

HERALD BICHIK

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At the Poltava Pavilion at Regina's Mosaic Festival of Cultures



Participating in Regina's Mosaic this year, the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts started every children's performance with "Pryvit" (Greetings). With over 60 dancers brought to the stage and costumes from several regions of Ukraine, the presentation never failed to awe the audience. For a report by Al Lapchuk and more pictures by Mark Greshner featuring the Poltava Pavilion at this year's Festival of Cultures, turn to page 16.

Canadian Taxes: High or Low?

It's hard to know whom to believe these days.

On July 29, we awoke to a headline in *The Toronto Star* that said "Canada joins tax-friendly ranks". The story told us that tax cutting over several years had reduced the corporate tax burden in Canada to the third lowest among ten countries studied by the KPMG., an accounting firm.

Mexico and the Netherlands had lower rates than Canada, but Australia, the US, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Italy and France had higher rates.

Among cities, Toronto was 7th among 35 international centres, lower than New York, but higher than Montreal and Vancouver.

Greg Wiebe, KPMG's Canadian managing partner, said that Canada could do even better (which means that taxes could be even lower) with provincial help, but the only reason given for why we would want to was to enhance our advantage.

While the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and other business groups were pleased with the report, the study did note that other factors, like labour costs, facilities, trans-

portation are more important in attracting companies. It seems that we are all supposed to be striving for low corporate tax rates and low labour costs, with high personal tax rates to pay for it all.

It all sounds like good news for business — and then a C.D. Howe Institute study comes out two days later and tells us that high corporate taxes are damaging the Ontario economy.

The C.D. Howe Institute always has a good reason to promote lower corporate taxes, and this time it is to counteract slow demand in the United States.

The C.D. Howe Institute notes that the Canadian government has a series of further corporate tax cuts planned, and crows the result will be an increase of \$62 billion in capital stock over 5 years, and workers' incomes improved by \$2.9 billion. The rich will get much richer; the poor will get more user fees.

Conservatives Continue Anti-Arts Program

On August 9, *The Toronto Star* reported that the Conservative government had cut funding to PromArt, the \$4.7 million travel assistance program to help to promote Canadian culture abroad. Comments on a government document suggested that the program funded "fringe groups, left wingers, and the well-off".

The effective date of the cut is March 31, 2009. The "Star" got the information from an internal government document.

The document refers to Gwynne Dyer, who received \$3000 to lecture on Canadian foreign policy and defence issues in Cuba, as a left-leaning columnist and author who could afford to travel on his own.

The North-South Institute, which received \$18,000 to

coordinate a conference in Cuba in 2006, was described as a left-wing anti-globalization think tank.

Other individuals receiving grants were former CBC journalist Avi Lewis, currently with Al Jazeera, described as a "general radical", and former Supreme Court Justice Bastarache, who lectured in Cuba on the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Among other institutional recipients of grants under this program have been the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Perhaps these were the "really very fringe groups" mentioned by Kory Teneycke, Director of Communications for the Prime Minister's Office.

Teneycke did not specify which of the recipients mentioned did not "properly reflect (Canadians') 'mainstream' values".

Two days later, on August 11, the *Globe and Mail* reported that another program, Trade Routes, was also cancelled. Trade Routes was a \$9 million program designed to help cultural groups like Hot Docs and the Canadian Independent Record Production Association to sell products abroad.

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra said that the cuts put at risk tours to Europe and Asia planned for 2010.

Alain Pineau, National Director of the Canadian Con-

ference of the Arts, reacted with "I can't believe they would be so stupid. It's just provocative."

Peter Feldman, former Executive Director of the Canadian Arts Presenting Association, estimates programs like Trade Routes produce a 10-1 return on investment. Cutting such a program was not going to benefit the country's economy.

A letter to the editor from Ontario Minister of Culture M. Aileen Carroll on August 14 in the "Star" said that the federal government cuts were "damaging our economic diversity and future prosperity."

On August 15 and August 16, it was reported that the Harper government is cutting five more programs, for a total saving of about \$20 million.

MacNeil Career not Threatened

Every once in a while a new name surfaces in the list of people who have been under surveillance of the RCMP.

The latest such name, as we prepare to go to press, is Canadian singing megastar Rita MacNeil. She was caught in the net because of her involvement with the women's movement in the early '70s.

In March, 1972, an undercover source reported that Rita MacNeil was at a conference of women's lib groups in Winnipeg, representing the Toronto Women's Caucus.

The police were interested in apparent Communist infiltration of the women's movement.

Rita MacNeil was reported to be more amused than offended on learning that she had been under surveillance.

A report in *The Toronto Star* says that the RCMP did

surveillance in three ways: taking pictures and recording names "on the ground"; using informants; and drawing on newspaper reports and other open sources.

Rita MacNeil is a member of the Order of Canada (no one has demanded, yet, that she removed from that Order.)

"We certainly weren't Communists," Ms MacNeil is reported saying of the Toronto Women's Caucus. She does not believe that the revelation that she was of interest to the RCMP as a possible security threat will damage either her career or her reputation.

Of course, at one time it might have been disastrous, as it was for many, like musicians with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, who lost their livelihood.

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Nine Decades of Struggle

The World

In the 1960s, the world was a turbulent place. The Cold War was in full swing, with a nuclear arms race which threatened to erupt in a war of mutually assured destruction as the two centres of the struggle jockeyed to strengthen their global position and avoid allowing the opponent to gain an advantage — especially a military advantage which would allow the other to launch a pre-emptive nuclear attack.

The war in Vietnam, which the Americans had taken over from France, was the major war during this decade, but there were many other conflicts, on a smaller scale, in many parts of Asia and Africa. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States were invariably supporting opposite sides in each of these trouble spots.

The continuing division between the USSR and China complicated the international situation, making life easier for the United States at least by making it harder for the USSR.

The great international movements of the decade included the movement to stop the arms race and proceed to disarmament, the opposition to continuing US aggression in Vietnam, the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, the movement supporting Cuba against invasion by the USA or its hemispheric proxies, and the civil rights struggle in the USA.

Barbarism was frequent in the decade.

This was the time when General Suharto (with the blessing of the USA) overthrew the Sukarno government of Indonesia, after which rivers ran red with the blood of over a million victims. That was one of the higher-profile, but not unique, such cases in Asia.

This was the decade when Pinochet (with the assistance of the CIA) overthrew the Allende government in Chile to operate one of the many American-backed, bloody-handed regimes in the Americas.

In Africa, the national liberation struggle was creating many formally independent countries that were at birth client states in the Cold War struggle while reflecting the ravages of the racist policies of their former European colonizers. South Africa and Israel had their own “interests” in African developments, within the Cold War context.

In Europe, in August, 1968, the USSR, backed by the Warsaw Pact countries, invaded Czechoslovakia.

The Decade in Canada

In Canada in 1960, with John Diefenbaker as Prime Minister, the decade began with Status Indians getting the right to vote, the Canadian Bill of Rights being approved by Parliament and getting Royal assent, and Quebec (the last province to do so) agreeing to the Canada Health Act, and the holding of the first First Ministers’ Conference.

In 1961, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada was formed by the merger of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Imperial Bank of Canada. CTV became the second national television broadcaster in operation. Saskatchewan started the process of forming a government-run healthcare system.

In fall of 1962, the Diefenbaker government, earlier reduced to a minority after accepting BOMARC missiles and pegging the Canadian dollar to its American counterpart, resisted American pressure to put Canadian armed forces on alert during the Cuban missile crisis.

Early in 1963, Diefenbaker refused to accept nuclear weapons on Canadian soil. The government fell, and the Liberals, led by Lester B. Pearson, won the ensuing election. In the middle of the year, the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism was announced.

In 1964, Canadian peacekeepers went to Cyprus, but left Zaire. Social Insurance came in early in the year, and the new flag (over strenuous Progressive Conservative objections) came in at the end of the year.

In early 1965, the Canada-US Auto Pact was signed. In April, 1965, Prime Minister Pearson, heading a minority government, called for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam. President Johnson, reportedly, was not amused. The Canadian Film Development Agency was formed.

