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HAPPY NEW YEAR — 3 НОВИМ РОКОМ!

The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians extends best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2009 to all members and friends of the AUUC and readers and supporters of *The Ukrainian Canadian Herald!*



Ukrainian Elections Postponed

The *KyivPost* (English-language electronic edition) dated November, 2008, reports that Ukraine's President Yushchenko has announced that early parliamentary elections, which had been scheduled for early December, would be postponed until sometime in 2009.

KyivPost based its story on a report in another newspaper, apparently the Polish publication *Rzeczpospolita*. President Yushchenko's office confirmed to *KyivPost* that he had given an interview to the Polish publication, but declined further comment.

The report is confirmed by

the news agency Reuters, which also cites the Polish paper.

The Reuters report gives the need to deal with the economic crisis and pass the 2009 budget as the reason given by President Yushchenko for the postponement. The report suggests another reason — President Yushchenko indicates that the budget should have a line concerning financing of the election. Prime Minister Tymoshenko indicated several times that parliament would not provide funding for an election in December, 2008.

KyivPost estimates that the postponement of the election "is a small victory for his bitter rival, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko", who "is at risk of losing her job in the vote".

In that same article, as well as in a separate short item,

KyivPost notes that the parliament had voted to dismiss Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Speaker Yatsenyuk tendered his resignation in September, but his resignation had not been confirmed in a vote. The vote on November 12 followed a fisticuffs among rival members of the parliament, and accusations that Speaker Yatsenyuk had violated rules of order of the *Verkhovna rada*.

Formerly an ally of the President, Arseniy Yatsenyuk is reported to be working to establish his own political force.

KyivPost notes that the infighting between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko "has exacerbated the severe financial crisis Ukraine is suffering through".

That issue of *KyivPost* also reports on a poll which shows that most Ukrainians believe that they are not living in a democracy.

Gee, what a surprise!

Decline Continues

In spite of various kinds of massive intervention by governments the world round, the global economic crisis has continued to deepen, leading to speculation about a decline to the levels of the Great De-

pression of the 1930s. Though there are some, like President George Bush, who continue to sing the virtues of unregulated markets, there have been many converts, to an acceptance of some degree of governmental action to reverse the economic slide.

The question is whether they are ready to act on the necessary scale, and whether they can do so without creating new, equally damaging problems.

Check your label at left. Is it time to renew? Why not do it now?

Crisis Truly Global

The specifics of this list will be stale by the time you read it, but the scale of the economic crisis will, if anything, be even larger.

On November 10, it was reported that China had announced a huge stimulus plan to buttress its weakening economy. The plan was to spend \$586 billion over the next two years, about 7% of China's gross domestic product annually. Most will go toward infrastructure projects.

In China, the downturn has meant plant closing and mass lay-offs.

Earlier this year, the US government allocated \$168 billion for tax rebates to individuals and tax breaks for businesses, and in October had made its first expenditures from a \$750 billion bailout plan.

In the US, it was reported in early November, 2008, that some 750,000 jobs had been lost, driving the official unemployment level to 6.4%, its highest point in 14 years, and expected to rise. The manufacturing index had dropped to its lowest level since 1982. Construction was down. So was the gross domestic product. Consumer spending had dropped for the first time in two years.

Nevertheless, it appeared that serious action on the economy would have to wait for the inauguration of President Obama.

Germany set aside \$29 billion for credit assistance and to stimulate car sales.

Also earlier in the year, Japan introduced a \$275 billion allocation for a number of measures including loans to small- and medium-sized businesses.

At the end of October, 2008, Kazakhstan agreed to buy one-quarter interest in three of the country's four largest banks.

Ukraine, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom had acted earlier to bail out ailing financial institutions.

In late October, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank joined to give Hungary a US\$25 billion bailout package in the form of loans. The Hungarian economy may shrink by an anticipated 1% (or more) in its first recession.

Earlier, packages were given to Iceland and Ukraine.

At the end of October, Austria was in negotiations with

Kommunalkredit to ensure the bank's liquidity.

Because of their oil revenues, Gulf states were considered secure against the economic downturn. Many oil companies reported record profits, but the Gulf states were facing concerns driven by declining prices.

In Kuwait, in late October, the government was bailing out one of the largest banks and was considering guaranteeing bank deposits.

Around the same time Saudi Arabia took measures to "help lower-income citizens deal with financial difficulties".

Stock exchanges in Oman and Qatar were declining.

In Canada, as the G-20 prepared to meet, the Conservative government was overcoming its distaste for deficit financing to consider pump-priming, though part of its thinking was to sell more public assets (probably at rock bottom prices, given the state of the economy).

This is just a small sampling of the flurry of activity around the world.

— W. Szczesny

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Nine Decades of Struggle

World Events

The international event of greatest fundamental significance in the 1990s was the restoration of capitalism in most of the socialist family of nations — the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its allies. In one fell swoop, there was a huge increase in capitalist markets, and at the same time the elimination of competition in provision of social welfare. Now, almost all competition was capitalist competition, with such remaining hold-outs as Cuba forced to come to terms with the new world order or be eliminated.

The global economy came into its own, with new opportunities for investment, new sources of investment capital, and new opportunities to increase rates of exploitation by driving down the compensation of working people. Global freedom of movement for capital, slashing of taxes on profits, privatization of government operations and social services, and attacks on the right and opportunity to organize into labour unions — these were among the factors leading to ever-growing rates of profit, a growing gap between the wealthy and the rest, and a reduction in the living standards and conditions of working people.

All in all, it was a great decade for the rich, who got richer, and a disaster for the increasingly desperate poor.

In Canada

In Canada, in 1990, the Progressive Conservative government of Brian Mulroney privatized Petro-Canada, announcing its intention in February and introducing legislation in October.

In December of that year, postal services ceased to be a government department with the founding of Canada Post Systems Management Limited.

In April 2, 1993, The Farm Credit Corporation Act was passed, essentially privatizing agricultural financing.

Prime Minister Mulroney introduced legislation in January, 1990, to create the Goods and Services Tax, a sales tax which would allow the government to reduce corporate taxes and to flatten income tax graduation. This tax, which was so unpopular that Prime Minister Mulroney had to increase the size of the Senate to ensure its passage, came into effect on January 1, 1991.

On December 17, 1992, Prime Minister Mulroney signed the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The motivation for all these changes was to reduce the

role of government by transferring government services to the private sector; replace taxes as a funding mode with user-pay systems; increase the profitability of the private sector by providing governmental funding guarantees and investment inducements, and by increasing unemployment levels to reduce wages.

On November 4, 1993, Jean Chrétien was sworn in as Prime Minister at the head of a Liberal government. In the bitterly fought election campaign leading to the October 25 election, the Progressive Conservatives were reduced to two seats and the Bloc Québécois were elevated to the official opposition.

Though Chrétien's Liberals had promised a change from the policies of the PCs, that did not happen.

On January 1, 1994, on schedule, NAFTA went into effect with no governmental efforts to stop it.

The February, 1994, the Liberal budget slashed spending, with particular reductions to the Unemployment Insurance program and transfer payments to the provinces.

In March, 1995, striking railway workers were legislated back to work, and in November of that year, Canadian National Railway, the nation's largest Crown corporation and one of the largest state-run enterprises in the industrialized world, was privatized.

On December 16, 1996, Prime Minister Chrétien formally apologized for lying about the GST, having claimed that he had never promised to abolish the GST, when he clearly had, during the 1993 campaign.

In January, 1997, Chrétien further tightened the screws on unemployment insurance.

Nevertheless, on June 2, 1997, Chrétien's Liberals won a second consecutive majority. The dominance of untrammelled corporate interests was shown, as the Reform Party became the Official Opposition.

A good lesson in bucking the establishment was given in Ontario after the New Democratic Party, led by Bob Rae, was elected to government in September, 1990.

