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Peter Gzowski's Early Career as Journalist and Broadcaster: From the Mid-1950's to the Mid-1970's

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Abstract

This article chronicles the career between 1954 and 1974 of the late Peter Gzowski, a prominent Canadian journalist and broadcaster until he passed away in early 2002. Information related to the background of the stories he covered and the colleagues with whom he worked is provided for the benefit of a non-Canadian readership. In particular, points related to the history of Canada and its geography are included.

Peter Gzowski was a well-known journalist and broadcaster, who passed away on January 24, 2002. Tributes to his memory appeared in large numbers. One of his radio guests, Stuart McLean, comic writer and eventually on air with his own CBC¹ program *The Vinyl Café* claimed, "... He became the best of Canada" (Dubé, 2002, A1). Then Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chrétien, also paid homage to Gzowski's significance to Canadians, as reported by Dubé. Gzowski's

¹ CBC is the abbreviation for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It is the national public broadcaster of Canada, conventionally funded at government expense. There are local and national English-language programming on radio and television and concurrent French-language programming, whose service is known in French as *Radio-Canada*. CBC (Radio-Canada) is equivalent service to Japan's NHK.

longtime friend, Robert Fulford, writing at length chronologically, attributed his success to his drive “to be interesting; to be really good was even harder” (2002, p. A2). Fulford notes “attentiveness” to be one of his great attributes, a quality that would explain the success of his radio interviews. Anthony Wilson-Smith, editor of *Maclean’s* magazine at the time of Gzowski’s passing, also evoking the memory of Shakespeare, lauds the deceased radio journalist for “remaining true to himself” (2002, p. 2). Wilson-Smith makes the point about his ability to be candid by bringing our attention to the title of a 1966 article in which Gzowski decries CBC’s news for its lack of interest. Michael Enright, Gzowski’s successor to the same radio show time slot, the first time for the 1974–75 season, writes in his tribute, “Peter and I were colleagues, not friends” (2002, p. 24). The comparison Enright makes is, “He was Uncle Friendly. I was Mister Meanie” (2002, p. 23). This is Enright’s way to be self-deprecating and emphasize Gzowski’s rapport with the listening audience.

In the essay that follows, I will present a chronological overview of Gzowski’s contribution through his early career as journalist and broadcaster. I will begin with his student days of the mid-1950’s and describe his early assignments at Timmins, Moose Jaw, and Chatham. In 1958, he began at *Maclean’s*, the national news magazine of Canada under the editorship of Ralph Allen. In 1964, he left this magazine and did assignments free lance until Ralph Allen hired him again in 1966 for the *Toronto Star*. From 1971 to 1974, Gzowski hosted the radio program *This Country in the Morning*. My presentation will conclude with a summary of interviews with Canadian prime ministers that were broadcast during the radio program and subsequently transcribed. Compiling the information I have found, I used two main sources, the first of which is *The Private Voice* by Peter Gzowski. I will henceforth

refer to this work as "Gzowski's memoirs" or parenthetically as (Gzowski, 1988). The second source is *Peter Gzowski's Book About This Country in the Morning*. I have referred to this work as "Gzowski's anthology" or parenthetically as (Gzowski, 1974).

At the Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario

In his memoirs, we learn of the advice of his English teacher, Douglas Grant, during Gzowski's first stint at the University of Toronto, who advised him that, irrespective of whatever he would do to earn an income, his language skills were such that he ought to do something else. All the same in 1954, Gzowski began writing for a newspaper in Timmins, Ontario. This is a location in northern Ontario, some distance from Toronto, where he had been a student. He arrived to take a job selling ads for the Thomson chain, and hoped eventually to write for the paper. He retells how he bought a hat while trying to sell advertising. Eventually, he describes his first write-up was to report on a speech. He is able to recall the location, but not the speaker, who, we infer, was unable to give an inspirational talk. He confesses, in fact, that Robert Regul, who came to make his own mark later at the *Toronto Star*, one of the city's three major newspapers, had on that occasion told him exactly what to write word for word. Gzowski eventually presented Eric Regul, the son of this writer, an award in Calgary as the press began to recognize the talent of Eric.

His description of this experience is written with fondness for what he learned. It is clear that his colleagues at this time were not all uniformly talented. Perhaps a disproportionate number sought stories for the amount of news going on there. Gzowski acknowledges the parsimony of his first employer but nonetheless lauds the Thomson

chain for the experience it provided prior to the arrival of schools for journalism to a number of writers wanting to be reporters. Eventually, his name appeared along with the title of his articles, and he retells his excitement waiting the first time to see his name in print.

Self-deprecatingly, Gzowski mentions that his “year and two months of higher education” allowed him to be in charge “of the cultural beat” (1988, p. 67). As male lead in *Springtime for Henry*, he was part of Timmins’ Little Theatre, and then he wrote the review for the paper. His self evaluation was “adequate,” but he was able to be more appreciative of the performance of the female lead he played along with. She was Denise Fergusson, who went on to perform at Stratford, the long standing best-known annual Shakespearean festival on the continent. On his cultural beat, he was also responsible for write-ups of performances given by traveling ensembles.

It was also during his time in Timmins, driving a vehicle provided by the newspaper and writing up local emergencies on the scene, that Gzowski won the Canadian Press photo of the Month Award in May 1955. His subject was a spruce tree ablaze during forest fires. The equipment used for this shot was the *Daily Press*’ Speed Graphic. Back in the metropolis, the *Toronto Telegram* reported at length about Gzowski’s photographic feat.

In 1954 in Timmins, a location more remote than Toronto, where he was raised, Gzowski was left to discover the *Stage* series. He joined his colleagues to go routinely to a CBC affiliate’s listening-room there in the *Daily Press*’s building. Reading his description of this experience, I realize that away from the big city with its relative proximity to New York State, there was not the same access to popular American radio programming of the times in Timmins. Given a more limited choice, Canadian programming was able to command greater attention

from him, and he was pleased with the drama he heard. He writes about the history of the *Stage* series, directed by Andrew Allan, and intimates that the experience was a kind of revelation for him, for his reader will realize that Gzowski later became the host of the popular *Morningside*, which was broadcast for many years and featured a certain amount of Canadian radio drama. Andrew Allan came to be one of Gzowski's radio guests on *This Country in the Morning*.

At The Varsity, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Gzowski spent under a year at the *Daily Press* of Timmins, but continued to work briefly for Thomson at Kapuskasing, a more distant location in northern Ontario. Through the connection of Ed Monteith, then Ontario editor (and later first managing editor of the *Toronto Sun*), Gzowski was able to go back to the University of Toronto to continue his studies, and hold down a job, for which the shift was from 1 to 9 AM. He became night reporter for both the *Toronto Telegram* and the *Toronto Star*, a mutual arrangement of the newspapers, at the police station headquarters on College Street. The location was convenient for attending classes afterwards. In the daytime, he seems to have kept a beat listening to police by radio and monitoring various locations on foot, including fire halls and hospitals. His completed work would be dispatched by taxi. By this time, because of his experience at the *Daily Press* in Timmins, Gzowski wrote with greater confidence and his English teacher this year was able to laud his work after reading it out loud in class. What seems quintessential to me in his description of the times was his access to a typewriter at the police station, presumably on which the work impressing the English teacher was composed. In our times at the beginning of the twenty-first

century, the age of a writer's ubiquitous laptop, the idea that a police station should provide access to "a police-bureau Underwood," as described by Gzowski (1988, p. 16), seems like a courtesy of sweeter gentler times. Not only did the police station provide Gzowski a typewriter to use during his shift, we learn of the friendship he cultivated with Robert Fulford in the journalists' office. Fulford was doing the same work for the *Globe and Mail*. However, this newspaper went to press overnight since it was distributed in the early morning. Fulford's shift was ending when Gzowski arrived. Gzowski was impressed by his friend's curiosity, and called him a "compulsive communicator" (1988, p. 17). Fulford and Gzowski eventually worked together at *Maclean's*, then at the *Toronto Star*, and later Fulford became an editor of *Saturday Night* magazine.

