# Portuguese Canadians hail '40 years of freedom'

The words came from Antonio Sousa's

"In Canada, it has been 40 years of hard work, many good days, some bad days, many

tears.
"It has been 40 years of freedom."
He spoke for the 40 or so Portuguese pioneers from across Ontario gathered at Queen's Park last night, some of the survivors of the first wave of Portuguese immigration to Canada in 1953.

They were honored by Premier Bob Rae and Citizenship Minister Elaine Ziemba on Portugal's National Day, feted with plaques and pins, music and memories.

There were hundreds of guests and even a marching band from their homeland to play traditional tunes in the crowded caucus room of the old legislative building.

But they all stood silent when Sousa, his voice almost breaking, spoke softly about

voice almost breaking, spoke softly about what living in Canada has meant to him. "Here, I am allowed to be two persons,"

the Toronto man said. "I am Portuguese in my heart and blood, but I am also a Canadian.

"I have two wonderful countries."

He also had an emotional bear hug for Rae.
The Premier told the modern-day pioneers
what they had meant to the province.
"We are celebrating the very strong ties,
the deep friendship and the extraordinary
contribution made by the men and women
from Portugal who have come to Ontario and
Canada to make it their home Canada to make it their home.

"It's been about 500 years really, since the first associations between Portugal and the land that is now known as Canada," Rae said.

"But it's also worth reflecting that it's an association so much strengthened by the events of the last few decades."

Rae said Portuguese immigrants have "added so much to the whole of our lives in Control of provided enormous contributions."

Ontario, provided enormous contributions. "How proud we are to have you as citizens of our province and how deeply we appreciate the fact that you have chosen Ontario and chosen Canada."



BIG HUG: Antonio Sousa embraces Premier Bob Rae at last night's salute honoring first wave of Portuguese Immigrants to Canada in '53.

Ziemba said the original Portuguese new-comers to Canada had to sign immigration agreements and shouldered the hopes of their countrymen's exodus to Canada. "They were told that they were leading the way and the path and if they showed they were good citizens of this country, more would follow," she said. "So, a lot of burden was placed on their shoulders.

"These pioneers truly did pave the way."
Today there are about 350,000 members of Ontario's Portuguese community, most of

People like Frank Silva.

When he came to Toronto from Aveiro in 1953 with his wife, Rosa, and little daughter, Luordes, he would bake 18 loaves of bread each day on a small gas range in his down-town tenement house, then sell them to his

neighbors.

When he retired two years ago — three more children and three grandchildren later — the 12 employees at his Lisbon Bakery in Mississauga were pumping out 900 loaves of bread and 3,000 rolls a day. "I am very proud to live in Canada," said

"It's a good country, but my heart will always be on both sides of the Atlantic."

## Courts pushing same-sex rights minister says

By Bruce DeMara TORONTO STAR

Governments across Canada are going to have to start granting more rights to same-sex couples because courts "are leading us in that direction," says Attorney-General

Boyd, who told The Star last night she intends to introduce legislation granting same-sex couples more rights, said the move is inevitable.

"The courts are leading us in this direction of equity of rights for same-sex couples," she said.

Boyd cited a ruling in February by the Supreme Court of Canada, which narrowly denied Brian Mossop the same bereavement rights as heterosexual couples.

Chief Justice Antonio Lamer stated explicitly that the ruling might have been different had the case been argued using the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Boyd said.

While Boyd did not spell out upcoming legislation, she did suggest conflict-of-interest rules for provincial and municipal poli-

suggest conflict-of-interest rules for provincial and municipal politicians would be extended to same-sex relationships.

Boyd hinted that gay and lesbian politicians living with same-sex partners should have to declare potential conflicts, just as heterosexual politicians do.

(In other words, a gay housing minister might have to declare a conflict if he lived with a male housing developer.)

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But she added that maintaining their "privacy" will be an essential part of the legislation.

"It's a legitimate concern. Somebody should not have to 'out' themselves by declaring a conflict of interest," said Bill Dwyer, a gay activist and member of the NDP executive who is co-chairperson of the NDP's gay, lesbian and bisexual committee.

Dwyer and other long-time gay and lesbian activists reacted positively but cautiously to the news of impending legislation.

"We're obviously extremely pleased a government bill will be introduced at long last," said Michael Davenport, spokesperson for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights In Ontario.

