

# HERALD ВІСНИК

СІЧЕНЬ, 2009р. HOMEР 209 PIK XVIII

JANUARY 2009 NO. 209 VOL. XVIII Price \$2.25

## Welland Celebration

— Photo: Murphys



On November 16, 2008, the Welland AUUC Branch in Ontario celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians with a banquet and concert. Participants were met at the door by Tamara Danyluk, clad in full Ukrainian costume and bearing the traditional greeting of bread and salt. A report on that event, with pictures, appears on page 9.

## Economy Still Slides

In spite of all the best efforts of governments around the world, with huge amounts of public money being poured into the global economy, at this writing there does not appear to be any sign that the recession (some are saying depression, though not yet at the depths of the 1930s) is easing. All the indications seem to be that the picture is getting bleaker, not brighter.

This is certainly true in Canada, where the government was so proud of the country's system of institutional regulation.

The full force of the downturn may have hit Canada a bit later than it affected other countries, but we are now in the same boat as everyone else, because our export markets, especially the demand for our goods and services in the United States have hit our producers.

The first to feel the pinch was Ontario, leaving the rest of the country feeling pretty smug. Now, however, the demand for natural resources has also dropped, leaving resource based economies in

Canada wondering where all the prosperity went.

Not too long ago, they were all for letting the factories, and above all the automobile plants, just close their doors if they couldn't compete. Now the call is to bail out the manufacturers, but do not forget the rest of us.

These views are being directed at the government which, just weeks ago, was still projecting a small surplus. Now that Prime Minister Harper's buddies in Calgary are starting to suffer, a deficit in the tens of billions of dollars starts to be reasonable.

At this writing, however, it still remains to be seen how much spinning will be done by the Prime Minister's mouth and how much will be done by presses rolling out currency. (This is mostly a figure of speech, of course, little paper will be involved.)

From the sound of much that is being said, the Prime Minister, like many other free-market believers, is still more concerned about the threat of inflation, or the danger of structural deficits, than about

the economic challenges facing workers who are already losing their jobs or suffering (hopefully) temporary lay-offs at car-part manufacturers or other plants.

Quite the contrary, while the Prime Minister appears to be ready at least to talk about bailing out the companies, like the car manufacturers, he is still unwilling to do so without inflicting additional pain on the working people. Workers have to be ready to take cuts to their pay rates, their fringe benefits, their pensions so that the companies can stay profitable.

Even the economic advisory panel announced with so much fanfare, though at the time of writing at an early stage, appears to be stacked with those among the privileged who share the Prime Minister's views on the economy — or at least, have not been critical of the "wait and see", "aren't we great?" approach of the Prime Minister and his Finance Minister as the disaster loomed.

The Prime Minister knows whom he wants to help.

## In This Issue

## Emerging Markets Can Not Do It

An interesting item appeared in the *Toronto Star* as we were preparing to go to press. The article noted that consumers in the emerging markets, particularly China and India, which are projected to be among the world's largest

markets in just a few years, are not buying enough to compensate for falling consumer demand in the developed capitalist countries.

The article notes that US consumers still spend five times as much as shoppers in India and China combined.

The article then discusses reasons why the Chinese and Indian consumers are not picking up the slack, including the decline in these countries' export markets, the uncertainty which consumers share with the rest of us about their economic future, and the need for Chinese workers to save for health care and retirement, which in earlier times were not a concern.

What the article does not mention is that China and India, like much of the rest of the emerging market area, are low-wage economies, which is

why they and their products are so attractive to investors and consumers around the world. The workers in emerging markets can not spend what they do not have (which apparently includes maxed-out credit cards — shame on them).

Our economic elite should take note of the reality that, if they succeed in grinding the compensation packages of workers in the developed countries to the levels of those in India, China and other emerging economies, as they are trying to do, then there will be no one left with money to buy more and more products.

On the one hand, that bit of wisdom has echoed through the years in various forms, including from the mouth of Henry Ford, but in the last couple of decades, seems to be too profound for the get-rich-quick minds of the captains of industry and their governments.

On the other hand, it is that reality, whether as a credit crunch, as lost income, or as sky-rocketing user fees and pyramiding charges, which is the source of the current recession. People just can not buy, and pay for, what they need, starting with housing.

## Advisor Leaves

Less than three weeks after taking the job, Jim Arnett left his position as a advisor on the auto industry to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The report in the *Toronto Star* says that Mr. Arnett will continue as advisor to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

In the wake of the resignation, anonymous (so far) sources from both sides, the government's and Mr. Arnett's, have indicated that the departure was due to a failure to reach agreements, whether on what needed to be done or on "appropriate terms of reference".

It appears that the government is not intending to replace Mr. Arnett, at least for the present.

The resignation comes in the midst of criticism that the federal government, in appointing advisors, is only naming individuals who agree with its approach.

The opposition has suggested that the appointment of special advisors is confirming the view that Harper considers the Cabinet incompetent.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL 40009476  
POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO  
KOBZAR PUBLISHING CO. LTD 602, 9903-104 STREET  
EDMONTON AB T5K 0E4

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**Submitted  
as a  
separate  
PDF file**



From the opening of the Ukrainian National Centennial Festival 2005 in Regina. The photo is by Mark Greschner.

## Nine Decades of Struggle

### Advisory

*This latest decade in the 90-year life of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians is history in that it is past. However, it is a past which is still being experienced, whose high and low points still evoke passions, and whose lessons are still to be learned. Therefore, the reader is requested to bear in mind that this article, which discusses that decade, will do so superficially, on the one hand, because of the constraints which applied to the earlier items in this series, but on the other hand, may devote undue attention to one or another matter which is of significance only in the writer's mind. There is much truth to the observation that all written history is a work in progress; be advised that this is a very early draft of a work in progress.*

### Main Features

In this most recent decade of its life, the AUUC has done pretty much what the AUUC has traditionally done. The halls of the AUUC, under the various names they now bear, have been centres of activity, with music and dance classes; fund-raising activities, from perogy sales to a variety of socials; Branch, Executive and committee meetings; public educational meetings; and so on. Folklorama in Winnipeg, Mosaic in Regina, and other traditional large public events in those and other communities have continued, to be joined by such emerging traditions as Vancouver's Heart of the City Festival. Dance seminars ranging from the local to the national have con-

tinued to draw on the best available instructors to maintain and improve the level of Ukrainian folk dancing at AUUC performances. And so on and so on, and so on, through the range of AUUC activity.

What, then, were the defining characteristics this last ten years, distinguishing this decade from earlier ones?

In my mind the noteworthy features of the AUUC in the last ten years or so have been the staging of two successful national festivals, and the unremitting strife which has plagued the organization from its 40th National Convention in 1997, when it took the form of NEC AUUC hostility to some facets of the AUUC in Ontario (and particularly Toronto) to the present, when it is appearing as an increasingly bitter struggle between the Edmonton Branch Executive and the NEC.

There have been other notable aspects of AUUC life in this last ten years, of course, and some might put them ahead of those which have been highlighted.

### The festivals

The suggestion for a national millennium festival was officially publicly raised for the first time at the joint AUUC/WBA convention session in May, 1997. At that time, it was agreed that a joint committee of the AUUC and the Workers Benevolent Association would study the possibilities.

Three years later, on May 7, 2000, the National Executive Committee of the AUUC, with the support of the Edmonton AUUC Branch and drawing on resources across the country, organized a very suc-

cessful AUUC National Millennium Festival in Edmonton. The audience clearly appreciated the spectacular concert. AUUC participants from British Columbia to several centres in Ontario were impressed, particularly, by the well-executed hosting arrangements.

Five years later, on April 3, 2005, the AUUC staged another national festival, this one in Regina to celebrate the 100th anniversaries of the provincehood of Saskatchewan and Alberta. This capacity audience, at the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, was held in thrall from the rising of the curtain. Among the historic aspects of this event was the attendance by the Lieutenant-Governors of both provinces, both at the concert and at the banquet which followed.