Gzowski was elected the 1956-1957 editor of the students' newspaper called *The Varsity*, a position for which he was remunerated. Some of his stories from the University of Toronto (U of T) campus were purchased and reprinted in the *Toronto Telegram*, which Gzowski refers to by its popular name, "the Tely." The *Toronto Telegram* in the fall of 1971 became the *Toronto Sun*. Gzowski names, as contributors to *The Varsity* of earlier times, Stephen Leacock, Canadian humorist best known for *Sunshine Sketches*, Andrew Allen (of *Stage*) and Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster. Wayne and Shuster appeared on CBC television doing comedy as a team. As for upcoming journalists he met at the time, he names John Gray and Elizabeth Binks. John became national editor of the *Globe and Mail*, a Toronto-based newspaper, which was eventually relayed by satellite to major centers across the country for printing and distribution. Elizabeth married John, and in her journalistic career, she replaced Barbara Frum, who will be long remembered as the first host of the current format of CBC radio's *As*

it Happens, a current affairs program featuring telephone interviews. For between 60 to 90 minutes, the host and co-host are heard interviewing newsmakers (some prominent, others not) of the day over the telephone. The program, still on air, has been a remarkable success with a history of over thirty years! Elizabeth Gray, Barbara Frum's successor, went on, after approximately four years at *As it Happens*, to make contributions to the radio program *Sunday Morning* during which time she was a foreign correspondent from Moscow. Others of the time at the U of T who Gzowski joined at *The Varsity* were American author Cathy Breslin, John Brooks, who sat as part of the *Toronto Star* executive, and Bill Eppridge, a *Life* photographer winning a presentation for pictures taken in Viet Nam. There was also Michael Cassidy, who became elected member of parliament from Ottawa as a member of the New Democratic Party. However much he enjoyed his year as editor of *The Varsity*, Gzowski knew that he would be unable to pass his third-year examinations. Based on his experience at the *Daily Press* in Timmins, he accepted the position of city editor of the *Times-Herald*, the newspaper of the Thomson chain in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan when Ron Brownridge, the managing editor, came to Toronto that spring.

At the *Times-Herald*, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Even though Gzowski always spoke fondly on radio of his recollections of the early part of his career on the Canadian Prairies, by his own account, it was "much less than a calendar year" (p. 91). Given that he mentions that his time at *The Varsity* ended in May, and that he confesses to leaving Moose Jaw, "When winter settled in ..." (p. 91), he lived in this prairie location only a few months from 1957 to 1958,

although, while broadcasting, he liked to share the excitement of his memories with his listeners. His impression was lasting if the stay was not. He mentions his train trip and that he was able, after his arrival, to finance the purchase of an Austin convertible and met the young lady he would marry, Jenny, on whom he would call on in Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, in his car.

During his stay in Moose Jaw, he made friends with Murray Burt, who became managing editor at the *Winnipeg Free Press*. At this time in Moose Jaw, however, Burt was a recent arrival from New Zealand and reporter-photographer on Gzowski's staff. The position at the *Times-Herald* in Moose Jaw made Gzowski the youngest city editor in the country. The major national news story during his time in Saskatchewan was the rise of John Diefenbaker ("Dief the Chief," as he was popularly known), a criminal lawyer from Prince Albert, north of the province's two major cities (Regina, the capital, and Saskatoon). John Diefenbaker (leader of the Saskatchewan Conservation Party between 1936 and 1938) became leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada in 1956, and was leader of the opposition in the House of Commons between 1956 and 1957. In 1957, he became prime minister winning a minority government. In 1958, he won an unprecedented number of seats as he began a majority government. Politics of the time would have been of great interest in Saskatchewan as Mr. Diefenbaker's popularity was on the rise. Tommy Douglas had been premier of the province and leader of Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) since 1944. In November 2004, as part of CBC interactive television programming, viewers voted Tommy Douglas the Greatest Canadian of all time. His great contribution to public life in Saskatchewan was the introduction of a completely comprehensive health insurance plan called "Medicare."

In his memoirs, Gzowski writes about Ross Thatcher, who had come from Moose Jaw to be a Member of Parliament, first for CCF, but then he crossed the floor. He debated Premier Douglas, first socialist leader on the North American continent, on Crown corporations at Mossbank, a location where Gzowski came to report for the *Times-Herald* of Moose Jaw. We infer the premier on this occasion was outperformed by the former salesman by the facts cited by the latter.

It was naturally these conventionally newsworthy occasions that Gzowski took pride in reporting, but he tells of a dilemma he experienced while living in this small community. A senior reporter, Harold Davies, had been making his contributions to the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* for several years prior to Gzowski's arrival. This reporter's stories consisted of what he heard in the coffee shop from his friends, "all the gossip that was fit to print," as Gzowski (1988, p. 87) puts it. With the benefit of hindsight, Gzowski claims, these pieces were misplaced near the end of the paper, since this was important news for many of the locals. Gzowski came to realize that such writers could provide valuable insight about such communities. There is, for example, an underground tunnel in Moose Jaw where the world's longest bar was hidden away in earlier times. In more recent years, the community's historical treasure was revealed as part of a visit by the CBC journalists of *Midday*, the lunchtime news show, but defunct since 2000. While in Moose Jaw, Gzowski did not visit this tunnel, reporting the omission as a missed opportunity which could have been avoided by finding out more from a long-term resident like Harold Davies. He does, however, mention listening to W. O. Mitchell's radio drama *Jake and the Kid* and reading *Who Has Seen the Wind*. He explains how he took pleasure in the literature while experiencing first hand the prairie where it had been inspired and authored.

At Chatham Daily News, Chatham, Ontario

When Gzowski got back to Toronto in 1958, he needed a job. Thomson was able to locate him in Chatham, close to Windsor on the west side of the Niagara Peninsula, where the publisher printed the *Chatham Daily News*. This also turned out to be a job of a few months' length. At Chatham, the managing editor was Ray Munro, who tried in various ways to make the news of Kent County more appealing. Under his direction, the newspaper was designated as "good news." He determined what stories were suitable as such to lead in the paper, and bad news, as such, would be presented towards the end of the paper. On the first day of this new initiative, Munro dispatched telegrams to both the offices of the prime minister of Canada and the president of the United States to explain the new direction of his editorial policy. Afterwards, he sought reactions from those in charge of the press at the respective offices through reporters. When Munro confirmed that the telegrams were "fine," Gzowski reports that the *Chatham Daily News* ran a headline "DIEF, IKE, ENDORSE 'GOOD NEWS,'" along with large pictures of Prime Minister Diefenbaker and President Dwight Eisenhower (1988, p. 99).

Gzowski also suspected that Munro fabricated a UFO landing. Arriving at work, he had Gzowski send a reporter and photographer to a farm, the exact location to which Munro could direct them. They returned having found a round burn in a field. When an eyewitness was found, this person reported having seen an unidentifiable male blowtorch the hay. When they described their discovery to Munro, however, he was no longer interested. We learn the reporter of the incident was John Morgan, who, for many years, has been a well-known actor of the *Air Farce* comedy troupe. Their performances were

broadcast regularly on CBC radio, and now appear on television. Their sketches are readily available these days on videos and DVD's.

At Maclean's, Toronto, Ontario

Munro also became Kent County's Man of the Year in a *Daily News* contest. Shortly afterwards, Munro left Thomson, and Gzowski became the managing editor, but by this time was in touch with *Maclean's*, whose editor, Ralph Allen, offered him an assistant's position. *Maclean's*, over the years, has become a national news magazine, the Canadian equivalent of *Time*. At times, it has been a monthly magazine; other times, it has appeared every two weeks. A *Maclean's* web page dated April 29, 2002 explains that the magazine was "bi-monthly," beginning in February 1920. This continued until January 1967, at which time sales were such that *Maclean's* ran as a monthly. At the beginning of October 1975, "*Maclean's* resumed publishing every two weeks" [*sic*] and more recently has been published weekly. Gzowski, mentioning his wife's pregnancy in Chatham, would be pleased to return to Toronto for work at the beginning of September 1958.

