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## Mothers'/Fathers' Day: Toronto AUUC



The Beryozka Choir of the Federation of Russian Canadians, conducted by Natalka Mochoruk and accompanied by Vasha Julea on the accordion, appeared at the AUUC Cultural Centre on June 6 for the celebration of Mothers'/Fathers' Day by the AUUC Toronto Branch. A report by Bernardine Dobrowolsky and photographs by Jerry Dobrowolsky can be found on Page 8.

## Wishing All a Safe Summer Of Fun!

Summer is here, and people (including the editorial staff of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*) are taking their holidays. We hope that your vacation time meets all your expectations, that you get to do most of the fun things you are contemplating, and that you emerge at the start of September with renewed energy.

The summer time will be much happier for everyone if we all stay safe and healthy. Some of the hazards of this season are unique (sunburns, water accidents); others are shared with all seasons (traffic accidents, injuries at home). Keep an eye out for them all.

Please exercise restraint and common sense while enjoying the freedom of the holiday, so that we can get together in autumn for a new season of shared community activity.

## NC AUUC to Meet

The National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians is scheduled to meet in Winnipeg on July 10-12, 2010, for its final meeting before the 44th AUUC National Convention in October of this year.

The National Committee is expected to explore some of the fundamental issues facing the AUUC which will be on the table at the Convention.

One such issue is the structure of the AUUC. A resolution submitted by the Calgary Branch is one indication of a possible direction of change. The basic question, with a range of possible answers, is the degree to which the AUUC will continue as a centralized organization. The final answer will probably lie somewhere between an even more pronounced centralization and decentralization with no more than nominal central structures.

The very nature of the AUUC will be under consideration, with options ranging from the "cultural YMCA" (a service organization offering cultural activity) to a return to the social activism of earlier years (with a cultural component).

In part, the positions projected by the National Committee will reflect the degree of confidence felt by members of the committee about the possibility of building membership by changes in programming and organizational image.

In part, too, the positions projected by the NC as the Convention approaches will reflect the confidence of NC members in the possibility of resolving the organization's immediate financial needs, to reach an apparently rosier future. The combination of ex-

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## Defending the Public

In mid-June, a number of issues involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have had a high profile. The result is to leave us with concerns about public safety provided by the RCMP. We truly need an answer to the question: Who will defend us from our defenders?

One of the issues was the death of Robert Dziekanski, a Polish traveller coming to visit his mother, at the airport in Vancouver, Tasered to death by RCMP officers whose actions were "shameful".

Retired justice Thomas Braidwood found that the RCMP not only attacked Mr. Dziekanski in an "inappropriately aggressive manner", but also tried to justify their actions by misleading his com-

mission of inquiry with "patently unbelievable" testimony.

Today, many people are concerned about the threat posed by terrorists, but far more frightening is the activity of out-of-control RCMP and other police officers. Police officers are far more prevalent than terrorists, and the malevolence of those who are prone to bullying and other controlling behaviour, coupled with the general reluctance of the courts and others to discount their self-justifying lies, puts us all at risk.

In fact, even in the death of Robert Dziekanski, with video evidence and all, following an RCMP investigation in December, 2008, BC's criminal justice branch decided that there was not enough evidence to warrant prosecution.

Now, it appears, that decision will be reviewed by a special prosecutor.

Various rare circumstances combined to take the investigation, through a special inquiry, to its present stage. If there had not been a well-publicized video of the incident, and if Polish authorities had not been actively interested (from which the Canadian government could learn), how easily that whole matter could have been deemed completed.

The case of Maher Arar has also been back in the news, with a revelation that Mr. Arar has been working with the RCMP to investigate foreign involvement with his detention and torture in Syria. Canadian authorities eventually apologized to Mr. Arar, and paid him over \$10 million in damages. How many peo-

ple are aware, as *The Globe and Mail* repeated in an editorial on June 15, that Giuliano Zaccardelli, then Commissioner of the RCMP, knew that the force was making mistakes concerning Mr. Arar, but did not inform the office of the solicitor-general?

The attitude seems to have been, when it came to matters of security, "As long as we're safe, nobody will worry." When Syria finally decided that Maher Arar was not a terrorist, that little bubble broke. The danger we all face under current security legislation was revealed.

Combined with the release of the inquiry by retired Supreme Court John Major into the Air India bombing 25 years ago, the image is projected of the RCMP as an (let us say) "unable" police and anti-terrorism force. Unable because the anti-terrorism laws, since December, 2001, allow and enable the RCMP to "break the law in limited circumstances", while nothing adequately ensures that the force "respects civil liberties as it fights terrorism".

The government has indicated the establishment of a new body to oversee the RCMP. This arises from the Arar inquiry, four years after such oversight was recommended. The parliamentary opposition has criticized the proposed new body as mere window-dressing, without significant added power.

The Major inquiry now raises the need for broader oversight, covering the activity of over 20 agencies involved in security investigations.

Twenty agencies plus police forces — really scary.

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# Current Eclectic — Long and Short

## Banks Minting Money?

According to Madhavi Acharya-Tom Yew, writing in the Toronto Star on March 10, "Canada's Big Five banks are minting money again...."

Understanding that the writer was merely stressing how quickly, and apparently easily, the banks were raking it in, nevertheless I do want to protest. The banks are getting rich not by creating money, but by picking our pockets — yours and mine.

How bad is it?

In the first quarter of this year, the five big banks earned a total of \$5.09 billion! That is 71% more than they earned in the same quarter in 2009.

These are the same banks which, not many years ago, were earning less than \$5 billion a year! In relatively good economic circumstances. Now, with an economy barely staggering out of a severe recession, they are raking it in more than four times as fast.

Where is it coming from?

The bankers would have us

believe that their spectacular returns are due to increased economic activity, and reduced provisions for bad debt. However, Scotiabank did report that well over half of its profit came from Canadian mortgages, lines of credit and personal deposits. Profit in this area grew by 28%; and this is mostly consumer activity — the banking you and I do.

Were we doing that much more banking? Not really. Was it costing us more? Yes.

During this economic crisis, one bank I use helped its bottom line (and hurt ours) by adding a new *monthly* fee called record keeping — \$24.00 annually out of my account, not related to account activity. It also increased its monthly service charge on my account by almost 100% to \$3.95 — another arbitrary withdrawal of an additional \$1.95 from my account, unrelated to account activity, which has not changed. That's an additional totally arbitrary

\$23.40 out of my account every year.

When I went to that bank to withdraw some money from a special account, the bank employee encouraged me to do a line of credit instead. After we did the math together, he agreed that my request was the better way. So much for all the professed concern about the high levels of consumer debt Canadians have assumed.

Go somewhere else, you say?

I also do business at another bank. For years preceding the economic downturn

I've had the benefit of that bank's very senior-friendly fee policy. However, the one fee I was paying increased in the last couple of years by 100% to \$2.00 monthly. A dollar a month; not a big deal. Except that it's \$12.00 annually taken out of my pocket for no other reason than to add to the \$1.3 billion profit that bank made in the first quarter of 2010.

Only(?) \$12.00 a year from my account — multiplied by how many accounts? Oh, and what has been happening with the fees non-seniors pay?

So the banks did very well,

by picking our pockets. Most of them did better than expected (The exception was Royal Bank of Canada, reportedly "a few cents shy of analysts' estimates".)

Scotiabank has done so well that its stock started March at about twice the price of its value a year earlier.

Aren't you glad that they "continue to carefully manage our businesses in order to achieve solid earnings and maintain a strong return on equity"? In 2009, return on equity was reported at "an industry leading" 16.7%. In the last five years dividends have grown by 78%, compared to 16% over the last 10 years. (These figures are from the Scotiabank's 2009 annual report.)

