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VERITATIS SPLENDOR – VIVRA PARA CONTARLA

Editor: It is my pleasure to talk to both of you today. My guests are the members of a big and fine family Wachowicz: Allan H. Wachowich, The Honorable Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta and Joanna B. Wacowich *Asia, our ambitious, talented, published and distinguished writer. Joanna writes for our magazine as well as other magazines, newspapers here in Edmonton and Alberta, USA, Australia, Poland etc.

So, you are a family of Polish descent...

Joanna W.: Yes, we are English speaking family of Polish descent. We speak only English (with me being the exception - I was born in Poland), because there were many Polish dialects in the family, therefore the Wachowicz family decided to speak English. All the children born to the family speak only English.

Editor: There is something very interesting that I noticed... You are all the same family and you have the same English pronunciation of your last name but ...your name is spelled in a slightly different way that only one letter is changed. Why is that?

Joanna W.: Yes, that is because our ancestors decided to change only one letter in the original name Wachowicz to avoid postal services delivery problems... The Wachowicz family is very big. There were five brothers who decided to change or delete one letter from the original name Wachowicz so that the English pronunciation would not change. So there is the original name

Wachowicz as well as Wachowich and Wacowich and we are all one big family. Isn't it smart?!

Editor: Yes, it is a great idea I have to admit...

Allan you are highly respected in the Polish community (because of your Polish background) as well as Canadian community etc. When did you become Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench?

Allan W.: I became the Chief Justice of The Queen's Bench January 24th 2001; previously to that I was an Associate Chief Justice till February 1993. Before then I was in our Court from 1974. Presently, I am the longest serving Justice in Alberta. When I was appointed in 1974, I was advised that I was the first Justice of Polish descent appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench in Alberta. I own a commemorative board which was handed to me by the Polish society at the very immense banquet held in my honor, which is proudly hanging on the wall in my home.

Editor: There is also another of your family member who is retired now (not too long ago) but he was a former Chief Judge of Alberta...

Allan W.: Yes, that is my older brother Ed Wachowich. He was a member of the Provincial Court in Alberta and he served as a Chief Judge of that Court for over 7 years. Ed has served as a supernumerary Chief Judge of the Provincial Court. We were both partners in the common practice of law until I was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta.

Editor: It seems like there are mostly lawyers in your family; you are Chief Justice as well your brother Chief Judge...
Do most of your family members practice law professionally?

Allan W.: One historian once told me that when my brother was a Chief Judge of the Provincial court and I was the Associate Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, we were the only brothers in the Canadian history to hold the position of Chief Judge at the same time.

In our family we have 30 members in the law profession and 5 of them are Justices; however we also have school principals and teachers...

Joanna W.: ...and to mention some of the principals and teachers in our family; We have Anthony Wacowich, Barbara (Wacowich) Kutney the school principals

As well as the teachers: Conrad Wacowich, Cecile Wacowich, Shirley (Wacowich) Scarbi, Bette Wachowich, Patric Wachowich, Judy(Wacowich) Forwick Wood, Phil Wacowich as well as our new teachers in our family: Jennifer Simon-Marilyn (Wacowich) Simon's daughter and David Wacowich and his future wife Liz...

Editor: Joanna really has a gift of writing such beautiful poetry with her own style, which is admired and loved by her readers and listeners... You are also a member of SOCAN, ASCAP, the League of Canadian Poets and the Writers Guild... You were bestowed the acclaimed "Editor's Choice Award" for a unique perspective and original creativity in your poetry.

Joanna W.: I am a recognized, published bilingual poet, event writer, lyricist and song writer, as well as an executive producer and director of my upcoming poetic CD series in both English and Polish.

I love to write poetry and lyrics. I am one of very few poets of Polish descent writing in two languages with equal command. I have an inspiration for writing in both languages. I write regularly and my poetry has been published in Canada, USA, Poland and in Australia... As well my poetry is regularly narrated on Polish Radio stations.

My professional affiliations include SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada), Writers Guild of Alberta and the League of Canadian Poets.

One of the biggest pioneers in the Healing Sound, Dean Evenson, has said, " *My music will be a fine match for Asia's lovely poetry...* ".

Poetry is my passion. My poetry comes from my heart; It has an uplifting message for the world—to unite in love, peace and harmony and bring relaxation, healing and serenity to one's heart, soul and mind - it is a tranquil poetry that is so much needed in our present world.

My work is classified as "*World Healing*". The world needs healing now more than ever. I am receptive of Divine messages and I feel the need to express them in my own words. Talent like this cannot be manufactured or learned at school, it is my gift to people - a gift from God".

My inspirational poems number over 700 .They vary from spiritual, to educational, to appreciation of the world's beauty and often are dedicated to friends and loved ones. I also write poetry and songs for different events: 9/11, the Columbia Space Shuttle Crew catastrophe, Edmonton's Soldiers in Afghanistan project, Remembrance Day, Local Poets' Gift to the Community', Christmas Poetry Corner, Valentine's Poetry Corner, Edmonton Centennial, Poetry for the 1st Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's passing, my Edmonton theme song entitled

“Edmonton We Call You Home”, the Alberta Centennial, a Katrina Hurricane poem/prayer, my poetry for Mother’s and Father’s Day.

These poems have been published in North America, Australia, Poland, as well as a special guest I have also presented them on the radio.

One of my own songs is being considered by a big international Superstar.

I also write songs with an international music composer from USA.

Editor: Joanna please tell us about your successful song that you wrote for the city of Edmonton...

Joanna W.: The Edmonton theme song entitled “Edmonton, We Call You Home”, that I wrote and sing in a duet with my vocal partner, was a big success. I had only 2 weeks to write and perform the Edmonton theme song from the time of the request.

Uncle Allan Wachowich was also present at my performance and said:” Joanna’s song showcases not only her talents, but also inspires the community’s pride for the City”.

We are booked to perform the Edmonton Theme Song at various upcoming important city events. The Mayor of Edmonton, Stephen Mandel, as well as The Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, John Szumlas, congratulated me. They were fascinated by the quality of my song. Mayor Stephen Mandel said, “...*I was waiting to hear a quality song for Edmonton like this for a long time...*”

The former Mayor of Edmonton, Bill Smith, was also present at this performance and bestowed his support and encouragement.

Editor: Joanna, you are also a Wholistic Therapist? ...

Joanna: Yes, I am also a certified Wholistic Therapist. This is another passion of mine. I have been in this field of work for the last 11 years. I specialize in the alternative medicine. I love helping people in their well- being.

I am a freelance actress and model; as a model I host shows and do photography and occasional fashion show .

It seems like a day is too short for me...I have so many projects that I work on...

Editor: I would like to wish both of you all the best and much successes in your endeavors.

Thank you both for being my guests today.