That government did not immediately fall into step with other Canadian governments that were cutting corporate taxes, cutting social services, privatizing publicly owned assets, outsourcing personnel needs to the private sector, and paying down accumulated debt.

Three powerful economic threats induced the Ontario NDP government to adopt the corporate agenda. One was the threat by the federal government to withhold transfer

payments to Ontario. Another was the threat by the international money market, through its rating agencies, to downgrade Ontario's credit worthiness, which would create a steep rise in the interest rates the government would have to pay. The third was the threat by the private corporations to move their offices, as well as their productive assets out of the province.

Then they started to do it, and the NDP government caved in, most famously with the so-called Rae Days, but also with other attacks on the health and welfare of working people.

While many (particularly from the NDP's traditional constituency) were, and continue to be, critical of Premier Rae's choices (particularly in view of his later move to the Liberals), the government was in a no-win situation. Eventually the government had to call an election, and on June 8, 1995, Mike Harris's Progressive Conservatives won a majority.

In spite of the devastation of the slash and burn tactics of the Ontario PC's, Harris was able to gain another majority in June, 1999, showing again the ideological strength of the corporate agenda.

On October 16, 2001, Mike Harris announced his resignation. His popularity was down to 33%, compared to 53% for Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty; his government and its policies were deemed responsible for many deaths and much illness in the Walkerton water disaster; he personally was thought to be responsible for the shooting death of native protester Dudley George; and his government was under increasing attack for imposing more pain than the people were willing to tolerate.

As had been the case with Brian Mulroney before him, when Mike Harris was gone it was hard to find anyone who would admit to having ever supported him.

The full impact of the policies of Brian Mulroney and Mike Harris are finally coming to be understood. Nevertheless, throughout the 1990s and to recent days, governments of all political stripes have pursued, more energetically or less, the same agenda as they pursued. It is only in the throes of the current economic difficulties that it is being asked whether unfettered free markets, operating under the slogan "Greed is good!", can bring us anything but grief in the long run.

10 Hard Years

The 1990s were difficult years for the AUUC.

Though there was much

that was bleak in the decade of the 1990s, there were some accomplishments as well, in addition to the celebration of the centennial of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, which started the decade, and the millennium celebrations which ended the period. These include the opening of the Shevchenko Museum in its new Toronto location; celebration in 1996 of the 75th anniversary of AUUC mandolin orchestras; the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two; the campaign of assistance for Cuba, and particularly in support of Cuban assistance to Ukrainian victims of the Chernobyl disaster; the publication of a history of the AUUC, written by Peter Krawchuk, and translated into English by Mary Skrypnyk; to name just a few.

Still, it was a hard ten years.

Within a few years of the dissolution of the USSR, and the ensuing changes in Ukraine, the Ukrainians Knyha outlets across Canada were closed, eliminating a key source of funding.

The role of the AUUC as the connection between Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadians melted away as Ukrainian Canadian organizations developed direct contact. Some of the organizations — and individuals — with which the AUUC had had the closest contact now sought out other partners.

Relations with the new Ukraine took on a more commercial flavour at the very time when the AUUC was facing economic problems.

In addition to the changed political situation, which was primary, the AUUC efforts at buttressing existing ties or establishing new contacts were mediated in the period 1991 to 2001 by the reality that a generation of leaders with strong relationships to individuals and institutions in Ukraine was replaced by one person in a position to mediate: George Moskal.

George Moskal joined the AUUC collective as an editor on the staff of *The Ukrainian Canadian* in June, 1886. Five years later, at the 38th AUUC National Convention, he was elected National President of the AUUC, a position he held for about ten years.

At the 40th AUUC National Convention, the report of the National President acknowledged "a serious problem of membership decline", and reported that the 1996 sustaining fund campaign had generated less than half the amount raised a year earlier.

At the 40th Convention, too, the National President's report acknowledged that "basically no cultural exchanges have taken place after Zeno Nykolyshyn and George Moskal visited Kiev in De-

ember 1994" between the AUUC and Society Ukraina, which is no longer "our most dependable partners in Ukraine". New partners were Blahovist-Kyiv, with Olga Gavura in charge, and the Ukrainian Cultural Fund, where Boris Oliynyk, who was very much tied up working on European security, was in charge. In addition, there were individuals.

As the report said, "After many years this is the first convention that we don't have invited guests from Ukraine."

In less than twenty years after his arrival in Canada, Mr. Moskal was decorated by three successive Ukrainian presidents (Krawchuk, Kuchma and Yushchenko) for services to Ukraine. As for the AUUC, at the end of his period as the National President, he chose to sue the organization for what he considered his due.

As suggested in the last instalment of this history series, the 1990s in the AUUC is most conveniently considered to have started in 1991, with the celebration of the centennial of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and the retirement soon after at the 38th AUUC National Convention, of many long-time leaders from the National Committee and the National Executive Committee.

In that same year, *Life and Word*, the Ukrainian-language publication, and *The Ukrainian Canadian* ended their runs, to be replaced in January, 2002, by a single bilingual monthly publication: the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.

The idea of relocating the AUUC National Office arose in a general way at the 39th AUUC National Convention. Following that convention, the discussion continued, with Winnipeg (for historical reasons) and Edmonton (as the largest Branch in Canada, with many participating young adults) emerging as favoured new locations.

At the National Committee meeting in February, 1997, Edmonton participants indicated a willingness to host the National Office. At the 40th AUUC National Convention, held in May, 1997, the decision was made to move the AUUC National Office to Edmonton.

Support for the move was almost universal, including in Ontario. Nevertheless, at the convention, Ontario was treated as hostile, as a probable centre of opposition to the incoming national leadership.

In spite of the constitutional requirement that Ontario Branches establish a provincial leadership structure, a difficult struggle had to be waged against those who would leave the convention as the new national leadership for recognition of that duty and

(Continued on Page 4.)

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Obama: President-Elect

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

So here it is, the day after the elections in the United States. President-elect Barack Obama is already putting into operation the plans developed during his election campaign to prepare for the transition in January, 2009, from President Bush to President Obama.

In spite of an excellent concession speech by John McCain, a conciliatory address in which the Republican candidate promised to assist the new president in every way he could, and urged his supporters to do the same, many in the crowd assembled to hear him clearly had difficulty getting past all the nasty labels attached to Barack Obama in the previous months. This is one of the immediate problems facing Barack Obama, and the cause of deep concern about the new president-to-be.

Among other Americans, and around the world, there is much jubilation, a hopefulness (though often tinged with caution) that a new, brighter path lies ahead.

I am among the hopeful, but my expectation is not that the outcome of the election will presage rapid solution of the great problems facing America and the world.

President Obama, after he attains that status, will not create peace in the world. He may well end the occupation of Iraq quickly (if it is not ended by the time he is inaugurated), but he has stated an intent to escalate in Afghanistan. His declared dedication to Israel may well lead to greater involvement in conflict in the Middle East. Nor is there any indication that President Obama will take a different direction in the so-called war on terror, a direction which would suggest that there is an end point.

President Obama, when he is in place, may be able to mitigate the effects of the global economic crisis, but it is improbable that he will be able, in one term (perhaps even in two, should there be two), to restore America to economic health and the world to economic stability. More probably, his administration will be marked by higher trade barriers around America, with Canadians being among those paying the price. It would be a pleasant surprise indeed if the Obama administration led the world to fairer trade.

My hope for the Obama administration is, mainly, that it will restore traditional concepts of decency to the American social fabric, so that some new equivalent to "George 'The Torturer' Bush" will in the future not seem appropriate when I write about the leader of America. Wouldn't it be wonderful if President Obama actually took those concepts to new, more advanced levels!

Nine Decades of Struggle

(Continued from Page 3.)
provision of resources for its operation. The initial proposal that every penny raised in Ontario by the provincial leadership be immediately remitted to the National Office was defeated only after Cheryl Balay of Edmonton asked who among the delegates would tolerate such a condition imposed on their own provincial structure.