## Austerity Time

The bankers, and financiers as a group, who are doing so well, have decided that it is time to stop all that stimulus spending (read: paying corporations to carry on business) even though the global economy is still operating well below capacity (that is, with high levels of unemployment) and

return to reducing deficits (read: reduce spending on social programs, while reducing business taxes) and paying down debt (read: give the taxes paid by working people to the financiers and financial institutions who hold huge fortunes in government bonds and other public debt).

You will, no doubt, have noticed that, whether its stimulus spending or deficit fighting, you and I get to do the paying, while one group of corporations or another gets to count the income.

Over the last five years, you may also have noticed that, good times or bad, money makes money.

That makes the article "That '30s Feeling" by Paul Krugman in the June 17 issue of *The New York Times* almost pathetic in its apparent naivete.

Paul Krugman, Nobel Prize winning economist of a liberal tradition, expresses a failure to understand why, "Suddenly, creating jobs is out, inflicting pain is in." He and many other economists, he writes, believe that the turn to austerity is premature while the global economy is operating so far below capacity and joblessness is still so high.

He also seems surprised that many economists are advocating such a shift without being able to justify it by economic calculations.

Mr. Krugman detects several motives for the pro-austerity stance. One is the appeal to "how the markets will react". Another is what he calls hypocrisy — opposition to spending to help the poor, but support for tax breaks for the wealthy. The last is moral posturing, with politicians seeking to appear strong and virtuous by combating the evil of deficits.

Perhaps we should not be surprised that Paul Krugman thinks that posturing by politicians has anything to do with

it, but a man of his experience should know that the morality of politicians is exactly what the money-men say it should be.

In Ontario, the best example of that in recent history was the politics of the Bob Rae NDP government. After that government made a few noises opposing the corporate agenda, the federal government threatened to cut off federal transfers, corporations in Ontario threatened to move out of the province, and international finance threatened to raise the cost of borrowing. Suddenly we had Rae Days and a range of other measures complying with the deficit reduction demands of big business.

The argument about how the markets will react is really an argument about how the corporations, and particularly financial institutions, will react. This is where we can see that Krugman's "hypocrites" are, in fact, the most sincere politicians, honestly serving their masters (and in many instances, blind trusts notwithstanding, themselves).

The show of strength which Mr. Krugman detects among German politicians "determined to prove their strength by imposing suffering" is indeed a show of strength. Not, however, the strength of the politicians, but the strength of the corporate sector compared to the strength of working people, and the strength of the financiers compared to the industrialists

True, those two parts of the capitalist class have many shared interests, such as their interest in keeping the cost of labour low (meaning driving down wages and fringe benefits while reducing the social welfare net). Also true, in large measure those two sections of the capitalist class are tightly interwoven.

However, making things and providing the money are distinct functions which are often in conflict. Thus, the apparently illogical happens.

## TFSA Difficulties

No one was talking about "complex rules" governing tax-free savings accounts when the big marketing push was on. Then, it was about the great opportunities to save provided by this radical innovation in tax sheltered investment vehicles.

The big advantage was the possibility to deposit up to \$5000.00 into a TFSA, and pay no tax on the earnings. Not only that but — and this was the big advantage over registered retirement savings plans — the money could be withdrawn at any time without penalty or taxes. Just imagine — an opportunity to save on taxes while enjoying the flexibility of an ordinary savings account.

As reported in the last issue of the "UCH", many financial institutions were disappointed with the participation rate generated by all the hoopla, and particularly by the drop in the rate at which new accounts were created after the first six months of 2009. For some reason, interest in this wonderful opportunity dropped as soon as efforts to sell it dropped.

The response by the financial institutions was to conduct a survey. The survey showed that 60% of people without a TFSA claimed not to have money to put into savings. 40% said that they did not know enough about tax-free savings accounts.

The wisdom of not investing in things you don't understand has often been shown in history. Now the TFSA can be added to the list.

Apparently, many people have been hit with a financial penalty because they did not fully understand the rules.

In her column in the *Toronto Star* on June 16, Ellen Roseman tells of some of the ways people have incurred penalties for over-depositing.

One woman moved \$21,000 from her chequing account into her TFSA, expecting to get a tax-break on earnings on the first \$5000. She ended up with a tax bill of \$1240 for her 2009 over-contribution.

Another person closed a \$5000 TFSA at one bank, depositing the money in a new TFSA in another bank. The result? A penalty for over-contributing.

Other people have run into penalties for transferring their accounts between TD Waterhouse and TD National Trust, which might be considered internal transfers within the same bank.

If you place \$5000 into a TFSA, take out \$1000 for some reason, and then replace it to bring your account back to \$5000, the government will count that as deposits of \$6000 (\$5000+\$1000) and penalize you at a rate of 1% monthly.

If you tried any of the "tests" in the media to deter-

mine how much you knew about TFSAs, you may have got the idea that they were not really all that simple. Nobody was talking about the complexities, nor stressing the "rules associated with transferring funds". Though the information was all available on a government web site, it is hardly shocking that most people did not read the law. Nor would it be shocking that many of those who did try to read it did not understand it.

It is not surprising, therefore, that many people who opened the aggressively promoted TFSA did not know exactly what they were signing.

Unfortunate as it may be, many people trust their government and their bank. They expected the TFSA to be safe and easy, just as the advertising said they were. They also expected their banks to help them stay within the rules. Surprise!

Some of the government advertising may have been deliberately misleading, as part of an effort to sell the benefits of this "Effective Vehicle for Your Lifetime Savings Needs", as one document said. That same document says that a withdrawal of \$20,000 can be re-contributed "in the future" without affecting other available contribution room. Even with the change to "in future years" in another example given in the document, even a lawyer might have to wait for case law and other rulings to interpret this confidently.

— Carl Honor

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Hit 'Em Again!**

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Conservatives (or at least a certain brand of Conservative), it seems, like nothing better than to punish people, and then to punish them some more, and then to get in one more kick. And while you're at it, punish their spouses and children. Have a go at their friends and neighbours, too, if you have a chance.

Not long ago, it was bringing in tougher minimum sentences and parole laws to keep prisoners longer. There was also the move to close some jails and move the prisoners to larger institutions, farther from their communities, making visits by family or friends more difficult.

Then it was the bill to stop Old Age Security payments to prisoners. *The Globe and Mail*, on June 7, reported that federal prisons had a whopping 351 senior inmates, some of whom had dependants, and most of whom would eventually be released. The editorial in *The Globe and Mail*, a Conservative leaning paper, concluded, "Being tough on crime should not mean cruelly impoverishing elderly ex-cons, who have paid their debt to society, and their dependants."

In Ontario, Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak launched a campaign against sending convicted criminals serving less than 90 days the Harmonized Sales Tax rebate cheques. According to Mr. Hudak, criminals should not get the HST rebate cheques whether they're serving 90 days or 90 years.

The federal government, which is writing the cheques, declined to set up an entire new system to keep one relatively small cheque out of the hands of about 1000 people, many of them the spouse, not the criminal.

In his column in the *Toronto Star* on June 18, Jim Coyle takes issue with the mindlessness of Tim Hudak's one-size-fits-all, damn-the-dependants approach and the holier-than-thou view which forgets that any one of us could easily end up on the wrong side of a jail sentence.

The fact is that people get the headlines about payments to criminals and react just as the Conservatives want. If those people were given more information, and gave it more thought, they would probably see how ridiculous, and even counterproductive, much of the "tough on crime" stuff really is.