Not only were these festivals both public successes, but both also gave the usual benefits the AUUC expected to gain from such events: greater public awareness and appreciation of the organization, valuable additions to repertoire, enrichment of costume and other resources, but above all, a growth in participation in the organization's performing arts programs

For the NEC of 2000, the millennium festival carried added satisfaction because it showed that the courage, strength, and skill to carry through such a project had not left the AUUC with the leadership change in 1991.

For the NEC of 2005, the most recent festival carried added satisfaction because it also proved that the new leadership was also up to the challenge, and even able to overcome problems of conflict which threatened to derail the

celebration.

### Correction

In the last column on Page 3 of the December, 2008, issue of this paper, in the fourth complete paragraph from the end of the page, 1992 should have been given as the year when the "UCH" replaced the two publications published previously. We regret any confusion created by the error.

### The conflict

The discussion which follows will itself probably be a source of conflict. Some will be adamant that this theme should not be discussed in a public forum, if at all. Many others, no doubt, will have strong opinions about the information which is provided and/or about its interpretation. Other objections may well be raised

However, the AUUC of the last ten years is incomprehensible without an examination of this decade of conflict. Therefore, a review of the nine decades of the AUUC must include a discussion of this theme.

Readers should be aware that the treatment of this topic which follows reflects my personal views and opinions, and does not necessarily reflect the position of the Editorial Board, Kobzar Publishing Company, or any particular section or committee of the AUUC.

Readers should also be aware that, any appearances to the contrary notwithstanding, my intent is to be as objective as I can, and to err, if at all, on the side of caution.

The decade of conflict in the AUUC has a prehistory, of course, and will have a continuation, apparently. Anything which looks like the beginning invariably has its own causes. Because this article deals with the last decade, the thread of conflict will be

picked up near the beginning of the decade, specifically, at the 40th AUUC National Convention in 1997.

In the lead-up to that convention, the AUUC National President had convinced most AUUC members across the country, and above all the leading members in Edmonton, that AUUC cadre in Toronto (with the exceptions of himself, his wife, and perhaps one or two others) was, at best, incompetent and, at worst, hostile to the AUUC.

Consequently, at the 40th AUUC National Convention there was a great hostility toward Ontario delegates, particularly those from Toronto. Proposals to organize a provincial leadership in Ontario to replace the NEC as it relocated to Edmonton, as was required by the AUUC constitution, was treated as an effort to organize a centre of opposition. For example, a proposal effectively to confiscate any income generated by an Ontario leadership was narrowly averted.

That convention was quite united, and the NEC was elected, position by position, by acclamation; that is, without opposition. But its unity was based on an artificially generated and unfounded hostility toward a sizeable portion of the organization. (Ontario had about half the Branches, and a membership active in other aspects of the AUUC in addition to the performing arts.)

The methods of work lead-  
(Continued on Page 12.)

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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Published monthly by Kobzar Publishing Company Ltd.  
595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4  
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404  
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Subscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)  
\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.  
Advertising rates available on request.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476

Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not  
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## Prorogation

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

It is now official: a government which does not want to be defeated in the House of Commons need simply request of the Governor-General that the Parliament be prorogued. That may not mean eliminated, but it does mean closed down. It means that the government rules with responsibility to no one until it chooses to reconvene Parliament. That is now, as established by practice, the Canadian system of government, and it is now, in fact, how Canadians are being ruled.

Apparently, when the Prime Minister asked the Governor-General for permission to prorogue, he expected, as did most other people, that she would quickly say "yea" or "nay" or "let me think about it". Instead, they visited for over two hours, and the Prime Minister came away with what he wanted.

And what he wanted was contrary to Canada's former form of government, which was a constitutional monarchy with a parliament on the Westminster model. At least, that was what many authorities, including former governors-general, told us before the infamous meeting.

Now Canada stands unique, perhaps, among countries still called democracies in being ruled by a government which simply removed a parliament in which it was facing defeat. While that, or something similar, has happened in other countries, those countries have not usually been considered to be democracies in the aftermath.

That the meeting lasted so long suggests that Prime Minister Harper had to work for his prize — surely he and the Governor-General were not merely enjoying tea. Unfortunately, we may never know what that work was, what blandishments, threats or other inducements he used.

Did he threaten to do away with the monarchy? Did he threaten to stir up Western separatism to counteract the Bloc? Did he point to the acts of vandalism already committed by his supporters and suggest that the brown shirts and jackboots were just waiting for a reason to hit the streets? Or did he merely promise to behave himself while the country took a "time out"? We have seen enough of this man to believe that he is capable of all those threats and promises and more, and is also capable of carrying out the threats, if not the promises.

It is probable that Harper will, in fact, reconvene Parliament by the end of January, and it seems probable that he and Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff will be of one mind when they meet in the House of Commons.

If not, of course, Parliament can be prorogued any time the government fears that it might be swept from power.

## COMMENTARY

### Crises in Canada

There continue to be two intertwined major crises in Canada: the economic crisis (which is probably in its early stages) and the political crisis (which is far from resolved).

The economic crisis in Canada is part of the global economic crisis. Canada can no more escape this crisis on its own than a trapped fly can escape a spider web. What Canadian institutions, including the government, can do is to ease the suffering of Canadians, the worst of which is yet to come, and to be part of the global effort to lessen the depth and the length of the crisis.

True, how effective international action can be, and how massive counter-measures can be applied without creating other manifestations of economic crisis, is still to be seen. There was not much optimism anywhere during the month of December.

From the Canadian perspective, there are several interesting aspects of the history of this economic crisis.

One is that Prime Minister Harper kept telling us before the last federal election that, for the most part, Canada would escape the crisis which

was hitting the USA and most of the rest of the world, because our financial institutions were so much better regulated. Harper is supposedly a trained and skilful economist. How could he believe that the collapse of Canada's export markets (not to mention other factors) would not devastate the Canadian economy?

The answer, of course, is that he couldn't. Either he was ignoring the threatening reality, which is scary to think about our leader, or he was well aware of it, but chose (for whatever reason) to mislead the public, which is also a scary thought, but at least fits with Harper's style.

Another interesting aspect is that, with the October election out of the way and Parliament in session, Harper (and his Minister of Finance) still seemed oblivious to the coming disaster, and came forth with an economic update less concerned with dealing with the crisis than with pursuing a partisan ideological agenda and attacking the opposition.

Prime Minister Harper made noises, including at the Conservative convention and just before he left for a G-20 meeting on the international crisis in mid-November, suggesting that he understood the need for serious measures, including deficit financing. When push came to shove, however, he could not stomach a deficit, chose to delay serious action, and continued to brag about the good gov-

ernance of Canada's financial institutions.

That was still the tack in the economic update at the end of November, which led to the political crisis.

Into mid-December, after proroguing Parliament about ten days earlier, the Prime Minister appeared, finally, to be dealing with the economic realities. In light of recent history, one can be excused for suspecting that his motivation is less the economy than the threats facing his hold on power.

Stephen Harper may well suspect that the political situation has become more dangerous, not less so, for the Conservative government.

To begin with, the Liberal Party has emerged from the crisis as a much stronger political force.

While there is some continuing dissension in the ranks, in Michael Ignatieff the Liberals probably have found a leader who can unite the dominant sections of the Liberal establishment. This will probably mean a more united Liberal public face and, at least as important, more effective and productive fundraising.

Under Mr. Ignatieff, the darling of the right-wing Liberals, furthermore, the Liberal Party will be closer politically to the Conservatives. As the economy deteriorates, and if the Prime Minister continues to lose his lustre, the Liberals may be able to challenge Prime Minister Harper on his own ground while hammering away at the "Can you trust this man?" theme.

While the Conservatives may be able to neutralize the opposition on the budget, there

(Continued on Page 14.)

## From Our Readers

### Spin-off a Book?

May I suggest that the series of ten articles each written by Shatulsky and Szczesny that have appeared in the "UCH" this year be published in booklet form?

There is an urgent need for easily-readable, concise histories of the AUUC. I believe that most of our newer members are unfamiliar with our history (example — unawareness of our political leanings and unawareness of our continuing social activism).

In my opinion, the need for such information is so great, that I would recommend that such booklets be given to all members recruited in the last ten years, as well as to all new applicants.

