

## Shevchenko Museum Holds AGM



Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky/Wilfred Szczesny

The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation held its Annual General Meeting in the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on Saturday, March 12. The AGM elected the Board of Directors of the Foundation, subject to ratification by the National Committee of the AUUC. Seated left to right are Lyudmyla Pogoryelov (Museum Director), Andrew Gregorovich (President), Bill Harasym (Vice-President), and Nancy Stewart (Treasurer). Standing, left to right, are Larry Kleparchuk (British Columbia), Joe Dzatko (Auditor), Dianna Kleparchuk (Auditor), Robert Seychuk (formerly representing Ottawa), Shirley Uhryn (Edmonton), Victoria Kravchyna (REC Member and Librarian), George Duravetz (formerly representing Manitoba), Bernardine Dobrowolsky (Recording Secretary), Bob Ivanochnko (Saskatchewan), Jerry Dobrowolsky (Auditor). Not shown are Myron Shatulsky (new Manitoba representative), Oryst Sawchuk (Sudbury) Clara Babiy (Welland) and George Borusiewich (Vice-Recording Secretary). The representatives of Calgary and Ottawa are yet to be named. Additional photos and a report are found on Page 7.

## Press Campaign Under Way!

The AUUC campaign in support of the Ukrainian Canadian Herald is under way!

This is the first time in many years that the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians has undertaken such a project. We hope that AUUC Branches and individual members will take full advantage of this opportunity to build the circulation of our press and to support it financially.

There are many ways to participate in the campaign. Some Branches have already written a cheque to cover their financial target. Other Branches are approaching their members to donate toward the press. In some Branches, fundraising activities are being planned.

Early indications are that the Branches will meet their financial targets! Excellent!

However, don't forget — that is only part of the job. Another part is to build the circulation of the paper. The only way to do that is to ask everyone who is not a subscriber to join our family of readers.

Why should they?

The reasons will vary. Some (and we have been told that this is happening in Vancouver) may subscribe because of the kinds of information we have on pages 5, 6, 7 and 12 — reports, with pictures, on events in the AUUC community.

Many people who just pick up a copy of the paper turn immediately to the pages prepared by Myron Shatulsky, or

the page from The Fellow Traveller.

Other readers may be attracted first to page 3 or 4, or some other part of the paper.

Whatever their preference, many people find items of interest in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. Before that can happen, they have to know about the paper and its content. That is where you come in: showing them the paper, allowing them to read it, encouraging them to take a subscription. Only with this kind of support will this paper grow.

And by the way, you don't have to belong to an AUUC Branch to help out in the campaign. We welcome the help of any individual who wants to make a donation, or buy a subscription, or encourage someone else to do so.

Thank you so much!

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## The Refugee Process

The Harper government is never wrong so it sees no reason to look into the workings of the Immigration and Refugee Board, where one member has rejected all asylum applicants (169 in total for 2008, 2009 and 2010) since his appointment in 2007.

A representative of the Board has denied that any adjudicator may have a bias.

Most of them have acceptance rates above 10%.

This situation, no doubt, reflects another way in which the Harper government is targeting "very ethnic" ridings.

Is Your Sub Due for Renewal?

## Once Again, to War!

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Prime Minister Harper has taken Canada into war against Libya in a cynically hypocritical move designed to bolster political support at home (he hopes) as an election looms, promote his right-wing agenda internationally, and serve the interests of big oil and other giant corporations.

For weeks before the United Nations Security Council passed a sweeping resolution authorizing an attack on Libya, Mr. Harper (with his government departments) was among those waging a campaign targeting Muammar Qaddafi as a "special case" among the dictators of the region and the world, a special case who required special treatment.

Finally, the declaration of war (for that's what it is, under international law), was made, and the attack was launched

Among the many ironies of this anti-Qaddafi action is that the coalition attacking Libya includes Saudi Arabia, which sent troops just days earlier into Bahrain to slaughter people in that country, and also the government of Bahrain which had invited foreign troops in to do its killing of rebels.

Why has Col. Qaddafi been designated a "special case?"

(Continued on Page 4.)

PUBLICATIONS MAIL 40009476  
POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO  
KOBZAR PUBLISHING CO. LTD. 595 PRITCHARD AVENUE  
WINNIPEG MB R2W 2K4

**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**

## Current Eclectic — Long and Short

### Harper's Gang Holds Us in Contempt

There is no doubt about it: the Harper government (he loves that designation so much that he tried to make it official) holds Parliament in contempt. This contempt spills over to the people Parliament represents; that is, all the people of Canada. Still, sometimes one just has to marvel at the nery way the Conservatives play politics.