However, television news is mostly entertainment in another guise, with no time for depth, and the commercial print media, aside from an occasional editorial and an occasional column, seem to have little interest in providing food for thought.

**COMMENTARY****Uniting the Left?**

There has been some interesting discussion of late on the general topic of uniting Canada's political parties. It is unlikely, however, to go beyond talk.

The main proposals have been to "unite the left" by merging the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party. The proposal seems to be based mostly on the supposed success of the Conservative Party after the merger of the Progressive Conservatives with the Canadian Alliance, itself a development from the Reform Party.

Receiving less attention are proposals that a merger of the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party makes more sense, because of the similarities in the policies and the philosophies of those two parties, than the combination of the Liberals and NDP.

Neither of those mergers is likely to happen.

It is interesting to note that members of the Conservative Party seem to be the main proponents of a Liberal-NDP merger. At the same time, even before the possibility of such a move has been studied, Conservatives are bad-mouthing any party formed by such a unification.

The only apparent logical conclusion is that the Conservative Party believes that such a merger would benefit the Conservatives, rather than making their position more difficult. Furthermore, it is probable that the Conservative Party is engaging in mischief, keeping that merger pot boiling to divert attention from its own activities. In addition the Conservatives are using the discussion to keep afloat questions about the Liberal Party, similar questions to those

raised when the possibility of a three-Party coalition was mooted, leading to prorogation of Parliament in December, 2008.

It can not be ruled out that the NDP could be wooed into a merger with the Liberals. The NDP has, over recent years, become increasingly removed from its role as the political, social-democratic arm of Canada's labour movement. It has become increasingly interested in electoral success, and less interested in projecting an alternative view of Canadian society.

It is no accident that the NDP has never shown any interest in joining forces to its own left, and has a history of eliminating any left formations within the party.

The Liberal Party, however, is unlikely to be interested in merging with the NDP. The Liberals would have a legitimate concern that such a merger would result in a loss of many of its right-wing members to the Conservatives. That would strengthen the Conservatives, without breathing new life into the Liberals.

A Liberal-NDP merger, in addition, would probably require at least some shift of Liberal policies to the left. The NDP could not get agreement in its own ranks for a merger without at least the appearance of some Liberal shift to the left. Even if such policy changes were minimal, the Liberal Party would be the target of even harsher attacks from the Conservatives with charges of "socialist".

The Liberal Party, at this time, is not trying to distinguish itself from the Conservative Party. On the contrary, it is attempting to out-Conserva-

tive the Conservative Party. The hope is to draw away some Conservative voters by adopting very similar policies while projecting greater competence. (Admittedly, efforts in that direction have not had much success so far.)

Some commentators have noted the similarity of Liberal and Conservative politics, and have suggested that those two parties should be the ones to merge. There are excellent reasons why such a merger will not happen, but "They hate each other too much," is not among them.

The main reason is that the corporate interests of Canada need two political parties to represent them. This is to provide the illusion of difference and choice to the electorate. If there were only one party of big business, then the electorate would have to look elsewhere for choice (its democratic right). The only option would be the NDP, which does not now have enough corporate support to make such a situation acceptable. Hence the need for the Liberals and the Conservatives both to continue.

While it is still true that the two parties represent different sections of business, global integration has reduced the sharpness of the conflict between the two sections. More precisely, the interests of the two groups of the corporate elite have been brought closer together by the growth of shared investments.

As shown by the Liberal Party support for the Conservative Party in Parliament at all crucial points since Michael Ignatieff became Liberal leader, the economic elite in Canada is quite satisfied to cooperate at this time.

There is one interesting, if minor (at least at this time), fly in this ointment. Many of Mr. Harper's former friends and associates are disappointed that his government is not sufficiently energetically pursuing the ideological positions of the former Reform Party and the Canadian Alliance. An uprising is brewing in the western provinces, of the sort suggested by Michael Taube in the *Toronto Star* on April 23. Mr. Taube is identified as a former speech writer for Prime Minister Harper.

In the article "A Party Too Good To Be True", Mr. Taube accuses the Conservatives, in recent years, of increasing "the size, scope and influence of government", creating an opportunity for the creation of a Free Market party.

Such a party would strongly support a free market economy, strongly support smaller government with a greater role for the private sector, sharply lower personal and corporate taxes (for high income people), liberalize trade, and increase "personal freedom". Sound familiar?

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## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

### Hiroshima Peace Stone

A Japanese civic group presented Ukraine with a stone hit by an American atomic bomb in 1945.

The Hiroshima-based group engraved the stone with an image of a Buddhist goddess of mercy.

A ceremony marking the donation of the "Stone for Peace", one of the paving stones for Hiroshima streetcar tracks that were just 200 metres away from the point of impact of the bomb, was held at the Memorial Complex housing a national museum of history in Kyiv. Amongst the attendees were Mykhailo Kulynyak, Minister of Culture, and Hiroki Matsuo, Counselor at the Japanese Embassy.

Addressing the ceremony, museum curator Ivan Kovalchuk said, "This stone will tell visitors how much trust, clemency and mutual respect are necessary to maintain peace in this world of unceasing calamities."

The granite stone — some 50 centimetres square and weighing about 50 kilograms — was one of some 200 stones donated by Hiroshima Electric Railway Co.

More than 100 nations have received the stones since the donation campaign started in 1991.

### Jew Murdered

The following is a copy of a report posted on a web site called IndyPosted.

"Aryeh Leib Mizenson, 25, a yeshiva student in Kyiv's Chabad yeshiva went missing on April 20, which as Hitler's birthday is celebrated by neo-Nazis worldwide.

"Kyiv police reported finding his dismembered body last night in a Kyiv neighbourhood. It had been cut into 10 pieces. Authorities want to hold the body for further investigation.

"The Jewish community in Kyiv is calling for Mizenson's body to be released for burial.

"A member of a local Nazi gang is being held for questioning by police.

"Last night, the rabbi of the young man's yeshiva, Rabbi Yakov Zilberman was called in to identify the body. He described what he saw to Chabad.info as 'a horrific scene'.

"The Chief Rabbi of Ukraine, Rabbi Moshe Reuven Asman, has cut short a visit to Israel to attend the funeral of the slain yeshiva student.

"A sad fact of life in post-communist Ukraine is the rise of organized crime, and of organized neo-Nazi groups who are all too happy to recreate the murderous anti-Semitism of the years Ukraine spent

under Nazi rule.

"Democracy and religious freedom have thrived in post-communist Ukrainian life. The very existence of a yeshiva is testimony to the political and social miracle in the country.

"But Ukrainians are left to sort out the revisions of their history, which in some cases involves the whitewashing of notorious Jew-haters such as Stepan Bandera, who though he was a Ukrainian nationalist also collaborated with Nazi Germany. . . .

"It is against this turbulent backdrop that Ukraine and its Jews struggle to come to a balance between freedom and murderous anarchy."

### Soccer First, Women Second

According to a recent poll, soccer remains the main topic of men's conversations all across the globe. In the survey, 90% of respondents admitted that they focus on "football", while only 45% said that they prefer to talk about women (no explanation is given why the total is 135%).

These results are certainly good news to the Ukrainian government, which is finally making headway in its struggle to get ready to co-host Euro 2012 (the European Soccer Championships).

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has stated that its most recent evaluation of Ukraine's preparedness has shown that stripping Ukraine of the championship need no longer be considered.

Ukraine was originally awarded the right to stage matches in four cities (Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Lviv) but acute concerns about the slow pace of construction in the latter two cities saw UEFA explore the possibility of moving matches from Ukraine to Hungary, Germany, and even co-host Poland.

Poland's matches will be held in Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, and Wroclaw.