The Canada Pension Plan (and the QPP) became operative on January 1, 1966. The Royal Commission on the Status of Women was announced in this year.

In April, 1967, “O Canada” became the official national anthem. On April 28, Expo 67 opened to the public.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission was formed in April, 1968. In April, too, Pierre Trudeau replaced Lester Pearson as Prime Minister, and in June won a parliamentary majority. On July 1, Canadian medicare came into effect. In October, the Parti

Quebecois was formed.

On July 7, 1969, the Official Languages Act came into effect.

This survey does not reflect the full wealth of cultural and educational institutions that were created in the 1960s, or of Canada’s aerospace involvement. There is no discussion of the significance of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution in this decade, or the growing activity of the FLQ (Quebec Liberation Front). The shift of dominance from the British-aligned sections of the ruling class (represented by the Progressive Conservatives) to the American-aligned sections represented by the Liberals is a development of major importance in this decade, but there is no room here for detailed discussion.

Ukrainian Canadians

In a number of ways, the Ukrainian Canadian community experienced significant transformations in the 1960s, and started, in some measure, to lose its political strength.

The instalment of *The Evolution of a Community* in the September, 1991, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian* discusses in some detail a number of these transformations. Almost two decades later, it might be noted that the growth of the Ukrainian Canadian population indicated in that article may have been not entirely an actual increase but the result of changing definitions accepted by the community of its own membership criteria. The second point that might be made is that the decline of the leadership role of second-wave immigrants, particularly, may have been overstated.

As indicated in the 1991 article, in the 1960s and subsequently, there were increasing rates of assimilation. As a result, there were also decreasing participation rates in community activities and institutions. Toronto rivalled, and then surpassed, Winnipeg as the centre of the community, as third-wave immigrants and the Canadian-born continued the urbanization process, which also represented significant changes in career choices.

New structures added to the community included the Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, the Federation of Ukrainian Professional and Businessmen’s Clubs of Canada, and the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, which was formed in 1967.

Conflict continued among the various organizations on the right wing of the community, with growing inter-generational power struggles.

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the Workers Benevolent Associa-

tion continued to be the target of the Cold War policies of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee. In particular, the AUUC was excluded from the Canadian Folk Arts Council, as well as the provincial and municipal folk arts structures in those places where right-wing Ukrainian Canadians dominated.

Throughout the decade, the general public saw the organized Ukrainian Canadian community as a highly structured and powerful force. The reality of that image was eroded further in that decade.

The defeat of the Progressive Conservatives (who had right-wing community support for their Cold War rhetoric) by the Liberals (and particularly by Pierre Trudeau, who was seen as soft on communism) left the Ukrainian Canadian Committee in a weakened position vis-a-vis Ottawa.

In the AUUC

The life of the AUUC was rich in the 1960s.

The decade was marked from beginning to end with ambitious projects in the performing arts, anniversary celebrations which brought into play the whole gamut of community skills and talents, continuing involvement in socio-political movements which brought growing prestige in progressive circles because of AUUC organizational resources and activity. Friendly contacts with Ukraine provided access to educational and cultural opportunities which aided the AUUC and its groups, while helping to break down some of the antagonism from the rest of the community.

An early project in the decade was the citizenship rights campaign waged by the Canadian Slav Committee, of which the AUUC was a member. Mitch Sago, member of the National Executive Committee of the AUUC and Editor of *The Ukrainian Canadian* played an important role in the planning and execution of this campaign, which was eventually assumed by the Canadian Council of National Groups. A decade of intense work went into gathering information and communicating with the government, but the result was that, in the 1970s Canadian residents who for decades had been refused citizenship began to see their citizenship applications approved.

In 1962, the AUUC, with other progressive organizations, formed the Canadian Council of National Groups.

An early work of the CCNG was to submit a brief to the Royal Commission of Bilingualism and Biculturalism, supported by the AUUC (which also submitted an independent brief).

Another, more sustained,

effort was to combat the discrimination on political grounds against organizations excluded from the Canadian Folk Arts Council and other publicly funded initiatives. While the campaign had little immediate effect with respect to the CFAC, it did bear fruit at other levels.

The third great work of the CCNG was the ultimately successful citizenship rights campaign.

Among the great performing arts successes were the staging of the National Shevchenko Festival in Toronto in 1961, a national tour in 1964 by the Shevchenko Male Chorus and the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra, participation in Expo 67, and preparations at the end of the decade for a tour of Ukraine in 1970 by the Shevchenko Ensemble of the AUUC and the celebration of the Manitoba centennial in that year.

The 1961 centennial of the death of Taras Shevchenko, coincided with the 70th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, and the 10th anniversary of the unveiling of the statue to Taras Shevchenko in Palermo (Oakville). These events were marked by the staging of a two-day festival, with a spectacular and innovative program in Toronto and Palermo. This was the culmination of a series of local and provincial presentations.

The entire catalogue of related projects is very varied. In 1961, for example, the AUUC and WBA participated in commemorations in Ukraine of the Shevchenko centenary, with a group of 400 people among those who visited Kaniv in that year. Three literary works of various kinds were published to mark the event. A long list of other projects were carried through before, during, and after 1961.

The 10th AUUC National Convention in Toronto in July, 1962, looked ahead with several proposals for the celebration of Canada’s centennial. Ultimately AUUC celebrations included, among other events, participation in Expo 67 by ten AUUC performing groups from eight localities. The AUUC felt this participation in Expo 67 to be a significant development, representing a weakening of the ability of the UCC to bar the AUUC from official recognition and participation in publicly funded events.

The 12th AUUC National Convention, in 1966, was held in Winnipeg to mark the 75 anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

The report on the Women’s Branches by Mary Prokop at that Convention showed a trend to lower membership numbers in the Men’s and Women’s branches, and increasing instances of mergers.

(Continued on Page 13.)

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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Political Sabre-Rattling

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Once again, the people of Canada are being tantalized by the prospect of a national election and an opportunity to turf the Conservatives. Though his government brought in the law specifying election dates, and though he has said that he would govern as though he had a majority, Prime Minister Harper has recently been talking about calling an early election on the grounds that Parliament is not working.

It is not impossible, but it does seem improbable, that he will actually do so. To me it seems more likely that he is being the bluffing bully, hoping to scare the Liberals into abandoning their role as the opposition and allowing the government to do as it will.

Why do I think so?

First, because his decision to call an early election could itself become an election issue militating against the Conservatives. While Harper is trying hard to cast the Liberals in the role of obstructionists, I would be surprised if the electorate did not see through this. Only the most partisan Conservative supporters could possibly find the nonsense around the House of Commons Ethics Committee by the Conservative Party acceptable. Rather than buying the story that the Liberals are using the Committee to create an issue where none exists, most voters will probably recognize that the Conservatives are trying to sabotage the Committee as it tries to investigate allegedly illegal transactions.

Second, because the Conservatives, in spite of their best efforts, do not seem to have been able to gain enough support to expect to win a majority government. Their latest move, cutting funding to cultural programs while giving money to specific groups in an effort to buy support, may actually be counter-productive.

However, I could be wrong; I do not have a crystal ball.

Perhaps the Prime Minister has reached the opinion that the longer Parliament lasts the more the Conservative Party will be hurt by various scandals, not to mention the declining economy, growing opposition to the war in Afghanistan and other evidence that this government puts the wishes of the President of the United States ahead of the choices of Canadians. Perhaps he fears that the Liberal Party is reaching election readiness.

If Prime Minister Harper thinks that a bad result now could become a worse result later, then he may well be trying to provoke an election.

COMMENTARY

On Invasions in Georgia

In case you missed it, on August 8 the *Globe and Mail* and other newspapers carried the news that Georgian warplanes had attacked separatist positions in South Ossetia on the morning of August 7. The UN Security Council had begun discussing a Russian statement calling for an end to the violence, and a return to the bargaining table.

The report said that Georgia had indicated that the military action was "aimed at ending South Ossetia's effective independence, won in a 1991-92 war."

