

Interviewed: Chips & Paul Klein
Oral History Clip Title: Anti-Semitism In Canada
Theme: Arriving in Canada
Interviewer: Lisa Newman
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(Interviewer)

Let's talk about arriving in Canada. You came to live in Guelph. What was that like?

(Paul)

Right.

(Chips)

LONLEY [smiling]. We knew nobody. Paul was transferred to the company situated in Guelph. And we knew nobody. And there was a very small synagogue there and we became involved because we thought that would be one way to meet people. My children were the only Jewish children in their class and I think sometimes the only Jewish children in the school. So we needed to instill in them through our home their Jewish identity and the *Yiddishkeit* and their sense of being proud to be Jewish.

(Paul)

But, you know, it was the first time we got involved in anything to do with anti-Semitism because in Johannesburg we lived in Jewish neighbourhoods. There was never really anything with...Guelph was the first time. When our son was at school, a little kid ran him over on a bike and said to him, "What's the difference between a Jew and apple pie?" And my son says, "I don't know." He says, "Apple pie doesn't scream in the oven." So the kid came back...

(Chips)

Our son was 8 years old at the time.

(Paul)

...tears in his eyes. And I phoned the family and I said, "Surely you don't condone the kind of jokes that your kid is saying. And she pulls the son over and she said, "Oh, he didn't know your son was Jewish." [laughs] So, from that point, we sent him to learn Udo and he earned a black belt in Judo. And his first year in high school, they picked on him. He had one fight and defended himself successfully. That was the end of his problems at school. But, yeah, there definitely were differences. I mean, where we went to school...my wife went to Jewish day school...I went to school, it was majority were Jews. We never had this thing. We came to Guelph and we suddenly discovered that and also we had swastikas painted



on the synagogue. So, it was a different environment and I think in a way it was good in the sense [laughing] that you understood you were different and you had to do something about it.

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