was full, especially during graduation ceremonies.
12:50			Later they sold it to Ms Janos and finally the store was sold to Queen's University
13:35			Toula and her husband then bought a store but her husband was not satisfied, and he sold it as well. She worked there while he had it, and helped with children. He decided to be a taxi-driver, number 401.
14:37			The name of the second store was GJP. They sold the same food there. It was on Princess Street, where Burger King is now. It was very central. It was beside a Zakeios drug store. The Karkoulis owned this space before, for their restaurant. When the Karkoulis's family decided to buy a motel they sold the store to the Leos family.
15:40			Their friends were Zakaios, Karkoulis, Johnson and Karis families. There were not a lot of Greeks. Three, four families back then.
16:19			They used to go to Watertown. There was a very small Greek community there. Now this Greek community is even smaller

17:00		Canadians were very polite and behaved very well to Greeks. They did not feel uncomfortable about speaking Greek
18:00		Toula's parents never thought of moving to Canada.
18:20		Toula's brother (Takis) and his family live in the house at Stadio village
19:37		At the beginning Toula was living with her brothers. Later, her brothers bought their own house in Canada.
19:50		Toula missed her Greek life at the beginning. However, when she met other Greeks things got better. She went back to Greece often, for example for her family's weddings.
20:10		Toula speaks English at an elementary level. Her husband studied and speaks English better. Toula didn't go to highschool.
21:15		Her husband liked being in Canada. Canada provides a good life quality. It used to be better but even nowadays while life is more expensive it is still a great country. She has no regrets.
22:10		Sometimes Queen's students are loud, especially for one week (in the summer, when they arrive to school), they are shouting and singing. But overall there is nothing bad with the life in Kingston
22:49		There were two priests in Toula's wedding. One from New York who was the husband of Toula's aunt and one from Toronto
23:30		They went to New York for their honeymoon for one week. They loved it, they saw everything. They have been back since then.
24:00		Their wedding party was held in the motel. There was a lot of food, and there was musicians from Toronto.

SECOND CLIP, after Toula brought George some photos to look through.

10:25 mins; same day.

0:00-7:16, going through photos

- Wedding took place on the 20th of October 1963. St. George's Cathedral.
- Photo of Toula walking down a staircase; Earl St
- photo of guests dancing, Toula, Louis, getting married and holding their candles.
- The hall is where LaSalle muse was. It was a hotel
- Photo of her two brothers sitting on a couch
- Another photo of her standing on a large staircase. Niki and Peggy Zakos are in the photo. Maria Karis... doesn't remember the other people in the photo.
- Photo of their koumboro, Tom Annis (sp?)
- a photo of the church where they were married.
- a photo of the two priests, in the church.
  - they brought the Orthodox material to St. George's for the wedding (crosses, etc)
- photo of Toula and Louis entering their car after leaving the cathedral
- cutting cake...
- a group photo in front of St. George's cathedral

7:16

*How were the first years of the wedding?*

- Everything was good. They had a lot of help with their kids; she mentions Zakos family helping out when her kid was sick one time. Everyone brought flowers to her hospital room.
- Closing words... everyone was happy, and is happy. She keeps in contact with her daughter who lives far away. Things have changed now with phones! She comes over, for Christmases, etc.