Editorials in Toronto's dailies criticized Russia severely for its military action, and also blamed Russia for Georgia's military action. The claim, not in quite these words, was that Saakashvili had stupidly fallen into a Russian trap designed to justify Russian invasion as a defence of its citizens in the region.

During the early days of the Russian action against Georgia, someone asked me whether I was worried about the possibility of it leading to World War III, which I interpreted as meaning a war between Russia and the United States, with NATO possibly drawn in, and nuclear missiles flying. My answer was "no". It seemed clear to me very soon that the United States was not ready to go to war in support of Georgia, whatever Saakashvili may have thought he had bought with his contingent of Georgian troops in Iraq.

Singing in unison with Bush, Prime Minister Harper has made Russia the villain of the peace and Georgia the victim. *The Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, and probably most of the commercial media have taken that same line.

The Globe and Mail credits Georgia with being "unlike Russia... a functioning democracy". The attraction of Saakashvili is that he is "a pro-Western leader"

The Toronto Star faults Russia for supporting secession in Georgia while suppressing it in Chechnya, missing the irony of its support for secession in Russia while opposing it in Georgia.

Thomas Walkom, writing in the "Star" has a more nuanced approach, pointing out that

"Saakashvili... like Putin — doesn't hesitate to use the knout on political foes."

Walkom points out that Ossetians are historically distinct from Georgians, and speak a different language. He also points out that Human Rights Watch says that "Ossetians and Georgians have been treating one another with unspeakable brutality since the conflict broke out in the early '90s."

Finally Walkom points out that two major oil pipelines run through Georgia from the Caspian to the Black Sea.

Other sources point out that these pipelines allow Europe to be less dependent on pipelines through Russia for their supplies. That may help explain why France reacted so quickly to try to broker a peace between Georgia and Russia.

The Toronto Star did print an edited version of an editorial from the London *Guardian* which also takes a less one-sided position than does the "Star" itself. The *Guardian* says that both "Georgia and Russia undermine the credibility of their own statements on a daily basis."

The *Guardian* suggests that Russia will maintain troops on the borders of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

(North Abkhazia is already part of Russia.)

The *Guardian* notes that Western capitals (does this mean Europe and North America?) now seem to want to punish Russia, but warns against moving toward "a new era of belligerence" like the Cold War.

Just how firm a grip Georgia had on Abkhazia and South Ossetia before it drew Russia's attack by sending its forces into Southern Ossetia is a question. Apparently Russia has had troops in the two regions since the early 1990s.

In Walkom's column, which ran on August 13, he reports that Georgia "says criminals and smugglers run the breakaway region." That suggests that Georgia did not run the region.

The Toronto Star, like many others, suggests that the events in Georgia (for officially that is where it all is) have "blackened Russia's image". That may or may not be true, and it may or may not be

relevant. Some Russian reactions reveal a feeling that the West (Yes, NATO and the United States) had no real interest in cooperation with Russia. For example, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was reported in *The Toronto Star* on August 15 as saying that "the West has been 'just stringing us along' on possible Russian membership in the World Trade Organization."

While it seemed to be slow in abiding by the peace deal to which Russia agreed, which was brokered by France as the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* prepares to go to press it is reported that Russia is withdrawing from some of the positions it had reached in Georgia. At the moment, it is not known if Russia would also leave Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Very soon after the dismantling of the USSR, it became clear that the United States, and perhaps some other countries were reverting to looking at Russia much as they had looked at the Soviet Union; that is, as an enemy.

This may have been a natural development when it became clear that Russia, unlike the other countries formerly part of the USSR, did not intend merely to be taken over by foreign capital and bow to the behests of Washington, but chose, instead, to enter the competition as a significant power itself. This immediately put it into conflict with the USA in a contest for influence in Russia's "near abroad".

Like the conflict in Ukraine between the "pro-Western" and the "pro-Russian" factions, the Russia-USA rivalry is not quite what it seems.

The competition now is capitalist competition, with NATO countries investing in Russia and Russia returning the favour. While the jockeying for position may get quite vicious, which historically could lead to war, nuclear weapons are an important consideration in the modern competition. Short of a catastrophic miscalculation, the stakes would have to be very great indeed to draw the two sides into war against each other. — Sz

Samples of the incongruous: George "The Torturer" Bush telling other countries (like China) how to treat people; "Shock and Awe" Bush (and members of his Cabinet) lecturing other countries (like Russia) about invading third countries.

From Our Readers

We enjoy the (*Ukrainian Canadian Herald*) a lot.
— John & Nettie Hrynuik
Saskatoon SK

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Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

Canada To Hire Ukrainians

The Federal Government of Canada has launched a program to recruit and train skilled craft workers and technicians for the province of Saskatchewan.

According to a recent Canadian news report, \$3 million dollars will be invested by the government to develop the project.

The program will prepare selected foreigners for high-paying careers in the mechanical trades such as welding, heavy-duty equipment, and agricultural machinery. The program will also provide workers with the expertise needed upon arrival in the country.

The pilot project will target 700 prospective immigrants over the next four years from Ukraine, as well as the Philippines and Vietnam.

Fat Cats

This summer, the 450 members of *Verkhovna Rada* (Ukrainian Parliament) received about \$7000 each as summer vacation money, as well as subsidies for spa treatment. These sums were in addition to their regular salary as members of parliament.

(According to Ukrainian government statistics, the average wage in Ukraine this year is \$300 per month.)

Newspaper reporters who interviewed some of the members of parliament, reported that the lawmakers believed that they had worked hard this year, and had therefore earned a good vacation.

A complaint made by several of the members of parliament was that they received much less in vacation money than did the government cabinet and the president's office!

A poll taken at the end of June reported that a stunning majority of the people of Ukraine, 82.6%, gave this Ukrainian Parliament a failing grade, while only 12.7% gave it a positive grade.

Genocide Or Famine

Recently, the United Nations General Assembly refused to include discussions on Ukraine's 1932-1933 famine, which the Ukrainian government wants to have recognized as an act of genocide, in the agenda of the current UN session.

In late 2006, Ukraine's parliament classified the depression-era famine as an act of genocide by the Soviet authorities, but Russia has consistently rejected the Ukrain-

ian government's interpretation of events.

In July, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe adopted a resolution condemning the famine, but falling short of recognizing it as an act of genocide.

During the United Nations' debate, Russia's ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, stated that mass starvation in the Soviet Union in the 1930s "was a tragic page in the shared history of the peoples of the Soviet Union," in which not only Ukraine but also Belarus, the Volga area, the Black Sea area, the Don area, and the North Caucasus went hungry from 1931, as well as northern Kazakhstan, the southern Urals, and western Siberia.

Moreover, part of present-day Ukraine (which suffered from famine) was then Polish territory, he said.

Marriage Better

Almost 81,000 couples in Ukraine divorced in the first half of 2008. This number is six percent lower than the number of divorces in the same period in 2007. At the same time, the number of marriages exceeded the number of divorces by 15-20 percent.

According to the statistics, the strongest marriages are located in the Transcarpathian region.

Both the largest number of weddings, and the largest number of divorces, are located in the Donetsk region.

(On a per-capita basis, the number of divorces in Ukraine is roughly 40% higher than the number in Canada.)

Playboy Photo

Darya Astafieva has become the first Ukrainian woman to appear in the *Playboy* magazine. Darya, model, member of the Nikita Girls band, and TV hostess on the Ukrainian M1 music channel was chosen to appear in the American issue of *Playboy*. She was named Playmate of the Year in Ukraine, and will now try to become the jubilee playmate in the US — dedicated to the 55th anniversary of *Playboy*.

Astafieva is the first Ukrainian girl to receive an invitation from *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner to take part in a *Playboy* photo session. She now plans to bring Hefner to Kyiv to visit a local *Playboy* party.

Ukraine's Top Cities

The second annual rating of Ukrainian cities by "Focus in Ukraine" found that the western-Ukrainian city of Cher-

nivtsi was the most-desirable Ukrainian city in which to live.

Although no information about "Focus In Ukraine" is given, the criteria they used to make their evaluations are clearly described. The cities were analyzed according to infrastructure (schools, hospitals, etc.), ecology, average salary, crime, history, archaeology, culture, banking services, unemployment, etc.