— **George Borusiewich**  
Toronto ON

### Good Work

I very much enjoy your interesting articles and editorials. Keep up the good work.

May you all enjoy your holiday season and have a happy and healthy new year.

— **Mary Danilevitch**

## Note to our subscribers!

Because of the way dates fell this month, with the added complication of Canada Post taking three days for Christmas, this issue could not be mailed before December 29. For those reasons, it may be close to the end of January before this paper reaches you. Of course, labour-management differences could conceivably delay the paper even more.

## SEE US ON THE WEB!

**Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble**  
[www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca](http://www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca)

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

**Taras Shevchenko Museum:**  
[www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum](http://www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum)

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We invite readers to submit their views in letters to the editor. Letters must be signed. Letters may be edited, but their sense will not be changed.

## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

### Strike!

The Ukrainian Federation of Trade Unions is planning mass protest actions against the reductions of jobs and wage decreases in Ukraine.

This information was provided recently by Vladimir Kazachenko, Chairman of the Trade Union of Miners and Metallurgists of Ukraine. According to him, protest actions will be held in large industrial centres throughout Ukraine, ending with a mass demonstration in Kyiv.

"The trade unions intend to demand from the country's authorities and proprietors that they defend the interests of workers during the global financial crisis."

Among other important demands of the workers, Kazachenko noted, "are stopping the banks' abuse of enterprises and citizens, and ensuring unimpeded payment of wages, pensions and deposits."

If these demands are ignored and the workers' living standards decline further, the Ukrainian Federation of Trade Unions intends, in the words of Kazachenko, to resort to "more radical measures to protect workers' rights."

### Goodbye, Iraq

America's "coalition of the willing" has become a bit smaller, with the Ukrainian army's "end of mission ceremony" marking the final deployment of troops from that country to Iraq.

Around 5,000 Ukrainian servicemen have deployed to Iraq over the last five years, and at one point, it was the third-largest member of the American invasion force.

The Ukrainians had gradually evolved from a "peace-keeping" force to a small training command working under Polish command.

According to the web site icasualties.org, the Ukrainians suffered 18 deaths throughout their time in Iraq.

### The New Gold

Wearing flowing red robes and pitching his own trademark desert tent, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi paid a visit to Ukraine last November in search of a remarkable deal to help feed his oil-rich but soil-poor people.

Under a proposed agreement with Kyiv, Libya would lease 247,000 acres of Ukraine's rich black land to grow wheat. The harvest would then be shipped back to Libya, giving the African desert nation a more secure supply of food in the face of predictions about higher food prices and potential shortages in the decades to come.

Ukraine, in turn, would get access to Libyan oil fields, helping free it from dependence on Russia for its energy needs.

Around the world, food-poor but cash-rich countries, spooked by last season's high food prices, are racing to snap up rights to farm land in developing countries and bread-basket nations. They're aiming to boost their own food security and to cash in on what might prove to be one of the few sound investments left in a world in financial crisis.

### Currency Panic

The national currency of Ukraine has fallen to half its value over the past six months, prompting panic amongst its heavily-indebted population. The sudden fall in the hryvnia has sent Ukrainians rushing to their banks to exchange local money for hard foreign currency.

There is serious concern in Ukraine over the possibility of hyperinflation, similar to that suffered by the country just after the introduction of capitalism in the early 1990s.

Because of the worsening economic crisis in Ukraine during this year, the country had to apply for a \$16.5 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund. One of the conditions demanded by the IMF was that the National Bank of Ukraine allow the hryvnia, a currency introduced in 1996, to trade freely. The result was that the Ukrainian currency has suffered one of the worst devaluations in the world in the global financial crisis, while the National Bank has had to stand by helplessly.

Of the three major economies of the former Soviet Union — Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine — Ukraine is being hardest hit, even with the support of the International Monetary Fund.

### Russia Seen as a Friend

Most residents of former Soviet republics see Russia as a friendly state, polls indicate. This sentiment is shared by 82% of respondents in Armenia, 74% in Belarus, 67% in Kazakhstan, 89% in Tajikistan, 78% in Uzbekistan, 58% in Ukraine, and 49% in Moldova.

Asked which country would be best for forging a union, 56% of respondents in Belarus named Russia (only 25% named the European Union), 47% of Ukrainians named Russia (29% named Belarus, and only 21% named the European Union).

The international poll involved 16,143 respondents in 13 former Soviet republics.

### Boxing Champion

Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko congratulated World Heavyweight Champion Wladimir Klitschko on successfully defending his heavyweight title against Hasim Rahman of the United States.

The match was held in Mannheim, Germany, on December 13, before a paid audience of 12,000 fans.

Klitschko won the fight on a technical knockout in the seventh round. The referee stopped the fight after Klitschko landed a series of punches to Rahman's head and the American retreated to the ropes, barely able to stand.

The 32-year-old Klitschko, nicknamed Dr. Steelhammer, was born in Kyiv, but now lives and trains in Germany.

At a briefing in Kyiv, presidential press secretary Iryna Vannykova stated, "The head of state wished the outstanding sportsman good health, inexhaustible inspiration and new victories in the name of Ukraine. Ukrainians are proud of you — the undefeatable fighter who contributes to the strength and glory of the nation."

All four world heavyweight championship titles currently belong to boxers from the former Soviet Union: Wladimir Klitschko holds the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organization titles, his older brother Vitali Klitschko holds the World Boxing Commission title, while Russia's Nikolai Valuev is the World Boxing Association champion.

### Election Poll

Because of the formation of a new governing coalition in Ukraine's parliament, the call by President Yushchenko for new parliamentary elections has been cancelled.

However, a public opinion poll taken about 5 weeks ago provides interesting reading. Of those polled, 18.3% said that they would vote for Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc (pro-Orange Revolution), 16.4% would vote for Party of Regions (anti-Orange Revolution), 5.9% would vote for the Communist Party (anti-Orange Revolution), 3.3% would vote for Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc, and 3% would vote for Arseniy Yatsenyuk Bloc.

Since the Ukrainian constitution bars all parties with less than 3% of the vote from entering parliament, all other parties would be prevented from sitting in parliament — including the Bloc of President Viktor Yushchenko (pro-Orange Revolution), which (ac-

ording to the poll) would receive only 1.9% of the vote.

### Somali Pirates

Ukraine recently expressed its desire to join the European Union's naval task force protecting ships in the Gulf of Aden against Somali pirates.

Operation Atalanta was given the green light by EU foreign ministers at a meeting in Brussels. At least eight member states will participate in the operation to prevent pirate attacks on merchant ships, with six warships and three spotter planes to be made available immediately.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry hailed the European Union decision to begin the operation, adding that they were "looking at possible forms" for Kyiv's involvement.

A Ukrainian cargo ship, the Faina, manned by 17 Ukrainians, 3 Russians, and 1 Latvian, was seized by Somali pirates on September 25. The Faina was carrying 33 Soviet T-72 tanks and other heavy weaponry.

"The EU's Operation Atalanta is a very important element of international efforts to ensure maritime security and prevent and counteract the piracy that has led to the hijacking of many commercial ships and huge economic loss," stated Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.

Somali pirates attacked at least 90 ships in 2008, resulting in the seizure of around 39 vessels, with 200 crew members.

### Odessa — Pearl of the Black Sea

A recent article in a Bulgarian real estate magazine almost had me packing my bags for a visit. Titled "Odessa — Pearl of the Black Sea", the article went on for thousands of words, praising Odessa to the heavens.

Because of space limitations, I will reprint only a few paragraphs.

"Odessa, the third largest city of Ukraine, is a city steeped in history and one that you can wander around endlessly discovering interesting sites or just gazing at the old 19th century limestone houses. Its beautiful, wide tree-lined avenues and large parks will keep you entertained for days.

"Odessa's old town is a sight to behold, with a beautiful opera house and some attractive parks. It is noticeably clean and extremely safe.

"The main street leading through the old town is particularly lively with plenty of shops selling hand-crafted goods.

"The city is home to many interesting museums, with the Museum of Western and Eastern Art being perhaps the most interesting. The Literature Museum takes visitors through a hundred years of literary works from city authors, whilst the Maritime Museum exhibits an interesting marine fleet.