Here is one example. It seems that Prime Minister Harper and Michael Ignatieff,

Leader of the Official Opposition, were both invited to an event organized by the High Commission of India to launch The year of India in Canada.

The details are murky, depending on whose account one reads.

Apparently, both men were scheduled to speak. However, after the Prime Minister had spoken, his staffers removed the podium. While Mr. Ignatieff's people sought another lectern, the Prime Minister's

staff ushered the attending media (who did not know that Mr. Ignatieff was to speak) out of the room.

How could the High Commission of India let that happen? By letting the Prime Minister's Office take over the event. The podium used by Mr. Harper did belong to the PMO, which was under no obligation to share. Hilarious, if juvenile!

The harm having been done, the Prime Minister's Office apologized for the "staff misunderstanding or over-zealousness".

The Liberals, of course, saw it differently, but their complaints about an "appalling abuse of power" just made them look like sore losers who had been outmanoeuvred.

The reports on the events in Toronto's two local newspapers did not report what The High Commission of India thought of the hijinks.

Not all the antics of the ruling party, however, have that youthful charm. (Okay, maybe

it wasn't all that charming.)

Both articles about the podium (one in a Liberal Party supporting publication, the other in a Conservative Party cheerleader) referred to a Conservative activity that was not funny at all. That was the letter sent out by the office of Immigration Minister Jason Kenny soliciting donations for a campaign targeting "very ethnic ridings".

The problem was that partisan appeal was sent on House of Commons letterhead — definitely an abuse. A staffer was either fired or resigned (again, depending on which report), supposedly for using the wrong letterhead. Or maybe it was for sending a copy to Linda Duncan, an NDP Member of Parliament, who took exception to this abuse of public resources for partisan ends.

Canada's national newspaper, another apologist for the Conservatives (most of the time, at least) reported that Mr. Kenney was taking "the

heat for (an) aides 'unfortunate error'." Mr. Kenney, *The Globe and Mail* also reported, did not think that the scale of the abuse justified all the outrage and calls for his resignation. After all, the stationary probably cost a couple of dollars. What other principle could be involved? Certainly none that this Harper government would recognize.

The main problem is that this government, which would rather be known as "The Harper Government" than "The Government of Canada", also hold in contempt the laws of the land, ethical guidelines, and the usages and traditions which have been developed over centuries to safeguard parliamentary democracy. To them, it is all limitations to be circumvented. If you get caught going over the line and are judged to be in contempt of Parliament or in violation of law, well, it's just a game — you win some, you lose some.

The astonishing thing is that a party with such a cavalier attitude may be rewarded with a majority in the next Parliament. Of course, polls have been wrong before.

### Remember Stacy Bonds?

In its December, 2010, issue, the "UCH" carried the story "Police Running Wild", concerning the treatment of Stacy Bonds by Ottawa police on September 6, 2008. Our story indicated that a trial judge had stayed the charges against Ms Bonds on October 27, 2010, because of the appalling behaviour of the police.

Ottawa police had undertaken an internal investigation to determine whether the ruling by Justice Richard Lajoie had been justified.

In mid-March, it was reported that Sergeant Steven Desjourdy of the Ottawa Police Service had been charged with sexual assault in the case, following a investigation by Ontario's Special Investigations Unit.

The March report indicated that several other cases of apparent police brutality were still being investigated, on the basis of the Bonds videotape

and other videos.

Sgt. Desjourdy's court date has been set for April 12. It will be interesting to see how the case progresses. After all, charged is one thing, convicted is another. Similarly, convicted and treated leniently is far different from convicted and given a stiff sentence reflecting the seriousness of abusive policing is another, something in between is a third.

An immediate question that comes to mind is the state of affairs concerning the other officers involved in the attack on Stacy Bonds.

Another question (actually, there are many, but one more will do) that comes to mind is whether any action will be taken on the other violations of law the Ottawa police perpetrated before, during and after arresting Stacy Bonds — such as perjury on the witness stand in October, 2010.

Once again, it is worth remembering that, after her mistreatment, Stacy Bonds was saved from a conviction because videotape showed that the police were lying. Other victims of police brutality are not so lucky.