We learn about Ralph Allen that he began by writing sports reports for the *Winnipeg Tribune*. Coming to Toronto, he worked at the *Globe and Mail*, after which, he went overseas first to fight and then be a war correspondent. Back in Canada, he began to write for *Maclean's*, and in 1950, when W. Arthur Irwin, then assistant editor, left to become commissioner of the National Film Board,² Allen became editor.

² The National Film Board (NFB) is the agency of the federal government

Writers hired by Allen were: Scott Young, an author who had also written for the *Globe and Mail*; Pierre Berton, about whom a certain amount of detail will follow below; Sid Katz, who wrote about a tear-gas explosion at the Montreal Forum during a hockey game for *Maclean's*; Ken Lefolii, who eventually became managing editor and Gzowski's longtime friend; Christina (Newman) McCall, whose two volumes about Prime Minister Trudeau are available through Amazon.ca in addition to a book about the Liberal Party of Canada; Barbara Moon, who, as an assistant editor, did historical reporting on a Newfoundland sealing accident, and later, was an editor at *Saturday Night*; Peter C. Newman, editor of the magazine during the seventies, a prolific author about Canadian families of wealth in a series called *The Canadian Establishment* as well as the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, today a major department store, in *Company of Adventurers*; McKenzie Porter, columnist at the *Toronto Telegram* and then *Toronto Sun*; as well as W. O. Mitchell, whose prairie literature was described above as part of Gzowski's stay in Moose Jaw.

Contributions made during Allen's time included articles by journalist Blair Fraser, who interviewed Vincent Massey, first Canadian-born governor general, the representative of the British Sovereign, in a 1959 National Film Board production; Robert Thomas Allen, award

which assists Canadians produce cinematography in both official languages. Its specialty, short-length productions, are reflections of Canadian culture, the landscape in particular being a regular focus. The presentations have been viewed especially in classrooms as part of Canadian education. The NFB is also the major distributor of its own productions. In French, the NFB is known as L'Office national du Film (ONF).

winner of Canadian Children's Fiction for *The Violin*; Fred Bodsworth, naturalist, author of *The Last of the Curlews* (a curlew is an endangered bird), and winner of the Doubleday Canadian Prize Novel Award in 1967; Morley Callaghan, novelist whose 1959 anthology included 57 short stories, and prior to that he authored a trilogy of which *Such is My Beloved* is best known for its description of life during the depression; June Callwood, spouse of Trent Frayne, and social activist interested in recent years in journalism and broadcasting about caregiving; Trent Frayne, known as "Bill" socially, sportswriter and co-author of Gzowski's, together presenting a collection of Canadian sport stories; Bruce Hutchison, historian with a particular interest in the country's prime ministers; Hugh MacLennan, author of the Canadian classic *Two Solitudes*, which is an early novel in the country's literature portraying the relationship between the two major linguistic groups; Farley Mowat, writer of literature depicting wilderness; and Lionel Shapiro, also a former war correspondent.

We learn that the editorial process was an elaborate one. Writers had to get the approval in turn by the senior editors, and even before they could begin a draft, they had to have an outline approved by the chain of command. As rigorous as this sounds, some camaraderie was developed with invitations of lunch issued by Ian Sclanders, a writer from New Brunswick, who came to be articles editor. It seems he had a preference for a nearby Chinese restaurant, where he would advise writers on what especially could be improved. Bruce Hutchison and Blair Fraser produced work of such quality that they spent little time rewriting. Barbara Moon was so good at her writing that she is remembered by Christina McCall for having to change just one word in her description of Nathan Cohen, theater critic. Generally, however, *Maclean's* writers, under the senior editorship of Allen were expected to

“fix, fix, fix,” as Gzowski retells (1988, p. 103). He tells that Peter C. Newman, the editor for a full decade (essentially taking place during the 70’s, as mentioned above) would himself have rewritten eight copies. Fred Bodsworth, later making his reputation through his documentation of a rare bird (authorship previously mentioned) had his outline rejected 70 times before approval of his first story. No doubt some hyperbole is intended in Gzowski’s recounting, but the process is unquestionably reflective of the back and forth rigor in the paperwork. When, at the end of the line, the prospective article would reach Allen, **the** editor, who could write a few words of praise, but, for those not keeping up to the expectations, he would also admonish his staff bluntly, the justification for which was to stand in for the critical readership. Gzowski, once disappointed by the number of comments in the margin he received for work as as a relative newcomer, was consoled by Allen, who confessed to having 87 the first time. In the same train of thought, he describes Barbara Moon’s admonishment to him for changing “which” to “that” as “a lecture” (p. 106).

As for writing Gzowski produced at this time, he mentions the topics “bridge, hockey, politics, women,” (p. 106) the latter presumably a reference to the trend towards feminism which would have begun by then. Gzowski briefly mentions work done jointly with Newman about Adrienne Poy (now Adrienne Clarkson and Governor General of Canada). She is known for her hosting, along with Paul Soles, on *Take 30*, a popular CBC television program weekday afternoons with a long run. The program début was autumn 1962, and Clarkson hosted between 1965 and 1975. In 1999, she became first nonwhite Governor General of Canada. Another upcoming Canadian Gzowski and Newman wrote about together was Brian Mulroney, “a promising young Tory from Laval” (p. 106). The Laval Gzowski intends is not to be

confused with the large municipality north of Montreal on île Jésus.³ Actually, Brian Mulroney was of Irish-Canadian descent and grew up in Baie-Comeau, a town in northern Québec. He studied law at Laval **University**, which is located in Québec City, the provincial capital of the French-speaking province of Québec. What would have caught the attention of the readership of this time is that a young anglophone of Irish descent would be studying law in French. Moving to Montreal, he came to make his mark on the business community. In 1976, he was among the contenders to succeed Robert Stanfield, then leader of the Progressive Conservative (PC) Party of Canada. He was runner up that time to Joseph Clark, but did win the PC leadership and became prime minister in 1984, defeating John Turner, the successor of Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Brian Mulroney was prime minister from 1984-1993.

Ralph Allen's time was coming to an end at *Maclean's* in 1960. It seems he was preoccupied with decreasing advertising revenues. His staff began to eat lunch together often at Little Denmark. In the privacy of the writers' own room at this restaurant, Allen would begin by talking to the group about the problems that were on his mind, and then invited discussion from his staff. Gzowski approved of these luncheons for the ideas they generated and the rapport they created. The pressure that Allen was experiencing continued, however, until he berated his subordinates at one of these luncheons for written work, in his words as reported by Gzowski, "that would be rejected by the *Brandon Sun*" (p. 107). Allen got so angry that he had to leave by himself without taking part in the usual conversation afterwards. Not long after that, he resigned, and his staff had his portrait painted by

³ Île Jésus is commonly used in English as the name for the island where the municipality of Laval, Québec is situated. "Île" is French for island.

Franklin Arbuckle. Blair Fraser came from Ottawa to become editor.

At Maclean's, Montreal, Québec

In 1961, Gzowski took Jenny and the rest of his family of three children, Peter and Alison, and the youngest of which was a baby girl, Maria, to live in Montreal, where he worked at *Maclean's* bureau as managing editor in the largest city in Québec, the province whose majority is French speaking. He performed communication as liaison with the then new French edition of *Maclean's*, called *Le Magazine Maclean*. He mentions that this magazine is now *L'actualité*. Although I never did read *Le Magazine Maclean* myself, I suspect it was an English-Canadian contribution, as much as venture, in the Province of Québec, where presumably parallel editions providing similar content to the two audiences would be a conduit for promoting Canadian identity. The social convention, however, is that Canadians of the two majorities respectively identify with their linguistic groups. At the same time, French-speaking Québeckers identify with the geography of their territory. Even today, despite radio and television service in the two official languages provided by the CBC and its French counterpart, *Radio-Canada*, virtually everywhere in Canada, the identification with one's linguistic majority remains an important influence on the extent to which English- and French-Canadians learn about the other's culture. When my own ability in French was such that I could read a magazine, it was the late seventies, and I was practicing French as I tried to sort out the nationalist perspective of *L'actualité*. It was clear that the writing was intended for a French-speaking *Québécois* audience, of which some would be federalists. It was not the Canadian perspective more familiar to me as an undergraduate at the University of Lethbrid-

ge⁴ in those days.

