

HERALD ВІСНИК

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Spring Fling a Hit in Vancouver



The Dovbush Dancers performed the "Vitalniy tanets" (Welcoming Dance) at the Spring Fling in Vancouver on March 27. This annual event starts with a concert, continues with a pasta supper, and ends with dancing to a live band. The story begins on page 11, with more photos by Danny Fung.

Health Care Problems

While Canadians like to brag about their health care system, especially in comparison to the US system, the fact is that our system has major gaps and problems. The result is that many Canadians, just like our American neighbours, have to choose between disastrous health or financial ruin. Some really have no choice but to suffer.

One such gap is in dental care.

While many people in Canada have dental coverage at work, as recipients of welfare, or in some other way, many of us do not. With routine visits to the dentist running into hundreds of dollars, many residents of Canada do

not have regular check-ups.

Even when they develop a dental problem, many people put up with the pain, and risk more serious problems by not seeking treatment. There have been reports of serious illness, and even the occasional death, as a result of untreated tooth decay or other problems.

Untreated dental problems can undermine general health, leading to increased costs to other parts of our health care system.

At the very least, poor dental health means a reduced quality of life immediately, and further deterioration in quality of life as time passes.

Pharmaceuticals are another area in which Canadian health care coverage is inadequate to the needs. Again, many residents have good coverage. In Ontario, this includes senior citizens buying prescription drugs, although seniors on a very low income may well find even the low dispensing fee a difficulty.

The heaviest burden of drug costs falls on the working poor and others without private insurance. Many people who go to a doctor and are given a prescription for medication can not afford to buy the prescribed medication. While the illness of such unfortunates will often pass, recovery may be delayed. Often lack of treatment leads to complications, in many cases requiring hospitalization or other higher-cost treatment.

At times medications can run into thousands of dollars monthly, requiring patients to mortgage or sell their homes or other assets to pay for the drugs. Of course, not everyone has such options, and of-

ten the resources are eventually depleted. In such circumstances, a destitute person may be eligible for support by the municipal welfare system, which will cover many drugs but still leave the recipient of such support in desperate financial circumstances.

The gradual erosion of covered services in provincial health plans has added to affordability problems of Canadian health care. Services like podiatry or physiotherapy have become less available, or not available at all, in hospitals (where provincial health plans covered the cost), and most be purchased at the patients expense. As it is rare for a visit to such a health practitioner to cost less than \$40.00 or \$50.00, and equally rare for one visit to suffice, many people also forego these forms of treatment.

While governments like to brag about all the tax breaks we get, including a medical tax credit, it works out mostly to much ado about little. As a non-refundable tax credit the medical deduction is only 15% of the eligible amount — deducted not from your tax payable, but from your income. Someone in a 16% effective tax bracket who has spent \$1000.00 in eligible medical expenses deducts \$150.00 (or less) from income, for a tax saving of \$150.00x16% (or less) — the astounding grand total of \$24.00 (at most). That really is not much help when you could not actually afford that \$1000.00 expenditure.

The situation in health care will get worse, not better, for residents of Canada as more services are privatized, insurance coverage decreases, and co-payments creep in.

Best Wishes for Full Recovery

We extend best wishes for a full and complete recovery from his recent knee surgery to AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr.

Identifying Authorities

The media like to publish articles in which they identify someone as an academic, a supposedly dispassionate researcher and specialist in the field being discussed. That may seem a very reasonable practice, but it borders on the deliberately misleading (perhaps it even crosses the line) when the publication fails to give other relevant information about their specialist.

This approach to identifying authorities is not new. For example, in a controversy related to the last Toronto Film Festival, a writer was identified with legal and academic labels, but no mention of his leading role in Jewish Canadian organizations.

Now, toward the end of March, the *Toronto Star* published an article concerning a book by Tom Flanagan, called *Beyond the Indian Act: Restoring Aboriginal Property Rights*. In the book, the author argues that Canada's aboriginal people should be lifted out of poverty by being given individual property rights on their reserves.

Tom Flanagan is clearly and most prominently identified as a political scientist (which somewhat understates his academic credentials). In the body of the story, it is also noted that he is "best known for having mentored Prime Minister Stephen Harper" (which somewhat understates his political activism).

We are, presumably, supposed to treat Mr. Flanagan's opinions with some deference — after all he is an academic. We would, perhaps, have a better idea of how much deference if we knew that Mr. Flanagan had been a leading figure in the Reform Party and the Canadian Alliance and the Conservative Party, including service as Stephen Harper's Chief of Staff for a year while the Conservatives were in opposition.

This knowledge it would seem, is rather important, because it alerts us to a probable bias on the part of the academic, a bias toward private property as the form of ownership best suited for the fulfilment of all social needs.

It would help us understand the change in attitude from his earlier work, *First Nations? Second Thoughts*, in which the author argued that the way to aboriginal peoples' prosperity was through assimilation.

With the extra knowledge, we would still expect a skilled and cogent argument, but we would not be misled into thinking the position arose purely from dispassionate study.

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Another Rip-Off

Most, if not all, jurisdictions in Canada with minimum wage legislation, have a lower than general minimum wage for restaurant workers (and some other categories of employees). This is supposedly in recognition that these workers can be expected to earn tips.

Restaurant owners and managers generally pay their employees the lower minimum wage, supposedly because: a) they can not afford to pay more; and b) the pay will be augmented by tips.

The tips paid by diners are occasionally kept entirely by the server; most often they are shared with other staff members, such as bussers and kitchen staff; all too often, management, including owners, rake some off the top.

When the rake-off is based on gross sales, it can happen that a server who has not been given a lot of tips has to pay the amount of the rip-off out of his or her own money.

While such arrangements have been a bone of contention since time immemorial, the practice became more widespread as the economy took a downturn a couple of years ago, as have the rates being skimmed. (Rates are reported typically to be 1% to 5% of gross sales — 7% to 33%, roughly, of total average tips.)

The bosses advise, “If you don’t like it, leave.” In a depressed economy, many workers just suck it up.

Threats against a Bar Mitzvah

Readers may remember the article in the “UCH” in October, 2009, about the Toronto Film Festival, which discussed reactions to the report of Judge Richard Goldstone, released the previous September, which projected the possibility of Israeli (as well as Hamas) war crimes in Gaza.

Israel and the pro-Israel lobby launched a smear campaign attacking this internationally respected jurist and widely-recognized Zionist. He was called all the usual names — self-hating Jew, traitor, anti-Semite, hater of Israel, creator of a new “blood libel”, yada, yada, yada.

However, the truth is that we underestimated the viciousness of the “Israel right or wrong” gang. Therefore, we were surprised by a story that caught our eye in the *Toronto Star* on April 17.

The “Star” reported that Mr. Goldstone would not attend his grandson’s bar mitzvah in May, near Johannes-

More about DNA

In an editorial last month, the “UCH” provided some information about interesting recent developments based on genetic science and the study of DNA. That list was far from all-inclusive.

One issue that was not discussed is the use of technology developed at the University of Guelph to study food fraud in the United States.

One particular area under consideration is the sale of cheaper sorts of fish under guises as more expensive sorts. A specific example cited in a report in the *Toronto Star* on April 9 was the sale by a Virginia man (who was convicted after being caught) of 10 million pounds of cheap catfish fillets from Vietnam as much more expensive grouper, red snapper and flounder.

Such misrepresentation, apparently, is fairly widespread. Among the many products listed in the “Star” article were sushi samples collected by the newspaper in restaurants across Toronto. Of a dozen samples, ten listed tilapia as the more desirable red snapper, and one listed red seabream as red snapper.

The technology was developed out of the Barcode of Life project at Guelph, which is working to genetically identify all the world’s varieties of

fish. The database could then be used to identify the fish sold to consumers.

In another development, a new genetic screening for potential lung cancer victims will provide a safety factor for smokers.

Taking a swab from a person’s windpipe, doctors can detect the presence of a genetic mechanism known as the PI3K pathway. Smokers in whom PI3K is identified already have, or probably will have, cancer — and drugs already exist, and others are being developed, to prevent the cancer or eliminate it in its early stages by stopping the

functioning of PI3K.

Unfortunately, (at least from the perspective of the smokers) this new screening technique does not create freedom to smoke for people without PI3K, who may still develop lung cancer by some other mechanism.

In addition, it has to be remembered that smoking may lead to a range of other serious health risks, from bronchitis to heart disease.

