



Interviewed: Dr. Anthony R. Melman

Oral History Clip Title: Getting Started

Theme: Arriving in Canada

Interviewer: Lisa Newman

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(Anthony)

My wife and I fell with love in Toronto. We came here in February '77 with very, very cold winter. Never experienced snow before. The warmest thing I had was a leather jacket—thin leather jacket. And when I went for some interview my jaw was so frozen, I could hardly say to the reception, "I'm here for an interview." But it was the warmth of Jewish families that we met, going to people on a Friday night, seeing how they were living, the quality of life, and so we fell in love with Toronto and we emigrated in '77. I arrived to start work on the first of July. Report to CIBC. Had a job offer 25,000, I thought, "Wow, I've really made it." And I roll up on the first of July to find the bank is closed. It was the July first holiday. So I knew I got paid starting on the second or third of July and so that was sort of a rude awakening—or realistic awakening to me that this is business, you know? You don't get paid for not doing anything. And so I started off life, and then Val and Vanessa and Justine... Vanessa was six. Justine was three. They came over and I got a townhouse at Steeles and Don Mills (inaudible) place and went across the road to Sears, bought so many stuffed animal toys. Our furniture hadn't come yet so I we went to Marty Millionaire and rented furniture. And that's how we started life.

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**OJASALP.ORG**