Euro 2012 is scheduled for June 8 through July 1, 2012, and will involve 31 matches between 16 teams.

### Sobering-Up Stations

The Interior Minister wants to return sobering-up stations to Ukraine.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Anatoliy Mohyliov has called for the resumption of the work of sobering-up stations. The minister said that the sobering-up stations had a disciplinary effect in the Soviet era.

Today, such institutions have been liquidated because placement of people in them restricts their rights and freedoms. On the other hand, Mohyliov stated, a person in a state of alcoholic intoxication in the street can harm himself.

"Therefore, to some extent a sobering-up station is one of the establishments that will help resolve our problem," he said, adding that, "the resumption of the work of sobering-up stations requires the adoption of a decision at a legislative level."

### Priest Beaten

Hieromonk Mikhail (Savin), an orthodox priest of a local diocese in the city of Zaporizhya in Ukraine, was beaten recently.

The incident took place in the evening at a bus stop.

Three unidentified men came up to Fr. Mikhail, dressed in a cassock, and started insulting him and demanding that he take off his cross. The priest did not react to the insults. The hooligans then started beating the priest while continuing to insult him.

About 20–25 people standing in the queue at the bus stop stood by indifferently and watched.

Fr. Mikhail is in satisfactory condition. According to him, he has forgiven his offenders and is praying for them.

### No to NATO

Ukraine's parliament (Verkhovna rada) gave its approval recently to a bill which declared Ukraine a non-aligned military power, formally killing-off its NATO membership bid.

The vote was a victory for Viktor Yanukovich, the country's president, who swept to power in February promising to reverse many of the "achievements" of the 2004 pro-American Orange Revolution.

Opinion polls during the past 7-8 years have consistently shown that a strong majority of the people of Ukraine are against membership in the NATO military alliance.

According to Yanukovich, however, membership in the European Union (which is not a military alliance) is still a priority.

### Chess Champion

Ukrainian Grand Master Martyn Kravtsiv edged out four other World Grand Masters recently to win the 2nd SCS International Open GM Tournament.

Held in India, the SCS

Tournament is the largest annual chess competition in Asia.

Kravtsiv and the four other GM's were tied for the top spot with 8.5 points each after the 11th (and final) round of the tournament. But the title went to Kravtsiv, as his Buchholz tie-break score (76.5) was better than those of the other four

(The Buchholz system is a ranking system in chess developed by Bruno Buchholz in 1932 in order to determine ranks in a tournament where players have the same score. It sums up the score of the player's *opponents* and thus favours those who have confronted better opponents).

Belarussian GM Aleksej Aleksandrov finished runner-up with a tie-break score of 76. The other 3 GM's, tied at 8.5 points, were Alexey Dreev of Russia, B. Adhban of India, and Maxim Turov of Russia.

### America's Tallest Man

They grow them tall in Ukraine. Igor Vovkovinskiy was born in Ukraine. At age 7, he and his mother moved to the United States.

Igor had a pituitary disease which made him grow taller than he should have been. That growth didn't stop.

At age 27, Igor is now 7 feet, 8.8 inches tall and gaining fame because of it. According to the Guinness World Record Association, he is the tallest man in the United States.

In case you are wondering, Igor has cathedral ceilings in his home and he sleeps in a 9 foot long bed!

Igor had surgery as a child to remove the gland that was causing his abnormal growth. It is quite obvious that the surgery failed.

But he is making the most of it. At least he has no problem getting things off those top shelves that most of us can't reach.

### Saint Cyril the Philosopher

For the first time in history, priests from Ukraine, Russia, and Bulgaria have, together, honoured the author of the Slavic alphabet, Saint Cyril, at his resting place in Rome, Italy.

Representatives of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church traditionally honour Saint Cyril with a service in Rome every year on May 24, the Day of Slavic Script.

The 2010 memorial was attended by a Bulgarian delegation led by Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, and

was joined for the first time by Ukrainian and Russian priests.

"We have set a nice new tradition. Up until now it was always the Bulgarian priests who served on their own the service in honour of Saint Cyril. It is in this way that the Russians and Ukrainians are recognizing the fact that it is us, the Bulgarians, who are the keepers of the work of the holy brothers, Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius," said Bozhidar Dimitrov, Minister for Bulgarians Abroad.

Russia's Ambassador to the Vatican, Nikolai Sadchikov, was also present at the service.

Borisov made wishes for good health and success to all Slavic peoples.

### Yushchenko Retires

Defeated Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko will retire from active political activity. He will become head of a research institute.

Yushchenko, a co-leader of the Orange Revolution, will also step down from his position as leader of the political party Our Ukraine. Ex-chief spy of Ukraine Valentyn Nalyvajchenko will take over the leadership of the party, but against the wishes of some of the party's key people.

Others within the party hope that the former spy chief will boost Our Ukraine's chances of doing better in the coming local elections.

American "spin doctors" are expected to arrive in Ukraine shortly to polish his image and package him for the Ukrainian market.

### Raw Milk

The following is a letter to the editor of a British Columbia newspaper, *The Victoria Times Colonist*.

"I grew up drinking raw milk in Ukraine that was from cows 100% grass-fed. Raw milk was my staple food as we did not have access to many other foods. Raw milk provided most of the vitamins, minerals and probiotics I needed, including Omega 3 (grass-fed milk contains Omega 3) to help build my strong immune system.

When I moved to Canada, the first thing that surprised me is that Canadian milk did not spoil — it did not act like normal food. Not a good sign. Normally milk is good for one day, before turning sour the next day.

In Ukraine, the milk that we did not consume on that day was left out in a warm place to turn into delicious cottage cheese (can't even compare

(Continued on Page 11.)

**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**



**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**



# Mother's/Father's Day in Toronto

On Sunday, June 6, the Toronto Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians held its annual Mother's/Father's Day celebration with outstanding flair and spirit.

The entertaining afternoon began with words of welcome from the Branch's Vice-Presi-

dent, Jerry Dobrowolsky, who then proceeded to hand over the role of M.C. to the very talented Natalie Mochoruk.

With her usual humorous style, Natalie introduced the Podushka Dancers who, in fine costume and lightness of foot, performed an entertaining Belarussian dance. The

dance was under the direction of Lillian Mitchell and accompanied by accordionist, Vasha Julea.

Lorna Clark then highlighted the theme of the day by reciting a tribute to both mothers and fathers and their significance in our lives.

Natalie explained that the next set of performances by the Beryozka Choir would be in recognition of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII and that the choir members, dressed in period Russian costumes, would be re-enacting the celebration of this end.

Beginning their first song in the outer bar area, the choir formed a procession through the aisle until all gathered at the stage. From there, these village women light-heartedly sang tales about mosquitoes, love and the mother-in-law with great theatre, dance and humour.

Following the choir's departure from the auditorium, Nita Miskevich thanked Natalie for her musical direction, Nadia Gaichuk for her choreographic direction, and Vasha Julea for his versatile accompaniment.

The Podushka Dancers appeared again with a wonderful performance of "Kolomeyka", followed by a beautiful set by soloist Rosemary Pollock.

Under Natalie's direction, the Hahilka Singers sang three animated songs honouring our mothers and grandmothers, including "Kari ochi chorni brovy", a favourite song of Anne Krane, a former Hahilka (and AUUC) member who recently passed away.

As a finale, the two choirs joined their talented forces with an emotional rendition of "Synoviy" (To My Son) and invited audience participation in singing the rousing Russian song "Katyusha" and a hand-clapping, toe-tapping version of "Luche bulo".

The afternoon concluded with light snacks of sweets and coffee and healthy sandwiches with veggies and dip provided by some of the choir members.