### Valuing One's Assets

We have been reading and hearing ever so much about the way the Harper government rides roughshod over critics, including civil servants whose job it is to offer policy options (perhaps with a recommendation), including those that are not consistent with Harper's ideology. It would be easy to come to the conclusion that that's all there is.

Not so. The Harper government knows how to treasure and reward its friends. A case in point is Christiane Ouimet.

All indications are that Ms. Ouimet was quite good at her previous jobs, that she handled them efficiently and effectively. Then, in 2007, she was appointed federal Integrity

Commissioner, an independent officer whose job it was to report on wrongdoing by government or governmental departments, as well as to protect civil servants who reported wrongdoing, against reprisals. There seemed to be no reason to think that she would not be up to the task in this newly created post.

Then, in October, 2010, Auditor General Sheila Fraser, one of the few "independent" officers who has not been browbeaten into submission by the Harper government or forced to resign to maintain her own integrity, prepared to audit the office of the Integrity Commissioner.

Ten days before the audit Christiane Ouimet and Wayne Wouters signed a separation agreement. Wayne Wouters is Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet — Canada's top civil servant. Two days before the audit, Ms. Ouimet resigned.

Auditor General Sheila Fraser reported in December, among other things, that 228 cases of wrongdoing had been brought to the office of the Integrity Commissioner during Ms. Ouimet's three years in office. Only seven investigations were undertaken, and there were no findings of wrongdoing. Not a distinguished record.

The Auditor General also found that Ms. Ouimet had abused her own staff, which, first of all, seemed out of character if her previous work record were considered, and

second, was hardly appropriate for one in her position. The situation in her office was reportedly so bad that 19 of 22 people on her staff quit in the previous year.

Many civil servants have resigned or been fired during the reign of Stephen Harper. For the most part, they have received the minimum possible severance package. The treatment of Ms. Ouimet was far more generous. She got a payout of over \$500,000.

After three years in office with a record that would have justified being fired for cause, that sounds like a lot of money, which it is.

Other factors than the last three years do come into play. After a career lasting 25 years, 28 weeks of severance pay does not seem too out of line, though almost \$500.00 weekly is a rate we might all envy. There may be more cause to wonder what justified a \$354,000 separation allowance, and another \$53,000.00 or so en lieu of "forgone benefits".

One can hardly wonder that the opposition parties charge that Ms. Ouimet was appointed as Integrity Commissioner because the Harper government knew she would protect them. Perhaps the browbeating of underlings was to suppress demands for investigations. Perhaps.

(**Note:** Though official business should be done as "Government of Canada", the more people identify the scoundrels in this government with Harper the happier we may all be after the next federal election .

### Speaking of Jobs...

When the jobs report came out in February, reflecting the January situation, the government, the bankers and the official economists were jumping all over themselves bragging about the strong recovery in the job market.

They were not quite so happy when they got the figures released in March. The February results were called "disappointing".

The number of full-time jobs fell by almost 24,000 in February. The net growth, about 15,000 new jobs, was all part-time. The unemployment fig-

ure stayed at 7.8%, even though the number of self-employed people rose by 26,000. (Self-employed includes stuff like selling encyclopaedias door-to-door, marketing homemade pies at bazaars, and at this time of year, helping people fill out their income tax forms — all excellent jobs, designed to feed your family.)

Without all the newly "self-employed", unemployment would have increased.

With stimulus spending coming to an end, the hope is that the private sector will drive growth in the job market, but in February, the private sector lost 20,000 jobs.

Much of the official optimism about jobs lies with the perception of an improving US

economy, but it is still to be established that there is much of a stable revival in that country.

An added concern is the economic effect that the disasters in Japan will have on jobs in Canada, with shipments (manufactured goods or raw materials) in both directions affected by plant closures in the world's fourth largest (or third, depending on who's counting and when) economy.

While rebuilding in Japan might be expected to generate high demand globally, the money people in the G7 have taken steps, including reducing the value of the yen, to dampen that effect.

— Sz

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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Published monthly by Kobzar Publishing Company Ltd.  
595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4  
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404  
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net

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at 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A7  
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Subscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)  
\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.  
Advertising rates available on request.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476

Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not  
necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.

**Once Again, to War!**

(Continued from Page 1.)

When the United Kingdom of Libya declared its independence on December 24, 1951, it was an extremely poor and backward country. Though theoretically a constitutional and hereditary monarchy (which is what Canada is) the country was ruled like a feudal monarchy, with little regard for democratic norms. Britain and the USA established military bases as one of the main forms of national income. In the early 1960s, oil fields started to produce, and the wealth of the country grew — wealth increasingly concentrated in the hands of an elite. Foreign oil companies ruled the roost.

