



Miroslaw Lesniowski, a cameraman with the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Company, received the gift that topped his Christmas wish list when his mom, Regina, was granted the right to leave her native Poland for an extended visit with her only son. Regina Lesniowski was among the first Polish residents granted visas following the relaxation of martial law recently.

Mom's visit Yule treat for Mississauga Pole

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By JUDY HUGHES
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that good things come wrapped in small packages. But for some people, the very nicest gifts arrive without any wrapping at all.

That was the case for Miroslaw Lesniowski whose mom, Regina, flew into Canada from her native Poland a week before Christmas for a six-month visit with her only son, a Metroland Printing, Publishing, and Distributing Co. cameraman.

The visit to Canada, Regina's first trip ever outside her homeland, was one of the first allowed by Polish officials following the recent relaxation of martial law.

Miroslaw, who defected from Poland four years ago, had failed twice in his attempts to persuade the Polish government through the Polish Consulate, to permit his mother to leave the country for a visit.

"I was really surprised when I found out she had her passport,"

Miroslaw said. "I tried to bring her here two times since I moved here, but I was refused."

Regina flew into Lester B. Pearson Airport in Mississauga on December 16, just in time to help her son get ready for the Christmas season.

The reunion at the airport was the first since Miroslaw defected from Poland during a visit to Sweden four years ago. Like many others forced to live under a communist regime, Miroslaw was astonished at the freedoms enjoyed by the Swedish people.

"It's a beautiful country," said Miroslaw, who attended university and learned to speak the Swedish language during the 18 months he spent in the country.

But, like her son, Regina Lesniowski marvels at the idea of spending time in a country renowned for its freedoms and privileges. "She thinks Canada is a great country," said her son, who expects to apply for Canadian citizenship this

spring. "She is overwhelmed."

The Lesniowski matriarch is particularly enthusiastic about the wide variety of merchandise readily available to the Canadian public. "It's a lot different to shop here than in Poland," explained Miroslaw.

So far, the Lesniowskis have hit all the high points in the Mississauga and Metro Toronto shopping world. "I took her to Square One, the Eaton Centre, Sherway Gardens and Sheridan Mall," said Miroslaw. "She was very much impressed."

The next stops on Regina Lesniowski's Ontario itinerary are the CN Tower and Niagara Falls. "I think everybody should see Niagara Falls in wintertime," said Miroslaw.

Regina will stay with Miroslaw in his apartment until June when she'll have to return to Poland to her husband and two daughters.

Miroslaw's next step will be to bring his retired father over to Canada for a visit. "It will probably be in 1985," he said. "I need some time to save up for another plane ticket."