As everyone enjoyed the refreshments and catching up

on each other's news, a constant buzz could be heard of praise and congratulations for all of the performers – accolades truly deserved.

It surely was a fine tribute to all mothers, grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers everywhere.

— B. Dobrowolsky

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Soloist Rosemary Pollock, accompanied on the accordion by Vasha Julea, performed a beautiful set. Mr. Julea provided the musical accompaniment for the choirs and the dance group as well.



The Hahilka Singers, conducted by Natalka (Natalie) Mochoruk, performed a set of three numbers, including "Kari ochi chorni brovy" (above) and a "Kolomeyka" (below), with Terry Rivest, Wilfred Szczesny and Lorna Clark.



The Beryozka Choir and the Hahilka Singers, accompanied by Vashya Julea, combined for a three-song finale with enthusiastic audience participation.



The Podushka Dancers appeared with two dances in the program on June 6.



The Beryozka Choir, conducted by Natalka Mochoruk and accompanied on the accordion by Vasha Julea, sang about mosquitoes...



...and love...



Lorna Clark, who sang with both the Beryozka Choir and the Hahilka Singers, presented a tribute to mothers and fathers.



...and mothers-in-law.



— Photo: Kim Boss



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC ended its season in May, with the Festival of Mandolins (shown above) on May 8, followed closely by the Spring Concert on May 16.

## Winnipeg AUUC Ends Its Cultural Season

After a highly successful Festival of Mandolins on May 8, the Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians hardly had time to catch their breath before the Spring Concert on May 16, the wind-up concert for all the performing groups.

Both concerts were publicized by the labour community as part of its month-long Mayworks, a festival of labour in the performing arts.

The Festival of Mandolins is now a venerable part of the cultural year, having been started with folk festival-type mandolin workshops in 1993,

but always with the aim of showcasing the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra. This year's concert had the orchestra out in full force with 30 players.

Their program had a distinctly Russian flavour. They played "Russian Dance", "Evening Bells", "The Pedlars", and a Rimsky-Korsakov set of variations on a Ukrainian theme for oboe.

Five numbers on the program were new to the Winnipeg audience, the scores having been obtained from the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra during the winter.

The highlight of the show was Sherry Bonness's performance on the oboe in the Rimsky-Korsakov piece. This is a seldom heard and quite remarkable composition, orchestrated by Alexander Veprinsky, conductor of the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra. Sherry Bonness's performance required virtuosity and exhibited true intonation and timbre.

The skill of the orchestra's members was also front and centre in "The Pedlars", where Cory Hedin on the accordion showed the audience what he and his instrument can do.

A large woodwind and accordion section along with sensitive percussion work by Shanyce Crighton gave the orchestra a mellow and philharmonic sound.

The material was, broadly speaking, classical and semi-

— Photo: Gordon Gilbey



Zirka dancer Michelle Hladun at the Spring Concert.

classical. But, for novelty and fun, the orchestra also included Annis Kozub's arrangement of "When I First Came to this Land", a French Canadian folk song given an English adaptation by the late Oscar Brand. Brent Stearns did the lyrics on this number, while the orchestral accompaniment sounded, appropriately enough, like a farm horse trotting home to the barn.

AUUC's Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble made their farewell appearance at this concert. The group is disbanding, because their leader, Barrie Webster, is moving to British Columbia.

The group consists of two mandolins, a mandola, and a bowed violoncello. The cello's taking the bass line gives the group its unique sound, quite different from the earlier Winnipeg Mandolin Quintet.

Playing from the main floor, seated in front of the orchestra almost in the middle of the hall, they were able to utilize the natural acoustics of the building.

Praetorius does its best work on early modern polyphonic music, though they have also ventured into French and English music of the Romantic period. They have used mostly their own arrangements, many of which were done by Ian Walker. At

(Continued on Page 11.)

— Photo: Kim Boss



Sherry Bonness excelled in her oboe solo in Rimsky-Korsakov variations on a Ukrainian theme.

— Photo: Kim Boss



The Zaychyky Dancers, instructed by Kirsten Schubert with assistant Ataya Enns, won the gold medal at Tuelon Ukrainian Dance Festival.

— Photo: Kim Boss



The Zirka Dancers, instructed by Kim Boss and assistant Elise Pierre, won the silver medal at Teulon.

— Photo: Kim Boss



Iskry Dancers, instructed by Mykola Hedrich and assistant Deana Mailman, were silver medal winners.

— Photo: Kim Boss



Veselka Dancers, instructed by Justin McGillivray and Marris Boss, won silver.

— Photo: Gordon Gilbey



Zaychyky dancer Brody McQueen at the Spring Concert.

— Photo: Gordon Gilbey



Zaychyky dancer Spencer Bater at the Spring Concert.



**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**



## Seniors Targeted in Alberta

The Edmonton AUUC seniors met in May for their monthly social to honour our birthday celebrants. Tribute was given to Pauline and Maurice Warick.

Our program coordinator Eva Doskoch arranged for Noel Somerville to be our guest speaker for this occasion. Mr. Somerville for the past six years has served on the Board of Public Interest Alberta, a non-partisan organization that advocates for public services, public institutions and public spaces.

Since joining the Public Interest Alberta Board, he has

chaired its Seniors' Task Force. In addition he has been an active member of SALT, the Seniors' Action and Liaison Team, an Edmonton Seniors' group, focused on social justice.

Mr. Somerville's address supported his thesis that seniors are being targeted for health care cuts in Alberta. This was buttressed by three arguments.

First, the pharmaceutical strategy in December, 2008, would have wiped out the universal seniors' drug benefit. This would have put the heaviest burden on the sickest sen-

iors. There was so much opposition that it was abandoned.

In March, 2009, came a second version that would also have wiped out the universal seniors' drug plan, added a means test, provided free or low cost prescription drugs for very low-income seniors, with medium-income seniors paying 50%, 75% or 100% of the costs of their medications. Differences in income should be reflected in the income tax

system, not the health care system. A decision to delay implementation was made in April, 2010.

Second was the continuing care strategy. A freeze was placed by the Alberta government on the number of long-term-care beds in the province at 14,500.

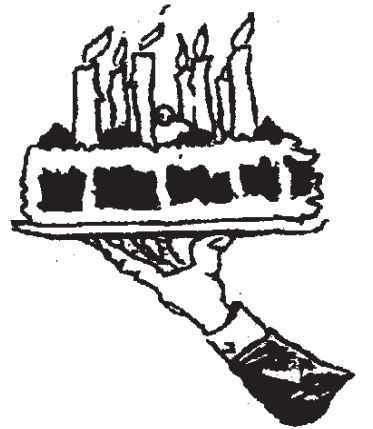
The purpose was to privatize the development of such facilities into the future. At that time, December, 2008, there were 1,500 seniors who had been medically assessed as urgently requiring long

Term Care. Half of those were in acute-care hospital beds at that time.

Third, the latest effort is the new Alberta Health Act of January, 2010. It proposes a set of general principles and

(Continued on Page 16.)

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



The Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of July and August.

Morindie Bagan  
Clara Capowski  
Edna Chmiliar  
Anne Kawchuk  
Amil Tropak  
Mary Tropak  
Marion Ursuliak  
Tekla Yaremchuk

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 July and August celebrants:

Helen Baker  
Vic Mihay  
Terry Oraschuk  
Marg Panasiuk  
Sophie Tkach

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

The Vancouver Seniors Club extends birthday greetings to July and August celebrants:

Mary Blonar  
Mary Brown  
Mary Nehoda  
Dorothy Oreskovich

We wish you the best of health and happiness in the coming year!