Though the researchers remain cautious, Dr. Avrum Spira of Boston Medical Centre, senior study author of a paper in *Science Translational Medicine*, indicates

that the technique could be in clinics within a year.

Dr. Spira, trained at the University of Toronto, says that up to 20% of smokers will develop lung cancer. Of those, about 75% will have the PI3K pathway, indicating actual or potential cancer.

From another viewpoint, 25% of smokers who get lung cancer will not show PI3K.

Dr. Marco Di Buono of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario stressed the annual toll of 37,000 deaths exacted in Canada by smoking, including the very significant role of smoking in heart disease.

— Sz

Canadians Deeply in Debt

There are about 33 million people in Canada. Collectively, we have over \$1 trillion in household debt — a record high. That is over \$30,000 for every man, woman and child — about \$87,000 per household.

Those are the kinds of facts lending institutions and financial analysts talk about. They worry about the fact that Canadian residents owe \$1.47 for every \$1.00 of disposable income.

And they worry that the Canadian economy could find itself back in a recession as interest rates rise and Canadian residents find that they can not meet their payments on this debt load.

The numbers are averages, and do not really tell much about any individual situation. Many people and households have a minimum of debt and are not directly affected by interest rates. Others may have huge debts, along with many assets and large incomes, and can but rejoice that higher interest rates will mean higher incomes (often with relatively low taxes).

However, many people are deep in debt and struggling to meet their obligations. They live one missed pay cheque or a one point increase in interest rates from financial disaster and ruin. Many of them have moved into the area of desperation, and financial counselling services are busier than ever as people look for help in coping with their escalating payment levels and/or reduced incomes.

Much of the trouble, some analysts say is due to recent low interest rates, easier credit terms and fierce competition among lenders.

There is more than a little truth to the analysis. Throughout the economic depression, consumers have been bom-

barded with addressed admail from banks and other lenders offering loans to pay off loans from other lenders, as well as other possibilities to put money into the lenders. The competition has created easier credit terms to “qualified” borrowers, including homebuyers (especially first time buyers) and encouraged borrowing to the limit.

(Call it a recession, a downturn or whatever, but for many people in Canada and around the world the last few years have been a depression.)

Of course, politicians got into the act early as the economy went into decline, urging consumers to come to the patriotic rescue of the country by spending on consumer goods to create jobs for our neighbours.

Though huge mortgages which will be unsustainable when interest rates rise are an important and dramatic aspect of the dangerous debt levels, especially if one is given to talking about “consumer confidence”, much of the record debt load in Canada has a far more mundane and less dramatic source.

Even in good times, many people in Canada lived from pay cheque to pay cheque. Events in the depression have in many instances turned manageable circumstances into disaster.

One example would be households in which a lost or reduced pay cheque led to paying for food, rent and other regular expenses by resorting to credit cards or drawing on lines of credit. This might create a vicious cycle of escalating payment obligations without increasing ability to pay.

In an economic downturn, it seems that everyone can raise their prices, rates or other charges — except

working people, who end up paying the freight with reduced incomes. Thus, another example might be households in which increased prices of utilities, new or increased user fees on government services, higher bank charges, and other such changes have combined to push their heads under the economic water.

In some cases, the problem may be consumer confidence in the past rather than the present. For example, people may have made a delayed payment purchase of furniture or appliances, expecting to be able to pay the entire invoice after the 12- or 18-month period. Then the depression turned what was to be a single payment into a long-term high-interest increased debt.

From governments which have replaced billions of dollars in corporate taxes with new and higher user fees, to financial institutions increasing their record profits by huge fee increases, to petty chisellers like restaurant owners who skim tips from the staff, there are great numbers of economic predators pressing people to their financial limits.

Consequently there are many scenarios reflecting people driven to living in quiet, and often deepening desperation. Putting the blame for the consequences on “consumer confidence” puts the blame on the victims, while allowing the plutocracy to pursue its destructive natural behaviours.

It is a significant contradiction in the modern economy that recovery from a crisis requires finding more “investment opportunities” delivering higher returns, which is synonymous with creating more debt at higher interest rates, which leads to unsustainable debt loads and another collapse.

The seeds of the next depression flourish in the very process of recovery from the current crisis.

— Wilfred Szczesny

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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An Eye for an Eye

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

I once knew a young man who died by choking on his own vomit, as people sometimes do, having fallen into a deep sleep after lunch. His distraught mother could not accept his death, or rather the method of his death, and years later was still trying to learn why, as she believed, the medical and other officials involved in the case had made up such a story, and what the true cause of his death really was. That distraught mother's behaviour had negative effects on several people around her.

This story returns to my mind every time I read or hear a story like that of the mother and the wife of a slain police officer who, some 30 years later, seem to be deeply distraught at the thought that the officer's killer is to be allowed out of prison on parole.

Why are such stories connected in my mind? There is a powerful movement in the public domain, under the banner of victims rights and supported by police officers and tough-on-crime politicians, to give victims, direct and indirect, a larger voice in determining the course of justice and the fate of both accused persons and convicted persons. Opposing this movement is difficult, because it leaves one open to all sorts of undesirable labels. However, some aspects of it must be opposed.

Let it be clear that I strongly believe that victims of a crime should be accorded certain rights. They have a right to a full, competent and transparent investigation of the crime and prosecution of the criminal within the law. They have a right to as much recovery of their losses as possible. They have a right to as much support as they need (whether medical, psychological, financial or other) to cope with damage arising from the crime. They have a right to make victim impact statements to help judges and juries determine the seriousness of that particular criminal activity. There may be other rights which victims may legitimately expect.

Victims, however, should not be granted a right to decide the guilt or innocence of an accused, nor the punishment (immediate or longer term) which should be imposed. Our concern for victims should not be an excuse for support for vigilante justice; nor should it be used as a justification for a return to "an eye for an eye ... a life for a life".

The advance of civilization has included, mostly, abandonment of such "justice" in favour of a different appreciation of human life and individual potential. Let us not regress.

COMMENTARY**War Crimes
in Afghanistan?**

It is improbable that the Canadian military forces in Afghanistan did anything which their political masters — the Government of Canada — opposed.

As the investigations into the treatment of detainees in Afghanistan continues, particularly into the matter of the transfer of prisoners captured by Canadian forces to Afghani officials, it seems increasingly probable that these transfers constituted Canadian war crimes. It also seems increasingly probable that the criminals, should crimes have been committed, be not only the troops on the ground who did the transfers, but also the superiors all the way up the chain of command who permitted them. That would include the Government of Canada collectively, and probably include the Prime Minister himself.

It is not surprising, there-

fore, that the Government of Canada is moving whatever mountains it can to impede investigation into the possibility of war crimes, is strenuously challenging the legitimacy of any evidence which might tend to prove war crimes, is equally energetically trying to distance itself from any information which might tend to implicate it in possible war crimes, and is waging a smear campaign against those promoting thorough and transparent investigation of the allegations which have been made.

Whatever else may be alleged, the main charge has been that Canadian forces turned captives over to Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security, even though Canada knew (or should have known) that the prisoners would be tortured. There has even been testimony that the captives were sometimes turned over precisely because

Canada knew they would be tortured.

Such activity would, under international law to which Canada is a party, constitute war crimes.

The Government of Canada can try to hide behind the troops by accusing the opposition parties and various witnesses at the continuing inquiries of defaming the soldiers, but the buck stops in Ottawa, as Prime Minister Harper well knows.

Mr. Harper can claim ignorance, but only wilful ignorance. He and his government had not only the reports and other communications of internationally respected rights groups, but also the reports and cautions of Canada's own diplomats.

Mostly, but not totally, the government apparently chose to ignore all those reports and statements of concern. It chose instead to follow a course which has left Canada's troops and the government itself vulnerable to charges of war crimes. Furthermore, it did so deliberately.

Some readers may remember the early days of Canada's involvement in Kandahar, when the issue was first raised of the fate of prisoners which Canada turned over to Afghani troops. At that time, the argument was that there was no alternative — Canada had no holding facilities and did not want to invest resources into holding prisoners of war.

Facilities were eventually built, and were functioning in January, 2008. One wonders why turning over captives was necessary at all. At least one witness has indicated that prisoners whose answers did not satisfy Canadian interrogators were handed over to the NDS for further interrogation — which could also be a war crime.