In September, 1969, the king was deposed in a military coup, and Qaddafi became head of a revolutionary council ruling the Libyan Arab Republic. One of the first things they did was to take control of the banks (acquiring 51% ownership). Within months, the British and American military bases were closed. Within a year of the coup, the oil industry was nationalized.

So, we had a Western-friendly feudal king deposed by a group which attacked the banks and the oil companies — and used the proceeds to improve the lives of Libyans.

Qaddafi has been treated as an enemy by the Western powers, with United Nations sanctions of various types, most of the time since. Action has included American bombing in 1986.

Qaddafi's standing in the Arab world has, of course, been affected, among pro-Western dictatorships, by his anti-imperialist stance. It has also been influenced by the differentiations between Sunni and Shia Moslems, and by his rejection of the authority of the *hadith*, an important element in the development of Sharia law.

The situation concerning Libya is further complicated by Col. Qaddafi's pan-African stance, which has earned some support among the people in Black African countries.

There is one other way in which the situation in Libya is a "special case". Unlike the conflicts in Egypt, Tunisia and the other countries in the region which have recently had uprisings, the struggle in Libya had taken the form of a civil war between two Moslem streams.

Estimates of how long Qaddafi and his supporters can withstand the attacks by the international forces have varied widely. By the time this paper reaches its readers, the whole episode may be over. However, questions about the propriety and morality of this action by this second "coalition of the willing" will persist.

**COMMENTARY****No to US-NATO Military Intervention in Libya!  
No to Canadian Military Involvement in Libya!**

*Printed below in abbreviated form is a March 4 statement of the Canadian Peace Congress. On March 20, an international coalition launched war against Libya, with United Nations approval.*

As the crisis in Libya deepens, the Canadian Peace Congress denounces the rapid moves by imperialist forces — including the U.S., E.U., NATO, Canada and Israel — to intervene and exploit the conflict to their advantage. We call on the minority Harper Conservative government to withdraw the offensive Canadian JTF-2 Special Forces who have been deployed to the region, recall the heavily armed HMCS Charlottetown and refrain from deploying logistical air refuelling and support power, and halt the implementation of offensive CF-18's to the region. Furthermore, the Canadian government must oppose the United Nations Security Council's imposition of sanctions which will only result in the death and injury of Libyan people, and reject any form of foreign military intervention including the use of no-fly zones which will involve massive bombardment to neutralize existing Libyan air defences.

While the composition and demands of the movement against the Qaddafi regime are not clear at this point, there is a strong component that is decidedly reactionary in nature. This element, centred in Eastern Libya, includes the so-called "National Front for the Salvation of Libya" which

is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy and is closely tied to anti-Qaddafi exiles; pro-monarchist forces which have never forgiven Qaddafi for overthrowing the king in 1969; and the Muslim brotherhood. These forces are pressing for theocratic, feudal and pro-imperialist objectives, and it is they who have attracted the keen interest and support of large oil corporations and the Western governments.

... Reports of Libyan military strikes against unarmed civilians are distressing and such actions, if substantiated, deserve strong condemnation

The Canadian Peace Congress is concerned that some voices in the broader peace movement have called for the governments of Canada and other countries to intervene in Libya, citing the doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" or R2P.

While the outrage over reports of civilian deaths is understandable, the R2P doctrine is framed in a manner that ignores the geopolitical realities of the current imperialist world order. From the experiences of NATO's intervention in Yugoslavia, two US-led invasions of Iraq, the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, and the coup in Haiti in 2004, it is very clear that foreign interventions under the guise of humanitarianism immediately transform into violent, exploitative campaigns whose aim is to control regions, peoples and resources for the benefit of powerful international entities. By citing the "Responsibility to Protect", the peace move-

ment inadvertently becomes a political fig leaf for imperialist intervention.

... There are reports that hundreds of American, British and French military personnel have already landed in Libya, along with Canadian JTF-2 forces, to act as "defence advisors" to sections of the anti-Qaddafi forces. The United Nations Security Council has imposed sanctions on Libya and there are moves to militarily enforce a no-fly zone over the eastern part of the country, a military measure that would necessarily be preceded by massive bombardment. Several countries — including Canada — have already contributed heavily armed warships to a naval armada in international waters off Libya.