The "Top Ten" are:

- (1) Chernivtsi
- (2) Kyiv
- (3) Yalta
- (4) Chernihiv
- (5) Ivano-Frankivsk
- (6) Mukachevo
- (7) Truskavets
- (8) Illichivsk
- (9) Lviv
- (10) Lutsk.

As can be seen, most of the "Top Ten" are located in western Ukraine.

There were also winners in separate nominations: Kyiv has the highest wages, Kolomeya has the lowest crime, Kerch is the leader in infrastructure, Sudak has the most cultural objects, while Simferopol has the most affordable municipal services.

Unfortunately there has to be a loser. Of the 55 cities evaluated, Zaporizhzhya came in last.

Cancer

Nearly 100,000 Ukrainians die prematurely each year of cancer, a sad reflection on the nation's deteriorating health-care system and unhealthy lifestyles.

Reducing the cancer toll will require major lifestyle changes, such as less smoking. Ukraine now has one of the highest smoking rates in the world, with an estimated 15 million smokers in a nation of 46 million people. Smoking is the leading cause of cancer.

While healthier lifestyles will help, prevention alone is not enough. Ukraine's ailing healthcare system needs an infusion of billions of dollars of investment to help people live longer and healthier lives.

A small but important, step was made recently by Ukraine's richest man. Rinat Akhmetov announced recently that he would donate \$40 million from his estimated \$31 billion in wealth to purchase state-of-the-art oncology (study of tumours) diagnostic equipment, including 2 positron emissive tomography (PET) units.

This generous donation (although a small amount relative to the underfunded needs of the Ukrainian people) is *six times larger than the amount that Ukraine planned to spend in this year's budget for such equipment.*

There are 800 PET machines in the rest of Europe,

and 15 in Moscow alone, but none in all of Ukraine!

The 15 million smokers in Ukraine smoke 95 billion cigarettes per year. And these figures are expected to rise.

"According to the World Health Organization's 'European Health Report 2005', tobacco is one of the major risk factors for Ukraine's population. In 2002, it caused 14.8% of total mortality and 12.8% of disability cases," said Konstantin Krasovsky, National Tobacco Control Officer at the World Health Organization's national office in Ukraine.

Anna Hopko, coordinator for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, stated, "According to the World Health Organization, 110,000 Ukrainians die of diseases caused by smoking annually. These are people whose death could be avoided."

Health Care Deteriorating

Health care professionals in Ukraine fear that a severe doctor shortage is imminent because of low wages and poor working conditions. They are calling on the Ukrainian government to improve the government-financed health care system before it deteriorates further.

With 300 doctors/100,000 people, Ukraine has the lowest number of doctors in Europe. In comparison, during the period 1985-1990 (the last five years of socialism), the number of doctors in Ukraine rose from about 400 to about 420/100,000 people.

Currently, doctors in Ukraine get paid an average of \$153 monthly, and teachers average \$184 monthly, while the average wage in Ukraine is about \$300 monthly.

Major Art Theft

Art experts in Ukraine lamented the recent theft from a museum of a work by 17th century Italian artist Caravaggio. The theft was described as a cultural catastrophe.

Staff at the Museum of Western and Eastern Art, located in the Black Sea port of Odessa, discovered the painting missing when they arrived at work one morning. As the museum had been closed the previous day, the thieves could have struck any time in the previous two days.

Police said they entered through a window, bypassing an outdated alarm system by removing a pane of glass rather than breaking it. They then escaped across the museum's roof.

"This is a cultural catastrophe, a national tragedy. There

is so little of art of such level in the former Soviet Union," said Vitaly Abramov, deputy head of a second museum in the city, the Odessa Art Museum. "You cannot put a price on this and I am not talking about money here. It is, in every sense, priceless."

The painting, called the "Taking of Christ" or the "Kiss of Judas," had been bought by a Russian ambassador to France and presented as a gift to a Russian prince before being turned over to the Odessa museum last century.

News reports said city police had been urging the museum to update its alarm system, dating from the mid-1990s, but the suggestion had been turned down on financial grounds.

According to the newspaper *Moscow Times* the painting was worth as much as \$100 million.

Praising Nazi Collaborators

The Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia (FEOR) published a statement denouncing the glorification in modern Ukraine of several Ukrainian nationalist fighters who, at some point in World War II, collaborated with German Nazis.

"The modern leaders of Ukraine, on the one hand, have a positive attitude toward the activity of the Jewish community, rendering it all kinds of help," stated Borukh Gorin, the spokesman for FEOR. "On the other hand, they allow a hall of fame to be opened that includes a portrait of Roman Shukhevich."

Roman Shukhevich was one of the leaders of UPA, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army that fought against the Soviet army when Nazi Germany invaded Ukraine. The darkest pages of Shukhevich's biography concern his service in the German-trained battalion "Nachtigal" and in other pro-Nazi formations, which not only fought the Soviet army, but also participated in the extermination of the Jewish population in Ukraine from 1941 to 1942.

UPA's ethnic cleansing of the Polish population in several areas of western Ukraine, as well as subsequent killings of Soviet officials on the same territory, are also reasons for Shukhevich's being viewed as a controversial figure in Poland and as an outright villain in Russia.

Shukhevich's portrait was hung in the gallery featuring the images of "famous Ukrainians", recently unveiled by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Constantino-

(Continued on Page 8.)

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

Calgary AUUC Picnic Marks 90th

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of the AUUC, the Calgary Branch combined a year-end performance with a Family Picnic and Concert at Camp Kamenyar on Sylvan Lake. We wanted to do something different with our Dance



The concert was presented to a full house, with many of the campers attending to enjoy the performance.



The Teen Dancers, shown performing a Hopak, opened and closed the show.

— Photos: Nykol Kroeker



The Junior Dancers were a great hit.



After the sun emerged, a marshmallow roast around the fire pit became the centre of attention.



Of all the games, The Parachute was the most enjoyable.

School, something that would bring the organization together to celebrate our culture and commemorate this anniversary.

Thus, on Sunday, June 8, the Calgary Hopak Dance School (dancer, parents, grandparents, instructors, directors) came out to the camp for a fun filled afternoon.

Despite scattered showers, we had an excellent turnout. Everyone enjoyed the experience of seeing camp firsthand in anticipation of the coming events out at Camp Kamenyar — including the Dance Camp in late June, and Children's Camp in July.

The day started out with a wiener boil in the kitchen since Mother Nature prevented us from starting a camp fire for a wiener roast, but the kids still enjoyed the experience, and were grinning from ear to ear as they ate hot dogs and Rice Krispies squares.

Once the rain came to an end, we were able to get everyone outside for a few games before our concert. The Parachute was the most enjoyable of all the games, and everyone played along to a game of "Cat and Mouse" and "Shark Attack". A few boots were lost in the process and grass stains were worn onto pieces of clothing, but everyone was full of laughs and giggles!

Next was the concert in the Camp Hall, much to the disappointment of the children who were looking forward to dancing on the grass for their awaiting crowd. We performed to a full house, as many of the campers who were out for the weekend came to enjoy the performance.

Each class performed their year-end dance, with our Teen Group opening and closing the show. The children did an amazing job, and we are very proud of them all!

What would a trip to camp be without a camp fire? The sun did come out, and we were able to have a marshmallow roast around the fire pit to wrap up the afternoon event.

Everyone had a wonderful time, and we look forward to this annual event in 2009!

— Nykol Kroeker

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5.) ple Patriarch Bartholomew as part of this year's celebration of the 1020th anniversary of the baptism of Kievan Rus.

Borukh Gorin concluded by stating, "The glorification of the fighters of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and Ukrainian Insurgent Army without sufficient analysis of their ties to the Nazis speaks about the lack of a balanced view of history."

Thunder Bay Ukrainian "Festival"



Holding samples of the food items or implements they brought are: Diane Garrett (kneeling); (seated left to right) John Dowbak, Mary Slobojan, Mary Danilevitch, and John Zazula; and (standing left to right) Ron Humble, Olive Dowbak, Bill Godick, Mary Kopechanski and Olga McDaid.