The conditions at that holding facility are a story in their own right — from prisoners being held in inhumanly hot conditions to prisoners freezing in sub-zero winter temperatures with inadequate shelter and clothing.

In 2004, Human Rights Watch raised the concern that prisoners in Afghanistan were being abused.

Richard Colvin, a senior Canadian diplomat who served in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, has testified that in that time he gave numerous warnings about prisoner abuse by Afghani forces after transfer by the Canadian military. These were initially ignored, he said, and then he was told to "be quiet and do what we were told".

The military participants in these matters have had interesting and varied accounts.

Maj. Francois Bolduc, case manager for an investigation

(Continued on Page 13.)

From Our Readers

It has always been an honour to know Anne Krane. We first became acquainted through our organizations, the Ukrainian American League, the AUUC, and the Hahilka Choir. When they performed at the Ukrainian American Peoples Home in Dearborn, Michigan, the Hahilka Choir concerts were very special. Eventually, as these groups interacted, friendships developed. Anne and her husband, Michael, invited us to their home, made us welcome, and the dinners were great!

Those of us from Michigan have fond memories of join-

ing our Canadian counterparts for fun-filled summer vacations at Camp Palermo and Point Pelee. We would rent cabins, our families would get together, and those occasions always felt like family reunions.

We will miss Anne Krane, but will never forget her. We have far too many wonderful memories to cherish.

Enclosed, in tribute to Anne, is a donation of \$150.00 from me and my family to the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.

— Jerry Gawura Family
Canton, MI, USA

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Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

Cuba-Ukraine Meeting

Recently Cuban President Raul Castro Ruz received former Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma, special envoy of current President Viktor Yanukovich, at the recent commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban medical care program for Ukrainian children affected by the nuclear catastrophe in Chernobyl, Ukraine.

The cordial exchange centred around the positive state of bilateral relations, the adverse effects of the severe damage to the environment and climate change, and particularly, the situation in Haiti.

Kuchma presented Raul Castro with decorations awarded by President Yanukovich. Fidel Castro was awarded the Order of Merit, first class, while Raul Castro was given the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, first class.

Both awards were given in recognition of the help Cuba gave Ukraine in the aftermath of the terrible accident that took place in 1986. More than 25,000 Ukrainian children have been treated since then.

Raul thanked Kuchma, on his own behalf and that of Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, for the high recognition.

Lenin's Birthday

The Communist Party in the southeastern city of Luhansk marked the 140th birthday of former Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin in a big way. Some 40 huge billboards depicting Lenin appeared last month along city streets. Next to his portrait was the question: "So how do you like living under capitalism?"

Let us examine the current situation in Ukraine to help answer that question.

According to Arseniy Yatseniuk (a one-time member of the Orange Revolution government): "The average life expectancy in Ukraine has fallen by 10 years and continues falling." He added that the Soviet system of health care had many shortcomings but it was efficient and the quality of its services was higher than that in other developed countries.

According to Reuters, a well-known world-wide news agency: "Ukraine, once the breadbasket and industrial powerhouse of the Soviet Union, gained independence (capitalism - GB) in 1991. But its economy is still recovering from that shock — its size in 2008 was only 74% of what it was in 1991."

According to Ukrainian journalist Denis Netcheporuk,

"... in 1991 (first year of capitalism - GB), Ukraine was among the ten most developed countries in the world."

"... in just 20 years, we became one of the least developed countries not only in Europe, but also in the world."

According to the news agency Official Wire, "After government subsidies and guaranteed markets fell along with the Soviet Union, Ukraine's agriculture went into a long decline through the 1990s. By the end of the decade, production volumes had collapsed, agricultural GDP (a measure of income - GB) had fallen by half, and more than two million jobs had been lost in the rural areas."

According to the encyclopedia Wikipedia, the population of Ukraine grew steadily from almost 42 million in 1959 to almost 52 million in 1989 (last years of Socialist Ukraine - GB). After the switch to capitalism, the population decreased to an estimated 46 million in 2009.

According to the United Nations, Ukraine's Human Development Index (HDI), a composite measure of health, education, and standard-of-living, dropped after 1990, and still remains below the levels achieved under socialism.

So how *do* you like living under capitalism?

Nationalists At Work

Ukrainian police arrested 13 men recently for breaking into a memorial exhibition and vandalising photographs of Polish and Jewish victims of World War II repressions.

The attack took place in the Ukrainsky Dim exhibition hall in the capital, Kyiv, shortly before a Ukrainian parliamentarian was scheduled to open the exhibition formally.

The exhibition, called "Volynska reznya" (The Volyn Slaughter), displayed photographs and personal memorabilia of ethnic Poles and Jews living in the territory of modern Ukraine's Volyn province (western Ukraine) during 1944, many of whom were killed in inter-ethnic violence.

Thirteen members of the extreme right nationalist group Svoboda (Freedom) entered the exhibition hall shortly after it opened, and used fists and boots to demolish displays.

The nationalists hurled some of the artifacts, among them books and household items dating back to the mid-20th century, at parliamentarian Vadym Kolesnychenko in response to his request that they leave the hall.

Svoboda activists fought with police called to the scene.

Some of the nationalists were still resisting as law enforcers carried them outside.

In 1943 and 1944, as many as 40,000 people (mainly Polish elderly and young children - GB) were killed (by Ukrainian fascists - GB) in one of modern Europe's worst cases of ethnic cleansing.

Nuclear Plants Safe

A year-long assessment exercise carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Commission (EC) has found that safety at Ukraine's nuclear power plants is in line with international standards.

The assessment looked at safety in four areas: power plant design; power plant operation; radioactive waste; and regulatory issues. The international experts found that safety in all areas was generally in line with international standards.

There are currently 15 power reactors in operation at four plant sites in Ukraine: two at Khmelnytskyi, four at Rivne, three at South Ukraine, and six units at Zaporizhzhya. All are Russian VVER pressurized water reactors (PWRs), two being 440 MW V-312 models and the rest being the larger 1000 MW units — two early models and the rest V-320s.

Power reactors have been operated in Ukraine since 1977, and over 300 reactor years of operating experience have since been accumulated.

Two Faces Of Verka

Verka Serdushka is one of Ukraine's biggest pop stars. She's not really a singer ... or an actress. In fact, she's not even a "she".

This is a star with identity issues. And that makes her ... or him ... an appropriate representative of Ukraine itself.

Verka Serdushka is a pop culture phenomenon in Ukraine. She's all over magazine covers, on billboards, and for a while, even on jars of mayonnaise and vodka.

But what is she exactly? A Ukrainian Cinderella? This Cinderella wears gaudy sequined dresses, big sunglasses, and flamboyant hats.

And then there's Verka's bust. To call it huge really doesn't do it justice. Alas, its fake, because this Cinderella is actually a fella ... a 37 year old comedian named Andrei Danilko.

Out of costume, Andrei Danilko is soft spoken and shy, wearing jeans and a baseball cap. He says that, ever since he was a kid, he had the urge to make people smile. "But it wasn't easy to per-

form as myself."

Starting as a teenager, he brought to life, onstage, characters that are pulled straight from the daily tribulations of Ukrainian life.

Verka Serdushka has always been the crowd favourite. In her own brassy, proudly ignorant way, Serdushka takes on some of Ukraine's most polarizing issues. She tramples all over the country's sore spots, turning them into the stuff of comedy.

Says Danilko, "I always considered myself a Ukrainian artist; I was never a Russian artist."

At the same time, he says that Ukrainians and Russians are profoundly shaped by a common culture; they're all children of the Soviet Union.

These days, though, Verka is thinking global. She, or rather Andrei Danilko, is learning English, so he can bring his wacky Ukrainian brand of humour to audiences in Europe and America.

Who knows, we may yet see her (him?) in Canada!

Profiteering

Earlier this year, the Ukrainian government threatened retailers with criminal charges in a bid to prevent a further rise in white sugar prices. Prices of this commodity had risen by 30% in just the first few weeks of this year.

Consumption of sugar averages about 2 million tonnes per year. During its socialist days, Ukraine was one of the world's largest producers, with annual output of about 5 million tonnes per year. This was more than enough to cover its needs, and allow a substantial export business.

When the switch to capitalism took place in 1991, sugar production began gradually to decline. By 2008, production totalled only 1.6 million tonnes, and slid further to 1.3 million tonnes in 2009.