If there is to be any hope of peace, democracy and progress in Libya, this interference must be opposed and reversed.

Libya must not be allowed to become a US-NATO military base in North Africa, the springboard for imperialist efforts to manipulate and corrupt the popular movements in Tunisia, Egypt and beyond. Ostensibly, imperialist moves to interfere in Libya emerge from their opposition to democratic, sovereigntist and progressive forces in Libya and throughout the entire region. Libya could serve as a dangerous precedent for imperialism to block all popular uprisings in the region and throughout the world.

It is the sole right and task of the people of Libya to determine the course of their political and economic development, free from foreign interference. As the World Peace Council stated, "We underline the right of the Libyan people to express their anger and agony and their demands for changes in the social and economic field and their sovereign right to determine the political developments in their own country. The [imperialist governments] which are serving the interests of the multinational corporations and international capital are searching for opportunity to take more and open control of the

(Continued on Page 10.)

**From Our Readers**

Thank you. Keep up the good work.

— Marcy Holyk  
Kingston, Ont.

**SEE US ON THE WEB!**

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

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# Vancouver Malanka

— Story Photos: Dan Fung



Happy winners of the Ukrainian gift basket.



Everyone enjoys a kolomeyka!



Chervony Mak (Red Poppy) provided the dance music for the evening.



Before dinner, a glass of wine for the toast was given to the patrons.

Our Malanka celebration at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Vancouver took place on January 22, 2011.

Janice Beck and Gordon Hobbs were the MCs for the evening.

After enjoying a cocktail hour, including our special drink called Chervona Kalyna, with a full range of appetizers, the people were treated to a program of choral music and dances.

A highlight of the program was the “Russian Dance” from the *Nutcracker Suite*, especially adapted for the Dovbush Dancers by Debbie Karras.

After a buffet dinner of the best of Ukrainian foods, including perogies, cabbage rolls, *kasha* and cornmeal *nachynka*, the band *Chervony Mak* took the stage.

During the dancing, three door prizes were awarded, and towards the end of the evening a beautiful basket was won by a lucky couple.

In the meantime, the Dovbush Dancers held a silent auction featuring some beautifully arranged baskets containing a wide variety of desirable items. The auction received a lot of attention and was very successful.

The favourable comments we received about the sumptuous array of delicious foods, the quality of the program of entertainment, and the general ambiance enhanced with special decorations made this event doubly successful and worth the work required to make it happen.

— Audrey Moysiuk

## Toronto AUUC Movie Viewing

On March 6, AUUC Toronto Branch screened the film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* as the latest in a series of movie afternoons. About a dozen people attended, enjoying the movie, the popcorn, and each other’s company.

There is no movie scheduled for April — the calendar of events, including a Mary Prokop memorial, a Hahilka performance in Welland, the Branch AGM, and Easter, is just too full.

the hot meal prepared by senior members. It was an old fashioned mid-winter meal of sauerkraut, sausage and mashed potatoes, with homemade whole grain buns. Eva Doskoch and Lucy Antinow, along with Olga and Victor Horon were the chefs, as usual.

(Continued on Page 6.)



Dyid Moroz and Snihyrochka greeted guests and provided candy treats.



Dovbush Dancers opened the program with “Kolomeyka”.



The Barvinok Choir entertained the audience with *kolyadky* and *shchedrivky*, songs for the holiday season.



The “Russian Dance” from *The Nutcracker* ballet was fun to watch in this slightly comic adaptation.



The “Hopak” is always a crowd pleaser, and this presentation was no exception.

## In Edmonton: Grandmothers to Grandmothers

President Pauline Warick bade members and friends welcome to our February gathering of the Edmonton AUUC Seniors’ social to honour our birthday celebrants: Fanny Hruschak, Jean Rogers and Harry Strynadka, our centenarian. Only Fanny was able to attend.

A minute of silence was

observed for our member Joe Franchuk, who had died on February 08, 2011. Joe was a long-standing member of the AUUC Edmonton Branch, as well as of our seniors.

“*Za bohato ne ma!*” (Too many are missing.) regretfully observed Anne Husar over a cup of coffee with friends.

A bright spot as usual was

# Toronto: Love and Laughter

Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Some of the people at the Love and Laughter event on February 20.