Gzowski describes his work then as “covering Quebec affairs for the national anglophone audience.” Describing the opportunity, he clearly appreciated being where he was, calling it “rich ground” (1988, p. 123). He wrote stories about the “Quiet Revolution.” This term, the equivalent of *La révolution tranquille*, was used to describe the social movement, essentially of the sixties, when French-speaking Québec nationalists came to want greater autonomy for their provincial government. The movement was a product of the Québec people’s definition of itself as Roman Catholic and French speaking, historical attributes dating from the arrival of Jacques Cartier during the 16th Century and Champlain’s settlement of the early 17th Century. What this meant concretely were provincial initiatives in hospitalization, nationalization of remaining privately owned hydro-electricity generators, and greater tax revenue controlled directly by the provincial government’s finances. The slogan for which then Liberal Premier Lesage has been remembered is “*Maîtres chez nous* (Masters in our own house).”

Maurice Duplessis, founder of the *Union nationale* in 1935, became premier the year afterwards. His second term of office was from 1944–1959. The return of the Québec Liberals in 1960 marked the end of what is called in French, *la grande Noirceur* (the Great Darkness), the name by which this period of the province’s history is remembered. Gzowski’s arrival in 1961 would have been at a time of greater openness as he claims that “everything was up for re-examination and reform” (1988, p. 123). He mentions writing about Pierre Elliot Trudeau, whose

⁴ Lethbridge, with relatively close proximity to the American border, is a city one tenth the size of the two major centres of the Province of Alberta.

sixteen years as Liberal Prime Minister (1968-1984) were briefly interrupted only a few months by the short term of Joe Clark in the office. During Gzowski's stay in Montreal, Trudeau, then Associate Professor of Law at the University of Montreal and civil-rights activist, invited him to his mother's Outremont home at 10 AM. Outremont is the well-known municipality of the Montreal Urban Community where traditionally the most affluent French-Canadians have resided. Trudeau, drinking water himself, apparently poured Gzowski a straight scotch at this hour in the morning.

Gzowski also mentions covering John Turner, who, as previously mentioned, was the successor when Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau stepped down. John Turner held the office from June 30 to September 17, 1984, when he lost the election to the federal Progressive Conservatives of Brian Mulroney, but remained leader of the Liberal Party in opposition until Jean Chrétien won the leadership in late June 1990. Also in Gzowski's coverage was Réal Caouette, leader of what would become the *Ralliement créditiste* (which had been and would become again *Crédit social* in French, and Social Credit, in English), a former wing of a federal party whose members sat in the House of Commons to represent the Province of Québec shortly after the national election of 1962. In recent times, Canadians are polled regularly and asked to express their voting preferences as to whom they would vote for if an election were called. Gzowski reports the results for what he calls a "sociological survey" (1988, p. 123) in support of the separatist movement of the early 60's. On the cover of *Macleans* and *Le Magazine Maclean*, 13% of respondents were reported to have indicated this preference during his time at the Montreal bureau.

As for his coverage of cultural events, he mentions seeing Pauline Julien at a *boîte à chanson* (a coffee house, in English, where live

entertainment performs). She was a composer, performer and human rights' activist. Her work included twenty solo records. She passed away in 1998.

The editor of *Le Magazine Maclean* was Pierre de Bellefeuille, who was active in the *Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale* (RIN), the social movement precursor of what would become a political party called *le Parti Québécois*,⁵ whose leader for many years would be the charismatic René Lévesque, former journalist at *Radio-Canada*, the French-language service of what is in English the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). Gzowski explains that Pierre de Bellefeuille became elected to Québec's National Assembly, the provincial legislature, as a member of the *Parti Québécois*. Gzowski writes respectfully about the Québec nationalists he met during his time at *Maclean's* Québec bureau. He could empathize with "their sense of injustice" (p. 124). It is an impression that remained with Gzowski for many years, and he wrote rather critically of the anglophone journalists living in the province at that time. As for the course of history in the meantime, there have been two referenda for which the sovereignty option was up for public debate at some length in the campaigns which preceded. The referenda were initiatives of PQ governments, one in 1980 and the second in 1995. Both times, the sovereignty option was defeated, the

⁵ The usual abbreviation for *Parti Québécois* is PQ, and is used in both French and English. Canadians have used PQ for this purpose since the early 1970's. However, PQ is also a long-standing abbreviation for *Province du Québec* in French and for Province of Québec in English, popularly used in addresses. The earlier use can still be found, but the contemporary abbreviation for the Province of Québec now in both French and English is QC. Writing Québec in English with or without an accent is a stylistic choice.

second time, however, more narrowly than the first. I believe that history will show that the federalist option will continue to be the choice of the Québec majority; at the same time, the Canadian Confederation, like all partnerships, will require the negotiation of its most skilled statesmen for compromise is inherent in the dynamics of the relationship between the country's people.

Gzowski describes his experience of learning French, which could be likened to a "home-stay" familiar these days to young Japanese people who want to learn English abroad. He writes of a business called *Visits interprovinciales*, a name he remembered from campus during his University of Toronto student days. The employees of this venture arranged to place Gzowski himself in a French-speaking home in Québec City shortly after his own family's arrival in Montreal. Montreal has long been a bilingual metropolis, or at least has its bilingual districts and neighborhoods. Downtown Montreal is a good example. Walking east along St^e-Catherine Street from Atwater (at this corner was the Forum, home for many years to the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens⁶) to St-Laurent ("Saint Lawrence" or "the Main," as it has been popularly known in English), French and English are both heard and used routinely for business. Gzowski mentions his office near Peel and St^e-Catherine, where I suspect, during his stay, the large department store nearby would have been Simpson's. Certainly in the early 60's, French and English would have been heard together in this part of the city's downtown. Other places in Montreal would be the domain of coexistence of the two languages. The number of anglophones living in Montreal over the years has been such that

⁶ It is usual to use the French spelling when referring to the NHL team in Montreal: *i. e.*, Canadiens.

English can be readily heard and used in many places. On the other hand, the number of English-speakers in Québec City, the provincial capital, traditionally the bastion of French Canada, approximately three hours away traveling northeast by car along the Saint Lawrence River, would be much smaller. There would be an immediate expectation that French be used throughout the city, except in places frequented by tourists. Gzowski arranged to be placed in a residence inhabited by speakers of French in the Lower Town (*Basse-Ville*) suburb of Québec City. This suburb faces Lévis across the Saint Lawrence. It is lower relative to the historical sites above it, such as the Québec National Assembly (the provincial legislature), the historic old city standing with fortress walls intended, when originally constructed, to shield the inhabitants of New France from intruders, and a landmark even further up would be the *Citadelle*, the Governor General's official residence in this region. This explains the name of the suburb.

Gzowski tells the delightful anecdote about his wife Jenny's delicious *canard à l'orange* (orange duck) served the night before his trip to Québec City's Lower Town, where he was to be separated from his own family for two weeks. It seems upon his arrival that roast chicken was a popular meal for the French-Canadian couple he describes. Other food he remembers served by his hosts were instant coffee, toast, and donuts. Although the couple tried hard to include him in their conversations, he felt uncomfortable with his restricted use of French, apparently unable to go much beyond the ages of his children. The host and hostess watched the bowling hour on TV together with Gzowski. He next recalls watching them watch Réal Caouette, who has been mentioned only briefly before. There had been a federal Social Credit party with members of parliament (MP's) from parts of Western Canada and Québec. In 1962, they would win 30 seats, with 26 from

Québec. Not long afterwards, Réal Caouette would lead the split from the non-Québec MP's, and call his Québec members *le Ralliement des créditistes*. In 1971, he was leader of the reunited federal Social Credit party. Gzowski was interested in the impact of the inspiring speaker on the couple, and therefore not surprised with the results of the 1962 federal election, in which the charisma of a French-Canadian leader was reconfirmed. As for the acquaintances he made on this occasion, who he would leave before the scheduled two weeks because of his language barrier among unilingual francophones, the Lower Town couple he has described as Maman and Papa,⁷ apparently without children, may not be typical of Québécois (French-speaking Québeckers) of the times, particularly given the birthrate then.