The Welland Shevchenko Seniors extend a happy birthday wish to July and August celebrants:

Louise Anger  
Anne Hunka  
Mike Moskal  
Rose Moskalyk  
Rosaline Theoret  
Christine Whatmough

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



Nina Uhryn, Marion Ursuliak, and Sophia Sywolos toasted the May celebrants.



Bill Chomyn and the Edmonton seniors enjoyed a delicious potluck buffet for lunch.

## Winnipeg AUUC

(Continued from Page 9.) the concert they also played a Myron Shatulsky adaptation of *Brightly Shines the Moon*.

The Festival of Mandolins always includes a set by a visiting group. This time it was Rollin Penner and the Travelling Medicine Show. Their appearance on stage was old-timey, and their original music was reminiscent of older country and blues standards. Their most successful material had lyrics which were gently satirical of local and provincial politics.

Rollin Penner is a humorist who several years ago produced a series of home-spun sketches for CBC Radio 1.

The other major May concert was the Spring Concert,

which is, in theory, the culmination of the work of all the performing groups during the season.

In fact, the atmosphere is of a final recital of the classes of the AUUC School of Folk Dance, mainly for family and friends. An important part of the program is the awarding of certificates of participation to all the children.

Another function played by the Spring Concert is to provide a dress rehearsal for Folklorama. The orchestra, whose playing for the children's dances has been popular at Folklorama in recent years, had the opportunity to coordinate their playing with the dance classes. Problems in lighting, sound, and cos-

tumes could be identified and addressed.

An exciting feature of this year's Spring Concert was the sparkle shown by Yunist, the senior dance group, in some of its selections. A year at the dance barre under the direction of Tom Mokry has borne fruit.

Kim Boss, director of the dance school, could take pride in the work of some of her classes when she took them to the annual competitions at Teulon, Manitoba, later in May. The children came home with four medals, one gold and three silver.

The North Star mandolinists, nine in number, try to recreate the sound of the mandolin orchestras of early years. Although they did not play at either of the two major concerts, they were active in May.

They played at the memorial service for Ollie Hillman, a player in some of the mandolin orchestras of the 1920s and '30s. At the service, her family displayed a photograph of one of these orchestras, and emphasized her playing the Gibson mandobass when it was first purchased.

The other appearance for North Star was at an Olga Pawlychyn family wedding. For this event, North Star prepared "Ridna maty moya" (Dearest Mother of Mine), arranged by the group's own David Swatek, and "Mnohaya lita" (Long Life). The group also played a lively Ukrainian dance as the reces-

sional.

The dance school children now have their certificates as their reward.

The Festival Choir and the orchestra each have their annual spring party to celebrate their group accomplishments and look ahead. The choir is anticipating not only Folklorama, but also an appearance at the Cook's Creek Heritage Day late in August. The orchestra, meanwhile, has the national orchestral seminar to look forward to.

Finally, so that their efforts will not be lost, the Praetorius group continued to meet after the concerts to make an archival CD of their music.

— Brent Stearns

## Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5.) the quality of this cheese to the cottage cheese sold in Canadian supermarkets).

Canadian pasteurized milk has a shelf life of three weeks and does not resemble the taste of real milk. It is very sad that this "so-called milk" is what is offered to Canadians and that Canadians have no knowledge how real milk should taste.

It is important to restore this lost tradition of farming real milk. This is our most basic of rights, to be able to access real food and not a modified version of it."

The letter was signed by a Julia Vassilevskaia.



Rollin Penner and the Travelling Medicine Show appeared at the Festival of Mandolins.



## From Our History

### New Bonds of Kinship

On August 2, 1970, the Shevchenko Ensemble of the AUUC boarded an airplane to fly to Ukraine. This was the start of a historic tour: the first large Ukrainian Canadian ensemble to appear in concert in Ukraine, and the largest Canadian performing group to that time to make a concert tour of Ukraine. Coverage of that tour, with several articles and many pictures, appeared in the October, 1970, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*. One of those articles, a report by Mary Skrypnik, Associate Editor of the "UC", is printed below. No photo credits were provided in the magazine.

Thousands of miles of travel by plane, train, bus, car and hydrofoil; children, young people and flowers galore; warm words of welcome on arrival and tears and embraces at parting; packed theatres, glittering footlights and waves of applause; city tours, museums, monuments, pioneer palaces, factories, hydroelectric stations, collective and state farms; meetings with relatives, visits to the native village; banquets, receptions, radio, press and TV interviews; film showings, opera and concerts — such was the kaleidoscope of movement and people, of sight and sound, not to speak of emotion, that made up the 28-day itinerary of Toronto's Shevchenko Ensemble of Music, Song and Dance on their historic concert trip through Ukraine.

The tour moved from beautiful, historic Kiev on the banks of the Dnieper, along the river to Kaniv, the burial place and national shrine of Ukraine's great poet, Taras Shevchenko; by bus across hundreds of miles of rolling

Ukrainian steppelands, fragrant and blooming, to Poltava, Zmiyev and Kharkiv; by plane to ancient Lviv and by bus again across the legendary Carpathians to Uzhorod, then Ternopil and Chernivtsi, then again by train to Kiev to bid farewell and on to Moscow for a final, triumphant concert. A lifetime of memories and impressions were carried by the members of the Ensemble as they boarded the plane to Canada — impressions that will glow and ripen in the retelling as time goes by and memory illuminates all that merited attention, that was of the heart, that added to knowledge and experience.

The original plan for eight concerts stretched to 14. So that with all the additions to the program the schedule was tight indeed. Time also had to be found for rehearsals. In spite of all the difficulties, however, the concert part of the tour was an outstanding success, both in quality and in audience. There was a tremendous demand for tickets and many were disappointed.



Peter Manierka sang the solo in Alexandrov's "Poem about Ukraine" in the final concert in Kiev.



Among the numbers presented by the dance group, directed by Nick Pelowich, was a French Canadian dance.



The Shevchenko Ensemble was in a joyous mood on arrival in Kiev.

Local critics evaluated the performances highly. There was general approval, mixed with valuable criticism, for future consideration and improvement.

The attitude of the critics can be summed up with a quote from a review by Maria Zahaikevich, Master of Arts, in the publication "News From Ukraine", after the first concert in the Kiev Conservatory. I quote:

"This truly was an interesting concert, full of unforgettable impressions; an exciting meeting with a truly native, yet at the same time, distant art.

"The Ensemble's performance was characterized by fresh, bright and optimistic colours. The simplicity easiness and sincerity of artistic expression, which is inherent in the amateur artists, is combined with inner discipline and skill."

Of the dance group, the writer observes:

"It won the hearts of the audience with its youthful forcefulness, temperament, exact interpretation and colourful execution of Ukrainian, Eskimo and Indian folk dances. These dances show rich colour and unique choreographic patterns."

Morris Surdin's "Suite

Canadienne" was highly assessed and aroused great interest. The writer states that "as a composition, this is a very interesting work. Separate parts of the suite are based on a subtle interpretation of images from Eskimo, Indian and French Canadian folklore, and are perceived as a colourful chain of vivid, lyrical and happy scenes from the life of the Canadian people," and "Morris Surdin's music is characterized by a profound penetration into the specific nature of various tunes and in the artistic recreation of their national peculiarities."