This hostility continued after the convention. Instead of working with the Toronto and other Ontario Branches to establish a strong, functional Ontario provincial leadership, the National Executive Committee limited itself to issuing stern letters directly to Ontario Branches outlining conditions which would have to be met if the NEC was to recognize the Ontario Provincial Council.

The AUUC Ontario Provincial Convention was held in Toronto on July 12-13, 1997, with 25 delegates representing the seven Branches in Ontario: Hamilton, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Windsor, Welland, West Toronto, and Toronto. The hope expressed at the convention, reflecting attitudes, was that "the national leadership of the AUUC (if it does not contribute to our efforts) will at least allow us to proceed" with efforts to build in Ontario. The optimistic pur-

pose was "by the example of our good work and commitment to lead the AUUC in the rest of Canada to a new era in which doubt is replaced by confidence, retrenchment is replaced by growth, and fatigue is replaced by enthusiasm."

The Provincial Council, with very limited resources (a budget under \$10,000.00 for the first year) and some opposition even in Ontario (fuelled by NEC hostility), was able to accomplish much in its first action program: establishing a provincial office in Toronto, with the Provincial Secretary as staff on a volunteer basis; visiting each Ontario Branch at least once; publishing a provincial Bulletin; negotiating funding from the National Office; participating in sociopolitical action and encouraging the Branches to be publicly active; implementing in Ontario the decisions of the 40th National Convention.

The highlight of the Ontario activity, perhaps, was the successful AUUC Ontario Millennium Celebration, held in Welland on October 8, 2000, with the participation of the AUUC orchestras from Sudbury and Welland, the AUUC Hahilka Choir from Toronto, the Kaniv Dancers of the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble, vocal soloist Ferguson

MacKenzie, and a Toronto Ad Hoc Orchestra (mostly, but not only, SME musicians). The date was selected to allow full participation by Ontario AUUC in the AUUC National Millennium Festival in Edmonton on May 7, 2000.

The hostility at the NEC level continued, with consequent erosion of support in Ontario for the NEC members. But the hostility was spreading. The attitude of the NEC to a split which ripened in Vancouver antagonized the members and leaders of that Branch. Conflict with the Edmonton Branch led to a division in that Branch, with about half in that Branch opposed to the NEC. A rift developed between the NEC AUUC and the national leadership in Winnipeg of the Workers Benevolent Association. In Regina, too, the atmosphere was of growing hostility toward the NEC.

By autumn, 2000, four of the top NEC leaders issued a letter indicating their intention not to stand for re-election at the 41st AUUC National Convention. If they had anticipated that the organization would rally around them and urge them to reconsider, they were disappointed. When they recognized that they were being taken at their word, they tried unsuccessfully to disown the ill-considered letter.

Routed at the 41st AUUC National Convention, they retreated to the AUUC Alberta Provincial Committee, which they transformed into an anti-NEC centre, as the organization entered its next decade.

— Wilfred Szczesny

COMMENTARY

On Cooperation

As the economic situation continues to deteriorate, there are increasingly frequent calls for international cooperation to stop the slide. Recently, a meeting of leaders of the G-20 countries was held in the United States, to try to widen the base of coordinated action.

It was quite instructive about the difficulties involved in such an effort.

The difficulty is that united action requires some agreement concerning the nature of the problem and the solution to be pursued. It requires a willingness to implement the solution. It may require submersion of national interests to the common good.

These and other difficulties were evident at the G-20 meeting.

To begin with, there were still leaders, like President Bush, who were touting the virtues of the free market, while many of those present held that inadequate regulation was what led to the current problems.

Some leaders were urging various forms of peer review to determine, country by country, what regulations should be introduced, while others accepted no foreign intrusion into their domestic policies.

Some pressed for quick action, while others saw this

meeting as one of a series leading to agreement and action.

The leaders signed an agreement with a reported 50 or so items, but action is voluntary.

Prime Minister Harper, who is backing off the no-deficit promise, nevertheless continued with assertions that this country was a useful model for all. To many, this must have appeared as hubris, the pride coming before the fall.

SEE US ON THE WEB!

Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

Regina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble
<http://www.poltava.ca/>

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

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Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

President Unpopular

According to a poll by Kyiv's Razumkov Center, current Ukrainian president (and Orange Revolution co-leader) Viktor Yushchenko would receive only 4.9% of the vote if a presidential election was held now.

The winner, according to the poll, would be Viktor Yanukovich, with 22.8 % of the vote.

In the current poll, Yulia Tymoshenko would come second with 20.5 % of the vote, while Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko would come third with 5.1%.

Adoption Fraud

An American woman has been detained in Ukraine on suspicion of illegally adopting a 12-year-old Ukrainian girl.

The 40-year-old woman, whose name has not been disclosed, was detained at Kyiv's Boryspil airport after being overheard arguing with the girl, who was protesting against being taken out of the country.

During questioning, the girl told police she had been mistreated by the woman. The woman denied pressuring the girl to leave Ukraine, and said that her adopted daughter was psychologically unstable.

An investigation revealed that the adoption documents had been forged, and that the girl's adult brother had been unaware of the adoption.

The suspect will be held in Ukraine while the investigation continues.

Computers Think

The dream of computer technologists is to create a computer that thinks. This is the stuff of *Star Trek* and countless other science fiction movies. Well maybe, while we humans weren't looking, the future has sneaked-up on us!

Eugene Goostman is a 13-year-old boy from Odessa, Ukraine, the son of a TV program host and a gynaecologist, who keeps a guinea pig called Bill in his bedroom and likes the science fiction novels of Sergei Lukyanenko and Kurt Vonnegut. He is also a work of fiction, a software program written by Vladimir Veselov, a Ukrainian bio-scientist living in Russia, and a finalist in a contest to find the world's first thinking computer.

The contest was held recently at Reading University in England.

The contest involved five judges (human, of course), each of whom would have

text-based (typewritten, not live-voiced) conversations with four pairs of hidden contestants, each pair consisting of one human and one computer. The task of each judge was to determine, in 5 minutes of text-based conversation, which of the contestants in each pair was a human being and which was a computer program.

The contest rules were that a computer could be said to be thinking if, in a text-based conversation, it was impossible to distinguish its responses from those of a human. If more than 30% of the judges mistook the computer for a human being, the computer would have been judged to have been "thinking".

Mr. William Pavia, a science reporter for a British newspaper, was one of the judges. And he was fooled! He mistook Eugene Goostman for a real human being.

In fact, Eugene was so "human" that Mr. Pavia was convinced that the human being with whom he was simultaneously conversing was a computer.

Mr. Pavia then proceeded through three more parallel conversations with the three other computer finalists and their corresponding "hidden humans", certain in each case that he could tell one from the other.

At the end of the contest, the judges were ushered into another room of the University to meet the computer programs and the humans, and to learn the results of the contest.

Fortunately for us humans, the judges were fooled only 25% of the time, not the 30% required by the contest rules. But the experience shook some of the judges, who walked out of the University no longer certain of anything. (The computers, on the other hand, just sat in their cubicles, blinking, clicking and whirring while they plotted their strategy for next year's contest!)

No to NATO (again)

A recent poll of Ukrainians confirmed the long-standing antagonism of the people of Ukraine to membership in the American military alliance. According to the latest poll, nearly 58% of Ukrainians would vote against membership in NATO, while only 23.6% would vote in favour of membership.

In spite of this strong, continuing, and unwavering opposition by the people of Ukraine, President Viktor Yushchenko (one of whose main election planks in the 2004 presidential campaign was "democracy") continues to promote

NATO membership as if he had a mandate from the people of Ukraine to do so.

Salo Festival

On October 19, a festival dedicated to a Ukrainian speciality — salted or smoked white pork fat known as 'salo' — was held in the northwestern Ukrainian city of Lutsk.

Finely chopped pig underbelly fat is popular in Ukraine, and is often eaten with bread and garlic and a shot of vodka, and added to the national beet soup, borsch.

