

In Memory of
Josip and Margareta ("Ma")
Simuradik

Josip Simuradik, born in Czechoslovakia, arrived in Canada from Yugoslavia in 1924 and worked in Rouyn, Quebec and Schumacher, Ontario prior to coming to Red Lake to work at Howey Gold Mines in 1933. He made two trips back home before bringing the family, wife Margareta, and daughters Ana (Anne) and Slavica (Sylvia) to Canada on November 30th, 1935.

Unfortunately, on May 29th, 1936, just six months after the family arrived, a piece of 'loose' fell on him in the mine. He was flown to Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he died on the 30th of May, 1936.

Another tragedy befell the family on February 14th, 1937 when their home burned to the ground. However, Margareta was a strong and independent lady and she stayed in Red Lake and took in roomers and boarders in order to make a living and raise her two daughters. She moved to Windsor, Ontario in 1941 for a few years during and after the war, but returned to Red Lake in 1948.

Eventually she opened a restaurant, called it the Silver Grill, and was thereafter affectionately known as "Ma" to most of her customers. She remained in Red Lake until she moved to Toronto in 1954 and then to Victoria, B.C. in 1974, where she spent the best years of her life. She passed away on January 26th, 1981 in Victoria at the age of 75.