"There are some great walks in the city. The one from Primorsky Parkway to the city's best-known site, the Potemkin Steps, passes the statue of Duc de Richelieu, one of the city's founders.

"The steps are a phenomenal sight, considered to be the formal entrance into the city from the sea. The steps have been constructed in such a way as to give the optical illusion of a never-ending staircase.

"The Odessa Catacombs are also worth visiting. The Catacombs extend under the whole of the city, and are the result of abandoned limestone mines (later used by smugglers).

"Dining out is extremely expensive in Odessa and you can afford to splash out.

"One of its most famous inhabitants was the renowned Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, who lived in exile here."

When's the next plane leaving?

### Portage la Prairie

Portage la Prairie is a small town in Manitoba, located 70 kilometres west of Winnipeg. According to the latest statistics, it has a population of 12,728 people.

Early in December, a handful of local and provincial representatives left Canada to visit Ukraine. The purpose of the trip was to entice people from the Eastern European nation to transplant themselves to Manitoba.

The delegation included Portage la Prairie Mayor Ken Brennan, Community Development Director Dean Yaremchuk, and an Immigration Department representative from the Province of Manitoba.

Mayor Brennan said that he and the Portage la Prairie city council want to fill some of the vacant positions in the city's major businesses.

My question is, "Why are Mayor Brennan and his delegation flying to Ukraine at taxpayer's expense when 51,000 Ontario workers were laid-off in November alone? Would not the 51,000 Ontario workers fill all the empty jobs in his town of 12,000 people?"

"Or is he simply trying to import cheap labour in an effort to drive down local wages?"

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## In the Branches

### Alberta Assembly Notes AUUC 90th

*The Executive of Edmonton AUUC Branch sent us this information from Legislative Report of Alberta's NDP Opposition. It shows that on November 20, 2008, in Alberta's Legislative Assembly the 90th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians was recognized. On page 1977 of Alberta Hansard, the official transcript of discussion in the Legislative Assembly, for that day, the following is recorded:*

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you

very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I introduce to you and through you to this Assembly the council officers and members of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians was founded 90 years ago. Originally a fraternal order dedicated to promoting culture education and providing economic insurance benefits for workers, the association was known as the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association. Their national newspapers promoted workers' and farmers' rights, and members were

active in the foundation of the social democratic movement in Canada.

As well as preserving and expanding Ukrainian culture in Canada, their choirs and dancers were some of the first to tour the country, exposing other Canadians to Ukrainian cultural traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I would now ask my guests to rise as I call their names to receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly: Eve Doskoch, Bill Uhryn, Victor Horon, Blyth Nuttall, Jay Smith, and Mike Uhryn. Please give them a warm welcome.

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Also from Edmonton:

The second issue of *Hromada*, newsletter of AUUC Edmonton Branch, notes an increased use of their hall, particularly by the Somali immigrant community.

Among events held at the

hall have been a three-day anarchist book fair, several Halloween events, and a hurricane relief fund-raiser for Cuba.

A number of renovations and upgrades have been done, including work in the women's washroom. A major project being planned is to make the hall wheelchair accessible. Upgrades are also planned for the lighting and sound systems.

For the AUUC 90th anniversary, a grant application is being formulated to create a stained glass window for the exterior entrance.

The Branch has undertaken new directions in cultural activity, with the formation of a men's choir, conducted by Dr. Blyth Nuttall, as well as a drama group directed by Jay Smith.

Another innovation is Ukrainian language classes.

January activities include

the *Malanka* on January 10, a social justice film night on January 16, part of a series in cooperation with Not Just Tourists and others, and an Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Ukrainian Dinner on the afternoon of January 20.

Fund-raising has included a very successful Casino in December, and Bingo on December 31 and January 6.

A disappointment in the newsletter was an article by Branch Vice-President Mike Uhryn, concerning relationships with the NEC AUUC. The inflammatory language and innuendo in the piece will do nothing to resolve this issue or improve relations.

## Cuba Fundraiser

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 30, the Toronto Branch of the AUUC held a gathering at the AUUC Cultural Centre to raise money for the hurricane-ravaged island of Cuba.

The 2008 hurricane season has left a devastating mark on Cuba. In rapid order, hurricanes Faye, Gustav, Hannah, Ike, and finally, Paloma slammed into Cuba. Wind gusts up to 345 kilometres-per-hour were recorded.

The hurricanes caused over \$10 billion in total damage.

The numbers are mind-numbing. Over 600,000 homes were badly damaged (Many of them destroyed), as were schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges. Over 2.5 million people were evacuated.

Power lines were toppled, cutting off electricity to large parts of the island.

The agricultural sector has suffered severely, with hundreds of hectares of bananas and citrus fruits demolished. The sugar cane crop was massively affected, and sophisticated irrigation equipment was ruined. Nearly a third of Cuba's crops were destroyed.

At the fund-raising event in our hall, we showed a movie of the tail end of the second hurricane, and the devastation throughout the island.

Elizabeth Hill, President of the Toronto chapter of Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association (and a member of our Branch) gave a report, filling in additional details of the devastation.

In keeping with the tradition of the AUUC as a socially responsible organization, our Branch and its supporters raised almost \$2000 at our gathering. We have joined the Canadian government, the American government, the Chinese government, the Red Cross, many church groups, and countless individuals to stand beside Cuba in its hour of need.

— George Borusiewicz

## Toronto AUUC Grey Cup Party

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Shown above are some of the relatively small, but enthusiastically large, gathering at the Grey Cup Party in Toronto on November 23. Some came for the game, while others came for the party, but all left as winners.

After experiencing a most successful Super Bowl party last February, the AUUC Toronto Branch decided to celebrate the proudly Canadian version of professional football, and held a fantastic Grey Cup party on Sunday, Novem-

ber 23.

Each eager fan entering the AUUC Cultural Centre on Bloor Street was given a badge with the logo of his or her preferred team — either the Montreal Alouettes or the Calgary Stampeders.

Guests were then invited to take part in a CFL trivia contest and to enter a football pool with a cash prize for each of the four quarters of the game.

The hall itself was brightly decorated by Connie Prince and The Crew, honouring the

colours and logos of the two participating teams. Splashes of red and white or silver and blue lined the tables, and large posters of the West's stallion and the East's skylark hung proudly from the ceiling.

With the pre-game show playing in the background, guests mingled, munched and refreshed before enjoying a fabulous chili dinner prepared by Jerry Dobrowolsky.

The 6:30 p.m. kick-off time had everyone finding a comfortable viewing spot, with most choosing a couch or soft chair in the theatre-style arrangement in front of the television screen.

The game was filled with cheers and jeers and interspersed with the announcements of trivia prize recipients and pool jackpot winners. With Calgary's 22-14 win over Montreal, reaction to the game's outcome was rather mixed.

In the end, whether one's favoured team became the champion or not, one left feeling that the Grey Cup Party had been a winning experience!

— B. Dobrowolsky



What's a Grey Cup Party without food? On this occasion, it was chili and its natural accompaniments, prepared by Jerry Dobrowolsky.



Sporting events require various diagrams, statistics, and miscellaneous information to heighten the fans' enjoyment of the competition. Left to right above, Bernardine Dobrowolsky, Marg Panasiuk and Nancy Stewart post one of the charts relevant to the November 23 contest.



# Welland AUUC Celebrates 90th

On November 16, 2008, the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Welland, Ontario, was filled to capacity with members and friends of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians who gathered to participate in the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the AUUC with a banquet and concert.

In Welland, the celebration

had an added twist: a Ukrainian Labour Temple in this city existed in 1917, before the formation of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association in Winnipeg in 1918. In the course of the formalities, Mary Mihay, with her brother Steve Soldat, presented a picture of her mother, who provided the initial money for the construction of the hall.

As they entered the hall, guests were greeted at the door by Lida Braun and the traditional bread and salt, presented by Princess Tamara Danyluk in full Ukrainian costume.