Throughout Eastern Europe, salo, along with peppered vodka known as horilka, is seen as a characteristic part of Ukrainian cuisine.

A highlight of the Lutsk salo festival was a salo speed-eating competition. Eight contestants raced to consume one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of pork fat with bread, onion and water. Last year's "salo king", 51-year-old Volodymyr Stryhaniv, was declared the winner again, although he failed to equal last-year's record time of 20 minutes.

During the event, the city's authorities attempted to set a record by creating a 100-kg (220 pound) salo cake with over 50 layers of fat. The 1.6-metre-high (5 feet) cake was declared "the world's largest," although the record was not officially registered.

In addition, local chefs made a 23-metre (75-foot) salo sandwich. The sandwich was much shorter than last year's which stretched to 70 metres (230 feet).

Rusyns Want Independence

The Rusyns are seeking autonomy for Zakarpatya Oblast of Ukraine.

On December 1, 1991, a referendum was held in which the residents of Zakarpatya voted for autonomy and independence from Ukraine. The Rusyns (also called Ruthenians, Carpatho-Rusyns, or Lemkos) have waited patiently since 1991 for the Ukrainian authorities to meet with them to discuss a friendly divorce. No such meeting has taken place.

The Carpatho-Rusyns argue that they have a distinct identity and are very different from Ukrainians.

According to scholars, the Rusyns are direct descendants of a Slavic tribe called the White Croats (Bilyj Horvaty). The White Croats lived along the Uz River in the Carpathian region as early as the sixth century AD.

By the ninth century, waves of Slavic settlers calling themselves Rus' came from the east, settled into the

Carpathians, and intermarried with the White Croats. From the Kievan Rus' kingdom they adopted their national name of "Rusyn", the descendant of Rus'.

On October 25, 2008, the second European Congress of Carpathian Rusyns was held in Mukacheve (Ukraine). At this Congress, Father Dymytrij Sydor, head of the Carpathian Rusyns parliament issued a ringing call for independence. "We are a different people and we hope Ukrainians will give us a divorce in a peaceful way..." stated Father Sydor.

He also issued a warning. "We demand autonomy in a peaceful way. But how we will fight for it is our national secret."

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's party (Our Ukraine) responded by issuing a call to Ukraine's law enforcement agencies to open a criminal case against the organizers of the Congress.

Yushchenko's Secret War

On August 8, Georgian soldiers, tanks, and fighterplanes struck Tskhinvali, the capital of the independent region of South Ossetia, on Georgia's border. The surprise attack killed hundreds of South Ossetian civilians and 12 Russian peace-keepers, and caused massive damage to the city.

Within hours, Russia counterattacked, and after five days of heavy fighting, the Georgian forces were driven out of South Ossetia.

Although a ceasefire was soon negotiated, a war of words sprang up within a few hours of the attack, and has continued ever since.

Amongst the expected verbal charges and countercharges, there were some disturbing (but not surprising) accusations that the United States military was involved in training the Georgian army, that NATO had supplied several hundred tanks and other armaments to the Georgian army (not surprising), and that Ukraine had supplied advanced weapons systems (and Ukrainian military personnel to operate them) in Georgia's attack on South Ossetia.

In the past few weeks, documents from Ukraine's secret state archives, bearing both signatures and stamps, have come to light indicating that President Viktor Yushchenko disarmed his own forces by sending arms to Georgia on the eve of the South Ossetian conflict. The evidence of such underhanded activity is so compelling that the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian parliament) set up a com-

mittee to investigate the accusations in early October.

Preliminary reports from this committee state that Ukraine continued to supply weapons to Georgia even after Russia was drawn into the war. Another conclusion: Ukrainian ammunition and artillery cannon, disguised as humanitarian aid, was shipped to Georgia just before Georgia attacked South Ossetia. Another conclusion: Ukraine sold \$2 billion worth of arms in the past three years, with most of that sum being embezzled, and only \$840 reaching the state treasury and defence ministry accounts. Another conclusion: over 15 Ukrainians were involved in Georgia's attack on South Ossetia. Another conclusion: certain ministries within the Ukrainian government are vigorously obstructing the work of the investigative committee. And perhaps the most damaging conclusion: the highest leadership of Ukraine, and President Viktor Yushchenko personally, were responsible for deliveries of arms to Georgia while Georgia was preparing for war.

Orange Hero Resigns

Last September 11, Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, a famous rock musician and a hero of the Orange Revolution resigned from parliament in disgust with the nation's politics. The never-ending absurdity of Ukrainian politics is becoming too exhausting and frustrating not only for common Ukrainians, but for the show participants themselves.

Vakarchuk, a member of President Viktor Yushchenko's party, resigned as a member of parliament on September 11.

"Political life in the state has narrowed down to the ruthless fight for power. Not only moral principles, but national interests, to which politicians of all colours and camps frequently appeal, have become victims of this clash," Vakarchuk said in a statement. "Under such circumstances, the only way to be yourself is to leave."

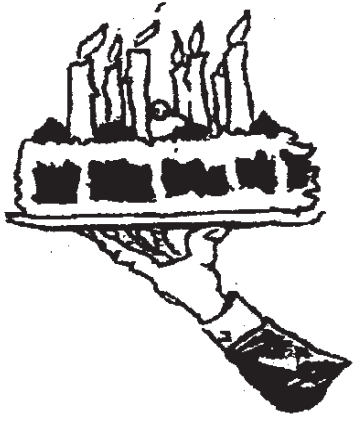
The front man of Ukraine's top rock band Okean Elzy, Svyatoslav Vakarchuk was one of the faces of the Orange Revolution in 2004, when he regularly gave performances on the country's main stage in the cold, snowy days. As a result, he ran for parliament, and won, as a member of President Yushchenko's party during last year's parliamentary elections.

Rada (Parliament) Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk said he understands his ex-colleague. "I told him frankly that I share his position."

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of December:

- Carol Bagan
- Irene Kingsmith
- Barbara Melnyk
- Steve Sakal
- Mary Skulsky
- Nina Uhryn

May you have good health, happiness and a daily sense of accomplishment as you go through life.

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to December celebrants:

- Mary Dmytryshyn
- Kay Keniak
- Lydia Kit
- Mary Skrypnyk
- Mary Yaworski

May good health and happiness be yours in the coming year!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to December celebrants:

- Ann Blair
- Jeanne Porter
- Mary Sielski

May the coming year bring you all the best in health and happiness!

Have you renewed your subscription yet?

To All AUUC Members and Friends



Best Wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity in a World of Peace!

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

May the New Year bring Peace, Happiness and Joy to all our friends.
Olga and Myron Shatulsky

IVAN FRANKO MANOR

200 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Extends Best Wishes To All Its Tenants and AUUC Members for a



A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Best wishes for the holiday season and the coming year. May all your aspirations be fulfilled, all your hopes be met, and all your dreams come true.



Wilfred and Jennifer Szczesny
Mississauga, Ontario



We greet our AUUC family members, friends and supporters throughout Canada and Ukraine.



Peace, Health and Happiness

To all in the New Year!

Vancouver AUUC Branch



To our friends across Canada and in Ukraine, May the New Year bring Good Health, Happiness, Peace and Prosperity.



**Larry and Dianna Kleparchuk
Vancouver, BC**

Edmonton: Doing the Turkey Strut

The October monthly social of the Edmonton AUUC Seniors started on a sad note, as President Pauline Warick led all in a moment of silence. Two of our seniors experienced the death of their loved ones. Condolences were extended to Virginia Witwicki on the passing of her father, and to Jean Rogers on the death of her husband Merville Rogers.



Sherry Capowski was the only Edmonton AUUC Seniors October birthday honoree.

Happy birthday wishes were extended to Sherry Capowski. In recognition of our honoured guest Sherry, we all heralded in, on a fancy tray, the Grand Turkey's part from which the finest feathers were taken! Accompanying this were his wishbone, with a piece of poppyseed cake and a candle! Sherry and Shirley Uhryn each tugged on the wish bone — Sherry won! Then Sherry made a BIG wish and blew out her candle — Sherry won again!

