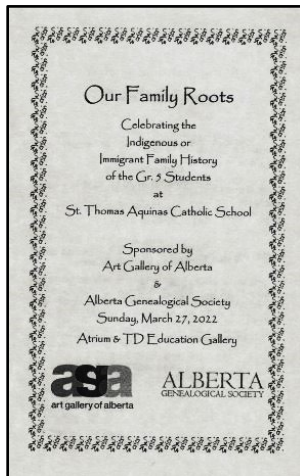




Genealogy for Youth – Our Family Roots Project

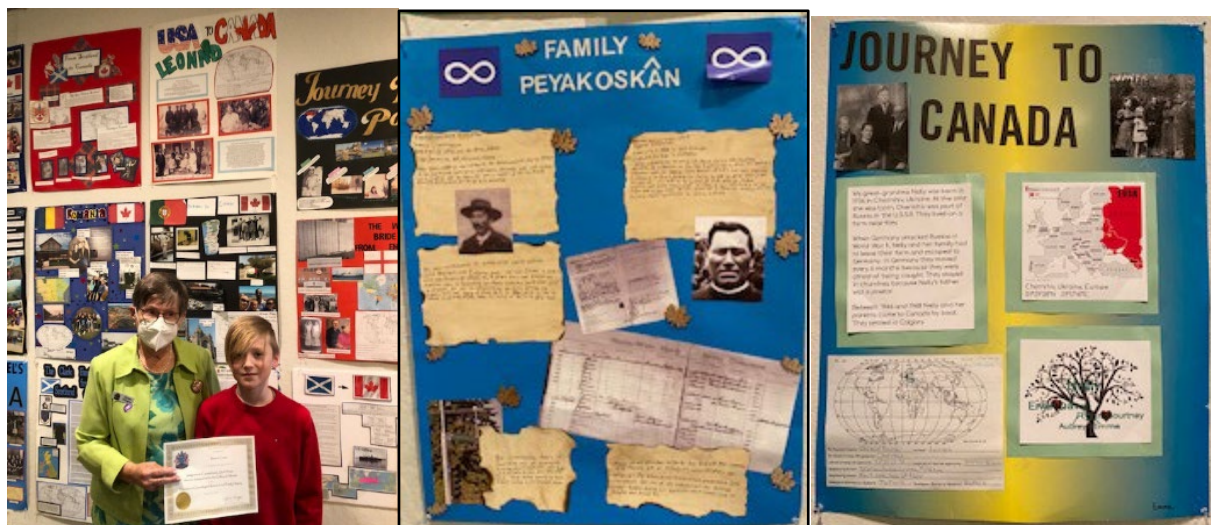


On Sunday, March 27, 2022 the Alberta Genealogical Society presented 46 Grade Five St. Thomas Aquinas School, Spruce Grove students with certificates for the completion of a poster on their Indigenous or Immigrant Family History. Sponsored by the Art Gallery of Alberta the students' posters were on exhibition for almost a month in the TD Learning Gallery. Approximately 180 students, parents and family members gathered for the presentation of certificates, viewing in the gallery and the juice and cookies reception sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. A newspaper account of the event was published in the Friday, April 1, 2022 edition of the *Spruce Grove Examiner*.

Marion Rex spearheaded the project which saw her make an initial Family History/Genealogy presentation to each of the seven Grade 5 classes at the school. With the help of their families and teachers, 155 students completed posters. The teachers then chose the top eight or nine posters from each class for judging. Lou

Duigou, retired Edmonton Catholic Schools Area Superintendent and Lynne Duigou, retired Edmonton Catholic Schools, Assistant Principal and AGS President, judged the posters as to genealogical content, documentation, family tree, story and presentation of material. The students chose to research the following: Austria, Belgium, Canada (including Cree, Dene, Métis, Papaschase), China, England, France, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Ukraine, and USA. in the 46 posters exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta.

Invitations to the Celebration were sent to all families of the students, Edmonton Heritage Council, Historical Resources Branch of Alberta Culture, the Mayor of Spruce Grove, Evergreen Catholic Schools administration and Trustees, St Thomas Aquinas school administration and Grade 5 teachers. Not all were able to attend but Cathy Roy, Edmonton Heritage Council, Mayor Jeff Acker, Trustee - Gerald Bernakevitch, Principal Lynnette Tarr, Assistant Principal - Keri Cyr and several Grade 5 teachers were present and congratulated each of the students with fist bumps. Mayor Acker presented each student with a town of Spruce Grove pin. The families received free admission to the Art Gallery for the day.



Pictures of each of the students with their certificate were taken and were later given to the students.

- *Boston Carter receives his certificate in the Education Gallery.*
- *Tala Heron with her certificate for Indigenous Family History.*
- *Cody Brayson with his certificate for Irish Family History.*
- *Marion Rex, Genealogy for Youth Project Leader at St. Thomas Aquinas School.*



Waiting to congratulate the students on their achievement are: (left to right) Keri Cyr Assistant Principal, Lynnette Tarr-Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas School, Gerald Bernakevitch-Trustee Evergreen Catholic Schools, Mayor Jeff Acker-Spruce Grove, and Cathy Roy-Edmonton Heritage Council.

Following the presentation of the certificates in the Atrium of the Art Gallery, the families were invited to the Education Gallery to view the posters and enjoy a Juice and Cookies reception sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas School.

AGS also had a display in the Education Gallery which included information as to who we are, what we do, the resources available both digital, print, maps, collections, Special Interest Groups, databases, volunteer researchers and information about membership. Many of the parents suggested that this event should be repeated next year. The Art Gallery Education personnel will be considering it in their plan for the coming year.