Among the celebrities attending the afternoon event, introduced by Master of Ceremonies Wilfred Szczesny, were: AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr, with his guest (and hostess while he was in the Welland area) Olga Babiy; Malcolm Allen, MP (Welland); Peter Kormos, MPP (Welland); Sandy



At the entrance with a colourful table, Branch member and mandolin player Lida Braun took tickets, distributed flowers and sold CDs.

O'Dell, Councillor, Ward 6, Welland City Council; Rick Alakas, Councillor, Ward 1, Welland City Council, and President of CAW local 523, with Sharron Alakas; Kenny Manhamo, representing the Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre; and Michael Curry a producer with the Ukrainian television program *Kontakt*.

With introductions out of the way, the guests turned their attention to a full-course dinner, served in buffet style.

The MC found himself under tremendous pressure to favour one or another table of hungry diners salivating at the thought of food from the fabled Welland kitchen. However, he withstood all threats and blandishments to maintain the integrity of the process. The last table called to partake (which, as it happened was mostly his family) could barely muster the required reserves of patience, but even those diners agreed that the tasty food was well worth the wait.

The first major event of the afternoon completed, it was time for part two: speeches, with all the appropriate things people say on such occasions.

Kenny Manhamo expressed the regrets of Claire Masswohl, Executive Director of the Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre, that she was unable to attend. He spoke of the long-standing cooperation between his organization and the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, and the contribution of the AUUC to the community.

Connie Prince, Vice-President of the Toronto AUUC Branch, extended a greeting on behalf of her Branch.

Rick Alakas spoke on behalf of his Canadian Auto Workers local, recalling the support of the AUUC Branch in Welland in supporting the struggle of working people in the area. He mentioned occasions when he personally experienced that support.

Sandy O'Dell congratulated the AUUC on its 90th anniversary, and referred to the role the organization had played in the community. He presented a congratulatory statement in a scroll from Welland City Council.

Peter Kormos, an NDP Member of Provincial Parliament, is a long-time friend of the AUUC in Welland and a frequent guest at the organization's special events. In addition to reviewing some of the history of his 40 years of contact with the AUUC and its influence on him, he spoke of the AUUC being in the lead of progressive struggle. He raised again, as he has in the past, the need for institutions like the Ukrainian Labour Temple to become public buildings, and not be forced to go on the private market, when their owners could no longer sustain them.

As Malcolm Allen, NDP Member of Parliament, was unable to stay, Mr. Kormos presented scrolls both from himself and his federal counterpart. He also presented a Canadian flag (from the MP) and an Ontario flag (from the MPP).

Welland AUUC Branch President Clara Babiy reviewed some aspects of Welland AUUC history, including a reminder that the



Welland AUUC Branch President Clara Babiy, in addition to thanking a list of people, also reviewed aspects of the history of the AUUC in Welland.

Ukrainian Labour Temple in this city was first established on 6th Street. It moved to its present location at 342 Ontario Road in 1926.

Ms. Babiy thanked Michael Curry, John Manning, Peter Kormos, Joe Panetta, Pat Hlywka, volunteers and guests at this event, Rudy Wasylenky and others. She presented flowers and a 90th anniversary pin to Olga Katrynuik, a member of the ULFTA first orchestra in Welland, in 1926, who was still playing just a few years ago, and to Annie Perehinchuk for her many years making cabbage rolls and other activity.

The final speaker was AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr, who brought greetings on behalf of the AUUC National Committee. He too reviewed some aspects of AUUC history in Welland, putting it in the broader Canadian context.

After a brief intermission to clear tables, rearrange furniture, and attend to other needs, it was time for part three of the afternoon — the concert presentation by the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky.

For this occasion, the orchestra presented a program of twelve Ukrainian numbers, half of them vocals.

The first number was "*Les marches d'Ukraine*". The French title notwithstanding, this was a Ukrainian piece (more precisely, combination of pieces) reflecting two aspects of the orchestra's repertoire: its partiality to medleys and its indebtedness to Myron Shatulsky for many arrangements in its repertoire.

Other medleys on the program were "Ukrainian Reflections", "Sad Evening, Sad Morning", "Kozaky" and "Dancefest".

The vocals were in two groups. The first group, distributed through the concert, was songs with soloist Connie Prince, consisting of three numbers: "*Chervona ruta*" (Red Rue), "*Osinye zoloto*" (Autumn Gold) and "*Odna*"

(Continued on Page 13.)

Photo: Joe Panetta



AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr put the Welland history into a national context.

Photo: Murphys



Rick Alakas spoke on behalf of Canadian Auto Workers, Local 523.

Photo: Murphys



Member of Provincial Parliament Peter Kormos is a frequent visitor to the ULT in Welland.

Photo: Murphys



Ward 6 Councillor Sandy O'Dell presented a scroll from the city.

Photo: Joe Panetta



Connie Prince, shown in rehearsal was well received at the AUUC 90th anniversary celebration in Welland.

Photo: Joe Panetta



A capacity audience attended the 90th anniversary celebration. Some of them are shown above, waiting for the concert to start.

Photo: Joe Panetta



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, drew on the Ukrainian portion of its repertoire.

**Submitted  
as a  
separate  
PDF file**

# 5th Annual Heart of the City Festival

The Heart of the City Festival in Vancouver has grown tremendously since it was first established in 2004. All performers in this very popular event live, work or create in, or have other ties with, the Downtown Eastside, the historic Strathcona neighbourhood that has been home to the AUUC Ukrainian Cultural Centre since 1928.

This year's festival, staged at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on November 9, honoured the founding communities and elders who shaped our community, with a spotlight on Asian, European and First Nations cultural traditions and artists.

Sam George, Tse-at-sultuxh, of the Squamish Nation, opened the concert with a "Welcoming Prayer".

He was followed by the Git Hayetsk Dancers, talented dancers ranging from youngsters to young adults, from many different Coast Nations. They are under the charge of the very impressive and talented Mike Dangeli, whose resounding voice and drumming made the rafters ring.

The next items were presented by the AUUC Cultural Performing forces. As in past festivals, the cultural performing forces of the AUUC were responsible for half of the concert program.

Sergei Makarov, a former Virsky dancer and former Director of Ukraine's Hopak Ensemble, has left a deep impression on many young Canadian dancers.

Most Dovbush dancers attended a Makarov Dance Workshop held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Dovbush

opened our section of the program with "Kozachok/Hopak", choreographed by Makarov, based on Virsky repertoire. That the workshop was a resounding success was clear from the spirited and extremely well executed opening number by Dovbush. The audience response was very appreciative and very loud.

The younger Veselka Dancers presented a "Kozachok" that showed much competence and much promise.

The Barvinok Choir sang two folk songs that came to Canada with our early immigrants: "Oi chiy to kin stoyit?" and "Dobriy vechir, susidonko".

The Vancouver Folk Orchestra demonstrated that classical music, as well as folk music, is part of their repertoire with a sensitive interpretation of Scriabin's *Suite in Three Movements*.

The first half of the afternoon closed with a tai chi sword dance performed by Chengxin Wei. A native of Dalian, China, and a graduate of Beijing Dance Academy, this classically trained dancer was a soloist with Ballet British Columbia for five years.

The audience returned after the intermission to experience Tzimmes, which is a Yiddish word for a sweet culinary concoction. The audience soon realized that it also represents a sweet musical concoction. Much clapping and dancing in seats greeted each number.

The program continued with the Dovbush Dancers of the AUUC, performing "Kukurudza". The audience had no trouble spotting a trac-

tor, rows of corn, happy harvesters and pretty maids all in a dancing row.

Next, the Vancouver Folk Orchestra played the bitter-sweet Shostakovich melody "Waltz" from *Jazz Suite*.

Downtown Eastside Strathcona resident Takeo Yamashiro is one of the most influential *shakuhachi* masters in North America and has lived and practised his music in Canada since 1972. He plays his recorder-like instrument by simply breathing into his *shakuhachi*.

For the finale, all performers came on stage to sing Ed McCurdy's "Strangest Dream", a song whose sentiments have reached every corner of our world. The spirit of the song proved infectious and soon the entire audience joined the massed performers.

Vancouver AUUC Branch President Dianna Kleparchuk closed the concert of the Fifth Annual Heart of the City Festival by wishing the audience health, happiness and a chance to live in a world at peace.