The Thunder Bay AUUC held its summer gathering at the home of Diane Garrett on July 30, 2008. Smiles and tears were shared among the 14 guests as they reminisced about the past year. In particular, a moment of silence was observed in honour of Eugene Oliarnyk, a strong contributor to the group, who passed away on July 7, 2008.

The uniqueness of the evening was evident in the contributions of the invitees: each member of the group provided his or her favourite Ukrainian food. The resulting menu is presented in the accompanying box.

Festivities continued after dinner, when entertainment was plentiful. Local artist and folk instrumentalist Damon Dowbak entertained the guests with vibrant songs on the mandolin. Russ Garrett played the guitar until Mary Slobojan took over to create

a mandolin duet. After some encouragement, Diane Garrett played the banjo, which added excellent harmonies to the other two musicians.

No Ukrainian party would be complete without singing, a task approached with enthusiasm by Mary Danilevitch, Mary Kopechanski and John Dowbak. Hearing them sing songs they used to sing at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Thunder Bay brought back many fond memories.

During a break in the live entertainment, the group was able to listen to a cassette tape that chronicled the opening of the cornerstone at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in 1988. Heard on the tape were the voices of Dora Nykyforiak, Jean Holyk and Bill Trylinski, all deceased.

Guests stayed late into the evening and left humming the tunes of yesterday.

— Sarah Garrett

Table d'Hôte

Zakuski

Crispy Fresh Vegetables with Sour Cream and Garlic Dip (Diane Garrett)
Sliced Kubasa (Olive Dowbak)
Pickles (John Zazula)
Caraway Rye Bread (Sarah Garrett)
Ukrainian Peanuts (raw garlic cloves)

Soup

Bukovinian Borsch (Diane Garrett)

Salad

Cole Slaw (Mary Danilevitch)

Entrees

Fried Sauerkraut and Sausage (Mary Slobojan)
Varenyky (Bill Godick)
Holubtsi (Ron Humble)
Fried Chicken (Olga McDaid)
Buckwheat Kasha (John Dowbak)

Dessert

Blueberry Syrnyk (Mary Kopechanski)

Beverages

Wine
Slavutich Beer

Children's Camp Kum-in-Yar 2008

This past July Camp Kum-in-Yar had one of the largest camps we have had in many years. In the first week alone, we had 58 children and counsellors, just shy of full capacity.

Calgary was the host city this year, and we were celebrating the 90th anniversary of the AUUC. In honour of this event, the children learned

two Ukrainian songs and Ukrainian dances. This was very special, as a large portion of our campers had never done Ukrainian singing or dancing before.

A performance was held for the parents from both Calgary and Edmonton on the Sunday between the two weeks of camp. We also had some surprise guests — Gerry

Shmyr and Steve Smoly, from the AUUC National Office. This made our performance even more special.

The show was a great success, and was enjoyed by all. We had several camp fires, with Smores and singing of campfire songs.

The children also enjoyed working on a variety of crafts. There was tie-dyeing of the camp t-shirts, rocket building, and the making of dream catchers, to name a few.

For any campers who were interested, there was careful instruction on how to make a fire with only a piece of flint. To see the happy smiles on their faces when they were successful was such a joy!

Some campers also learned how to whittle.

The children had such fun with the evening sports sessions, playing kick-the-can, capture the flag, parachute games, and so much more.

Swimming was a hoot for the kids, and some could not get enough of it. Towards the end of camp, we had such a hot day that we made a water slide in the grass to cool off. This was enjoyed by young and old alike.

One thing that has never changed at camp is that our cooks are great. This year, again, they always prepared awesome meals and kept our kids well fed. If a child did not like a particular meal, the cooks always had a little something extra on hand to fill the gap.

One highlight the kids enjoyed was the talent night, (Continued on Page 16.)



The varied arts and crafts program included an opportunity to learn tie-dyeing.



A break with snacks is always a welcome interlude at camp.



In the first week, the camp had 58 children and counsellors, close to capacity.

Celebrating her 94th with Mary Prokop



On August 7, Mary Prokop celebrated her 94 birthday at the AUUC Cultural Centre.

On August 7, the Resident Executive Committee of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation hosted a party at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto to celebrate her 94th birthday with Mary Prokop, who played a major role in the work of the Foundation for about half a century.

The Senior Citizens Club graciously cut short their afternoon of Bingo to participate in this celebration.

Mary was accompanied to the celebration by her daughter-in-law Pat Prokop and grandson Robbie Prokop.

Having entered the hall and settled in her place, Mary was given a corsage (pinned by Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelov) and a bouquet (presented by REC Treasurer Nancy Stewart).

After Mary blew out a birthday candle, Foundation

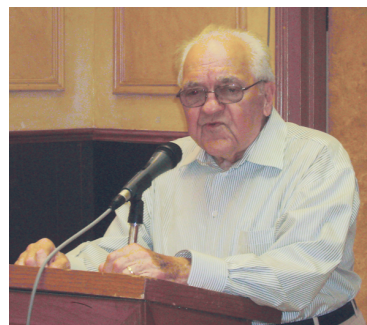
President Bill Harasym called on Wilfred Szczesny to lead in the singing of "Happy Birthday to You".

Mary Prokop has had a life rich in historically significant experience, and Bill Harasym could merely touch on some of the main aspects of that experience. Among the topics he spoke to were the early development of Mary's social consciousness, the struggle during the period of illegality and the internment of Ukrainian and other progressives during World War Two, the various struggles for peace and justice in the world during the period of the Cold War, and a few more themes.

The formalities of the celebration concluded with an invitation to those attending to enjoy the buffet while taking the rare opportunity to speak with the guest of honour.

—Wilfred Szczesny

— Story photos: Wilfred Szczesny



Bill Harasym, President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, acted as host at Mary Prokop's birthday celebration.

Toronto's Shevchenko/Canada Day

It has been a long-time tradition that we in Toronto hold a combined Shevchenko Day/Canada Day celebration annually on July 1. In earlier years, the party was always held at the Shevchenko Museum's Shevchenko Memorial Park, west of Toronto.

With the theft of the Taras Shevchenko statue two years ago, the location of the party shifted to the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto. The theme has remained the same: old friends feasting on freshly-barbecued hot sausages, hamburgers and hot-dogs, garnished with mustard, relish

and home-made *kapusta*, and lots of talk about "the good old days" (while sampling some cold liquid).

As usual (in order to educate and inform us) we had presentations given by interesting speakers — this year by Natalie Mochoruk and William Harasym.

Natalie spoke about the different ways that Canadians celebrated Canada Day, giving examples gathered from across Canada. William spoke about the historic meeting between Taras Shevchenko and Black American actor Ira Aldridge (one of the greatest

actors of all time) during the winter of 1858 — 1859. Both Natalie's and William's presentations were warmly received.

Chef *par excellence* Jerry Dobrowolsky provided the hot food, which was served by his wife Bernardine.

Nancy Stewart, supported by husband Mark, made sure everything went off on time.

The team of Connie Prince and Bernardine did an excellent job of decorating our hall, while Natalie Mochoruk received many compliments on the delicious *kapusta* that she prepared.

A giant basket of "goodies" was prepared (and donated) by Anne Krane, Mary Kuzyk, and Connie Prince. The raffle of this basket alone earned about \$85.00 for us.

According to ticket-seller Pat Dzatko, about 55 — 60 people attended this year's party.

As usual, the event was co-sponsored by the Shevchenko Museum and by the AUUC Toronto Branch.

See you next year!
— George Borusiewich



There was a good turn-out for the Canada/Shevchenko Day celebration in Toronto.

**Submitted
as a
separate
PDF file**

Performing Arts Camp



The 6th Annual AUUC Performing Arts Camp was held at camp Kum-in-Yar, near Sylvan Lake, Alberta, from June 29 to July 4, with Carol Rosiewich serving as Administrative and Camp Director.