Ukraine is now a net importer of sugar.

Eurovision Contest

It was an autumn night in 1956. The pleasant sound of *Te Deum* (now better known as the Eurovision tune) came out of European speakers. The first Eurovision Song Contest was about to begin!

The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual competition held among member countries of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). Each member country submits a song to be performed on live television and then casts votes for the *other* countries' songs to determine the most popular song in the competition.

Although almost unknown

in North America, the contest is one of the longest-running, most-watched events in the world. Audience figures run as high as 600 million people.

Ukraine joined the Eurovision Song Contest in 2003. Since that time, Ukraine has won the contest once (2005), finished second twice, and scored in the top ten another time, making it one of the most successful countries.

This year the Ukrainian entry is a rock ballad of peace called *Sweet People*.

*Oh, sweet people,
Have you no love for mankind?*

*Must you go on killing
Just to pass the time?*

Yes, the message is so real.

Don't turn all the earth to stone

Because, because, because

This is your home.

The lyrics were written by Ukrainian pop star Olena Kucher (stage name Alyosha), a graduate of Kyiv University of Arts and Culture. Alyosha not only wrote the lyrics, but will also perform the piece at the Eurovision competition at the end of May in Oslo, Norway.

Go, Alyosha!

Taras Shevchenko

The recently-elected president of Ukraine has confirmed that his first domestic working visit will be to Kaniv, Cherkassy region.

"Taras Shevchenko is the foundation for everything in Ukraine," said President Viktor Yanukovich. He also stated that the Taras Shevchenko memorial complex would soon have a hotel, where guests coming to Kaniv to pay tribute to the Great Kobzar would stay.

President Yanukovich met with Oleksandr Medvedko, Prosecutor General of Ukraine, and instructed him to investigate the cause for delays in restoration of the Kaniv complex, in order to open it to the public soon.

Ukraine's First Air Force

Ninety years ago, the first international air bridge between Western Europe and *Ukrainska Narodna Respublika* (Ukrainian National Republic), the first Ukrainian state, was established.

One of the initiators, and the brain behind that air bridge, was the Ukrainian-born military pilot Oleksandr Yegorov, who was a member of the *Tsentralna Rada* (Central Council) at the end of 1917.

The 28-year-old military of-

(Continued on Page 14.)

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

**Ukrainian
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Submitted
Separately**



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC), conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, appeared in concert at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on March 21.



Natalka Mochoruk opened the concert with a reading of Taras Shevchenko's "Testament" to orchestral accompaniment.



Ken (Bud) Speck, mandocello player, ended the orchestra's first set by singing Cuba's "Guantanamera" and the Polish "My Melody of Love".

Joint Concert in Toronto



Above and below, views of the well satisfied audience.

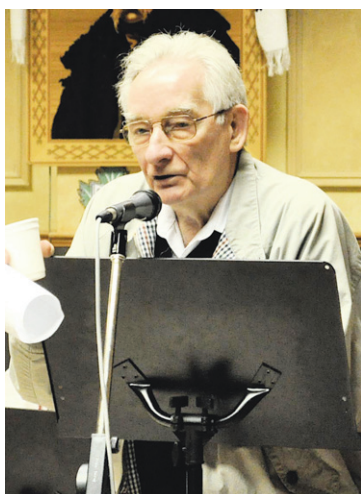


Maria Gargal and Wilfred Szczesny performed a duet in "Oy pidemo zhinko", the first number by the Hahilka Singers. She is too ill, weak and small for field work, but just fine for a long hike to a wedding.

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Entertaining the audience with "Humorous Ditties" were (left to right) Maria Gargal, Terry Rivest, Claudia Rabzak and Lorna Clark.



George Borusiewich, Toronto AUUC Branch President, spoke words of welcome and, later, words of thanks..

A caravan of cars rolled down the highway from Welland, Ontario, to Toronto on March 21. The occupants were members of the AUUC Welland Orchestra, and their purpose was to stage a concert in the AUUC Cultural Centre, jointly with Toronto's Hahilka Singers.

This was not the first time that our two Branches have cooperated, and the success of this latest event suggests that additional joint efforts in the future will be welcomed on both sides.

Our Welland friends, led by Maestro Rudy Wasylenky and Branch President Clara Baby, arrived at about noon, and shortly thereafter were treated to a hot lunch of Ukrainian food. This included holubtsi, varenyky, sausage, salad, and other goodies. Coffee and pastry topped everything off.

And then, to work!

The concert started, following words of welcome by Toronto AUUC Branch George Borusiewich, with an emotional reading by Natalka Mochoruk of Taras Shevchenko's poem "Zapovit" (Testament), while the orchestra provided a soft musical background.

Next came a half hour of numbers by the orchestra. These included both Ukrainian selections such as "Dobryy vechir" (Good Evening) and "Oy yeehaly khloptsi" (The Boys Rode from the Fair) and international pieces such as "Don't Cry For Me (Continued on Page 14.)



Lorna Clark (seated) and Wilfred Szczesny, joined later by Maria Gargal and Claudia Rabzak, elicited hearty guffaws from the audience. She's interested in him; he's interested in her money.



"Harness the horses and take me to the doctor. Then, to Oleksa (maybe I'll feel better); then, to Mykyta (he knows what to do). If you were a real husband, you would find me a cure." Claudia Rabzak, Lorna Clark and Wilfred Szczesny, supported by the balance of the group, drew appreciative laughter from the spectators with "I'm Ill, So Ill".



Conductor Rudy Wasylenky (left), who sang in a number of duets, is shown above with Ken Speck in "My Melody of Love".

Edmonton Seniors Club Gathering Marks IWD

The Edmonton seniors, in their March get-together experienced an extension of the March 7 celebration of International Women's Day.

All enjoyed the usual pre-lunch visiting. An additional topic for viewing and discussion was the display of some editions of our former magazine *The Ukrainian Canadian* such as the March, 1972, issue which paid tribute to the women of the AUUC on their golden jubilee (1922 — 1972).

Mary Skrypyk was the Associate Editor of that special edition, which featured women. The table of contents lists such articles as "Album of AUUC Women", "UN

Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women", "Measures to Combat Discrimination Against Women" and "The Ukrainian Look in Modern Fashion", as well as others. To you, Ms. Skrypyk, and to others who have raised the bar and given recognition to women, we the women of today, are grateful.

Our March address highlighted Taras Shevchenko and his many heart-wrenching observations on the lives of peasant serfs, and notably the women of his time.

An example is the following excerpt from "Young Master, If You But Knew":

The tranquil cottage in the

grove

You call a paradise, I know.

...

'Twas there my mother gave me birth

And, singing as her child she nursed,

She passed her pain to me.

.. 'Twas there,

In that wee house...

That I saw hell... There people slave

Without a let-up night and day,

...

In that same village to her grave

My gentle mother, young in years,

Was laid by toil and want and cares.

There father, weeping with his brood

(And we were tiny, tattered tots),

Could not withstand his better lot

And died at work in servitude!...

And we — we scattered where we could

Like little field mice....

That poem, read in its entirety, described the bitter poverty of Shevchenko's own family, his being orphaned as a young child, his brothers and sisters scattered and he having to serve the "pan", rather than to go to school. (This poem was taken from the book *Taras Shevchenko - Selections*.)

Then we had a brief presentation on the life and works of Lesya Ukrainka (1871 — 1913), a contemporary and friend of Ivan Franko.

She was born to a family of landowners, well educated and widely travelled. Lesya was of the gentry; her family

included lawyers, civil servants and professors. Her mother was the writer Olga Pahilka. Lesya Ukrainka herself travelled, and spoke of her land.

Her writings reflect that aspect of the Ukraine in the late 1800s.

Ukrainka was well aware of the differences in status and lives of the people of her land.

The short story "Such Is her Fate", written in 1888 by Lesya Ukrainka, was read to the seniors from the book, *Women's Voices in Ukrainian Literature*. It tells of a 16-year-old village girl who is forced by her mother to marry a village drunkard because he is an only son and owns some land. Her mother and a friend are spinning and discussing the hard life the girl is having, and conclude that "such is her fate".

This short program, prepared and presented by Lucy Antoniw, concluded with Bill Uhryn singing Taras Shevchenko's song <<Така її доля>> (Such Is Her Fate), addressing again the difficult lot faced by women.

All this was interesting and thought-provoking, and the discussion continued as the gathering dispersed.

