1873- First Song Festival held in Riga, Latvia

1905- John Jones aka Janis Jankovskis, a Latvian ex-patriot, arrives in Edmonton with his wife Olga

1907-The Jones family homesteads in Lake Isle, Alberta

1900-1910 First Wave of Latvian immigrants to Canada and immigration officials describe their origins incorrectly as Russian; as such immigration statistics of Latvians arriving in Canada prior to the First World War are unreliable.

1905-Year of political unrest in Latvia; discontent aimed at German landowners and Russian autocrats

1908- Lake Isle, Alberta sees more Latvian farmers arrive from the Medicine Hat area, including the Deerings

1914-World War One begins

1917-Russian Revolution unrest prompts some Latvians to leave their country

-Communist government takes Russia

-Second wave of Latvian immigrants to Canada

1918, November 18 - Latvia becomes and independent, sovereign state as declared by the Latvian National Council

1918-1920 Civil War in Latvia

1921- Latvia joins the League of Nations

1934- Karlis Ulmanis obtains power in a peaceful coup and stability returns to Latvia

1940 - The Year of Terror begins when the Red Army invades Latvian and seizes the three Baltic States; mass deportations take place

1941-German forces invade Latvia pushing Russians out; Latvian Jews exterminated by Nazis

-Canadian census records just under 1000 Latvians living in Canada with the majority living in the western provinces

1944- Red Army invades Latvia again and the Nazi forces fail to protect the Baltic states

* many Latvians flee their country
* Allies defeat Axis
* Germany is divided into territories and the Latvian refugees are kept in Displaced Persons camps

1945-1948 refugees in DP camps opt for emigration to Australia, United States, South America, United Kingdom, and Canada

-the beginning of the largest wave of Latvian immigrants to Canada, only slowing in 1957

-Era of Soviet Occupation and Foreign rule; Iron Curtain falls

1945- the Latvian Relief Society of Canada, Daugavas Vanagi is established in Canada with branches in Calgary and Edmonton

1947- Imanta, the Edmonton Latvian Society is established in Edmonton, Alberta

1949- The Baltic Federation of Canada is founded for Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonians living in Canada

- Laiks, a Latvian newspaper begins publication in New York City, USA and is popular across North America

1950- LNAK, the Latvian National Federation of Canada, is formed

1951- “Latvia Amerika” begins publication in Toronto, Ontario

1952- First Latvian Song Festival in Canada takes place in Toronto, Ontario

-Camp Saulaine, a Latvian Christian Children’s Camp, opens near Toronto, Ontario

1953-the Venta Care Centre, owned and operated by the Birzgalis family, opens in Edmonton and to this day continues caring for the disabled and infirm

-Sidrabene, a Latvian summer camp in Burlington, Ontario, opens its doors to Latvian youth

1955-amnesty declared: deportees return to Latvia from Siberia

1962- First West Coast Latvian Song Festival in Seattle, USA

1967- Daina, the Edmonton-based Latvian folk dance group, is established by Dr. Anna Rudovics

* + Canada’s Centennial Celebration

1968- Imanta gifts three Latvian folk costumes to the Province of Alberta; these are kept at the Provincial Archives in Edmonton

1974- Olga Jones, one of the first Latvian women in Alberta, dies at age 101

- Harold Snepsts of Edmonton, Alberta is drafted to the Vancouver Canucks

1977- the North Star homestead of Karlis Plavins, aka Charles Plavin, a Latvian tradesman turned farmer who settled in the Peace River County of Alberta, is designated a Provincial Historic Site

1991- Latvia declares independence from the Soviet Union

1993 - Museum of the Occupation of Latvia opens in Riga, Latvia

1999- First female president in Eastern Europe is Latvia’s Vaira Vike-Frieberga, who is elected for a two sequential terms

-Reverend Henry Becs, a Latvian Catholic Priest, is buried in the Innisfail Cemetery after many years of service in Alberta

2004- renowned Latvian organist Iveta Apkalne visits Edmonton’s Winspear Center and receives a warm welcome from Imanta representatives

2008-UNESCO recognition of the Latvian Song Festival as an example of intangible cultural heritage

-The Soviet Story, a film by Latvian Edvins Snore is awarded the Boston Film Festival’s Mass Impact award

2009-Latvian Song Festival in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

* + The House of Commons passes a motion to mark August 23rd as the annual Black Ribbon Day to commorate the victims of totalitarian communist regimes in Europe
* approval of the National Capital Commission’s proposal for a memorial to all victims of totalitarian communism located in the Garden of the Provinces and Territories

2011- commencement of the Imanta Oral History Digitization Project via Athabasca University Library

2011- LNAK citation awarded to Dr. Ena Rudovics, Chair of Imanta, the Latvian Association of Edmonton