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PEEL COUNTY - BIOGRAPHY

# SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

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By GARY SEIDLER  
News Editor

MISSISSAUGA — Iggy Kaneff stepped out from the Port Credit Yacht Club, took a look over at the grey limousine parked outside, and declared: "In Bulgaria I rode donkeys — now I ride Cadillacs."

Iggy Kanef's "Cinderella story" shows that he didn't always four the countryside in a Cadillac.

The Latin with the laughing eyes arrived in Canada in 1951, at the age of 24. He had \$5 in his pocket.

Iggy Kanef has now amassed a small fortune, and is the first to boast his success with down-to-earth honesty.

## ENJOYS SUCCESS

"I have made it," he says with justified pride, "and I am enjoying my success."

Iggy and his wife Katarina spoke only one word of English — "yes" — when they arrived by train in Union Station, Toronto.

The \$5 he carried in his pocket was gone within minutes, after a Metro taxi driver charged that amount for a ride from the railway station to Yonge and Queen Streets.

Living with friends, Iggy got a job as a laborer with G. S. Shipp and Sons Ltd., in Applewood Heights. He has lived in South Peel ever since.

In his spare time, he and his wife built their first house — the first of several constructed with their own hands.

## FLUENT ENGLISH

Iggy Kanef has now built over 200 homes in Peel County, as well as half a dozen apartment buildings.

He has learned to speak a fluent English, and is un-

doubtedly one of the best known figures in the new town of Mississauga.

What attributed to the success of this "Cinderella?"

"Friends," says Iggy, "and the ability to make right decisions." At 41, Iggy says he has never made an incorrect decision. "You can't afford to if you are to be successful."

"Friends," he realizes, "cannot be bought. They must be earned."

Friends, he claims, was the biggest, and most lonely problem he faced when arriving in "the country of promise."

## CITIZENSHIP

Disillusioned at first, Iggy didn't believe he would last six months in this "land of opportunity." In 1956, his request for citizenship papers was turned down in Brampton, because he was just weeks short of being here five years.

"That's how anxious I was to become a Canadian."

Iggy Kanef started from the bottom — he has reached the top. He has appreciated his gains, and believes a driving dedication resulted in the success he now experiences.

Why did he choose construction?

"It gives one pride in a sense of achieving — you watch something grow. It's an accomplishment in itself."

## "TRUE" FRIENDS

Friends mean more to Iggy Kanef than most. "People make people," says the man who now has more "true" friends than most.

"There's not a place in the world like Canada; and not a

place in Canada like Peel," says the father of two — Daniel, 10, and Heidi, 9.

"Hard-slogging," the will to stay away from luxuries, and the sincere belief that you have given value for every dollar, have all attributed to Iggy's story.

Above all, "friends — the friends I have today — cannot be measured."

Iggy has built seven homes for the Kanef family. "Well, what do you do," he quips, "If I can't sell them, I move in myself."

## POLITICAL INTEREST

The man who couldn't speak English in 1951, has now a knowledge of Canadian politics of which most countrymen would be proud.

A political future for Iggy?

"You never know," he says with a wink. "There is a language barrier, but since we're going to be bilingual anyway, who knows how many languages we'll be speaking in the future."

On a more serious note, Iggy legitimately feels he can contribute to Canada — and his community in his own field, and appreciates the freedom in which he has been allowed to express his political views.

For the first time in 27 years, Iggy Kanef this week visits his birthplace on the Danube River. He will be re-united with his parents, but will not be in his new-found country for the general election.

## THREE HOBBIES

"Terrible timing," says Iggy — "But, I've set up a phone system, and will be informed directly from South Peel as to the outcome."



IGGY KANEFF

Iggy has three hobbies.

"Golf, golf and more golf." He plays Saturdays, Sundays, one weekday he can sneak in, and can "easily be persuaded" on other occasions.

Iggy has one problem on the links — a problem for which his friends tease him — "I speak perfect English, but I have not yet learned to say "Up hill" instead of "Hill up."

KANEFF