(By the way, did you know that we seniors celebrate our Lucy Antoniw's birthday simultaneously with that of Taras Shevchenko?)

A hearty lunch was enjoyed as usual, again with much thanks to our wonderful, quiet and unassuming kitchen organizer, Olga Horon, with the assistance of Eva Doskoch and Pauline Warwick.

In our next report, we will write about our visit to Beth Shalom, the Jewish Centre in Edmonton.

— Shirley Uhryn



Lucy Antoniw is shown reading from *Taras Shevchenko - Selections*, standing beside a display appropriate for International Women's Day: a bust and other depictions of Lesya Ukrainka and suitable issues of *The Ukrainian Canadian*.

Good Friday at Ottawa AUUC Branch

AUUC Ottawa Branch is a small group, socializing in a warm and friendly way. Many of their meetings/gatherings have been on Good Fridays, hosted at the country home of Donna and Bob Yakimovich in Almonte.

The most recent such get-together was on April 2 of this year.

After a feast of excellent food prepared by Donna, with others bringing the extras, those attending sat down to a raffle and fun games of Bingo. Prizes were such things as loads of home baking.

As is evident from the photos, a great time was had by all.

— Zena Bolychuk



The AUUC Ottawa Branch at its Good Friday gathering.

— Story photos: Zena Bolychuk



Enjoying excellent food is part of the tradition.



And of course there's — Bingo!

IWD Celebration in Edmonton

In March, the Edmonton AUUC Seniors celebrated International Women's Day with the Edmonton Chilean community, with an enjoyable joint concert on March 7, 2010.

This event commemorated the lives of women in the past centuries and in different countries.

The concert opened with the traditional Ukrainian welcoming presentation of bread and salt, accepted by Chilean elders Mr. and Mrs. Silanas.

A variety concert followed, with the Cheremshina Quartet professionally singing traditional Ukrainian songs.

The Notre Dame-des-Bananes Choir presented the song "Bread and Roses", along with other numbers which set the tone and direction for the gathering.

The Chilean groups Jara Children's Dancers and the Primavera senior musicians ably entertained the audience.

The Concierto Group continued, sharing the playing of

classical instruments.

The Hammertone Band energetically performed some Ukrainian music.

Returning to stage were Chilean dancers, doing the flamenco and tango.

Interspersed through the program of music and dance were greetings from the city of Edmonton, province of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

An address was also given by Shirley Uhryn about International Women's Day, its beginnings internationally and present day issues of concern necessitating the immediate correction of persisting injustices.

Our AUUC centenarian Caroline Bagan was honoured in our address for her efforts some 70 years ago to bring justice to the coal mines of Cardiff, Alberta.

A miner had been incorrectly dismissed. The miners went on strike. Scabs were hired. Caroline and others of the Women's League joined

forces, and would not let the scabs come to work. Police came to help the scabs. From a bridge, she and others threw salt and pepper into the faces of the advancing scabs and police. Thus our Caroline and her colleagues became known as the Salt and Pepper Gang! This was in 1931.

After her father emigrated to Canada to seek work in the coal mines, Caroline followed in his foot steps, alone, in 1928 to join him for a new and better life.

Seated in the audience of our International Women's Day celebration were her son Nestor and his wife Merindi Bagan.

Following the concert, Pauline Warwick, president of the Edmonton AUUC seniors, invited the audience to go downstairs for a luncheon of enchiladas or a plate of perohy, sour cream, sauerkraut and garlic sausage. The dessert choice featured Chilean pastries e.g. cake of a million layers!

— Shirley Uhryn

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Spring Fling at the Vancouver AUUC

Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth, and welcoming the light after months of short, dark days. Celebrations and rituals honouring this time of year are common in all cultures, and our Ukrainian traditions are well-known and widely celebrated throughout the world.

flowers are all symbols we associate with the coming season, and for Vancouver members of the AUUC, an evening spent dancing and celebrating the spring season with family and friends at the Hall is fast becoming an institution.

This event is all about kids having a good time.

Eggs, birds, rabbits and

This year, on March 27, the



The Barvinok Choir, under the direction of Beverly Dobrinsky and accompanied by Tatyana Savchyshyn on piano, gave an outstanding performance.



The Yalenka Girls' Group performed "Spring Polka".

— Story photos: Danny Fung



The Sopilka Boys' Group did a Kozachok.

concert showcased some of the young dancers of the AUUC School of Dancing, as well as the Dovbush Dancers, the Vancouver Folk Orchestra and the Barvinok Choir.

Themes of nature and renewal were central to the program, which was kept light for the sake of the many young children in attendance.

The pasta dinner was a perfect choice for all our diverse guests, and offered the ideal opportunity for families at the Hall to sit down together and get to know one another better.

Families new to the Hall aren't lonely for long as their children, so comfortable among their friends and teachers, bring parents and siblings into the mingling crowd.

Dovbush, the senior performance group, welcomed the audience with bread and salt in a heartfelt way. The expressions of joy, alternating with quiet sincerity, drew the audience in. Dovbush is going beyond the technical aspects of dancing and really embracing a complete, captivating performance.

The "Transcarpathian Dance" performed by Dovbush brought out a style not seen recently at the Hall. The men's costumes were a soft green, and the women's a bright floral pattern, both adding to the earthy symbols of spring. The patterns executed by the dancers were softer and more fluid. The macho displays — a delight during the fast-paced and colourful Hopak at the end of the concert — were absent, and it was great to see the young men so deliberate and engaging in their dancing.

Barvinok Choir performed four beautiful folk songs, accompanied by Tatyana Savchyshyn on piano. The Choir, under the direction of Beverly Dobrinsky, has many new faces and the group seems stronger and more balanced. There was also a move
(Continued on Page 16.)

Who, What, When, Where

Regina — The AUUC Regina Branch and the Poltava Ensemble will participate in Mosaic Festival of Pavilions, June 3, 4, 5. The Poltava Pavilion will be at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. Passports available at the door.

* * *

Toronto — The Hahilka Choir will be on stage for the celebration of Dyen pobedy (Victory Day) by the Federation of Russian Canadians at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 16, at the FRC Club, 6 Denison Avenue. The concert program featuring the Beryozka Choir, the Hahilka Singers, and the Podushka Dancers will be followed by a hot and cold buffet. Admission: \$20.00 for members; \$25.00 for non-members. For information call Nita Miskevich at 416-769-3402. Seating is limited — reservations are required!

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch presents a Bazaar and White Elephant Sale from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West (between Dundas and Keele streets). Look for arts and crafts, a bake sale, a white elephant table, Tarot card reading, Bingo, coffee and sweets, hot dogs, sausages and soft drinks, and bargains galore! Table may be rented for \$15.00. For information, call Patricia at 416-604-8724.

* * *

Toronto — The Troika Committee (AUUC Toronto Branch, FRC Toronto, and 626 Seniors) presents a Lecture on Alternative Medicine at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 30, at the FRC hall, 6 Denison Avenue. A naturopathic doctor will talk about naturopathic medicine, about his practice and about how to look after our bodies. A delicious and nutritious lunch will follow. A \$5.00 fee for expenses is requested.

* * *

Winnipeg — The AUUC Winnipeg Branch is staging a Festival of Mandolins at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard and McGregor, at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, featuring the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, the Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble and guest artists Rollin Penner and the Travelling Medicine Show. Admission: \$15.00. Tickets available at the door.

* * *

Winnipeg — The AUUC Winnipeg Branch is presenting the Spring Concert at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard and McGregor, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 16. The program for this last concert of the season features the AUUC School of Folk Dance, Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, Yunist Dancers, and the Festival Choir.

* * *

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

Sustaining Fund Donations

- O. Jerry Gawura and family, Canton MI, USA
In memory of Anne Krane..... \$US150.00
- Steve Balon, Sudbury ON 100.00
- Anne & Joseph Bobrovitz, Brantford ON
In memory of dear parents
- John & Nellie Galange 100.00
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In memory of Anne Krane..... 25.00
- Ernest & Helen Dmytruk, Burlington ON 20.00
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- Rose Huzar, Oyen AB 20.00
- A. Tolmie, Vancouver BC 10.00

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

JoKe TiMe

For Mother's Day — Mother's Dictionary

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Daddy to get up at 2:00 a.m. too.

Drooling: How teething babies wash their chins.