After the concert, the 225-member crowd proceeded to the banquet supper in the lower hall. Chef Sylvia Surette had assembled a dynamite kitchen crew, and together they produced a sumptuous meal that featured borsch, perohy, cabbage rolls, stroganoff, four different salads and an over-the-top delicious apple crisp and whipping cream dessert. The food disappeared and satisfaction was the order of the day.

The final event of the Heart of the City Festival was an Urban Barn Dance with the Three Potato Band. Downtown Eastside resident Russell Shumsky and his Three Potato Band cohorts had everybody on the dance floor for the entire evening. (Think of line dancing without cowboy hats and square dancing without petticoats.) The music is an eclectic stew of old-time and Celtic melodies with a pinch of music from Brittany, Sweden and Quebec.

What a great ending for the fifth Annual Heart of the City Festival!

— Audrey Skalbania.



Klezmer selections by Tsimmes evoked much clapping and dancing in the seats.

— Story photos: Dan Fung



Mike Dangeli and the Git Hayetsk Dancers have performed throughout much of America, Canada and Europe. Their songs and dances, traditional and modern, are performed in hand-dmade regalia, masks and drums.



The Veselka Dancers presented a Kozachok that showed much competence and much promise.



The spirited and extremely well executed Dovbush Dancers opening number was the premiere of *Kozachok/Hopak*, choreographed by Sergei Makarov, a former Virsky dancer and Director of Ukraine's Hopak Ensemble before he arrived in Canada. The group also performed Kukurudza. In their presentations, the Dovbush Dancers showed the benefits of the Makarov Dance Workshop held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre earlier in the year.



Barvinok Choir, with Director Beverly Dobrinsky, sang two very old traditional folk songs.



An Urban Barn Dance with the Three Potato Band concluded the fifth Annual Heart of the City Festival,



Chengxin Wei, a graduate of Beijing Dance Academy, the classically trained dancer, performed *Tai Chi Sword Dance*.



The Vancouver Folk Orchestra, under conductor Jeffery Chowa, presented a sensitive interpretation of Scriabin's *Suite in Three Movements*. The orchestra also performed "Waltz" from *Jazz Suite*, by Shostakovich.



The finale, Ed McCurdy's "Strangest Dream", was performed by the combined concert performers, with the entire audience participating.

# Nine Decades of Struggle

(Continued from Page 3.) ing to, and evident at, the 40th National Convention continued after the convention, and by the time of the festival in May, 2000, the division in the AUUC national leadership was quite evident.

Six months after the success of the festival, the NEC was engaged in a losing effort to retain its leadership role for more than one term. About one year after the festival, at the 41st AUUC National Convention held in Edmonton on May 19-21, 2001, they were defeated, in spite of a range of efforts to regain support.

The former NEC did not take their loss gracefully.

George Moskal, having lost his job as National President, was joined by his wife Luba Moskal, who had been editor of the "UCH", in suing for a better severance package than he had given people severed in 1997. The late Walter Mako-wecki, who had been Vice-President, evicted the NEC from his building. Defeated Treasurer Bob Kisilevich did not reveal the existence of some accounts and funds until and unless he was specifically asked about them. Using the Alberta Provincial Committee as a base and the resources of the Alberta Ukrainian Heritage Fund, they and their supporters worked in various ways to undermine the authority of the new NEC.

While the conflict continued between the NEC and the AUUC Alberta Executive Committee, the struggle was also heating up between the Alberta Executive and the Edmonton Branch, controlled at that time, but not by a very wide margin by members who had opposed the outgoing NEC in 2001.

The main demand from Edmonton was that a long-overdue provincial convention be convened.

In the meantime, trouble was brewing within the NEC.

It had become evident very quickly after the 41st AUUC National Convention that there were two distinct visions of the AUUC National Office, and by extension, the AUUC itself, at play. One, promoted by Vice-President and National Office Manager Cheryl Balay, who had a number of supporters, saw the National Office as a potential service centre, not only for the AUUC but for the community at large. She foresaw state-of-the-art capabilities for acquiring, organizing, processing, storing and accessing various forms of data, such as the great volumes of archival materials and periodicals held by the AUUC. This would entail

a substantial investment, though not necessarily in one fell swoop, both for equipment and specialized skills.

The other vision was represented by National President Zenovy Nykolyshyn, who saw the role of the National Office in more traditional terms: providing the administrative services required by a national organization; serving the needs of AUUC members in various technical areas; serving as a repository for organizational records; and so on.

One can speculate about the reasons why such a difference could not be resolved. The fact is that it was not. Instead, based on the reasons about which we can only speculate, working relationships between the National President and the Vice-President, and their respective supporters, quickly deteriorated, and various accusations began to fly back and forth.

The Alberta AUUC Provincial Convention was held on August 21 and 22, 2004, and the incumbent Provincial Executive Committee was defeated, to be replaced, mainly, by pro-NEC members of the Edmonton Branch.

By that time, Cheryl Balay, backed by Bob Kisilevich and his supporters, had become Edmonton Branch President. The Edmonton Branch Executive called a meeting for September 11, 2004, to elect delegates to the 42nd AUUC National Convention. The Executive then postponed the meeting to September 25. Suspecting a manoeuvre to change the results of delegate elections, many members of the Branch proceeded with the September 11 meeting, electing one set of delegates. Other members of the Branch met on September 25, and elected another set of delegates.

The 42nd AUUC National Convention meeting in Edmonton on October 9-11, 2004, was called upon to decide between the two delegations, and decided in favour of the group elected on September 11.

Cheryl Balay was not re-elected at the convention in 2004, the convention which dissolved AUUC provincial committees or councils, and decided to move the National Office to Winnipeg.

After the 42nd AUUC National Convention, the lines continued to harden between the two factions in the Edmonton Branch. There were two main connections between the NEC and that struggle in the Edmonton Branch. One connection was the continuing



**AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr.**

appeals from members of the Branch for the NEC to involve itself in the struggle at the local level; the second was continuing differences between the NEC and Cheryl Balay, who was now seeking compensation based on a charge of having been improperly forced out of her job.

The settlement with Cheryl Balay shortly before the staging of the National Ukrainian Centennial Celebration 2005 in Regina left festival organizers scrambling to replace her. (As already indicated, the festival was a sparkling success.)

Zenovy Nykolyshyn died on April 23, 2005, 20 days after the Festival in Regina. During his four years as National President, the NEC had been very much consumed by a number of issues and concerns: establishing working relationships for a reorganized AUUC with a decentralized leadership; preparation of the national festival; the dissolution of the Workers Benevolent Association and managing the AUUC role in assuming some of the responsibility — the office building, Ivan Franko Manor, Ivan Franko Museum, and so on; and the unceasing pressure of conflict with supporters of the previous leadership.

William Bilecki, who had been elected Vice-President at the 42nd AUUC National Convention, assumed the presidency, and served until the 43rd National Convention in October, 2006.

As National President, William Bilecki had an excellent grasp of detail and a methodical approach to issues. In this turbulent period, he kept the NEC on an even keel, steering clear of several possible errors. If the conflicts with and in Edmonton had been a matter of personalities or disputes over assets, he could well have found a resolution.

However, the conflict was about fundamentally different views of the nature of the organization. Consequently, under National President Bilecki the NEC was able to contain the conflict, and to an extent manage it, so that the damage (aside from the debilitating effect on the NEC itself) was limited to Edmonton. In essence, the NEC bought time.

In the period between the death of Zenovy Nykolyshyn and the 43rd AUUC National Convention, subtle changes occurred in the collective

thinking of the NEC AUUC.

Mr. Nykolyshyn had been deeply involved in the conflict leading to the convention in 2001. He was one pole, the one around which opposition forces rallied, with George Moskal the rallying point for the supporters of the incumbent NEC.

Zenovy Nykolyshyn was a firm supporter of social activism as a feature of the AUUC, and was concerned about some of the NEC AUUC political directions under President Moskal. Among other items, this included suppression of an article written for the "UCH" (See Page 15 of the December, 2008, issue of this publication) and support for strategic voting to justify casting your ballot for a non-working-class political party.