Bill Chomyn brought his sister Mary Gionet and daughter Darlene Vinge to our gathering, and these special guests were acknowledged.

In celebration of Thanksgiving Day, following the introductory part of our social, we turned to the warm turkey dinner prepared by some of our members. Shirley Uhryn

led the group in the toast to the tillers of the land and the bounty thereof.

When Caroline Began, age 99 years, heard that there was going to be a turkey meal, she told her never-failing son and daughter-in-law that she MUST come! They came, and we were all happy.

Caroline Began is not bowling this year. "We miss our star bowler, Caroline. With her came enthusiasm, humour and the camaraderie of our members."

After the meal, there was a short regular monthly meeting of the seniors. It was decided to donate \$500.00 to the

(Continued on Page 14.)

— Story photos: Lucy Antoniw



Shirley Uhryn, left, extended birthday wishes to Sherry Capowski during the social of the Edmonton AUUC Seniors.

Happy New Year!

To the members of the AUUC, and their cultural forces, supporters, and friends across Canada, United States and Ukraine.

We wish all good fortune, health and happiness in the New Year!

**AUUC Regina Branch
Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance**



— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky

Toronto Branch Oktoberfest

The Toronto Branch held its second annual Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, October 25, with about 40 people attending at the AUUC Cultural Centre on Bloor Street West.

Following the tradition established last year, the entrance to the hall was beautifully decorated with a festive fall flavour of pumpkins, gourds, bales of hay and colourful fall leaves.

To set the tone for an outdoor Bavarian beer garden, vines and giant pretzels were hung from the ceiling, white picket fences and flowers adorned the walls, and oompah-pah music filled the air.

The tables were covered with the traditional blue and



white cloths, and German beer steins, filled with sunflowers and tufts of wheat, served as attractive centrepieces.

After being greeted at the door by Pat Dzatko, the guests were given the opportunity to enter the 50/50 draw organized by Nancy Stewart. The grand prize winner of this event was Anne Krane.

A giant rummage sale, managed by Vera Borusiewicz, was a major attraction at which many, many pur-

chases were made.

As Joe Dzatko served liquid refreshments, wearing a bright red Tiroler hat, the guests mingled and chatted, awaiting the fine Oktoberfest luncheon that was to follow.

Finally, the food — everyone was treated to products of the extraordinary cooking talents of Jerry Dobrowolsky!

The menu included bratwurst and Oktoberfest sausages, baked onions, sauerkraut, rye bread, and Baby Point Lounge's delicious beet salad and potato salad. And what better way to end the meal than with Black Forest cake!

With Connie Prince acting as MC throughout the day, the crowd was invited to partake in a little karaoke fun. Led by the unique voice of Nancy Stewart, people started to warm up by singing along, and eventually some brave souls took their turns at the microphone. The duet by Vera Borusiewicz and Ann Malnychuk was particularly awe-inspiring!

Feeling that this year's event was even better than the last, everyone left as happy wanderers, anticipating next October.

— Bernardine Dobrowolsky



About forty people, some of them pictured above, enjoyed Oktoberfest on October 25 at the AUUC Cultural Centre.



Suitably clad for the occasion, Nancy Stewart prepares to receive a wet one from her husband Mark.



In one of the many games played at Oktoberfest, Joe Dzatko displays a card — was it a winner?

Apology

Our report in the October, 2008, issue of the "UCH" on the Toronto AUUC Branch 90th anniversary celebration should have given credit to Jerry Dobrowolsky for the excellent work he did in preparing the slide show.

We truly regret the oversight.

Have you renewed yet?



"Karaoke" doesn't sound German, but singing is, so what the heck? Vera Borusiewicz and Ann Malnychuk did a particularly awe-inspiring duet.

Halloween in Regina



The Poltava Dancers put on a highly successful and entertaining Halloween cabaret on Friday, October 24, with music, lighting and decor which made it a fantastic time for all.

**Best Wishes
of the Season!**



The publishers and staff of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* extend best season's greetings to our readers and supporters, and to their families and friends.



May you enjoy the festive season in happiness, safety and good health, and may the new year bring all that you truly desire!



**Submitted
as a
separate
PDF file**

Ukrainian Canadians in Trade Union Struggles in Ontario

In this year of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, it is appropriate to remember that the organization began life as the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association, established to create and maintain facilities serving the social, cultural and political activities of Ukrainian Canadian workers. As stated by author John Eleen, this is only a sampling of the Ukrainian Canadians who had made a notable contribution to the trade union struggles in Ontario (not to speak of the rest of Canada). Many worthy individuals have been omitted. These short profiles of notable Ukrainian Canadian union activists were gleaned from the pages of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald, the Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the CSULR and personal interviews.



John Eleen

This short monograph is an attempt to mark the place in history of Ukrainian Canadians who made a contribution to the building of the trade union movement in Ontario — and there were many of them.

One of these was Henry Oraschuk, a Mac-Pap vet, a member of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC), and later the business agent of the Bricklayers Union in Toronto. Of the 1,250 men in the MacKenzie-Papineau Brigade of the International Battalion during the Spanish Civil War, 180 were Finnish Canadians and 400 were Ukrainian Canadians.

Many workers of Ukrainian descent flocked to the industrial towns of Ontario to find work. Many of those same people were also building the AUUC, organizing choirs and orchestras and building Ukrainian Labour Temples.

Some of the Ukrainian trade union activists eventually became full-time leaders in the AUUC. Others, like me, got their start in that organization, and later become full time functionaries in the trade union movement.

Large numbers of early Ukrainian immigrants were either single young men or husbands who planned to send for their families once they made their fortune in the 'land of promise'. Many of them gravitated to the mines of northern Ontario. Some of them came to Toronto, Hamilton and Brantford, and turned to the steel mills, the building trades, the leather, the garment, and meat-packing industries. They built the streets and sewers of Toronto. The women worked in the needle trades and laundries, or found jobs as domestic servants or waitresses.

To overcome Canadian tariffs, American branch plants began to spring up in Ontario, attracting Ukrainian Canadian workers. Steel mills were built in Sault Ste. Marie and Hamilton. The giant Stelco and Dofasco mills and several large Westinghouse plants made Hamilton an industrial city. Toronto acquired seven General Electric plants, with

one each in Peterborough and Barrie. Other electrical plants spread out to Kitchener, Belleville and Brockville.

Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants were among those who tamed the northern forests of Ontario and built the lumber mills and pulp and paper plants at Thunder Bay, Fort Francis and Thorold. They organized the workers into the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union.

They were among those who built the terminal port grain elevators in Port Arthur and Fort William. They joined the Transportation, Communication Union known as the "Grain Handlers". Their union president was Frank Mazur. Later, he served as vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Labour for a number of years.

One of the people instrumental in building the progressive and cultural movement in Sudbury in the earlier years was Myron Kostaniuk. He was born in 1891, and came to Canada in 1909. After some odd jobs in Winnipeg he worked as a CNR section gang foreman at Makwa, Ontario and later at Longlac. It was at Sudbury that Kostaniuk made his greatest contribution, building the ULFTA organization and its labour temple, and organizing the miners.

In 1922, Kostaniuk and others organized a branch of the Workers Party of Canada in Sudbury. In 1929, he was deeply involved in organizing the smelter workers at Inco, and the demonstrations of the unemployed. One such demonstration drew 5,000 workers which resulted in the au-



Michael (Misha) Korol

thorities reading the riot act but who were finally forced to provide soup kitchens for the unemployed. Kostaniuk's political, cultural and organizational work after this was in Winnipeg.