Dumbwaiter: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

Full name: What you call your child when you're mad at him.

Look out: What it's too late for your child to do by the time you scream it.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Hearsay: What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Show off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Whodunit: None of the kids that live in your house.

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children.

Whoops: An exclamation that translates roughly into "get a towel".

Defence: What you'd better have around de yard if you're going to let the children play outside.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

Storeroom: The distance required between the supermarket aisles so that children in shopping carts can't quite reach anything.

Top bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

Prenatal: When your life was still somewhat your own.

Impregnable: A woman whose memory of labour is still vivid.

From Our History

Memorable Folk Tribute

The centennial of Manitoba in 1970 (and of Winnipeg four years later) became a major event in the life of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. The celebration included a national festival on May 3, 1970, which included distribution of a special 104-page issue of The Ukrainian Canadian dedicated to the centennial. The report on the festival, reprinted below, appeared in the July-August, 1970, issue of the magazine — 40 years ago. It was written by Mitch Sago, who was then editor of the publication. The story has been re-edited for spelling and punctuation.

The Manitoba Centennial Festival of Ukrainian Song, Music and Dance, held under the joint auspices of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the Workers Benevolent Association, was the first of a number of folk festivals to celebrate the 100th birthday of the province.

The Ukrainian pioneer and his descendants in Manitoba stood larger than life on the stage of the Festival at Centennial Concert Hall on the afternoon of May 3.

The program and performance set a high standard in content and style. The 2,400 people who were lucky to get in (there were hundreds who couldn't obtain tickets almost two weeks before the event) responded with superlatives, and the Festival has been widely acclaimed as a memorable cultural experience "worthy of a repeat performance".

The Festival eloquently expressed important pages in the history of the province. The spirit and story of the people came through with strength and clarity in the tableaux, pageantry, music, song and dance that animated the program.

The Ukrainian contribution to Manitoba's first century was dramatized as an integral part of the larger role of the multinational community, and not in isolation from citizens

of other origins. This spirit of solidarity was evident from the opening curtain when the Indians dazzled the audience with their drum rhythms and dance, and in scenes that represented the voyageurs, Metis, French Canadian and Scottish settlers.

The militantly democratic traditions of the people of the Red River were recalled by the brilliant portrayal of Louis Riel in the prisoner's dock in Regina — pleading the cause of his people, his own defence, and the right of the people to determine their own destiny, by Bruno Gerussi, well-known Canadian actor, radio and television personality. This was undoubtedly one of the dramatic highlights of the Festival.

It was in this perspective of history that the role of Ukrainian immigration and settlement on the prairies was presented.

The dignity and grandeur of labour, on the land and in building the province, was artistically interpreted through tableaux, pageantry, song, dance and narrative. In the sum total of its development, the program expressed optimism in the future, and in the new generations and heirs of the pioneers as the builders of tomorrow.

A striking feature of the Festival was the presence of three generations in a cast of 370 performers and production



Backstage during intermission (left to right): Bruno Gerussi; Michael Mokry, Chairman of the Festival; the Hon. Ben Hanuschak, Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, who gave greetings on behalf of the provincial government; Mitch Sago, representative of the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians; Mrs. Ben Hanuschak; and Alderman Slaw Rebchuk, who brought official greetings on behalf of the City of Winnipeg.

people — and particularly among those of Ukrainian descent. The oldest performer was 84 years of age, and the youngest only four. There was no generation gap on the stage that afternoon as young and old found meaning and purpose in the story of their people and in the promise of history.

Here were men, women and youth whose ages ranged from the pensioner to the school child — amateurs who came from the factories, shops, offices and school rooms to render a moving folk tribute to their people and province. Their numbers were augmented by singers, dancers and musicians from AUUC cultural groups and centres in Thunder Bay, Regina, Moose Jaw, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

Another dimension of the Festival was the special Manitoba centennial edition of *The*

Ukrainian Canadian magazine. Thousands of copies of this 104-page issue were circulated in Metro Winnipeg and other points in the province prior to the Festival. The special edition was also presented to the Festival audience as a souvenir program — with many requests for additional copies for family and friends.

The special issue, as readers of this magazine already know, carried the stories of the two sponsoring organizations — the AUUC and WBA; the history of Ukrainian immigration and settlement in Manitoba; and a section on the inspiring story of Riel and the people of the Red River Valley. For those at the Centennial Concert Hall that afternoon, and for many others less fortunate in obtaining tickets, the "UC" was an extension of the content of the Festival.

This was not a sectarian event. The sponsors tried to project the larger community in the perspective of history and, as one enthusiastic spectator remarked, "you did us proud".

The Festival program was divided into three parts: Prelude to a Century; Builders of Manitoba; and Heritage for Tomorrow. The first two sections highlighted turning points in the early history of the province, while the third and final part of the program was in the traditional concert style.

Most of the musical arrangements for choir and orchestra were by William Philipovich, the musical director of the Festival. His arrangements, beautifully tailored to the vocal and musical potential of the performing groups, and his sensitive di-

rection of the various numbers created moments of sheer magic during the two-and-a-half hour show.

His arrangement of the official centennial song "Manitoba", the finale number of the Festival, brought the comment from a top official in the centennial corporation, "the best I've heard yet. I wish we had recorded it..." Gordon P. Watson, the composer, made a surprise appearance on stage to congratulate Mr. Philipovich and to acknowledge the applause of an appreciative audience and performers.

The Louis Riel song, with lyrics by Martin Heath and music by Susan Mackay, which provided the epilogue to the dramatic Riel scene from the trial in Regina, was specially arranged for the Festival by one of the great contemporary composers of Ukraine, Arkady D. Filipenko. While retaining the intrinsic folk quality of the song, Filipenko gave the music an impressive classical dimension. It was a deeply moving tribute to the great martyr-patriot, and to all who fight for freedom today.

The "Lord Selkirk Settlers" song, sung to the familiar folk melody of "Red River Valley", was written by Anne Kobylansky of Toronto — one of the original members of the first Ukrainian mandolin orchestra in Canada, organized by the ULFTA in Winnipeg in 1926. Anne Kobylansky is known to readers of this magazine for her lyrical translations of Ukrainian folk songs, and is a veteran of the Toronto mandolin orchestra which, as part of the Shev-

(Continued on Page 13.)

FESTIVAL CREDITS

WILLIAM PHILPOVICH
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

WALTER MIROSH
NARRATOR

RONALD MOKRY
CHOREOGRAPHER and DANCE DIRECTOR

MICHAEL MOKRY
CHAIRMAN

NATIVE BROTHERHOOD OF STONY MOUNTAIN directed by Rev. Wm. Cuthand of the Metis Federation. LA CHORALE DES INTREPIDES OF ST. BONIFACE directed by Marcian Ferland and Carmelle LeGal; violinist Donat Dupas. AUUC cultural groups from Winnipeg: "BANDURIST" MALE CHORUS, "BARVINOK" WOMEN'S CHORUS, and MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA, directed by Wm. Philipovich; "VESELKA" FOLK DANCERS directed by Ron Mokry, and the AUUC CHILDREN'S CHOIR directed by Karen Kozub-Woods; guitar accompanists W. Philipovich, Jr., and Ivan Dubinsky. AUUC cultural groups from Thunder Bay: LAKEHEAD STRING ORCHESTRA directed by Walter Sloboda, "MRIYA" FOLK DANCERS directed by Myron Holyk, participating Thunder Bay singers directed by Stella Trylinsky. AUUC participants from Regina and Moose Jaw: "POLTAVA" FOLK DANCERS of Regina directed by Al Lapchuk, musicians directed by Peter Lapchuk. AUUC cultural groups from Alberta: "KAMENYARI" FOLK DANCERS of Edmonton directed by Betty Kisilevich, participating Calgary singers directed by Hazel Skulsky, and guest conductor Walter Rosiewich of Edmonton. THE MILESTONES, vocal trio from Vancouver. Piano accompanists Ruth Ilczuk and Korin Kozub Kaminsky.

BRUNO GERUSSI of Toronto

Script by MITCH SAGO
Properties and Stage Crew JOHN SAS

Stage Manager STEVE PAWLYCHYN
Lighting VICTOR KRENZ

War Crimes in Afghanistan?