Sasha Tkachyshyn was the Artistic and Choreographic Teacher. Musical accompaniment was provided on keyboard by Marina Lavrinenko,

Rounding out the teaching staff were Choral Conductor Yuliya Martishuk and Endurance and Stamina Coach Stepan Lavrinenko.

Stoking the furnaces to provide the energy for all the physical activity were chefs Roy Andrichuk and Lorraine Hook.

The photos on this page, with the comments from participants, give some idea of what the week involved.



The boys of Cabin 12:
(Brady Demyon, Stepan Lavrinenko, Paul Gelinas, Jeff Gonek, Curtis Scaly, Michael Yaworski)

Many of us have been coming to this camp since we were very young. Every year we have new experiences that we remember and keep. We came to this camp to dance for a week to learn new dances and techniques, and also to learn about our Ukrainian cultural heritage. It has a

lakefront on Sylvan Lake, so many of us had a chance to swim. We also participated in other activities, like endurance to build stamina, singing, arts and crafts, playing on the playground and also playing sports. Everyday we had home-cooked meals that were delicious and also nutritious. We all made friendships and memories that will last for a long-time, which is why we always look forward to coming back the next year.



The girls of Dorm 2:
(Jessica Harder, Claire Hook, Lorraine Hook, Sofia Lavrinenko, Ashley Mos, Lee Metrunec, and Rae Metrunec)

Camp Kum-in-Yar was really fun. Even though the dancing was hard, it was fun and we liked it. In singing, we learned Ukrainian songs and some words. We learned

about Ukrainian culture and how to write our names in Ukrainian. After dancing, the lake would be refreshing because it was cold. We went down the goatman's trail to gather leaves for a craft and, no matter what the stories say, it wasn't scary. The disco dance was fun and we had a good time and stayed up late eating popcorn. The food was good and we wished that the camp was longer.

The girls of Dorm 4:
(Janelle Allison, Jennifer Archibald, Lisa Highet, Helen Blyzynyuk, Kestrel Holden, Katrina Yaworski, Michelle Yaworski, Brittany Matenchuk)

This year at dance camp we had a lot of fun. We made new friends and spent time with old ones. The dances were difficult, but they made us push ourselves. We learned a lot about dance and about ourselves. The people here are so much fun to spend time with, and our instructor Sasha is one of a kind. **Remember: Dance hard, party harder!**



The girls of Dorm 3:
(Kristina Kyaushas, Jill Metrunec, Alyssa Komusi, Kathryn Komusi, Samantha Semotiuk, Kaley Sheppard)

A lot of us have been coming to this camp for a long time, and each year the pro-

gram challenges us to improve on our dance techniques and skills. We also make really good friendships that last a lifetime, which makes us want to come back more. We not only study dance, but by learning crafts and in choir we

gain knowledge of our Ukrainian heritage. Also, by playing sports and games we stay in shape while having fun. Each year we look forward to returning to Camp Kum-in-Yar and seeing our friends from other cities.

The boys of Cabin 11:
(Nicholas Kitt, Braden DeHaan, Casey Obermeyer, Collin Obermeyer, Petro Synevskyy, Boris Vdovin)

During our first days at camp we had fun more days than others. Out of the many activities, endurance training was the best. The first few days of camp we were sore, but the rest were great. Most of the meals were very good but some could be improved because they didn't taste so good. Singing was fun, but it wasn't the greatest. Swimming at the lake was fun but the water was very cold. Overall, we would have to say camp was very enjoyable.

In the October issue of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald, we plan to have a story with pictures from the AUUC dance workshop scheduled to take place at the end of August at Camp Kum-in-Yar.

Volodymyr Nerodenko

Volodymyr Mynovich Nerodenko was Candidate of Geo-Mineralogical Sciences, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Geology, Director of the Centre of Culture and Art, Artistic Director of Vesnyanka Folk Ensemble of the Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University, and National Artist of Ukraine.

He was born in the village of Mala Buhayivka of the Vasylkivsky Region of Kyiv Oblast.

He became active in amateur performing arts groups in Kyiv in 1943.

In 1951 he became a student in the Faculty of Geology at Kyiv State University, and a participant (and later a soloist) in the choreographic studio at the university, which was headed by Oleksandr Berdovsky, as ballet soloist with the Kyiv Opera Theatre and Merited Artist of Ukraine.

From 1951, Nerodenko tested his ability as a choreographer-producer, for which he often won the title of Laureate of university reviews of creative art.

From 1953, he headed faculty amateur arts groups at the university.

In 1958, he became the organizer, and permanent director, of the university's Vesnyanka Folk Ensemble, the first in Ukraine. He produced all the groups concert numbers (over 50 of them), vocal-choreographic compositions (15), and concert programs.

Vesnyanka was a tireless propagator of Ukrainian folk arts, and one of the organizers of the renaissance of seasonal and familial observances such as *shchedrivky* and *kolyadky*, *obzhynky* (harvest rites), *vesnyanky* (spring celebrations) and Kupalo games, weddings, and rites for the dead. For its high performing standards and active concert activity, the Ensemble was titled National in 1968.

The Ensemble's repertoire encompasses all the ethnic regions of Ukraine. Its wardrobe is a collection of re-

searched, ethnographically authentic folk creations designed by Nerodenko

Vesnyanka is a frequent participant and winner at a variety of reviews, competitions, and festivals of amateur arts, including international ones (in Yugoslavia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, and Greece), a participant in many radio and television programs and series, days of Ukrainian culture in Slovakia and Kyiv Days in Florence and Cracow, and countless concerts and mass cultural events in Kyiv, Kyiv Oblast, Lviv, Lutsk, Uzhhorod, Dnipropetrovsk, Kryvy Rih, Odessa, Donetsk, Chernivtsi, Moscow, Saratov, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Minsk, Kishinev, Nukus, Yerevan, Tbilisi, and Tashkent.

For many years, Nerodenko gave assistance with teaching methods to directors of amateur ensembles and teachers in the schools of Ukraine.

He delivered a series of lectures at congresses and seminars on folk methodology in Kyiv, Lviv, Uzhhorod, Volynsk, and Dnipropetrovsk *oblasts*, at the Kyiv Institute for Professional Development of Teachers, instructional courses on folk arts and choreography at the Kyiv National University of Culture and the Arts.

As ballet master—producer and director, he worked on the creation of the first concert program of the Mriya Ensemble of the Kyiv State Philharmonic, participated in the preparation and realization of youth festivals in the Kyiv area, the Second International Folk Festival in Kyiv, many festive spectacles in Kyiv (like the lighting of the city's New Year fir tree, the Kyiv spring festival, the arts program of the 1980 Olympics, celebrations of the Kyiv 1500th anniversary, the "Poem about Ukraine" display at the municipal Sports Palace, celebrations of Kyiv Day and Victory Day, etc.), in the creation of a range of feature



films and telefilms (*Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, *Evenings in a Village near Dykanka*, *May Night*, and others), in the presentations of the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv State Theatrical Institute (*On the First Bump* by S. Vasylchenko), the Kyiv State Children's Musical Theatre (M. Lysenko's *Winter and Spring*), the Kyiv National Opera (M. Verykivsky's *The Maidservant*, A. Vakhnyanin's *Kupalo*, and A. Rudnitsky's *Anna Yaroslav — Queen of France*),

Articles by Nerodenko on cultural themes were published in periodicals, particularly the papers *Culture and Life*, *Kyiv Truth*, *News from Ukraine*, *Youth of Ukraine*, *The Young Guard*, and *Your Health* and the magazines *Folk Arts and Ethnography* and *Socialist Culture and Nature Heals*.

A series of his fables (*ëäääää*) appeared on the pages of the magazine *Dnipro* in 1964, and the maga-

zine *Morning* printed a series of articles called "Folk Calendar" throughout 1968.

Î î ë î ä ü (Youth) Publishers issued two booklets (*How to Greet the New Year* and *The Wreath Rolled from the Field*) written as handbooks for workers in clubs. The repertoire-editing group of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine published a collection of 10 works by Nerodenko from the repertoire of the Vesnyanka Ensemble, and a collection of eight works was printed in Toronto (by the National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians — Ed.)