Bill Karcha was born in 1896 in Ukraine, and came to Canada in May, 1912. In his words, "Got a job in Copper Cliff Mine in Sudbury. Participated in a strike where all the workers were Ukrainian. The workers were fired. Got new job at Cobalt silver mine where my real trade union education began. There was a strong mine union to which each member was obligated to belong. I attended meetings where I heard Ukrainian speakers from the Social Democratic Party and soon after I started reading the Ukrainian language newspaper *Robochy Narod* (Working People). There were speakers from Winnipeg talking about building a Labour Temple. People donated 25 cents for each brick. I bought a brick. Cobalt closed, went to work for Murray Mines, where I lost a finger. Helped build Labour Temple in Timmins as a volunteer. Ukrainians not only cleared the soil, built industries etc., but they also helped to build organized labour movements." (These are excerpts from pages of his beautiful prose and exciting history.)

One of the first attempts to organize the miners of northern Ontario was made in 1926 by the Calgary based Mine Workers Union Vice-President John Stokaluk, a Ukrainian Canadian activist who, through mass meetings and house-to-house canvassing, established two small union locals of 200 members in South Porcupine and Timmins. Due to employer inspired arrests, jailings and threats of deportation, success was sporadic and spotty for the next period of time.

Ukrainian and Finnish left-wing activists eventually brought about the union organization of the nickel mines of Sudbury and the gold mines of Kirkland Lake, Timmins and South Porcupine. It was people like Nick Rozok and Mike Mokry (Bennett), fired

and blacklisted mine workers, who became full-time organizers for the Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (Mine-Mill). Mokry who started work as a "cook" in the mines as a teenager, and started working underground on turning age 21.

As Mokry relates it: "These workers soon learned that political action was necessary to stop the dismissal of union members and activists."

Co-workers of Mokry were elected to the municipal councils in the mining towns and also to the provincial legislature.

One of these, Tom Church, an International Union Board member of Mine-Mill, headed the polls in the municipal election. He was made police commissioner for the region and helped to discourage some of the police excesses against the unions and their activists.

A young miner, Michael (Misha) Korol, became an alderman in Timmins. He was active in organizing the Timmins miners, became vice-president of the union local and later became a full-time functionary in the AUUC, including a number of years as president.

Mike Solski served as local president and as a director of Mine-Mill during the Steelworkers Union raids. Later, he was the mayor of Coniston for 16 years. He co-authored a book on Mine-Mill.

Fred Wasyluk, a founding member of ULFTA in 1918, who along with Bill Karcha and Alex Rubanets was active in building the Western Federation of Miners, the predecessor of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union. Others who were involved, including Peter Boychuk, a Timmins miner, and Alex Kostaniuk, a Levack miner, were responsible for accelerating the organizing activity in the Sudbury Basin culminating in 3,000 miners joining the Mine-Mill in one month alone.

Stanley Kremyr worked in the gold mines of northern Ontario. He played a significant role in organizing the miners, and became president of the Timmins local of Mine-Mill. He worked in the mines, yet found time and energy to organize the union and build the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association and the AUUC. Kremyr was on the



Mary Skrypnik

National Committee of the AUUC, helped build the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Timmins, and was instrumental in transforming the ULT into the Ukrainian Historic and Cultural Museum.

With Bob Carlin, a Sudbury miner, winning a seat in the Ontario legislature for the CCF, with his party becoming the official opposition, and with pressure from organized labour, the ruling Liberal government was compelled to bring in the Trade Union Act in 1943. Unions at both Inco and Falconbridge were certified under the new act. A total of 12,000 miners were finally able to join the ranks of organized labour in Ontario.

During WWII there was a shift to the war industries in the cities. That is how Mary Skrypnik began working in the electrical industry in Hamilton, became a shop steward and executive member in the United Electrical Workers (UE) and, after the war, was drawn into service in the organizational and cultural work of the ULFTA and AUUC. She became an editor of *The Ukrainian Canadian*, and a prolific Ukrainian-English translator. I first met Mary when she was organizing the branch of the ULFTA in Plumas, Manitoba, ten miles from Glenella, my home town, where we also had a branch.

Steve Anco came to Canada from the Carpathian foothills of Ukraine when he was nine. His father found work in the steel mills of Hamilton, his mother in the garment industry. After dropping out of high school, young Steve worked in the printing trade, at Eaton's and in an auto plant in Windsor. When he shifted to the big Massey-Harris plant in Toronto in 1942, he was one of the first to sign a union card and helped organize that 2,000 member local of the United Automobile Workers. As so many of the workers there were Ukrainian, it was appropriate that they would elect this capable Ukrainian activist as their leader. He was also elected as their delegate to the Toronto Labour Council and to represent his workers on the District Council of the UAW.

Half the workers in the meat-packing industry in Canada were of Slavic origin, so it was natural that the Canada Packers workers in West Toronto would elect John Horbatuik, who helped organize the plant, as their leader. He became chief steward and executive board member and became a representative at the Toronto Labour Council and at international conventions. Both these stalwart union leaders found time to be active in the AUUC. Anco wrote a labour column in *The Ukrainian*

(Continued on Page 12.)

Ukrainian Canadians in Trade Union Struggles in Ontario

(Continued from Page 11.) *Canadian*, and Horbatuik was, in 1918, a founding member of the ULFTA and later an AUUC president.

One of the more militant unions, the UE became the dominant union in the electrical industry. Bill Repka and John Eleen were elected to the executive of the UE/CGE Joint Board of the seven General Electric plants in Toronto. Repka became secretary of the Board. Both subsequently were elected to be delegates to the Toronto Labour Council.

Repka had been one of the first organizers of the Youth Section of ULFTA in Alberta and after living in Toronto became a member of the editorial board of *The Ukrainian Canadian*.

Eleen served as national chairman of the National Federation of Labour Youth for a number of years and, while building transformers at CGE, was chairman of the National Council of the Youth Division of AUUC. He dropped the Youth Division work when he became a full-time organizer with UE. In 1964 he became



Bill Repka

the Director of Research for the Ontario Federation of Labour, a position he held for 23 years. John Eleen was executive secretary of the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research for a number of years, and served on the Editorial Board of *Labour/Le Travail* in the early eighties.

John Trufal of Welland was associated with the UE for 35 years, starting as chief steward at Page Hersey Stelco in 1947. He became shop chairman, business agent and area coordinator. He also served on the Crowland Township Council for seven years and on the Welland Council for 18 years. His wife Millie served eight years on the Council when John decided to devote his full time to union work. They both were active in various progressive movements and activities. John's parents were born in Ukraine; Millie's

forebears were from Scotland.

In his youth, Wally Majesky, whose parents were founding members of the AUUC, was active in its cultural activities. Serving his apprenticeship as an industrial electrician, in 1956 he became active in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), an electrical union in the construction industry. He and his family became active in the NDP. In 1974 he started working as a project director for the Labour Council of Metro Toronto, and later became its executive director, and then was elected president of that body. He later became secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour. He served on various government committees and commissions.

Steve Westlak joined the IBEW in 1940, became an organizer and then financial-secretary of Local 353, as well as a part-time member of the Ontario Labour Relations Board in Toronto.

Tom Chopowick was born in Montreal and became a worker in his teens. He played a role in political and cultural activities in the hungry thirties. During WWII, he worked in the shipbuilding industry, where he became an active unionist for eight years in the Boilermakers Union and then

spent 12 years with the International Association of Iron Workers. He was a skilled artisan as well as a good union member and political activist.

Phillip and Eva Maruschak (Morris) came to Canada from Ukraine in the late '20s. Phillip was a chef. For four years Phillip was a business agent and organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. Eva worked at Tip Top Tailors' Cafeteria (unionized) and was a part-time organizer.

While living in Cobourg they helped organize a strike at the tannery, forcing the owners to reduce hours from 12 to 10 and to eight hours on Saturday. They were also involved in a strike at Stouffer Restaurant. There, the workers got some increase in pay and a reduced workday from 14 hours to 10.