The concert tour of the Shevchenko Ensemble was also a tremendous achievement in good will and friendship. It was greeted everywhere as an ambassador of the Canadian people. Very descriptive of this attitude were the final words of Ukrainian composer Kos-Anatolsky when he addressed the Ensemble after the Lviv concert in the Ivan Franko Theatre of Opera and Ballet:

"We are extremely pleased that you have tightly interwoven Ukrainian songs and dances with those of the other people of Canada.... You sang in your finale number "Vive la vive (sic), vive la compagnie". We would like to add to this,

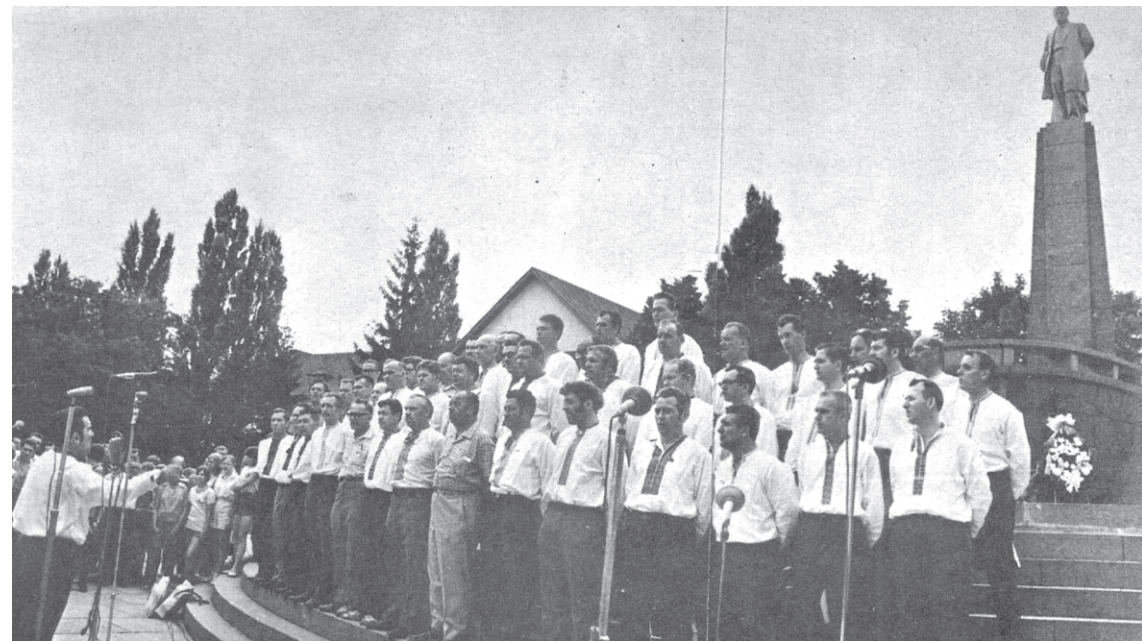
"Vive la fraternite". Long live friendship among the peoples; may there always be peace in the world!"

The farewell reception in Kiev was attended by representatives of the two sponsoring organizations, the Ukraina Society and the Choral-Musical Society, members of the Ukrainian government, local dignitaries, and leading figures in the world of art and music.

The Ensemble was highly honoured by a presentation of honorary membership in the Choral-Musical Society of Ukraine and the Ensemble's artistic director and conductor, Eugene Dolny, was given a lifetime honorary membership with all benefits in the same society.

The tour of Canada's Shevchenko Ensemble to Ukraine was a historic first. It is to be hoped that now that the path for such visits has been broken that it will be the harbinger for further such visits in the years to come, and that the Canadian people will have the opportunity to see and hear the excellent amateur and professional ensembles of Ukraine in an exchange that will be of benefit to both our peoples and countries.

— Mary Skrypnik



Conducted by Eugene Dolny, the Shevchenko Male Chorus sang "My Testament" and "The Mighty Dniepr Roars and Bellows", poetry by Taras Shevchenko, before the monument in Kaniv, Ukraine, where the Bard of Ukraine is buried.



# Victory Day at FRC

In last month's issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, under the same heading, we reported on the Victory Day concert held at the Toronto hall of the Federation of Russian Canadians on May 6. Here, as promised, we present photographs of the event, taken Mike Celik.



The Podushka Dancers were the first to take the stage, with a Russian "Khorovod". The group returned later (below) with a Belarussian dance.



The Beryozka Choir took the stage, singing their way down the aisle of the auditorium, for a colourful and lively performance.



Motion, including dance, was a defining characteristic of the Beryozka Choir presentation.



The Beryozka Choir, as it finished currying the favour, in comic fashion of the "respected" mother-in-law.



Natalia Mochoruk, who also conducted the Beryozka Choir and the Hahilka Singers, read two thematically suitable poems.



In addition to performing with the Beryozka Choir, Rosemary Pollock sang two solo numbers accompanied by Vasha Julea.



Vasha Julea was the hardest working performer, accompanying the Beryozka Choir, the Hahilka Singers, the Podushka Dancers, and soloist Rosemary Pollock.



Lorna Clark found the way to Wilfred Szczesny's heart in the Hahilka Singers' set — show him the money!



Lorna Clark and Vicki Vuksinic, with Vasha Julea and the Beryozka Choir, sing an ode to mosquitoes.



Filling in for Maria Gargal, Natalia Mochoruk delighted the audience as she argued with Wilfred Szczesny in "Oy pidemo zhinko" (Let's Go, Wife) that she was too ill, too weak, and too small to work in the fields — but not to walk a day or two to reach a wedding.



The Hahilka Singers included "Zhartivlyvi kolomeyky" (Humourous Ditties) in their set of five numbers.



Claudia Rabzak (left) and Lorna Clark took the lead in "Oy slaba, ya slaba" (I'm Ill, So Ill).



The Beryozka Choir and the Hahilka Singers joined forces for a finale which featured audience participation.



## LEO TROPAK

On Sunday, June 6, 2010, a memorial service was held honouring Leo Tropak, a long-time AUUC member in Edmonton, who passed away on April 21, 2010.

Leo was born on April 16,

1925, to Ukrainian pioneers Mykhailo and Anna Tropak, in Tofield, Alberta, near where the family lived. The family moved to Kamsack, Saskatchewan, farming there on rented land. After two years, they

returned to Ranfurly, Alberta, continuing their farming life until 1959.

The Tropaks were members of the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association, forerunner of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. They participated in many functions sponsored by the organization. In fact, many activities were held in the Tropak home.

In 1929, brother, Amil was born in Ranfurly. Brother, Vasyl was born in 1933, but passed away at age of 6.

Leo attended school in the Lavoy area of Alberta, but was forced to quit at the age of 15, because his father became very ill and was not able to continue the arduous farm work. Therefore it was left up to Leo to take over the farm work and handle the difficult chores. Mykhailo passed away from his ailment in 1956.

The family stayed on the farm until 1959, when they moved to Edmonton, leaving their land rented out to neighbours.

They transferred their AUUC membership to the Edmonton Branch. Anna joined the Mixed Choir, while the boys joined the Ivan Franko Male Chorus.

Leo first worked in the construction business, for approximately a year, after which he secured a position as parts man with Krysa and Sons Massey Ferguson Co. After working for approximately 13 years, he joined the real estate business with his uncle Mike Yakimetz, brother to Anna Tropak.

Leo participated in many of the progressive ventures of the AUUC, and the Edmonton Peace Council. He continually talked of a better life for all mankind.

Leo is survived by his wife Jen, step-children, step-grandchildren, brother Amil and sister-in-law Mary, and many relatives and friends.

— Paul Greene

## NC AUUC

(Continued from Page 1.)  
traordinary expenditures over the last decade with the global economic downturn has severely cut into AUUC income at the national level.

The AUUC retains assets which will support it in the future, but has to find a way to reach that future.

All those questions, and others, will come into play in discussions such as that on the AUUC publishing program. The proposals of the committee established to study this issue will be important as discussion unfolds, but so will broader philosophical considerations and the confidence of NC members.