(Continued from Page 4.)

by the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service testified that he never saw the memo indicating that two diplomats had found torture tools in a room where they were questioning a detainee transferred by Canada. In spite of all the allegations of prisoner abuse, the good Major did not think military commanders could be charged with war crimes, because they could not know beforehand that transferred detainees would be tortured. He also disclaimed any responsibility if there was torture. "Afghan forces who commit crimes against an Afghan national, I don't really have any jurisdiction over that," the *Toronto Star* quotes him as saying.

Sgt. Steve Chamberland, Major Bolduc's colleague in the NIS, testified that he could not remember receiving training in international law, and was not sure about Canada's obligations.

Lt.-Col Gilles Sansterre, head of the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service

testified before the Military Police Complaints Commission that he did not pursue an investigation of eight allegations of detainee abuse because he did not want to second-guess an Afghan government finding that the allegations were unfounded!

He also said that he was unaware of a Federal Court ruling, shortly before he took charge of the NIS, that expressed concerns about prisoner abuse. He had not read reports on the subject by the US State Department, the United Nations, or the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Other evidence suggested a general lack of interest on his part in pursuing serious investigations on such allegations.

Capt. Mark Naipul heard allegations of abuse, but did not witness any. The former military police officer indicated that the concern was that prisoners not be abused while in Canadian custody. What happened after a prisoner was transferred, he thought, was the business of the Depart-

ment of Foreign Affairs.

Lt.-Col. Douglas Boot of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces Command, testified to a similar belief. That is why, he told the Military Police Complaints Commission, he did not follow-up when he saw in newspaper reports on prisoner abuse the names of detainees who had been held by Canada. He was not sent copies of Richard Colvin's cautionary e-mails.

Military witnesses complained that Foreign Affairs did not report on the condition of prisoners. On the other hand, the diplomats complained that the military, which had good contact with the NDS, would provide no help in tracking prisoners.

So, who would be responsible for interdepartmental communications, and to instruct the military to track prisoners? Not the government, you say?

This lack of communication extended to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had to wait weeks, and even months for information from Canada about transferred detainees, making it impossible to trace the detainees' fate.

The NATO-led International Security Force did not seem to like Canada's reticence either. Richard Colvin testified that one official said that getting information from Canadians is like getting blood from a stone.

An editorial in *The Globe and Mail* can not understand why three years later, "Canada's political and military establishment would still be claiming ignorance" of matters established in spring of 2007 by one of the "Globe's"

reporters.

Minister of Defence Peter MacKay can bluster all he wants about the reputation of Canadian troops, and Gen. Walter Natynczyk, Chief of Defence Staff can deny all he wants, but they can not dispel a public perception that the Government of Canada is engaged in a huge cover-up. Furthermore, this cover-up is not, in the main, to defend the troops. Rather, its aim is to protect the government.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Concert in Welland

— Photo: Stacey-Ann Lawrence



On April 11, the concert of March 21 in Toronto (see page 8) was repeated in Welland. A report will appear next month.

From Our History

(Continued from Page 12.) chenko Ensemble, will make a concert tour of Ukraine in August.

Two other creative works enriched the program. There was the lyrical "Wheat Dance", an original choreography by Festival dance director Ron Mokry, and the "Kerchief Dance" in the beautiful immigration scene by Janis Kossick of Moose Jaw.

Tableaux and pageantry are not new to Ukrainian festivals of song, music and dance. But what was new here was the use of screen and sound effects, combined with pageantry and narration, to create exciting insights and imagery in the story-line of the production. Thanks to the efficient crew and technical staff behind the scenes, under the capable supervision of stage manager Steve Pawlychyn, these diverse elements of theatre were blended into a smooth-running show.

The five tableaux in the program were colourful and effective and helped to illuminate some of the milestones and customs in the life of the people. The two scenes from Ukrainian Immigration (leaving Ukraine and arrival in Winnipeg in the early 1900s) brought a lump to the throats and unashamed tears to the eyes of many people in the audience.

The Extra Gang tableau,

under the direction of Mike Wennechuk who also played the kobzar in another scene, recalled the role of the immigrant worker in building the railways.

The story-line of tableaux in the second part of the program was greatly enhanced by the script and narration. Walter Mirosh's simple handling of the script blended effectively with the sights and sounds of the various tableaux.

The featured soloist of the Festival was unquestionably Harry Stefaniuk, who also shared the duet in the Riel song with his brother John. All the soloists — Anis Kozub, Ilena Kozub-Greenberg, Karin Kozub-Woods, and Mary Bileski — were impressive in their performances. It was good to hear Mary Bileski, popular Ukrainian concert star in the late thirties, in what was a rare and welcome appearance.

The audience enthusiastically applauded the rendition of folk and work songs by The Milestones of Vancouver, a vocal trio with Jerry Shack, Eugene Komar and Harry Hoshowsky, and called for encores.

The role of the children was most appropriate and much appreciated. The AUUC Children's Choir, under the direction of Karin Kozub-Woods, gave poignant expression to



The Pow-wow Dancers of the Native Brotherhood of Stony Mountain, shown in their dressing room at the Centennial Concert Hall, await their call for the opening number of the Festival.

mankind's eternal hope for peace with their rendition of Ed McCurdy's "Strangest Dream". The tribute of the youngest generation to the oldest was carried out by two youngsters, Rosemary Chaika and Terry Krenz in the "Salute to the Pioneers". Dressed in Ukrainian costumes, they carried a basket of flowers to centre stage where, in a symbolic ceremony, they presented the bouquet to all senior citizens at the Festival.

Ralph Huband, on behalf of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, handed a parcel with special pioneer buttons to Festival chairman M. Mokry for ceremonial presentation to Ukrainian pioneers in the AUUC-WBA community.

There were other children who participated in the pro-

gram. The opening scene saw Indian and Metis youngsters as a tableau to the fiery Indian dance, with Reverend W. Cuthand's son in a brilliant performance in the dance number. And the young lad who appeared with the kobzar in the tableau of that title was David Dubinsky.

The spirit and zest of the Festival exploded in Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton (see credits on page 12). Here was the vibrant presence of the new generations. And with the ardour of youth, they gave the Festival some of its liveliest moments. There were many fine comments after the show about the large numbers of young people on stage and in the audience.

The Hon. Ben Hanuschak, speaker of the Manitoba Leg-

islature, presented greetings on behalf of the government and assembly. Alderman Slaw Rebchuk spoke on behalf of the City of Winnipeg, and M. J. Sago represented the National Committee of the AUUC. Michael Mokry, as Festival chairman and in the name of the Manitoba Centennial Committee of the AUUC-WBA, presented Messrs. Hanuschak and Rebchuk with a Ukrainian shirt each and asked them to accept Ukrainian shirts for Premier Ed Schreyer and Mayor Stephen Juba.

Mention must be made of the many people who, over the months of preparation and behind the scenes at the event, contributed to the outstanding success of the Festival. Their names do not appear in the published credits. These were the many workers and officials of the AUUC and WBA who gave unstintingly of their time and energies to the planning sessions, ticket sales, publicity, posters and mailings, and to the construction of the sets, the canvassing of business establishments for goodwill advertising, and much gruelling routine. At the head of this task force, with over-all responsibility as the provincial secretary of the AUUC and chairman of the Festival committee was Michael Mokry.

The Festival of May 3 will remain one of the great cultural events in Manitoba's centennial celebrations.

We are glad we were there.

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5.)
ficer, who came in from the World War I front to serve under the UNR colours, was almost immediately appointed the commander of the 1st military aviation squadron. At that time, the squadron consisted of one plane.

By March, 1919, the Ukrainian National Republic,

which was fighting for independence in the midst of the Civil War, was cut off from Europe on all fronts. The White Guard, who had sided with the Red Army, controlled the South. The Red Army was closing in from the East and North, while the Poles and Romanians were attacking from the West.

The only way to reach Europe was by air. To create such an air link, the UNR negotiated a plane lease agreement with the Germans. Under the agreement, Germany supplied six aircraft, complete

with German air crew, which became the 1st Zaporizhya Airborne Division.

Yegorov was put in charge of international transportation.

By late 1919, the army of the UNR was losing ground. Symon Petlyura and the UNR government were forced to flee to Poland. The plane lease contract with the Germans was cancelled, and the planes returned to Germany.

Yegorov took off for Odesa, where he joined the ranks of the airborne division of the Ukrainian Galician Army, allies of the White Guard.