Gzowski in his early times at *Maclean's* in Toronto, and then again at the bureau in Montreal, mentions coverage of Brian Mulroney at Laval. I would like to mention while I am sorting out the time frames of his memoirs and at the point where I am interpreting the events of his stay in Québec City that this would have been the more likely location for meeting Brian Mulroney in 1961. Laval, in the case of Brian Mulroney, is the name of the major university in the provincial capital. (These days the campus is located in the suburb of St^e-Foy.) Perhaps in his student days, the former prime minister had the good fortune to study law at *Le Vieux Séminaire* ("The Old Seminary"), located in the old city, and incidentally closer to Gzowski's Lower Town home-stay. By 1961, Mulroney himself is reported to have been a student advisor to then Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Diefenbaker on a Government of Canada web page.

As for his stay in the Province of Québec, I infer from his memoirs

⁷ He uses the French spelling for Mama and Papa.

that he lived with his family in Montreal for about a year. Then he returned to *Maclean's* office in Toronto, where he and his colleagues would begin to have thoughts about moving on.

The end for Gzowski at *Maclean's*, Toronto, Ontario

In 1964, Gzowski left *Maclean's*. He explains the departure as the result essentially of discord between management and the writers. His colleagues had wanted to be candid in their reporting style, an influence of the alternate press produced at university campuses. His contemporaries had spent formative years at these institutions, and we recall the extent to which his days as editor at the U of T's student newspaper, *The Varsity*, made their impact on Gzowski. At one point, \$9 million in libel suits were claimed against him and his *Maclean's* colleagues. Despite the number of suits against them, not many were pursued vigorously since no one was awarded more than one dollar, and that was Frank Cotroni, who settled following *Maclean's* reports about his Mafia connections. Cotroni died August 17, 2004, and was remembered for being one of Montreal's most flamboyant in criminal circles. A year earlier, he was promoting his own cookbook; a year before that, had just been released from jail. In his memoirs, Gzowski reflects on the nature of the reporting done as his time passed as a *Maclean's* reporter to arouse the ire of those who were the subjects of the reporting.

He accused the executive of Maclean-Hunter Publishing for not liking their magazine. He speculates that perhaps they did not appreciate the reporting about alcoholism since this was counter to the interests advertising such products in the same magazine. At the same time, there were also reports on drugs, and particularly the thalidomide

story was major news in those days. He names June Callwood, first North American writer, for her coverage. Other news of the day was that Mordecai Richler reporting critically from Israel was left to defend himself against what was misconstrued as anti-Semitism. Defending the magazine's tradition of controversy, Gzowski recalled that Allen, the former editor, had confessed in an article to having voted communist during the days of McCarthyism in the United States. At an earlier time, the spiritualism of Mackenzie King, Prime Minister three times between 1921 and 1948, had been the focus of Blair Fraser, now editor of the early sixties. At times, it was thought that Mackenzie King spent more time communing with the dead than with the living.

An obstacle in addition to the concern for the right Canadian magazine content particularly at this period in the sixties was the firm entrenchment of television. Gzowski gives examples of American magazines as well at this time who were experiencing competition with television. It was popularly assumed that magazines were losing their readers to television, the more modern medium of the times. A further difficulty that Canadian magazines were experiencing was that Americans were able to sell space in their periodicals for Canadian advertising in Canadian-destined markets. That a magazine could be produced more economically for the much larger American market and then sent to Canada with only the addition of Canadian advertising was thought to be a practice unfair for publishers in Canada who wanted to market magazines with national content. The Canadian publishers had a considerably smaller market to draw a readership from for their national material. Although Gzowski uses the term "dumping" to describe American magazine sales in Canada at the time, he asserts that a half million still continued to read *Maclean's*. Recruiting advertisers, he implies, is the explanation of the difficulties for the

magazine's publisher.

The conflict between the Maclean-Hunter management and the editors then is epitomized by the departure of Pierre Berton from the back page of *Maclean's*. Pierre Berton (deceased in 2004) has been a prominent Canadian historian, and many of his books have been enjoyed over the years by a large following. His work has included accounts of the construction of the national railroad across Canada in order to link together the British North American colonies (e. g. *The Last Spike* and *The National Dream*). He also wrote about the Klondike gold rush. His work for many years has remained a standard particularly in popular bookstores. He has been a welcome guest on Canadian television and called upon to retell points of low-keyed patriotic history to the audience. It is understood that Pierre Berton's voice is one of reason, and his views would be hugely moderate. On this occasion, however, what stirred the controversy were his opinions on the *Maclean's* back page, which has, over the years, enjoyed attracting a constant readership. I think in particular of Alan Fotheringham's witty contribution to this part of the magazine. Subscribers whose time was too short for the major news those days would in any case eagerly flip to back page for a humorous infusion by Alan Fotheringham. At the time of strained relationship between the editors and management which Peter Gzowski describes, Pierre Berton was being paid the princely sum of \$1000 for each back page that he wrote. The response to Berton's controversy from the readership was such that, by the time Berton was ready to print his rebuttal, management had planned his departure despite the editorial approval of the two pieces. The *Toronto Telegram* ("*The Tely*") accepted Berton's reply to his readership. We in fact infer from Gzowski's memoirs that the competing medium made the occasion into an event through a

headline to chide the national magazine for its slight against a writer who became a very prominent Canadian author indeed.

Dissatisfaction on both sides continued to mount until there were en masse resignations from *Maclean's*. Gzowski reports that Robert Fulford, Harry Bruce (both editors of *Maclean's* and also of *Saturday Night*), Barbara Moon (assistant former editor at *Maclean's*), and Dave Stein drank champagne together the Friday before Labor Day weekend in 1964 and toasted their days gone by at the national magazine. In the same way that the *Telegram* made news of Pierre Berton's departure, so did *Time* for the writers' departure from *Maclean's* on its Canadian pages. This is presumably Gzowski's reference to the Canadian edition of *Time* (the last one appearing in the spring of 1976) with Canadian advertising and pages at the front reporting Canadian news.

At this point in his career, Gzowski's memoirs describe how he was freelancing. He made contributions to *Saturday Night*, whose editor was Jack Batten, who began as a lawyer and then wrote for *Maclean's*, *Chatelaine* (a women's magazine), *Rolling Stone*, *Toronto Life*, and the *Globe and Mail*. He is a winner for children's literature and has written a book about the Toronto Maple Leafs, the city's team in the National Hockey League and the Raptors, the city's team in the National Basketball Association. Gzowski himself claims to have written for "almost anyone who would have me" (Gzowski, 1988, p. 108), and specifically mentions *Sports Illustrated*, *Weekend* and the yellow pages. At the beginning of *Peter Gzowski's Book About This Country in the Morning*, he mentions an early radio endeavor called *Radio Free Friday* and filling in for Bruno Gerussi, whose radio program *Gerussi, Words and Music* was broadcast for two years in the late sixties. As for Gerussi, his most memorable role on Canadian television was the star actor of *Beachcomber*. More than three hundred episodes ran

beginning in 1972, and then throughout the 1980's until 1990 and the program was viewed in many foreign countries. It was also at this time that Gzowski worked jointly with Trent ("Bill") Frayne on a sports collection, which was a publication of the Canadian Centennial Library. The Canadian Centennial of 1967 was coming up. A certain amount of preparation was under way for the commemoration and celebration. Gzowski mentions having done captions for Centennial Train exhibits. Like a library on wheels, the Centennial Train brought the country's history alive to the rural areas of the country. It would be stationed in rural towns and the families who would not usually travel to large urban centers could go and enjoy the light and sound experience of the presentation of various archives presented in train cars whose interiors were remade for compact museum display. After a presentation in one location, the train would arrive at the next town and in this way made its way across a long string of the country's rural destinations.

