



Wawel Villa

SENIORS RESIDENCES

„The home with a heart“



Summer, Claude Monet, 1874

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FATHERS DAY AT WAWEL VILLA



On June 25, 2025, our students, Maya and Max, prepared a presentation for Canada Day. The residents were taken on a virtual train journey through all of Canada's provinces. At the beginning of the presentation, each senior received a train ticket, which was validated by the conductors – Jola, Ela, and Ania. During the journey, the "travelers" were treated to Canadian doughnuts – Timbits from Tim Hortons. The students took us on a long, inspiring journey, showing us the beauty of each Canadian province – what it's famous for, the residents' favorite dishes, and the places they themselves had visited and enjoyed most.

Max used a whistle to mark the stop in each province, adding an authentic feel to the presentation as the train journey progressed. At the end, we sang the Canadian national anthem together.

The presentation was very engaging and met with great enthusiasm from all the residents. We are very proud of our students – well done, Maya and Max!



ICE CREAM, ICE CREAM TO COOL DOWN



On July 30, we gathered to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, which broke out on August 1, 1944, and lasted 63 days until October 3, 1944. During her stay in Poland, Ms. Jola from the Activity Department visited the Warsaw Uprising Museum and shared her impressions with us. The slides presented a day-by-day account of the most important events of the Uprising, from the days leading up to its outbreak, through everyday life during the Uprising, and the fate of the Home Army soldiers and individuals who sought to liberate their capital from the Nazi forces. We sang songs from the Uprising, including "Hey Boys, Bayonet on Your Gun," "Heart in a Backpack," "Warsaw Children," and "Michla's Palace." We read memoirs from insurgents, including: Nurse "Dana", liaison officer "Irka", Corporal Cadet "Stasiek" from the "Zośka" Battalion, and liaison officer Maria Umińska. It was very emotional which for some residents was a difficult journey into the past.



On July 4th, we hosted a very special couple: Mrs. Ania Murawska and her husband, Kazik. Mrs. Ania is the niece of Sister Celestyna from the friendly Felician Sisters. Sister Archangel, who accompanied them and who for many years led the rosary for residents at Wawel Villa, provided us with a wonderful and joyful surprise. The Murawskis live in Warsaw and were the first to organize the Three Kings Parade and the Procession of History. The Three Kings Parade has become very popular in many Polish cities and among Polish diasporas worldwide. Young people and adults participate in the parades, and in the Procession of History, they portrayed various historical figures, such as Adam Mickiewicz, Maria Skłodowska-Curie, and Ignacy Łukasiewicz. The Murawskis told us the moving, tragic story of the Ulma family. During the Nazi occupation, Józef and Wiktoria Ulma helped and saved Polish Jewish families by hiding them in their own small home. The family paid the ultimate price for this. For the first time in the history of the Church, a family was beatified—parents and seven children, including one unborn child.

The presentation was very emotional, leaving our residents reflecting on the value of life, love, and solidarity in difficult times. It will certainly remain in our memories for a long time.



On July 23rd, we celebrated the farewell of our summer students, Maya and Max. At the end of their term, both shared their passions and interests. Maya is a Girl Scout and belongs to the Polish Scouts Association in Canada. Photos and short videos showed us her life as a Scout – hiking, singing and playing guitar around a campfire, meeting young people at international Scout jamborees, and developing skills. **Maya:** "Scouting helped me stay close to Polish culture. I learned about Poland through songs, games, traditions, and the language. At camps, we sang in Polish, cooked traditional Polish dishes, and talked about Polish history. Thanks to this, I learned more about my country and felt proud to be Polish. Scouting also gave me Polish friends and a place where I could be myself and feel part of the Polish community." **Max,** in turn, told us about his passion for photography. He showed us the camera he uses to take pictures, and then, on slides, he showed us some of his favorite photos. Finally, Administrator Jon Grayson and Ms. Jola from the Activity Department delivered beautiful, moving words of thanks and farewell, and the residents took souvenir photos. We all hope they'll return next year. Thank you, Maya and Max, for a wonderful nine weeks, for your commitment, help, and the love you showed our residents. See you soon!



In honor of International Children's Day, which takes place annually on June 1st, the Activities Department prepared a presentation on Children's Rights. During this meeting, several key children's rights were discussed, including: the right to life and survival, the right to education, the right to protection from violence, and the right to express one's opinion. Our residents had the opportunity to compare their childhood experiences with today's realities. The presentation focused on values such as love, safety, and support for children. The presentation was interwoven with songs, poems, and dances.



On September 4th, the residents of Wawel Villa participated in a very special celebration. The charming Krysia Buchwald, celebrated her **100th** birthday. Krystyna Buchwald is our 31st centenarian. Mrs. Jola from the Activities department opened the celebration, welcoming and introducing our esteemed birthday girl and guests – members of Krysia's family, especially her youngest guest, her eighteen-month-old great-granddaughter Mija, as well as the residents and staff of our home. Mrs. Jola spoke about Krysia's interesting life, her interests, work, travels, her dedication to her daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and her wonderful personality. Currently, Krysia's immediate family includes two daughters and their husbands, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Mr. Rudy Cuzzetto, MPP, a regular guest at birthday parties, presented our centenarian with a special letter of congratulations and his warmest wishes. Elma (her grandson's wife), and grandsons Tomasz and Sean read and presented Grandma with letters of congratulations from King Charles III and Queen Camilla, from Ontario Premier Doug Ford, and Governor General Mary Simon. Granddaughter Jowita Ścierański spoke movingly of her mother's, grandmother's, and great-grandmother's great love for her family, and of their warm home, where the doors were always open to family and friends, and where tea and cookies baked by Mrs. Krysia awaited on the table. Mrs. Teresa Gilowska expressed warm wishes from the residents of Wawel Villa. After this emotional part of the reception, a cake with candles was brought into the hall, accompanied by our traditional singing – “200 years” and “Happy Birthday”. Mr. Eugeniusz enlivened our gathering with his music and singing.

There was dancing and displayed photos of the birthday girl. Little Mija brightened the ceremony with her joy and carefreeness. Her presence was a beautiful symbol of the continuity of generations. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mrs. Jola, on behalf of the Wawel Villa Board of Directors, presented Mrs. Krysia Buchwald with beautiful red roses as a symbol of gratitude and respect. It was a celebration full of joy, emotion, and marvelous memories. Mrs. Krystyna, inspired by your optimism, we extend our warmest wishes for many more wonderful years of health and happiness! Your life is an incredible inspiration to us all.