Before long, the Ukrainian Galician Army changed political orientation, and ended up siding with the Soviet Red Army.

Yegorov remained in the Soviet Union until he died in Moscow in 1961.

Concert in Toronto

(Continued from Page 8.)
Argentina", "Dark Eyes", and "Yellow Bird".

Then it was the turn of the Hahilka Singers, conducted by Natalka Mochoruk and accompanied on electronic keyboard by Peter Krochak. They took the stage to entertain the audience with five pieces in which the singers both sang and acted, delighting and amusing the audience.

The items they performed were "Oy pidemo zhinko" (Let's Go, Wife), "Oy ty harney Semene" (Oh, You Handsome Semen) "Oy, slaba ya, slaba" (I'm Ill, So Ill), "Zhartivlyvi kolomeyky" (Humorous Ditties), and "Pee-shla kuma do kumonky" (rendered by Natalka as The

Case of the Missing Chicken).

Our Welland friends again took the stage, to present their second and final set, which included "Pozvol meni maty" (Mother Let Me), "Zapletu vinochok" (I'll Weave a Wreath), and "Ukrainian Folk Medley", along with other numbers.

Solos, duets and trios were performed by members of both groups, including Mary Gargal, Rudy Wasylenky, Lorna Clark, Ken "Bud" Speck, Claudia Rabzak, Terry Rivest, and the multi-talented (vocals, mandolin, acting, and M.C.) Wilfred Szczesny.

No words can describe adequately the feeling of camaraderie and warmth that infused the performers and audience that afternoon.

This was an event which will be remembered fondly for a long time.

— George Borusiewich

JoKe TiMe

Think About It

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?

Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

Why are there flotation devices under plane seats in-

stead of parachutes?

Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?

Do you need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?

If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?

If you can't drink and drive, why do bars have parking lots?

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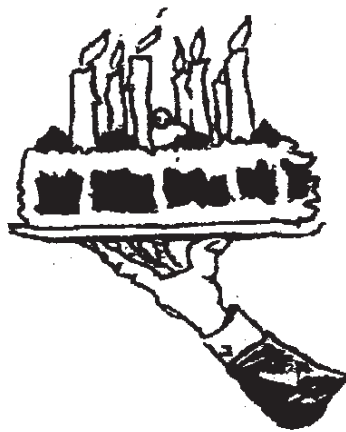
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Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Maurice Warick
Pauline Warick

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 May celebrants:

Mary Kuzyk
Nita Miskevich

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends May birthday greetings to:

Charlie Hegeous
Sylvia Surette
Anna Withers

Hope you had a great day!!

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

Victor Babiy
Millie Kish
Frank Panetta
Joan Sitak

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



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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Spring Fling

(Continued from Page 11.) to highlight the many outstanding voices in the group and we were treated to some stunning solos.

The Vancouver Folk Orchestra performed “Air” by J.S. Bach, a fitting selection, as well as “Bright Shines the Moon” by Andreyev. The group’s Director is Steven Ho, who is doing a magnificent job of expanding the repertoire, attracting new members and



Harry Hoshowsky, who celebrated his 90th birthday during the concert, has been with the Vancouver Folk Orchestra 80 years!

delighting the audience. Many members have been with the Orchestra for decades and have, no doubt, seen many changes over the years. The wonderful mandolin player Harry Hoshowsky celebrated his 90th birthday that day, and remarked it was his 80th year playing with the Orchestra – extraordinary!

I was sitting next to a 5-year-old guest who was watching her first concert at the AUUC. She was absolutely captivated by the performances. A program that keeps a little girl quietly on her Mom’s lap – eyes wide – has achieved success!

Later, the same girl was front and centre, looking up at the stage during the dance. The live band and guest performers again had her entranced.

It’s easy to take for granted the talent we have among us, and the great gifts that these artists provide. Music and dance are such a

natural part of our heritage. It can be easy to forget the magic that surrounds them and the awe they inspire. I would encourage everyone to take the time to see these moments through new eyes – it may just renew your creative spirit.

The fun thing about these evenings is watching the little ones and the young adults enjoying themselves together. It is their time to shine. The kindness and inclusion makes guests feel so comfortable and welcome.

The band enlisted the help of a caller, which is a great way to get everyone up out of their seats and interacting with the whole crowd. The talented young Hobbis brothers, both dance students, sat in on accordion and fiddle for some great polkas.

The band played on into the night. Sleepy toddlers were carried out by tired parents, teenagers said “goodbye” making plans to see one another soon, and everyone filed out into the night, satisfied.

— Laurel Parasiuk Lawry



The ph Rockets performed Celtic tunes.



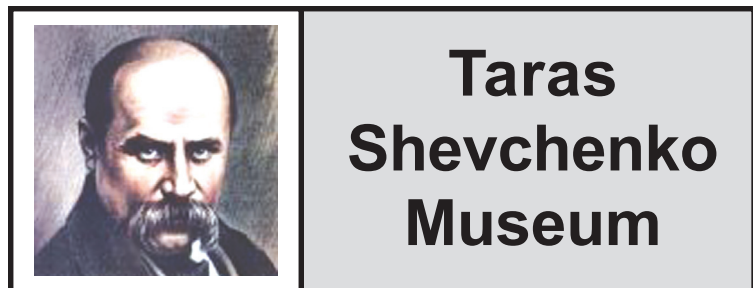
Joey and Jake Hobbis sat in with the ph Rockets for a rousing polka.



The Dovbush Dancers in “Transcarpathian Dance”.



Young and not so young — all enjoyed the kolomeyka.



VERA RICH Shevchenko Translator



Vera Rich (1936-2009)

Vera Rich, the noted English poet and translator, died in London on December 20, 2009. Born in London on April 24, 1936, she was one of the best translators into English of the Ukrainian poetry of Taras Shevchenko.

She was fluent in Ukrainian and other languages.

In 1957 her first translation of a Ukrainian poem was published. But her first major translations were in the book *Song Out of Darkness: Selected Poems*, published by Mitre Press in London in 1961 for the 100th anniversary of the death of the great poet.

Although she was not of

Ukrainian origin, Vera Rich mastered the Ukrainian language and was able to successfully reflect in English the spirit of Shevchenko’s poetry.

In 2007, an attractive volume of Shevchenko translated by Ms. Rich was published in Kyiv, with an introduction by Ivan Dziuba, under the auspices of the Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. This is a fundamental academic volume with selected poetry, painting and graphic art.

Academician Mykola Zhulynsky, Director of the Shevchenko Institute of Literature, and Prof. Roksolana Zorivchak of Lviv were involved in the production of this book. Others on the publishing committee were Dmytro Drozdovsky, Hanna Kosiv, Oleh Mykytenko, Andriy and Maria Kochur.

Among other translators of Taras Shevchenko into English are Ethel Voynich (London, 1911), Alexander Jardine Hunter (Winnipeg, 1922, 1961), Prof. Clarence Manning (New York, 1945), Mary Skrypnyk (Toronto, 1960, 2005), John Weir (Toronto, 1961, 1964 and Moscow, 1961), Prof. George Luckyj

(Toronto-Munich, 1961), Prof. C.H. Andrusyshen and Prof. Watson Kirkconnell (University of Toronto Press, 1964), and Yevhen Kerelyuk and V.S. Ruzhytsky (Kyiv, 1977).

Vera Rich had a deep and wide interest in Ukraine, Belarus, Soviet censorship and human rights, as well as her literary interest in poetry and translation.

She wrote poetry such as “Elizabeth: The Wise King’s Daughter” (*Ukrainian Review*, London, 1966).

She also did some very significant research about Medieval Ukrainian history. She wrote an article on Elizabeth Yaroslavna, daughter of King Yaroslav the Wise, who became Queen of Norway (*Ukrainian Review*, London, 1963) and another on Elizabeth’s husband, King Harald Hardrade (1015-1066) of Norway (*Ukrainian Review*, London, 1964).

Ukraine recognized the valuable contribution Vera Rich made in providing the English speaking world with poetic translations from Taras Shevchenko, the greatest poet of Ukraine. In 1997 she was awarded the Ivan Franko Prize “in recognition of 40 years service to Ukrainian literature”.

The English speaking world is fortunate that dedicated translators such as Vera Rich have provided a window on the culture and literature of Ukraine through their work.

— Andrew Gregorovich
(At its recent Annual General Meeting, Mr. Gregorovich was elected President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation.)

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