When the On-to-Ottawa Trek of unemployed came through Cobourg in 1935, the Morris' started a soup kitchen to help the marchers. This was how Ronnie Boychuk, a member of the International Typographical Union, met Phillip and Eva Morris for the first time.

In 1948, Lethbridge-born Helen Weir, who was a coal miner's daughter and an active AUUC member in Toronto, started making waves as an organizer of the Cafeteria and Restaurant Employees Union and as a delegate to the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council. The other delegate from the union was business agent Phillip Morris.

Canadian-born John Kurchak was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union for many years. He held the position of business agent and business manager for Local 285. He also served as a business representative with the Toronto Central Building and Construction Trades Council. Coupled with his activities in the Solar Energy Society, he was active on the Energy, Conservation and Pollution Control Committee of the Ontario Federation of Labour. In 1989 John Kurchak was appointed a part-time board member representing labour on the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

John Boychuk, son of a weaver and himself a tailor, came to Canada when in his 20s. Arriving in Toronto, he began to work at his trade. After being fired for union activity, in 1915 he helped to establish the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union in the city, and was elected to that union's executive. At the same time he became politically active. He was one of the founders of the ULFTA, and later became national treasurer of its successor, the AUUC.

— John W. Eleen

Ukrainian Canadian Herald Season's Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in the January, 2009, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. See the diagram on this page for sizes. Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

Deadline: December 10, 2008, for January, 2009.

Send your request to:

SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE
595 Pritchard Avenue,
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404
e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180
e-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.com

Please indicate the desired ad size:
\$10.00 (One line: name and city only)
\$20.00 (Two-line greeting — up to 10 words)
\$25.00 (Three-line greeting — up to 15 words)
\$30.00 (Four-line greeting — up to 20 words)
\$35.00 (Five-line greeting — up to 25 words)
Other

Greeting in: English _____ Ukrainian _____

Request sent by:
Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
e-mail: _____ Or in person: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov. _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
e-mail: _____

MESSAGE:

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Cheque enclosed _____
Invoice required _____ Office receipt # _____

Season's Greeting Ad sizes at Various Prices

Name and city (one line only) 10.00

Two-line greeting
(up to 10 words) \$20.00

Name and city

(up to 15 words) \$25.00

.....
Three-line greeting.....

Name and city

(up to 20 words)..... \$30.00

.....
Four Line Greeting.....

Name and city

(up to 25 words).....

.....\$35.00

.....
Five-line greeting

Name and city

Remembrance Day Tribute in Toronto

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowsky and Joe Dzatko



Some forty people were present on Sunday, November 9, at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto for the Remembrance Day Tribute.

On Sunday, November 9, the Toronto Branch of the AUUC held a Remembrance Day Tribute at the AUUC Cultural Centre.

The hall was beautifully decorated with large poppies and posters. Memorials of the war years and plaques were on display. The tables were adorned with flowers.

A small supply of the publication *Our Contribution to Victory*, by Peter Krawchuk, presenting a brief picture of the AUUC's contribution to the WWII war effort, was available for sale in English

and Ukrainian editions at a price which made them affordable. The English-language copies sold out.

Branch President George Borusiewich opened the proceedings, and in his remarks noted how selfless Canadians were in carrying out their duties. Because of this unassuming modesty, the Canadian Armed Forces collectively, and our military people individually, often did not receive the recognition they deserved.

As an example, he cited Victor Mihay. Victor was a decorated veteran of WW II,

yet George did not now this until we saw him at our tribute, bedecked in his well-earned medals.

The Hahilka Choir then made its entrance, and the cultural portion of the program began with the choir singing "Laskavo prosymo", its traditional opening. Patricia Dzatko brought in the offering of bread and salt on an embroidered towel.

In the absence of Nataalka Mochoruk, who was ill, Peter Krochak conducted the choir while accompanying them.

The first choral item, "Pye zhuravka vodu" (The Crane Drinks Water), was a song dedicated to mothers who lost loved ones due to war. The second item was a new medley of five Ukrainian folk songs, with Terry Rivest, Lorna Clark and Wilfred Szczesny as soloists.

Peter Krochak's outstanding performance on the keyboard of Chopin's "Scherzo" in B-flat minor, Opus 31, was followed by the choir's final selection — "Oy chorna ya se chorna", with Lorna Clark and Wilfred Szczesny as a duet.

At George Borusiewich's request, AUUC Branch Member Mark Stewart introduced our keynote speaker, Edward Stewart, his father.

Ed Stewart is an expert on the sinking of HMCS Athabaskan on April 29, 1944, in which 128 Canadians perished, including his oldest brother Bill.

In memory of his brother, Ed wrote the book *Unlucky*

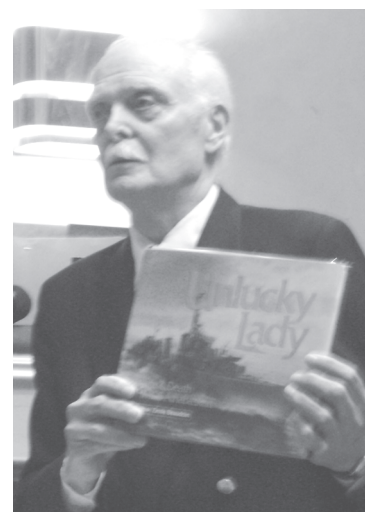
Lady that chronicles the story of the HMCS Athabaskan. Ed Stewart related events of the ship's sinking and his personal letters and memories of that misfortune. His rendering was a heartfelt experience that deeply moved everyone in the audience.

There were very few dry eyes remaining as Connie Prince recited the Honour Roll of Toronto AUUC Branch members who served in the Second World War, with the choir in the background singing "Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream". This was indeed a poignant moment.

A CBC documentary was then shown on the sinking of the HMCS Athabaskan in which Edward Stewart was a consultant on the production.

The memorable afternoon ended with everyone enjoying sandwiches provided by choir members and other light refreshments.

As Helen Banville greeted



Ed Stewart, author of *Unlucky Lady*, spoke about the HMCS Athabaskan and about losing his brother off the coast of France when the ship was attacked.

the guests at the door, they were met by a display of seven lovely crossed-stitched items. These were crafted and donated by Nataalka Mochoruk for a raffle that kept Helen busy selling tickets.

— Joe Dzatko

Who, What, When, Where

Calgary — The **Calgary Hopak Ensemble** will stage its **Annual Winter Concert** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, **December 12, 2008**, at **University Theatre of the University of Calgary**. For more information or tickets, **phone June Huska** at 403-288-8470 or 403-246-1231. Admission: **advance sales - \$12.00; at the door - \$15.00.**

* * *

Calgary — The **2nd Annual New Year's Eve Gala Fundraiser for Children's Playground at Camp Kum-in-Yar** will be held on Wednesday, **December 31, 2008**. For more information, **phone Marilyn** at 403-286-7972 or **Walter/Nadyia** at 403-201-7070. Tickets: **\$50.00 per person.**

* * *

Calgary — **Calgary AUUC Branch** will hold its **Annual Malanka** on Saturday, **January 17, 2009**. For tickets or more information, **phone Hazel** at 403-295-3954 or **Kay** at 403-289-4792. Tickets: **\$40.00 per person (\$30.00 for AUUC members).**

* * *

Regina — The **Poltava Ensemble of Song Music and Dance**, and the **Regina AUUC Branch** will hold **Malanka 2009** (Ukrainian New Year's Celebration) at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**, 1077 Angus Street, on Saturday, **January 27, 2009**. **Cocktails and appetizers** will be served from 5:00 p.m.; **supper** will start at 6:30 p.m. There will be a **performance by the Poltava Ensemble**; **dancing to The Ficor Show** will begin at 9:00 p.m. To reserve your tickets, **call the Box Office** at (306) 779-2277. Tickets: **\$40.00.**

* * *

Vancouver — The **AUUC School Christmas Recital** will be held at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 E. Pender Street, starting at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 14**. For more information, **call (604) 254-3436.**

* * *

Vancouver — The **AUUC Vancouver Branch** will celebrate **Malanka**, the Ukrainian New Year, from **6:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **January 17, 2009**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 E. Pender Street. Admission: **\$37.50 each**. For more information or tickets, **call Dianna** at (604) 879-2089.