For the many years that I was able to tune in to Gzowski's second radio program myself, I have absolutely no recollection of his own musical prowess ever being part of the topics of conversation that made up the chat shared with the listeners although upcoming musicians and their new releases were, at various times, frequent guests. Reading his memoirs, I was surprised to learn that he wrote the lyrics for a piece of Ian Tyson's music, "Song for Canada." Ian Tyson, on one hand, is a well-known singer-songwriter of music associated with those times when he began to make his reputation in the sixties. He has performed a number of ballad-style songs, of which the best remembered may well be "Four Strong Winds." In this favorite of Tyson's repertoire, the Province of Alberta is the intended destination of a traveling itinerant about to relocate. That Tyson wrote music for the event of

the Canadian Centennial is not a surprise; that Gzowski assisted on this occasion with the words is not well known Canadian trivia. He mentions again in the introduction of *Peter Gzowski's Book About This Country in the Morning* being "co-writer of a song" (1974, p. 15). Perhaps he intends this same endeavor with Tyson. As for the Canadian Centennial, much of the expense of was assumed by the federal government. As part of information for the public, Gzowski wrote a government brochure about how money was spent. Whether the expenses incurred were related to the preparation of the Centennial and International Exhibition is left to the reader of his memoirs to speculate.

At the Toronto Star, Toronto, Ontario

Gzowski and his wife Jenny had a son John in 1964 and a son Mickey in 1965. When Gzowski discovered that he could go back to a salaried job, he signed on at the *Toronto Star* under the managing editorship in 1966 of Ralph Allen, who had written a novel and a history book since leaving *Maclean's*. Gzowski was put in charge of entertainment. He confirms that he was editor in the introduction of his book entitled *Peter Gzowski's Book About This Country in the Morning* (1974) whereas, in his memoirs, he modestly claims to have "handled the copy of Fulford, Nathan Cohen, and William Littler" (Gzowski, 1988, p. 109). Fulford was Gzowski's old friend from their days on the police beat. Cohen was a drama critic, and eventually the Nathan Cohen Award for Excellence in Theatre Criticism was given in his honor, and Littler, coming from Vancouver, reviewed classical music. In his memoirs, there is a 1966 picture of Gzowski taken at the *Star Weekly*. He is accompanied by Bonnie Buxton and Keitha McLean, who are

reported as being contributors. In the background, there is advertising with the unusual heading "GZOWSKI GZWINGS" (Gzowski, 1988, p. 178). At first glance, the message appears to be lost. It is, in fact, cryptic. It is a pun on the spelling of Gzowski's surname. The combination of the letter "G" followed by "Z" is not a usual combination of the English language. Gzowski's name is Polish, and the pronunciation of his name has to be adapted for the English Canadian audience that he reports to. One pronunciation of his name for English Canadians would be to identify the initial "G" as a silent letter, yet another would be to read the "Gz" combination as the letter "S." If you read the combination in the second way, as an "S" sound, then the intended meaning can be drawn from the heading "Gzowski Gzwings." It means: "Gzowski Swings." Perhaps it is an apt description of what an entertainment editor does since part of the job entails going to various spots in the city on the cultural beat. Perhaps it is an oblique reference to the jobs he left behind at *Maclean's* and the Thomson chain.

On This Country in the Morning, CBC Toronto

In 1971, Gzowski met Alex Frame. Together, during their meetings, they made plans for what would be Gzowski's own CBC radio show *This Country in the Morning*. Gzowski mentioned to him that he had been Bruno Gerussi's on-air replacement and also on *Radio Free Friday*. When it came time to discuss who would work with Gzowski on the new program, it seems that Frame carried the day. Gzowski would have worked with people other than the ones chosen by Frame, but admits these same coworkers changed him. During this time, Gzowski learned about the equality among writers, who learn about communication with other people. He was impressed with the number

of Canadians unpaid for their writing who are “wise, even brilliant” (Gzowski, 1974, p. 15). What follows in the book is an anthology of work submitted by the listeners interspersed with transcriptions of interviews conducted on air from October 5, 1971 to June 28, 1974, dates between which the program ran. I remind readers at this point that I will often refer to *Peter Gzowski’s Book About This Country in the Morning* (1974) as “Gzowski’s anthology” or parenthetically as (Gzowski, 1974).

The first interview of this anthology, originally broadcast in 1972, is one with W. O. Mitchell, whose works *Who Has Seen the Wind* and *Jake and the Kid* were mentioned during Gzowski’s time as reporter for Moose Jaws’ *Times-Herald*. There is a technical side to the transcription that is interesting to note. Gzowski claims the interview was the first attempt at originating from a location other than a CBC studio. The location from which this broadcast was made from was High River Centennial Library (whose name commemorates the Canadian Centennial of 1967) in the Province of Alberta. The claim requires the consideration of time frames because of the number of time zones encompassed in the distance across the country. Given the six time zones that Canada spans, the broadcast of the interview would have to have taken place before 9 AM in High River so that listeners on the Atlantic and Newfoundland Time zones (respectively 3 and 3 1/2 hours later than the Mountain Time zone where High River is situated) would hear the interview before noon (or 12:30 PM in Newfoundland) the same day. I can report with certainty that when Gzowski’s radio broadcasting ended in 1997, the procedure was for the network to start in Toronto an hour earlier than the scheduled time and thereby broadcast live to the Atlantic provinces (on Atlantic Time), which would be one hour ahead of the local time in Toronto. The program would be

recorded while on air the first time for playback to the Ontario and Québec audience (on Eastern Time) an hour later, according to the program schedule. In like succession, across the country, this regular delay occurring every hour going west would deliver the program to the remaining time zones: Central Time (for Manitoba); Mountain Time (for Alberta); and Pacific Time (for British Columbia).

Concerning the interview itself, we learn that, by the time of its transmission, Mitchell has lived about 25 years in High River, and that it is this location which inspired “a lion’s share” of *Jake and the Kid* (Gzowski, 1974, p. 18). Later in the interview, we learn that *Who Has Seen the Wind* was also inspired by “the mosaic of life that was High River in those days” (Gzowski, 1974, p. 24), when Mitchell composed the remainder of his work upon arrival there with a newborn son. Before that, however, he mentions Weyburn, where he was born and spent the first twelve years of his life. It is popularly believed that Weyburn, in the Province of Saskatchewan, is the locality inspiring the description in *Who Has Seen the Wind*.

As for the early risers that morning, Gzowski had arranged for a number of local residents to join Mitchell with their familiar recollections of the prominent author’s time spent among them. Mitchell, for whom this was intended as a surprise, seems hesitant, at first, about the stories they may tell and feels compelled to “qualify” them (Gzowski, 1974, p. 19). His wife, in this regard, as the session is coming to an end, allows that “there was a lot of creativity involved” (Gzowski, 1974, p. 23). As the interview concludes, Gzowski invites Mitchell to read the ending of *Who Has Seen the Wind*.

Following this interview is an essay by Harry Bruce, who, at the time, was writing freelance. He wrote about what he had done when younger, which was to become a member of the University Naval

Training Division since he wanted to be in charge on his own ship. His essay is filled with the fantasy of travel, particularly by sea, and adventure. He also lived in England with his wife. He retells about the things he had dreamed of doing: being a chaplain at sea, moving to Australia, being a student crusader, being a diplomat, spending a year sailing with his children, writing short stories, novels, and books about abandoned towns and remote places such as Canadian forests. For all the reminiscences of younger times, he finds satisfaction in recalling that he had thought of being a freelancer in Nova Scotia, which is as things turned out, and pleased as he is, he would also like to visit Labrador as a writer. Despite what some may consider an inauspicious contribution to Gzowski's anthology, Harry Bruce, in addition to those previously mentioned editors' positions he held at *Maclean's* and *Saturday Night*, was also editor at *Atlantic Insight* and author of several books. His essay, on this occasion, however, does reflect the kinds of contributions listeners made to Gzowski's anthology. Such was the charm of his broadcasting; the listening audience could take active part along with the host and radio guests!