— Wilfred Szczesny

## Sustaining Fund Donations

Clara & Alex Babiy, Welland ON .....	\$75.00
Audrey Moysuik, Vancouver BC .....	70.00
William Hrynchak, Toronto ON .....	50.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

## Who, What, When, Where

**Toronto** — The AUUC Toronto Branch presents a **Canada/Shevchenko Day Picnic** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **noon** on Thursday, **July 1**. There will be a tribute to Taras Shevchenko, Shevchenko prints for sale, games, and food. **Admission: \$12.00; children under 12 — \$5.00.**

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — The AUUC Toronto Branch presents a **movie showing** on Sunday, **July 4**, starting at **2:00 p.m.**, at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West. Featured on the big screen is a DVD of the **1990 Malanka**, recorded at the 300 Bathurst Street Ukrainian Labour Temple. Popcorn and light refreshments will be served. **Admission: \$5.00.**

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg** — On **August 8 to 14**, the **Lviv Pavilion of Folklorama** will be located in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at **Pritchard and McGregor**. Doors open nightly at 6:00 p.m. — except on Sunday, August 8, when doors will open at 4:00 p.m. **Shows** are at **6:45 p.m., 8:15 p.m., and 9:45 p.m.**, with an **extra show at 5:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **August 8**. The theme will highlight the role of women in the Ukrainian Labour Temple movement. The stage show will include the **Festival Choir**, the **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra**, the **Yunist Dancers**, and groups from the AUUC School of Folk Dance. **The Mohutniy Dancers**, popular in recent years, have confirmed their appearance.

\* \* \*

**Cook's Creek** — On **August 29**, Winnipeg AUUC's **Festival Choir** will perform as part of the **afternoon stage show** for **Heritage Day** at Cook's Creek, Manitoba.

\* \* \*

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.



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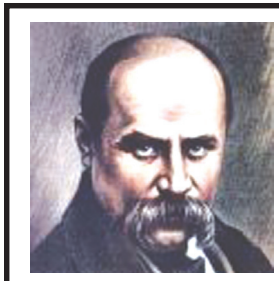
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## Taras Shevchenko Museum



Academy of Arts, St. Petersburg.

### Shevchenko Museum In St. Petersburg — a place dear to everyone

There are six Shevchenko Museums on the territories of the former Soviet Union. Three of them are in Kyiv, Ukraine, where the poet lived while visiting his homeland. Another museum is near the town of Kaniv, where the poet was buried on Chernecha Hora (Monk's Hill). There is a memorial museum at Fort Shevchenko on the Mangyshlak Peninsula where the poet lived in exile from 1850 to 1857. The story below is about the memorial studio-museum at the Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg, where Shevchenko lived and worked from 1858 till his death in 1861.

The memorial studio was opened at the Academy in 1964 on the sesquicentennial of Shevchenko's birth. Here the poet



One area in the museum at the of Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg.

lived and worked after he returned from exile in 1858. Documents and reminiscences of his contemporaries were extensively used to make the studio look just the way it did during the last years of his life.

The lower room was the studio proper, while the upper one – a mezzanine – served him as a literary study. From here starts the tour of the memorial studio which exhibits documents as well as originals and copies of pictures by outstanding artists.

At the back of the room, a copy from the village birth register with Shevchenko's name is displayed in a prominent place. Next to it is his drawing "My Parent's House".

A visitor is told about the places in St. Petersburg where Shevchenko lived, studied, and worked, or just visited, throughout the 17 years he spent in the city. There is a drawing of the house on 26 Mokhovaya Street, where the future poet and artist settled upon his arrival with the servants of his landowner, Engelhardt. Another exhibit shows a house at 8 Zagorodny Avenue, where Shevchenko lived while studying painting at the studio of Vasilii Shirayev (today the building has a memorial plaque unveiled during the centennial of Shevchenko's death).

Many exhibits are dedicated to the most memorable event in his life—his liberation from serfdom. There are portraits of the participants in the literary soirees held at Yevhen Hrebinka's home (Hrebinka was a countryman of Shevchenko who was already a famous poet by then), as well as Shevchenko's drawings "The Death of Lucretia" (1835), "The Death of Oleg", and "The Death of Socrates", done in India ink. A separate showcase displays a copy of his certificate of manumission and a replica of Karl Bryllow's portrait of Vasiliy Zhukovsky which was auctioned off to buy Shevchenko's freedom.

Shevchenko's drawings tell about his studies at the Academy, as well as about his difficult road of searches, discoveries and assertion as an artist and personality.

The other showcases in the studio are devoted to the literary talents of Shevchenko e.g., a first edition of *Kobzar* (The Bard) the poem "Haidamaki", and the almanac *The Swallow*, in which his first verses were published in 1838.

Photographs and drawings introduce the visitor to the places Shevchenko loved to frequent in St. Petersburg. There is one bitter documentary photo — a building on the Fontanka which housed the 3rd Gendarmerie Department, whence Shevchenko was sent into exile as a private of the Orenburg Detached Corps. For ten long years he suffered

under military servitude, and was "most strictly guarded and forbidden to write and paint," as the tsar's personal order read.

A man can be deprived of freedom, but his spirit of freedom can not be broken. Shevchenko's life in exile explicitly proved the point. The facsimile editions of the verses he wrote stealthily and hid in his bootlegs, as well as his portraits of the Kirghiz and Kazakhs, landscapes, drawings and watercolours show his thirst for life and resistance, his unwillingness to resign himself to fate, and his intensive creative pursuits.

Shevchenko's studio was frequented by famous writers, artists, scholars and actors among them Ivan Turgenev, Nikolai Leskov, Marko Vovchok, Mikhail Mikeshin, Yakov Polonsky, Vladimir Stasov, and Ira Aldridge.

On an easel stands the painting "A Model Posing as Marcia", which Shevchenko did during his studies at the Academy. On a table is a Ukrainian country mug holding the artist's brushes. Copper plates, chisels, a magnifying glass, and a torch are some of the articles he used when making engravings. Near a window hangs his last engraving — a portrait of the architect and art critic Ivan Gornostayev.

The hands of the clock on the wall show the hour when Shevchenko's heart stopped beating.

In 1911, a memorial plaque was unveiled and a bust of Shevchenko placed in the studio. Fedor Kamensky began working on the bust while Shevchenko was still alive and finished it in 1862, a year after the great man's death.

— Mykola Ivanenko

## Seniors Targeted



Birthday celebrants Pauline Warick (left) and Maurice Warick (right), with guest speaker Noel Somerville

(Continued from Page 11.) a charter of patient rights, rationalizing that the current legislation is too restrictive. Mr. Somerville quipped that, in a democracy, legislation is supposed to be restrictive, otherwise government can by-pass the legislature. This proposed Alberta Health Act could be used to repeal the substantial body of legislation Alberta has built over the decades.

In conclusion, Mr. Somerville wondered why the seniors were being targeted.

He deems it to be the political ideology: keep government as small as possible, and cut government costs to preserve the "Alberta Advantage" myth and to help party coffers to privatize and award contracts.

Plans have been made for

the June gathering. Birthday celebrants will be Nester Bagan, Rose Cender, Sandy Gordey, Paul Greene, Nick Kereliuk, Ed Makowecki, Sophie Sywolos, Mike Uhryn, Virginia Witwicki and Mary Woyewidka.

A survey will be distributed and collected seeking input from those in attendance for programs and activities for next year.

The entertainment for this month will be a series of Bingo games.

The Edmonton AUUC seniors will reconvene on September 21, which is the third Tuesday of the month, as usual, for the annual general meeting.

May each and all have a healthy and happy summer with those that are dear.

— Shirley Uhryn

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