Readers of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.



Lorna Clark and Wilfred Szczesny joined in their second duet to present "Oy chorna ya se chorna".



In the absence of Nataalka Mochoruk, Peter Krochak conducted the singers, as well as accompanying them. As a bonus, he delighted the audience with a "Scherzo" by Chopin.

John Petryna



John Petryna of Regina passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at his home in Pioneer Village, at the age of 88 years.

He was predeceased by his parents George and Justina; brothers Steve, Stanley and Peter; sister Annie; and son-in-law Peter Bown.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Anne, with whom he shared over 67 years of marriage; his brother Fred (Elsie), sister Betty (Don) and sister-in-law Betty; his children Ronnie and wife Dianne of Winnipeg; Carol Bown of Yorkton, Sask.; Dianne Brooks of Airdrie, Alta.; Lois and her husband Ronald Blondeau of Saskatoon, Sask.; his adored granddaughters Tracey, Carrie, Tammy, Andrea, and Audrey; great granddaughter Katarina; grandsons, of whom he was eminently proud, Paul, Craig, Scott, Christopher and Dale; great-grandson Konrad; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many good friends too numerous to mention.

John was born in Renown, Saskatchewan, on December 14, 1919. He met his wife Anne at a dance in Lumsden,

Sask., and was married on February 23, 1941.

John worked in the CIL munitions plant in Regina until the end of the war, after which he was employed as an auto body mechanic until his retirement in 1985.

He had a passion for card playing, hunting and fishing (all of his children and grandchildren will fondly remember many a summer's adventure fishing with Dad/Grandpa).

John was a past director of the Centre of the Arts and was active in the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians as a past president of the Branch. He played the accordion in the orchestra for many years.

John was an avid bowler, and was instrumental in having the Annual AUUC-WBA Bowling Tournament in Regina.

Proud of his cultural heritage, he instilled in his children that same pride through Ukrainian dance and music.

Edmonton

(Continued on Page 8.)

Cuban Hurricane Relief Fund. Eva Doskoch is helping to collect aid from our seniors and the greater Edmonton community. To date, Eva is very pleased with the response.

Anne Husar never fails each year to bring the grand tomato from her garden. It was featured, with other autumn yields of a pumpkin, a yam, a squash and floral arrangements, for each table.

Mike Uhryn gave a short analysis of the elections in Canada and the USA. This was followed by audience participation through questions and discussion.

— Shirley Uhryn



Anne Husar displayed the huge tomato grown from seeds from Ukraine.

Coming Soon

In coming issues, look for reports on the AUUC 90th anniversary celebration in Welland, social events in Toronto, concerts in a number of localities, and other items of interest.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Anne & Joe Bobrovitz, Brantford ON	
<i>In memory of brother, Bill Galange</i>	\$100.00
Genevieve Hanusiak, New York NY	
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<i>In memory of John Petryna of Regina</i>	50.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

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Join us for a new season of AUUC activities! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

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805 East Pender Street
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E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net

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Ukrainian Cultural Centre
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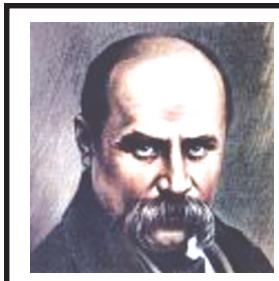
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**Submitted
as a
separate
PDF file**



Taras Shevchenko Museum

(Note: The Resident Executive Committee of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation decided at its meeting on October 6 to submit a monthly column to the "UCH". This month, the first column provides an introduction to the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto.)

The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum, owned and operated by the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, is a non-profit corporation, founded by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, for the purpose of popularizing the life and work of the Bard of Ukraine, and the contribution of Canadians of Ukrainian descent to the social, economic and political life of Canada.

The Museum is located in Toronto, and is the second such institution operated by the Foundation. The original Museum, opened during the celebration of Canada Day, 1952, was located in a 16-acre park near Oakville, Ontario. It complemented a monument to Taras Shevchenko, the first in the Americas, which was unveiled the previous year, on the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to this country. The monument and much of the original collection of exhibits were gifts of the people of Ukraine to their kinfolk in Canada.

Unfortunately, the original Museum, including its valuable collections, was destroyed by arson in September, 1988, and in December

2006, the 3-metre bronze Shevchenko statue was stolen for the value of its metal.

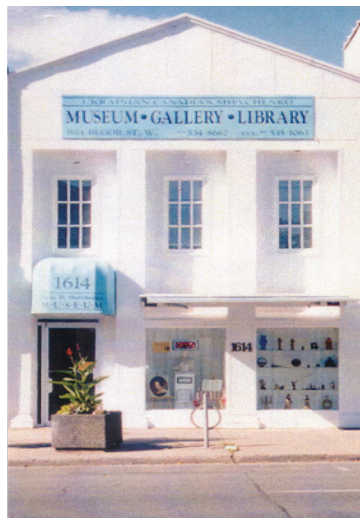
Today's Museum, unique in the Western world, is similar in size to the original, but has amassed collections far superior in size, quality and variety, including extensive research materials.

These efforts, and the ongoing cultural work of the Foundation, are entirely financed by personal donations from our friends and supporters.

The central focus of the Museum are exhibits dedi-



Some time after the theft of the statue, the head was recovered from a scrap metal dealer. It is now at the Taras Shevchenko Museum.



The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum, located at 1614 Bloor Street West in Toronto.

cated to the art, life and literary legacy of the founder of the modern Ukrainian language. On display are many editions of his *Kobzar* (poetry), just some of the over-100 in the Museum's collection.

As well, the Museum has artistic copies of Shevchenko's creations in many genres, all of professional museum quality, specially commissioned in Ukraine for this Museum.

Not all the exhibits available are on display at any one time, but are rotated on a regular basis to correspond with various themes from the life and work of the Bard of Ukraine.

UNESCO has twice celebrated Shevchenko as a cultural leader of world acclaim.

The Museum's galleries feature:

The Art Gallery features Taras Shevchenko art works as well as the works of prominent Ukrainian artists of the 20th century. While the paintings on display are periodically changed, their focus is on works by and about Taras Shevchenko.

Also, on display in this gallery is a unique philatelic collection featuring stamps and covers from many countries honouring Shevchenko.

One room on the main floor of the Museum displays a small portion of the Museum's extensive collection of Ukrainian handicrafts and folk art, including many fine examples of costumes, embroidery, ceramics, wood carving and weaving. These exhibits of traditional Ukrainian art have been created both in Ukraine and in Canada.

As part of its mandate to popularize the contribution of Ukrainians to Canadian life, the Museum also has a fine collection of pioneer implements and memorabilia.

The Taras Shevchenko Museum, located at 1614 Bloor Street West in Toronto, is open Monday to Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and by appointment on weekends and holidays.

For more information, or to arrange a visit, call 416-534-8662, fax 416-535-1063. The website url is infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum/.



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Kathy & Wilf & Family
Susan & Rick
Michele & Family



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good health, happiness,
and prosperity!

AUUC Toronto Branch



BEST WISHES
FOR 2009!



from Olga Pawlychyn
Winnipeg, MB



May the message of PEACE
touch all our Friends
this HOLIDAY SEASON.

Lucy, Vadim, Lisa, Anatole, Jaime, Sean
Nykolyshyn, Rudiger and Lydia Hedrich &
their families



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The Board of Directors
extends wishes for the
Best of Health

to all AUUC members
in the New Year

A HAPPY 2009 TO ALL



Season Greetings! Веселих Свят та щасливого Нового Року!



Open Monday to Friday 10 am – 4 pm
Weekends & Holidays by Appointment

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Seasons Greetings from Cheryl Balay