There is an introduction in the anthology to a CBC radio personality who may be less well known than some of his colleagues. His name is Danny Finkleman, who came to have own program on Saturday nights. During the three years of *This Country in the Morning*, Gzowski asserts, he "was part of the show from beginning to end" (1974, p. 46). He apparently lost his hair at a young age, which was one of his topics for the radio audience, as was his exercising, pleasure in using the telephone, and various kinds of food, either already prepared or cooking he did himself. Gzowski comments about the openness of his self-deprecation. Finkleman does have a critical side. Gzowski reports his comment about the Stratford Festival, the reknown Shake-

spearean festival, that "There's nothing to do there" (1974, p. 46).

Listeners of more recent times will be familiar with the humorous part of his critical side. In his long-running Saturday night program *Finkleman's 45's*, Finkleman presents his favorite singles from the 1950's, 60's, and 70's. The name of the program is a reference to old 45 r.p.m. records with the doughnut hole. It is a reminder of the vinyl on which new singles of those times were released. He mentions the date and rank on the pop charts of the music he presents to the radio listeners. By his own admission, the information about the music he plays is limited since he does not consider himself an expert. He prefers instead to play music and comment on popular household gadgets between songs. For example, his Lazy Boy recliner or his portable telephone would be consumer goods for which he would have comments to share with the audience. Never having been presented with official recognition of his achievement, he is wont to remind the listeners regularly that his program is "award free" radio. Assisted by arranger Doug Riley, he also stages a live performance from time to time of Toronto singers of classic rock and soul music. This radio program will conclude in June 2005, having been on air since the late 1980's. A representative souvenir both of the live performances and many years of radio will no doubt be a CD album entitled *Finkleman's 45's: The Doug Riley Sessions Live from the Montreal Bistro*, available at the time of writing through the CBC web pages. In the Gzowski anthology, the description of Danny Finkleman is followed by five recipes for singles. They are titled "Danny's Recipe for One" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 46).

Following the description of Danny Finkleman in Gzowski's anthology is a humorous essay written by Andrew Allan, whose *Stage* series Gzowski associated with his stay in Timmins. In Gzowski's

memoirs, we learn that Allan routinely read essays on *This Country in the Morning*. In his essay on this occasion, he is writing about an answering service. The kind of service he describes has been replaced with answering machines, whose built-in recorders take messages after the beep. The service before this, however, was for an answering service company to monitor the ringing of a subscriber's line. An employee would take calls in the absence of a subscriber. When the subscriber returned, this individual could call the company providing the answering service and ask for the messages. In his essay, Allan, feigning huge disappointment, reacts to a day in which he receives no messages. Gzowski describes his own appreciation for Allan's clever work in his memoirs, where we also learn that a stroke prevented Allan from getting to the CBC studio, after which he spent time in hospital, where he passed away in 1973.

Interview with Former Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker

In an interview with John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada between June 21, 1957 to April 22, 1963, Diefenbaker retells what he knows about Grey Owl in response to Gzowski's query, "You were involved in the Grey Owl case here" (1974, p. 106). Having practiced law, Diefenbaker's reply is intriguing in the sense that he mentions only a representation by the Department of the Interior. We can assume therefore that Diefenbaker acted in this capacity.

Diefenbaker's claims about Grey Owl was that he assumed an identity as the son of remittance man from England and an indigenous⁸

⁸ Indigenous is currently the polite term for referring to the descendants of the inhabitants of North America who lived on the continent before the

princess of the North American tribes. Grey Owl came to Canada around 1905 and married Angele, also indigenous. During World War I, he served and was injured. He returned to Canada and married a second indigenous woman. The Department of the Interior allowed that he came from an Arizona reservation. The former trapper wanted to be a conservationist and went to Prince Albert, the community in Northern Saskatchewan of Diefenbaker's law practice. Diefenbaker retells the unconfirmed speculation about Grey Owl's beaver dictionary, allegedly the culmination of his knowledge about this animal, and dismisses the speculation about a presumably late age at which Grey Owl began to understand English since his place of birth was Hastings, England.

We infer from Diefenbaker's description in this sequence of events that Grey Owl went to the United Kingdom and began to speak about conservation on radio and even in front of the king and queen. When he got back to Canada, he applied for naturalization, and then lectured. During a second trip to the United Kingdom, where he spoke in Albert Hall, he raised approximately \$30,000. Returning to Prince Albert, he spoke to the Legion telling the audience about his experience in Albert Hall. Diefenbaker's summation of Grey Owl is that he was "A great naturalist, a tremendous man," but at the same time, "A supreme charlatan." He continues, "in my opinion, [Grey Owl is] the greatest naturalist that Canada ever produced" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 107). The juxtaposition of "charlatan" among other words intended for praise is a surprise. I suspect that "charlatan" was chosen for the deception the word connotes. Diefenbaker may be ingratiated to this character's

arrival of the Europeans.

story, but speaks knowingly of the issues related to the contradictions in it.

Gzowski lauds Diefenbaker for being “the great parliamentary orator of our time” (Gzowski, 1974, p. 107). Then he asks the former prime minister for advice about this kind of speaking. Diefenbaker shares recollections about learning to speak. We learn that after he took part in an oratory contest on two occasions, it was his brother who received the gold medal. In his early days in the House of Commons, he learned to appreciate different points of view based on “sincerity and truth” (Gzowski, 1974, p. 108). These seem to be the essence in his estimation of successful speaking.

Replying to a question about Watergate, Diefenbaker laments its impact on people’s confidence in those who serve a country’s people in positions of authority. President Nixon eventually left office and his successor, President Ford, granted him a full pardon. When Diefenbaker was Gzowski’s interviewee, it would have been before Nixon’s departure. Diefenbaker comes to the defense of the American president, who was his friend. At this point, he still assumes it is those around the president who were responsible. Diefenbaker has the sense of occasion to defend Canadian democracy by reminding the listeners that the head of state (who is the governor general in the absence of the sovereign) could not be the head of a political party in Canada. Power is shared at the top in Canada since the prime minister’s responsibilities are limited to being head of the government. The governor general is intended to be beyond politics. This division of power in Canadian democracy is often contrasted with the authority of the American president.

Diefenbaker also mentions in his interview that one of his objectives while elected was to recognize the contribution of Canadians

whose descendants were neither English nor French. Although it does not come up in the conversation, it should be mentioned that one of the achievements attributed to his government was a Canadian Bill of Rights. In this train of thought, they talk about their families. When Gzowski asks the former prime minister if he knew of Sir Casimir Gzowski, Diefenbaker is able to reply with the date of his arrival in what was then Upper Canada (now the Province of Ontario). Gzowski confirms and Diefenbaker goes on to say that his own family were living nearby two years later. Gzowski then wants to tell the former prime minister that Sir Casimir Gzowski, upon retirement of Sir John A. Macdonald, first prime minister of Canada, found donors to make contributions to maintain the Macdonald residence.

The end of the interview is about Diefenbaker's massive election victory and the issue of party discipline. In 1958, Diefenbaker's Progressive Conservative Party won 208 seats, a record which would stand until Brian Mulroney's election of 1984. Although there is Diefenbaker's rhetorical comment "... why elect them?" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 111) likely intended as humor or an assertion of loyalty to rank, the former prime minister defended parliamentarians' right to vote according to conscience. He cites the British examples of Churchill and Macmillan voting against their parties and then becoming prime ministers. He thought that members of parliament, acting in good faith, ought to be allowed to change their minds.

Interview with Former Prime Minister Lester Bowles Pearson

Gzowski had an interview with former Prime Minister Lester Bowles Pearson during the autumn of 1972. The timing of the interview coincided with the release of the first of three volumes of

Pearson's memoirs. It was also an interview recorded intended for broadcast at a suitable time. It happened that Gzowski broadcast the recording December 28, 1972 — the day after the passing of the late prime minister. Pearson was Liberal Canadian prime minister from April 22, 1963 until April 19, 1968.