In large measure, Zenovy Nykolyshyn saw the essence of the struggle as maintaining the socially progressive orientation of the AUUC. The *President's Report* to the 41st National Convention reveals that the National President recognized the struggle in the same terms, from a different orientation.

National President Nykolyshyn never lost track of this essential struggle, and he never lost track of who were allies in this struggle and who were not. He remembered which part of the Edmonton AUUC Branch had contributed to the defeat of the group around National President Moskal, and he remembered which part of the Edmonton AUUC Branch had helped avert their resurgence at the 42nd AUUC National Convention.

When Zenovy Nykolyshyn died, it was not immediately obvious that there was a significant shift in outlook. Over time, however, it became apparent that the roots of the conflict were fading from consideration, and a view was emerging that the conflict in Edmonton was primarily a local problem.

Personalities, struggle for control of resources, and similar explanations were proposed for the reason why it was so difficult to resolve the problem. In that context, there was another change: concern about the fate of the Edmonton performing arts program, and about the security of items like gaming licenses, both of which were in the hands of Bob Kisilevich and his supporters, became increasingly prominent.

The group that had been NEC allies under the presidency of Zenovy Nykolyshyn perceived the erosion of its position vis-a-vis the NEC. When the idea arose of forming a second Branch in Edmonton, the group quickly adopted the possibility, and so it was done. When it seemed that the NEC was unwilling, or unable, to arrange reason-

able use of the hall or other resources by the new Branch, the unfriendliness between the NEC and the members of the new Branch deepened.

The conflict found itself, once again, on the agenda of an AUUC national convention as a major item. Three proposals for a solution were put to the 43rd AUUC National Convention, in October, 2007, which initially rejected all three. The delegates of the new Branch indicated their willingness to reconsider their opposition to one of the proposals, and the convention adopted an amended version of that proposal, which included the reunification of the two Branches and a meeting under NEC supervision to elect a Branch executive.

After as number of false starts and adjustments, a general meeting of the membership in Edmonton was held on April 27, 2008. The group around Bob Kisilevich was swept from office.

Immediately after that Edmonton Branch meeting it was confirmed, in an exchange between National President Gerry Shmyr, elected at the 43rd National Convention, and Branch President Eugene Plawiuk, elected that afternoon, that tension would continue.

Since then, exchanges between the two presidents, and between the committees they head, have become increasingly shrill.

The new element which has emerged most recently is the threat out of Edmonton of another legal action on a matter — money — which could unite all factions in Edmonton against the NEC.

Should that happen, the prolonged struggle will have entered a new, entirely different, phase.

Briefly, now, a look at developments in the Edmonton Branch since the April, 2008, meeting.

There was a great concern, before that Edmonton meeting, that the gaming licenses (Bingo and Casino) would be lost should Bob Kisilevich be replaced by someone else in dealings with the authorities. Reports from the Branch are that there was no problem about retaining the licenses, and a very successful Casino was operated in early December.

The other great concern was around the performing arts program. What was there, which was in the hands of the Bob Kisilevich group, is gone. The new Branch Executive has launched activity in performing arts areas, including a men's choir and a drama group. It has also extended the concept of Ukrainian culture to include language instruction. Of course, the success of these ventures (and other initiatives) is yet to be seen.

— Wilfred Szczesny

# Welland AUUC Celebrates 90th

(Continued from Page 9.) *kalyna*" (One Cranberry Bush). Ms. Prince, who has a rich alto voice and models a different Ukrainian costume for each number, sings with energy and evident enjoyment. She was very warmly received by the enthusiastic au-

dience. The second group of vocals was duets sung by Conductor Rudy Wasylenky and mandolin player Wilfred Szczesny (who also announced the orchestral program). These three numbers — "*Pozvol meni maty*" (Mother Let Me), "*Oy na hori tsyhany stoly*" (Gypsies on a Hill), "*Hey sokoly*" (Hey, Hawks)

— and a few others were given to the orchestra by the Ukrainian group Volyn, through the good offices of Michael Curry.

Again, these duets were well-received by the audience, though a review of the recording of the concert reveals that better positioning vis-a-vis the microphone would have enhanced the listeners' pleasure.

The program was rounded out with the Ukrainian folk song "*Oy hylia, hylia*".

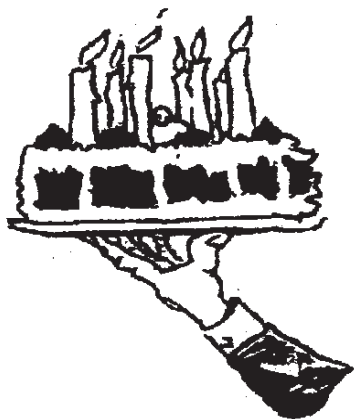
The orchestra ended with "*Kalinka*" as an encore.

The three formal parts of the afternoon were now completed. However, before leaving for home, many audience members took the opportunity to complete the experience of the celebration by descending

into the basement of the hall and making their way to the back room, where they found an excellent display of photos, documents, and other treasures from a 90-year history.

— Wilfred Szczesny

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

- William Chomyn
- Eva Doskoch
- Sam Fomuk
- Victor Horon
- Rose Kereliuk
- Harry Nykoliw
- Jed Oleinyk
- Mary Romach
- Bill 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 January celebrants:

- Anne Krane
- Rose Nedbailik
- Eva Rayko
- Mike Stefiuk

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** wishes the best of health and happiness in the coming year to January celebrant:

- Larry Kleparchuk

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

- Dave Anger
- Norman Boucock
- John Kukoly
- Joe Panetta
- Annie Perehinchuk
- John Sitak
- Sandra Sitak
- Mary Wasylenky

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

## Who, What, When, Where

**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)**.

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**Edmonton** — The annual **AUUC Malanka** will be held on Saturday, **January 10, 2009**, at the **Ukrainian Centre**, 11018 - 97 Street. Come and enjoy great food, a cultural program with featured entertainers the **Yatran Dancers**, dancing to the **Hammertones**, and good ol' Western hospitality! For tickets, **call Edna** at 780-424-2037 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on weekdays.

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**Edmonton** — The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens** will be hosting a traditional **Ukrainian Dinner**, commencing at **1:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, **January 20**, at the **Ukrainian Centre**, 11018 - 97 Street. For tickets, **call Edna** at 780-424-2037 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on weekdays.

\* \* \*

**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 17, 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**.

\* \* \*

**Regina** — **AUUC School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and the Poltava Ensemble** will stage the **Annual Concert-Recital**, featuring 100 performers, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**, 1077 Angus, on Saturday, **February 21 at 7:00 p.m.** For tickets, contact the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**. **Phone 779-2277**. Reserved seating: **Adults — \$15.00; Children (12 and under) — \$10.00**.

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — The **Toronto AUUC Branch** will host a **Super Bowl Party** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **4:30 p.m.** on Sunday, **February 1**. Participate in trivia and other games; enjoy a meal and a variety of snacks and other refreshments; see the game on a large screen. Admission: **\$10.00**

\* \* \*

**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.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg** — **Malanka** in the form of a North End "social" with dancing, refreshments, cash bar, and door prizes, will be held on Saturday, **January 10**, at **8:00 p.m.** at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple** at Pritchard and McGregor.

**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.



A large display of local lore covering a history of 90 years, was mounted on boards, laid out on tables and housed in display cases.

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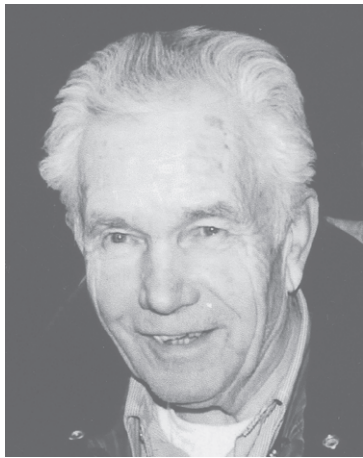
## Peter Zariwny

It is with a great deal of remorse that I report that Peter Zariwny of Edmonton, Alberta, a long time active member of the AUUC, passed away on November 20, 2008. Peter was born in Lamont, Alberta, north east of Edmonton, on January 12, 1922, the son of early Ukrainian immigrants to Canada Mykhailo and Vaselena Zariwny.