As a librettist, Nerodenko won first prize in a contest for the best libretto for the Ukrainian Ballet on Ice in 1972. He provided the librettos for the ballets *The Sorceress*, *Fires of Experience* (Ä î ñ ä³ ò ï³ ä î ä ï³), *The Stonemasons* (composers V. Kyreyko, L. Dychko, and M. Skoryk), which were staged in the Kyiv and Lviv theatres of opera and

ballet, and the ballet "Lybid" in the State Theatre of Classical Ballet.

Nerodenko was a participant and an author, producer of many radio and television programs, and host on the series "Kyiv Frescoes" on Ukrainian television.

In 1992-95, he headed the Cultural Committee of the Executive Committee of the Starokyiv region in the city of Kyiv. He was a member of the Arts Council of the Board of Culture of Kyiv.

But above all, V.M. Nerodenko was a teacher at the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University. His work record has one entry: 1956, Faculty of Geology of the university. He started his working life as a laboratory assistant, and became a scientist of palaeontology. He is the author of over 100 scientific works on the stratigraphy and palaeontology of the Mesozoic period of Ukraine, the Precaspian, the Caucasus, Pamir, and other regions.

He was still a student when he wrote his first scientific paper, together with Moscow University professor D.P. Naydiny, published in the *Reports* of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In 1951, student Volodymyr Nerodenko presented his first scientific report on the life and work of A.D. Archangelski, one of the founders of the study of chalk deposits, and all his life thereafter studied chalk deposits.

He walked thousands of kilometres of geological paths, and gathered a unique collection of over 40,000 samples of chalk fossils from the East-European shelf and the north-eastern region of the Mediterranean. According to the palaeontologists of the Balkan Association, this is the largest collection in the world.

V.M. Nerodenko was a member of the Interdisciplinary Stratigraphical Committee of Russia and the Caucasus, and palaeontologists of (Continued on Page 13.)

Historical Note

From the 1950's the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians sent scholarship students from across Canada to study at institutions of higher learning, initially in Kyiv. During the 1960's a large number of these students danced with the Vesnyanka Folk Ensemble under the direction of Volodymyr M. Nerodenko at the T.H. Shevchenko University.

One such participant was Alex Lapchuk of Regina, who studied from 1966 to 1969. Alex not only danced with Vesnyanka, but during the final months of his studies, recorded the choreography for eight of the dances from the Vesnyanka repertoire. These were subsequently published by the NEC AUUC (Toronto), which made them available to Branches across Canada.

The "UCH" thanks Mr. Lapchuk for providing these materials to us.



In August, 2006, the Vesnyanka Folk Ensemble appeared at a folk Festival in Italy.

Marianne Konoff

Marianne Konoff, known as Bunny, was born on December 9, 1924, to Emil and Helen Sakundiak. She was raised on a farm near Mikado, Saskatchewan, and moved to Regina where she met Alex.

Marianne and Alex married in 1949, and were part of the family business, the East End Grocery Store, which was started by Alex's mother, Pauline Konoff, Sr. During the 1940s and '50s, they also operated apartments and rooming houses, and helped many new immigrants find their way in a new community. Bunny, as Marianne was known, also worked at Regina Hospital Laundry Services for many years.

Alex brought Bunny into the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, and they devoted countless hours to helping with various AUUC and Poltava Ensemble events.

Bunny sewed many costumes that are still worn today by dancers in the Poltava Ensemble.

She was always on hand in the kitchen during Mosaic, and spent many hours with the ladies making the wonderful perogies for which she and the Ukrainian Cultural Centre are known.

She also loved gardening and planted a garden behind their home this spring.

In 1994, Bunny and Alex received from the Saskatch-



Photo: Mark Greshner

ewan New Democratic Party, a certificate of Appreciation – in recognition of their involvement and support over all the years that they were involved with the Saskatchewan C C F and N D P.

In 2005, Bunny and Alex Konoff received the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award as volunteers who made and continued to make a significant contribution to the success and development of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians in Saskatchewan's first century as a Province.

Bunny Konoff was a tireless worker for humanity and believed that the human spirit could conquer all adversities. She believed very firmly in the need for a society that placed the social needs of all individuals ahead of individual gain. She believed in a social system that emphasized the need for good schools, good hospitals, and good social govern-

ment.

Bunny passed away peacefully at Regina Pasqua Hospital on July 18, 2008, with her family by her side.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, including her husband of 63 years Alex, their children Cyndee and Ken (wife Susan Birley), and grandchildren Andres and Eric, sister Evelyn Ryan, sister-in-law Sophie Sakundiak, and numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

Bunny was predeceased by her mother and father Emil and Helen Sakundiak, her brothers Alex, Mike and Peter, and her sisters Kate, Annie and Lena.

Most important to Bunny were her grandchildren, family and friends. She was a kind and generous person who loved and lived life to its fullest.

A remembrance service was held on Wednesday, July 23, at the Victoria Avenue Funeral Home in Regina.

— Gerry Shmyr

Nine Decades

(Continued from Page 3.) In the Men's and Women's branches, the lower numbers represented inevitable natural processes operating on the immigrant generations.

Declining AUUC membership numbers were reflected in press circulation figures. In this decade, there were fundamental changes to the press, which led to the transformation of *The Ukrainian Canadian* from a tabloid to a monthly magazine, and the merging of the two Ukrainian publications into a single *Life and Word*.

A new note was the expressed concern about the trend to greater autonomy for the performing arts groups, a trend which soon became a major issue as the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble, in 1970, announced that it was seeking incorporation as an independent organization.

From the end of World War II, the AUUC spent much time

and energy on concerns about younger generations, the Canadian-born. Canadian-born membership tended to be unstable, with heavy turnover: the challenge was to establish longer-lasting commitment. There was a shortage of local leadership. Recruitment rates were decreasing.

Immigration after WWII had provided little recruitment opportunity to the AUUC, so the organization had no way forward but to find more effective ways to encourage the participation, and win the commitment, of Canadian-born members of the community.

The hurdles were daunting: the continuing Cold War pressures and continuing discrimination; the accelerating rates of assimilation, including intermarriage; the various demands on individuals created by changing social status; and a number of others.

On the other hand, there were substantial assets.

These included performing arts strength. Particularly in the Prairie Provinces, the AUUC had a set of dance ensembles second to none, with dance schools and training opportunities which were the envy of all. In Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and a few other localities there were solid and substantial choirs. The major centres all had strong orchestras. These collectives were augmented by talented and creative individuals who could create a new number to perform or a scripted theme festival in which to perform it.

Organizational strengths in the 1960s included adequate funding resources, and leaders at all levels who were dedicated to building and strengthening the AUUC. These were people with the vision and the courage to make substantial changes in the organization and its activities, as they did with the press, with the decision to replace the AUUC's Advisory Council with an empowered National Committee, and with other measures.

Political assets included a general agreement on the path the AUUC should follow, and people who were willing and able to take the AUUC into the public arena.

It is hardly surprising, given the obstacles, that some leading AUUC members and others, were writing obituaries for the AUUC on the organization's 50th anniversary.

Nor is it surprising, given the positive factors present in the 1960s, that the AUUC has survived to celebrate its 90th anniversary, and shows the potential to require, in a few years, a National Centennial Celebration Committee.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Eugene Oliarnyk

The sad news of the death of Eugene Oliarnyk came to our AUUC and WBA group, friends, and family as a shock. Eugene, a longtime member of the Workers Benevolent Association, died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Thunder Bay on July 7, 2008.

Eugene was born in 1923 in Fort William, Ontario, and lived his life there. He spent some time farming outside of Thunder Bay, at Onion Lake, and many years working for the 7-Up Company and, later, the Great Lakes Paper company.

He was predeceased by his parents Anne and Nick Oliarnyk. His wife, Olga, passed away in 1986.

Eugene was an active member of his union. He was active in the struggle for better rights for working people, and campaigned for peace.

Eugene supported and read the progressive press and participated in activities of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. He participated on fund-raising committees and supported social and cultural events important to our history. Eugene served for many years as secretary for



the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* in Thunder Bay, and gave many generous donations to help projects succeed.