Although he began at law school, he gave it up and eventually received a fellowship for Oxford. He retells that, when he arrived, he mistook the senior tutor at St. John's College for the porter, who he instructed to remove his baggage from a taxi. Later, he joined the diplomatic corps and, in the interview, talked about the people he met serving his country. While at Canada House, he heard Churchill speak at a London dining club. That evening, Churchill predicted war and advised full arming rapidly, apparently as a deterrent. Pearson claims to have been a "Canadian isolationist" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 164) at the start, but watching the progression of events changed his mind about Naziism as the end of the thirties approached. While in London, Pearson was invited to the country by Lord Bennett, who had been the Conservative Prime Minister of Canada from August 7, 1930 until October 22, 1935, during the Depression. He moved to England, became Viscount in 1941, and entered the House of Lords. Pearson reports that Bennett couldn't get along with Vincent Massey, then High Commissioner for Canada, and formerly a member of the Liberal cabinet under Prime Minister Mackenzie King. From 1952 to 1959, Vincent Massey served as first Canadian-born governor general. The strained relations between Bennett and Massey could not be attributed to the efforts of Massey, Pearson affirms.

During Pearson's time at Canada House during World War II, Lord Bennett's neighbor was Lord Beaverbrook at Cherkley Court. Lord Beaverbrook was born William Maxwell Aitken, and raised in New

Brunswick. He had assisted Bennett in Canadian politics. Arriving in London in 1910, Aitken became successful in politics, serving in cabinet during the two world wars. He became Churchill's confident. In 1917, he selected his peerage name after a brook of his New Brunswick childhood. He also came to be owner of *The Daily Express*, which enjoyed an enormous readership by 1960. When asked by Gzowski about knowing Lord Beaverbrook, Pearson implies that Beaverbrook would not have found much in common because Pearson's nationalism was like that of Mackenzie King and Vincent Massey. It can be inferred at the time that there were two camps among the Canadians. There were those like Bennett and Beaverbrook who fit readily into the framework of the Empire, and there were those like Pearson and Massey, who were nationalists for Canada.

Talking about his time at Canada House, Pearson compares the diplomatic style of the British with that of the Canadians. He speaks of being amused by the archaic style, dating from the eighteenth century, of his British correspondents. An explanation of suitable length would be dispatched to the high commissioner, who, in turn, would read the message and then quickly give it to Pearson. It seemed to be Pearson's job to get in touch with the Canadians who could solve the problem, and get something in writing from them, presumably for his records. However, aware of the sensitivities of his British hosts, Pearson, apparently ultimate diplomatic scribe on the Canadian side, describes his replies in the following manner: "I always tried to get an extra sentence over the British, you see. That was one of my little diversions" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 166). In addition to the communication for which he was responsible on the Canadian side, he also took part in some pageantry, which he describes with enthusiasm, during his stay at Canada House.

London was not the only place where Pearson served as diplomat. He was also in Washington between 1945 and 1946. Pearson describes how, as ambassador to the United States, he changed his opinion of Harry Truman, who, as vice-president, had been maladroit during Pearson's diplomatic visit, and yet made a good president, in his estimation.

Interview with then Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau

The third interview with a former Canadian prime minister is one with Pierre Elliott Trudeau in February 1974. Pierre Elliott Trudeau was Liberal Prime Minister of Canada from April 20, 1968 until June 3, 1979, and then from March 3, 1980 to June 30, 1984. (The short intervening period held in between was the term of office for Joseph Clark, leader of the Progressive Conservatives.) The conversation was held before the midpoint in Trudeau's term in office, falling before the sixth anniversary of his arrival in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) during the total of over fifteen years.

They begin the interview by discussing the decorum for speaking in the House of Commons. Prime Minister Trudeau wanted the honorable members of the Chamber to listen carefully when he took the floor. Perhaps he believed he was not getting the attention he should be getting since British parliamentary tradition allows for a certain amount of feedback before members are called to order. There was also some discussion about how the prime minister got feedback about the public's thoughts on his policy or a recent trip. Trudeau occasionally read pieces from the newspaper gathered by his staff related to such matters.

Gzowski and Trudeau discuss the trend towards regionalism, which

Trudeau likens to a pendulum. To be sure, by this time, he wanted to defend Canada strongly from the center. He spoke of 1962 and 1963, when Québec established embassies. He thought it was an example of a province exceeding its jurisdiction. Oil and energy are mentioned briefly since it was known by this time that Alberta would have a major interest to defend its ownership of these resources. The National Energy Program, however, would ensue as a means for the federal government to gather revenues from the wealth in Alberta for redistribution in other regions. Trudeau reminds the listeners that "at some point" Canadians must opt for their country rather than province (Gzowski, 1974, p. 52). This is implicitly in contrast to the present situation he sees, in which the provinces want to exercise their autonomy.

In response to Gzowski's question about what to do about western alienation, Trudeau begins with a point from history. Alberta rarely sends elected members to the federal government, voting instead for the opposition parties in the House of Commons at Ottawa, and this trend can be confirmed many times since this province entered Confederation in 1905, even now at the time of writing.⁹ As for what to do, Trudeau talks about the Western Economic Opportunities Conference, set up after the election of October 1972. Trudeau points to this forum for what was put forth, but appeals for time to solve the problem. After this, he makes the claim that people from Vancouver and Edmonton do not assume to share the same culture as those acting on behalf of the Canada Council, the National Film Board, or the Canadian Broadcast-

⁹ The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan will celebrate the centennial of their entry into the Canadian Confederation at the beginning of September 2005.

ing Corporation in Toronto or Montreal.

In response to Gzowski's question about Québec, Trudeau explains the problem in terms of language: "the way we've dragged our feet on bilingualism for so long" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 52). Early legislation enacted by his government was the Official Languages Act ensuring bilingual services in the agencies of the federal government across the country. Until 1969, Ottawa, Ontario was the capital of Canada. In that year, the Federal Capital Region came to include part of the city across the Ottawa River and Lac Deschênes in what was then Hull, Québec. Since then, Hull has become infused in a larger municipality called Gatineau. By designating the Federal Capital Region, Prime Minister Trudeau was able to include, as part of the capital, the French-speaking territory, where office buildings were constructed for the business of the Canadian government. This theoretically allowed anglophone and francophones to work in their respective territories and enabled the bilingual civil servants to work in various parts of the Federal Capital Region. Inclusion of the Québec territory enhanced its prestige. Today stands the Canadian Museum of Civilization (formerly the Museum of Man, when located in a much smaller Ottawa location) in the municipality of Gatineau.

On the issue of special status for Québec, Trudeau bristles at the prospect, even calling Gzowski a Toronto separatist. He thinks the result of this prospect would be for "men of meaning" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 53) to stay in Québec. Giving more power to the provinces means that power will be exercised at this level of government. His prediction was that, in a generation, there would be a backlash against separation. In this conversation, he makes the case that the price of oil would prevent independence.

Gzowski asks Trudeau to defend evoking the War Measures Act in

the fall of 1970. This was the legislation resulting from two cells of communist sympathizers kidnapping Pierre Laporte, a French Canadian, and James Cross, a British diplomat. The British diplomat was eventually returned, but the French Canadian was murdered. It was legislation that allowed the police to detain large numbers in prison without process in the interest of essentially defending civil order. Trudeau defends the legislation in his assertion that Québec separatists were free to defend their cause through democratic means, not violence. There had been pressure on Trudeau by "intellectuals and union leaders and academics and journalists" (Gzowski, 1974, p. 55) to succumb to the kidnappers' manifesto, which was to release political prisoners.

As the interview concludes, Gzowski brings up a campaign slogan that the Liberals used in the 1972 election, at which time they won a minority government. Gzowski intimates that Trudeau may be looking to call an election, which Trudeau denies. He vows to carry on, provided his government can continue to pass legislation.

As an epilogue to this interview of February 1974, a federal election campaign was called in the late spring and the vote was cast by mid-July. There is also an essay, among others written by Gzowski in his anthology, in which he reacts to the War Measures Act.

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