"We hope the bill includes the recognition of same-sex couples at least to the level of commonlaw heterosexual couples," Davenport said.

law heterosexual couples," Dav-

In April, 1992, the coalition re-leased a research paper outlining 79 pieces of legislation which could be amended to provide equality to same-sex couples.

And while Boyd would not commit herself on any issue, she said the government is "looking at all the issues that have been

raised by (the coalition)."

Susan Ursel, co-chairperson of the committee with Dwyer, called Boyd's initiative "on the right track."

#### Investigators preparing to turn over huge scaffold

By Cal Millar TORONTO STAR

ST. CATHARINES - Investigators are preparing to turn over a giant construction plat-form to help determine why it plunged from the Garden City

Skyway.

Four men died in the accident Tuesday, and six other construction workers were rescued after clinging for more than 90 minutes to bridge girders about 40 metres (130 feet) above the ground. ground.

There is no immediate indication of the cause, said labor ministry spokesperson Bev Rosser. He said the platform will have to be flipped over to provide investigators with additional information.

Witnesses said the platform, positioned under the bridge that spans the Welland Canal, broke away from chains holding the south side in place.

They said the platform hung at an angle for several sec-onds before plunging to the ground after the other sup-ports snapped.

Preliminary investigation shows the platform was in the process of being moved when the accident happened, and sources say a "procedural mistake" may be responsible for the fatal plunge.

The sources say one of the men on the platform attempt-ed to reposition a chain before the support point had been se-

Investigators have received terviews with some witnesses but are not in a position to make any conclusions, Rosser

"It's a complex investigation. We haven't talked to all the survivors."

#### Former principal jailed 2 years for sexual assault of boy student Kerr said Kennedy, who denied the charges throughout the trial,

By Boris Nikolovsky SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PETERBOROUGH - A former public school principal convicted of sexually assaulting one of his pupils has been jailed for two years less a day.

Douglas Kennedy, 47, former principal of Camborne Public School, north of Cobourg, was convicted in March of sexually assaulting the boy from the time he was a 10-year-old pupil at the school in 1988 until 1991.

Kennedy, who lives in Port Hope, will be eligible for parole after serving eight months.

In handing down the sentence yesterday, Mr. Justice John Kerr of Ontario Court, general division, said the man's breach of trust and authority warranted a penitentiary term. However, "exceptional circumstances" affected the final sentence which will ed the final sentence, which will be served in a provincial institu-

The victim's mother broke into tears upon hearing the sentence. In pre-sentence submissions tiary.

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last week in Cobourg, defence lawyer William Markle argued that a beating Kennedy suffered in reprisal for assaulting the boy should be taken into account for sentencing.

Kennedy, who is divorced, suffered two broken legs after being attacked with a baseball bat in August, 1991, shortly before police became aware of the assaults on the boy.

The boy's stepfather has been charged in that assault, which has not come to trial.

Kerr said Kennedy's sentence must show that the courts, not the public, renders justice. He noted that Kennedy had suffered a shattered reputation and vigi-lante reprisals in addition to iosing his livelihood.

It's clear the family and the boy, who was abused when Kennedy was in a position of authority and trust during his formative years, still suffer from the effects of the assaults, Kerr said.

The crown had asked for three to five years in a federal peniten-

#### Snow queen event is iced

SAULT STE. MARIE (CP) — Dwindling interest among young women in becoming snow queens has led organizers to eliminate the 30-year-old pageant from the Sault Ste. Marie Bon Soo winter

"The decision to discontinue the annual pageant was not taken lightly," Bernie Stuetz, president of the carnival, said Wednesday.

But every year, fewer young women have shown interest in the pageant, said Donna Gregg, the carnival's general manager.

### **ADVERTISING CORRECTION**

Eaton's Newspaper Advertisement appearing in Metro and Suburban editions of The Toronto Star, Thursday, June 10, 1993. Section A Page 24. Clearance shoes incorrectly described. Should read: Save 20% to 25% on selected men's, women's and children's shoes including athletic footwear!

showed no remorse. The former employee with the Northumber-land and Newcastle school board

was on paid sick leave from the

time he was in hospital in 1991

until his conviction, when he was

Court was told efforts are un-

der way to suspend his teaching

The defence would not say whether or not there are plans for appeal.

certificate.

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