Eugene had many hobbies such as woodworking and painting pictures of life and folk art. He also travelled with Olga to many countries. He enjoyed telling stories about his adventures in Ukraine, Australia and China.

Gene will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his spirit and determination to make life better for the builders of our country.

— John Dowbak

Volodymyr Nerodenko

(Cont. from Page 12.)

Moscow and Leningrad have named certain kinds of brachiopods and other organisms after him.

However, first of all, he was a Ukrainian geologist. There is, perhaps, no corner of the country where his foot has not walked.

He sincerely loved the nature and the history of his native land; was captivated by its ethnography and local lore; studied folk medicine and remedies, conditions of life, rituals and dances.

With all these interests, in Soviet times he clearly fell into the category "nationalist", regardless of the fact that he was a brilliant performer and producer of Moldavian, Chinese, Indian, Armenian, and Tatar dances. In his time, he was well smeared for his participation in the famous Club of Creative Youth in the 1960s. However, nothing could force him to stop his cultural and educational activity.

Through the years, hundreds of young men and women from the various corners of Ukraine have passed through Vesnyanka. Participating in its work have been

Canadians, Americans, Cypriots, and Chinese. They have all taken home with them a true interest in Ukrainian folk art.

In Canada there has for many years been the Poltava Ensemble, which was headed by Alex Lapchuk, a product of Vesnyanka.

In Finland, the vocal trio Ukraina, created by Finnish women who studied at Kyiv University and sang with Vesnyanka, performs Ukrainian songs.

Former participants in the ensemble who have tied their lives to children, to schools, widely use knowledge gained through Vesnyanka, and create children's folk ensembles. Meanwhile, the children of former members of Vesnyanka sing and dance with that ensemble today.

Nerodenko's entire family sing and dance with the ensemble: an aunt, his wife, two daughters, a son-in-law, three grandchildren, four nieces and nephews. For all of them, his favourite creation, the ensemble, has become their own, and they give a part of their hearts and their lives to it.

— Maryanne Khonina
(Translation by W. Sz.)

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Who, What, When, Where

Toronto — The AUUC Toronto Branch invites you to a celebration of the AUUC 90th anniversary at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, from noon on Sunday, September 14. The \$40.00/person admission charge includes a performance by the Hahilka Choir, a presentation to our members aged 90 years or more, greetings from invited guests, an oration by guest speaker Myron Shatulsky, one-minute memories by the diners, Slide Show Memories, a "Ukrainian-style lunch" scheduled for 12:30 p.m., and music by Peter Krochak. Seating is very limited; order your tickets early from the AUUC Cultural Centre at 416-588-1639.

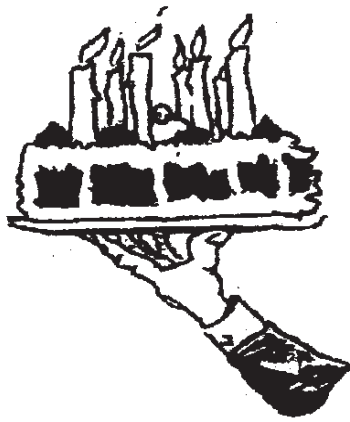
Readers of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Fred Kozlo, Sidney BC <i>In loving memory of my daughter Marianne Louise LeBlanc (Kozlo)</i>	\$220.00
Alice Chitrenky, Coquitlam BC <i>In memory of John Chitrenky</i>	110.00
AUUC Poltava, Regina SK <i>In memory of Marianne (Bunny) Konoff</i>	50.00
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Mary Semanowich, Winnipeg MB <i>In memory of Nick Blonar</i>	100.00
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Nadia Pelowich, Winnipeg MB	20.00
Mary Skrypyk, St Anne's ON <i>In memory of my husband Alec</i>	20.00

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.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Olga Horon
Sylvia Lawrence
Ann Parfeniuk
Shirley Uhryn

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

The Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club extends best birthday wishes to September celebrant:

Otti Nicolai

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

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

Dorothy Boucock
Walter Hunka
Hal Porter
Olga Turko
Robert Young

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

JoKe TiMe

"I got this great new hearing aid the other day," he said. "Are you wearing it now?" she asked.

"Yup. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's top of the line."

"Wow! What kind is it?"
"Twelve-thirty."

* * *

It was the day of the big sale. A long line had formed by the store's opening time.

A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colourful curses. On his second attempt, he was punched in the jaw, knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up again, he said to the person at the end of the line.

"That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"



JOIN US!

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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wilfredszczesny@gmail.com

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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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Mosaic 08: Tribute to 90th Anniversary



Visitors to the Poltava Pavilion, housed in the Regina Performing Arts Centre, were able to enjoy a varied range of displays, booths and souvenir shopping opportunities.

Regina's Mosaic Festival of Cultures on June 5, 6, and 7 drew an increased attendance to all of the 18 participating pavilions.

The Regina AUUC Inc. Poltava Pavilion was once again located in one of the most prestigious concert auditoriums in Regina — the Regina Performing Arts Centre.

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of the AUUC, 3000 brochures outlining the AUUC's achievements were given out to the public. As well, a historical picture and concert-poster display was featured in the main foyer and,

during the course of the 3-day event, 22 half-hour concert programs with video presentations between the concerts, marked the 90th anniversary.

In addition, the Friday evening concert programs were dedicated to the memory of Ed Tchorzewski, a member who supported the activities of the AUUC at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre and whose five children participated in its activities (See the "UCH" of July/August, 2008, for his obituary).

The success of the Poltava Pavilion relies solely on the hundreds of volunteers that prepare for and man the Pa-

vilion. Along with the cultural component, which includes the Poltava Ensemble (a 50-member ensemble of dancers, musicians and singers) and the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts (60 children), recognition is given to the kitchen staff for the hundreds of volunteer hours of food preparation, the bar tenders, technical and administrative staff, display preparers, clean-up staff, the master of ceremonies, and all managers and directors who took a leading role in making Mosaic such a success.

The Regina AUUC is indebted to all of them.

— Alex Lapchuk



Steve Puszkar, Don Fleece, and Lorne Solomon were three of the many helpful volunteers who served at the popular pavilion bar.

— Story photos: Mark Greshner



The trio of Nataliya Osypenko, Guennadi Ostrikov, and Lena Geisler made its performing debut at Mosaic, a wonderful addition to the Poltava programming.



Greeters Mike Macyshon, Jeff Bohach, and Gord Kosloski welcomed thousands of visitors to the pavilion.

Children's Camp

(Continued from Page 9.) which was so hilarious to watch. Even the counsellors got in the act, by taking part in Camp Kum-in-Yar's version of "Fear Factor". Now, Parents, don't get all worried. The counsellors picked out the food that was used, and all the disgusting things they ate were cooked and were not crawling. No bugs or worms were harmed in the production of the hilarity.

It was such a busy and fully

packed two weeks; it is so hard to find room to write about it all.

I would like to thank all the staff and the counsellors who did a great job in helping to make this year's camp such a great success.

As for me, I had a blast, and look forward to helping out again. There is nothing to compare with spending time at summer camp.

— Nadine Obermeyer
Camp Director



As the camp is located by a lake, the various water sports are very popular with the campers.



Making fire with nothing but a piece of flint may not be a very useful skill, usually, but it is an interesting one.

JoKe TiMe

A fellow stood by his car and watched a couple of men working along the roadside. One man would dig a hole two or three feet deep and then move on. The other man came along behind and filled in the hole. While one was digging a new hole, the other was about 25 feet behind filling in the old. "Hold it, hold it," he said to the men. "Can you tell me what's going on here?"

"Well, we work for the county government," one of the men said.

"But one of you is digging a hole and the other is filling it up. You're not accomplishing anything. Aren't you wasting the county's money?"

"You don't understand, mister," one of the men said. "Normally there's three of us — me, Rodney and Mike. I dig the hole, Rodney sticks in the tree and Mike here puts the dirt back."

"Yea," piped up Mike. "Now just because Rodney's sick, that don't mean we can't work, does it?"