Peter worked on the farm, helping the family maintain their livelihood. He also worked at the cooperative store in Thorhild, and managed the co-op in Athabaska, Alberta, until 1960.

In 1960, Peter moved to the City of Edmonton, where he opened a barbershop on the corner of 97 Street and 129 Avenue. He spent 35 years cutting hair at that same venue.

After moving to Edmonton, Peter re-acquainted himself with his Ukrainian heritage by joining a progressive Ukrainian organization — the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians — where he spent an active life to the end of his days. He defended the objects



and aims of the AUUC, which essentially became his own.

He strongly supported the Canadian Peace Congress, whose program included world peace and the eradication of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth and putting an end to man killing man for the profits of the rich.

In the 1960s, Peter accepted the position of Camp Manager of the AUUC Camp Kum-in-Yar at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Loving nature and the outdoor camp life, he continued in this position for 35 years, refusing to accept any remuneration for his work.

His was a labour of love,

planting trees, planting flowers, keeping the premises clean, organizing voluntary work crews from Edmonton to help with necessary duties and maintenance, and building more facilities when necessary.

Peter found time to visit Ukraine, the land of his parents' birth, and became acquainted with life in Cuba.

Peter never wavered in his political belief that mankind, the workers and farmers, would be better served by a democratic socialist system. He was cognizant long ago that it was the workers and farmers who were the real cogs that made the wheels of progress run. Not the banks. Not the corporations.

His final service to mankind was the donation of his body to the university.

The memorial service celebrating Peter's life was held in the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton. The eulogy was done by Paul Greene.

A quartet comprised of Victor Horon, Bill Uhryn, Mike Uhryn and Paul Greene sang the songs "In Memory of a Comrade, and "Oy u poli mohyla", accompanied on the piano by Blyth Nuttall

— Pavlo Zeleny

## Crises

(Continued from Page 4.) will be a price. The budget will have to try to cope with the economic crisis in ways which are anathema to the Conservatives. These efforts will fail, until and unless the global economy (and particularly in the United States) picks up, and the Conservatives will be saddled with the responsibility both for the failure and for abandoning their principles.

The Liberals can be expected to exploit the Conservative failures. The longer this continues, the relatively weaker the Conservative position can be expected to become, and the relatively stronger the Liberals will appear.

The best situation for the Conservatives would be a quick defeat in Parliament and an early election, but that will be difficult to engineer, even with a seven-week manoeuvring period between December 8, 2008, and January 26,

2009. In that time, of course, the Conservatives will do everything they can to gain any possible advantage, such as filling empty Senate seats with their most partisan supporters.

However, the Conservatives do have to exercise some restraint and act in ways that seem reasonable. They can not afford another political miscalculation like the one that lead to the formation of an anti-Conservative coalition and then the prorogation of Parliament.

Unless they are considering not recalling Parliament at all, which at the moment seems very unlikely, the Conservatives will find themselves back in the House of Commons where they do not have a majority (whatever strange arithmetic their supporters may dream up). In the House, they will be in danger of defeat. If Stephen Harper is half as smart as people believe, in early December he must have learned that the Conservatives are not invulnerable.

While the Liberal-NDP coalition appears to be dead,

Harper has to be careful not to bring it back to life.

We do not know what the consequences might be of the resurrection of the coalition. It is possible that a failure by Harper to keep the opposition divided would lead to an election. It is also possible that the Governor-General might turn to the opposition parties to form a government.

Could it be that part of the two-hour discussion on December 4 between the Prime Minister and the Governor-General included an indication that, should the government be defeated in the house, a coalition (if one existed or could be formed) would be given an opportunity to govern, that an election would not be automatic? Of course that could be.

The fact is that we do not know what, if any, conditions were part of the agreement to allow Parliament to be prorogued. We do not know whether the Prime Minister is obliged to recall Parliament by a certain time, or whether he has some discretion — and we do not know whether Harper, to avoid defeat, would ignore any restrictions, though we do know that he is not above creative interpretation (let us say) to circumvent even his own rules and laws (like fixed election dates). Because of that, we do not know just how much of a political crisis there really is, and what the precise nature of the crisis might be. We do know, however, that there is a crisis.

— Wilfred Szczesny



## 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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## Taras Shevchenko Museum

### House Museum's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

(The article printed below slightly abridged, first appeared in the fall, 2008, (No. 115) issue of the magazine Forum.)

On a bright sunny day in the Ukrainian capital Kiev (Kyiv) in August, 2008, I caught the subway (Metro) at the Palace Ukraine station, paid a fare of about 25 cents, and made my way to Independence Square (Maidan Nezalezhnosti).

Because you can't walk across Khreshchatyk Street, I went via the underpass to the post office (Poshtamt) and walked north, past all the sales tables of Ukrainian books and souvenirs, towards McDonald's.

If you look on the left side of McDonald's, there is an ornate sign: To the T.H. Shevchenko Building Museum. The street is named Prov. Shevchenka, and 8A is the number of the house where the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko lived in 1846 to 1847.

The Shevchenko House Museum is a beautiful cultural island with a pleasant, peaceful garden. It is an excellent place to escape the heavy traffic of a busy capital city.

Although the green garden-park is a very relaxing place, it is the house that is most extraordinary.

I had visited the museum many times before, so I asked

whether I could see the Director of the museum, Olha (Shevchenko) Rudenko. I was told she had retired, and was introduced to the new young Director, Olena Hryhoriivna Somko. She gave me a warm welcome, and then she took me on an excellent guided tour of the Shevchenko House Museum.

The house was built in 1835 for a government official, Ivan Zhytnytsky. In 1846, Taras Shevchenko moved into the house, which was located on Goat Swamp Street. Here he lived a year, writing poetry, painting, and working on the Kyiv Archeaographic Commission.

Two friends of Shevchenko, artist M. Sazhin and writer O. Afanasiev-Chuzhbinsky, also lived in the house, and wrote about the life of the poet here. Shevchenko was to lecture on art at Kyiv University when he was arrested for his anti-tsarist poetry and membership in a secret society.

Shevchenko was living here when the Russian police arrested him on April 5, 1847, and the Tsar of Russia personally wrote on his exile sentence to Siberia that he was "forbidden to write poetry or paint."

Shevchenko ignored both prohibitions. In exile as a soldier for 10 years, he wrote poems secretly in a book hidden in his boots and, because of his artistic talent, was able to get appointed to paint.

When Shevchenko died on March 10, 1861, the house took on a special meaning for the people of the Ukrainian city, and was protected from destruction.

In 1918, when a city commission made a register of all cultural buildings and historical monuments, the Shevchenko house was included. Professor Vasyl Krychevsky of the Kyiv Art Institute took an interest in the house, and proposed that it be made into a museum.

In 1925 began the renovation of the house, which was mainly under the direction of Volodymyr Miyakovsky.

On November 10, 1928, the Shevchenko House Museum was formally opened.

The building survived the German occupation of World War II, and its valuable artifacts were saved because they had been shipped east to Novosibirsk in 1941. They

were returned in 1944 to allow the museum to open its doors again. However, new renovations were needed to restore its condition for visitors.

On August 4, 1980, the city officially and formally designated it as a State Monument of History and Culture.

In 1995, the museum, now in independent Ukraine, was organized into two areas: literary and art. The exhibits include his 1840 book of poetry *Kobzar*, his autographs, his paint brushes, his pipe and personal things. His light summer suit, which he wore in the summer of 1859 in Kyiv, and in which he had his photo portrait, is also on exhibit.

— Andrew Gregorovich

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*To all members of the AUUC, cultural forces and friends across Canada, we wish that all the joys of the Holiday Season surround you and yours with the promise of peace for 2009.*  
Pauline Warick and family

**WARMEST HOLIDAY GREETINGS**  
TO ALL  
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We send our best wishes, and hopes for  
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wish to convey  
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to all friends of the AUUC Seniors.

May 2009 see a world of Peace!

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FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY 2009!**  
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