On February 20, AUUC Toronto Branch held its annual Love and Laughter event at the AUUC Cultural Centre. This is a light-hearted celebration of Valentine's Day, at



The Hahilka Singers: left to right: Maria Gargal, Anna Kulish, Claudia Rabzak, Wilfred Szczesny, Lorna Clark and Zena Bolychuk.

which our members are entertained by the Hahilka Singers, conducted by Nataalka Mochoruk, and by our master of the keyboard Peter Krochak.

As part of the occasion, an assortment of members and friends courageously stood before the audience to relate humorous stories and jokes, hoping to win first prize for humour.

Judges Natalia Denton and Bernardine Dobrowolsky evaluated the delivery and "humorousness" of each of

the would-be comedians, and presented a prize to the winner.

In this case, the person telling the most humorous story was Marie Prociw. She was a popular choice.

First prize in the raffle, a magnificent pillow, was won by Vera Borusiewich.

All prizes, including the raffles, were hand-made and donated by Natalie Mochoruk.

It was a pleasant and satisfying afternoon, with socializing over coffee and cakes at the end of the ceremonies.

— George Borusiewich



George Borusiewich, AUUC Toronto Branch President, opened the afternoon with welcoming remarks.



The multitasking Peter Krochak accompanied the Hahilka Singers, played solo keyboard music, and then added a joke to the afternoon.



Nancy Stewart entered the joking contest.



In addition to conducting the Hahilka Singers, Nataalka Mochoruk participated in the joke telling. Nataalka also donated many pieces of embroidery, awarded as prizes that day.



Natalia Denton reported the results of the joke contest, as judged by herself and Bernardine Dobrowolsky.



Marie Prociw was the popular winner of the joke-telling contest.



Otti Nicolai did not win, but nevertheless enjoyed participating in the joke contest.



Though joke-telling prominence eluded him, Bill Malnychuk had his few minutes of fame: a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to You" and a card from his friends.



Mike Stefiuk offered the fourth-best joke, delivered with many entertaining gestures.

## Grandmothers

(Continued from Page 5.) Appreciation for their continued efforts was extended. The roasted sauerkraut with bacon and onions was a hit. Olga Horon was explaining to Vivian Pich how this traditional dish was made. Olga instructed that the sauerkraut was first boiled with mixed spices and a bay leaf, but Vivian Pich heard "Bailey's". Vivian got excited! Program Director Eva

Doskoch said that day tours for our seniors were being researched for the coming months. She encouraged us to go on Anderson's all-inclusive tour to Jasper, Alberta, on April 12 to 15.

Vivian Pich was our guest speaker so we could learn about the international project, Grandmothers to Grandmothers. This campaign was launched by the Stephen Lewis Foundation on March 07, 2006, on the eve of International Women's Day.

Vivian Pich spoke passionately, providing much information about Grandmothers to Grandmothers, which supports African grandmothers raising their grandchildren who have been orphaned by AIDS.

— "I want my money to go to where it is really needed, the grassroots!"

— "This organization targets women, orphans and grandmothers."

— "A hoe costs \$3.50. In Zimbabwe a textbook costs \$5.00. In Uganda a uniform for school costs \$8.00. A bicycle in Zimbabwe costs \$90.00."



Fanny Hruschak was the only birthday celebrant able to attend.

— Story photos: Victor Horon



Vivian Pich spoke about Grandmothers to Grandmothers.

— "There is gender inequality without human rights."

— "We will not raise our children for the grave", say the local people.

— "They have no social net at all."

— "The grandmothers are a force virtually holding the African continent together."

— Grandmothers to Grandmothers gives them a measure of dignity in their darkest hours."

There is a group of Grandmothers to Grandmothers in Edmonton. They call themselves GANG, Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation. The movement in Alberta is expanding.

Olga Horon, our treasurer, gave a donation from the Edmonton Seniors for the continuation of the worthy cause of grandmothers in Africa.

The report of the meeting on March 15, recognizing our birthday celebrants and the 150 years since the death of Taras Shevchenko, will appear next month.

— Shirley Uhryn



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# Museum Foundation Holds 15th AGM



Andrew Gregorovich



Lyudmyla Pogoryelov



Nancy Stewart



Bernardine Dobrowolsky



Dianna Kleparchuk



Robert Seychuk

Members of the Board of Directors of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, members of the Audit Committee, guests and interested observers gathered at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on March 12 for the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Foundation. Many aspects of the day were traditional and/or routine (such as the election of a Board of Directors), but there was much that went beyond “business-as-usual”.

This year, again, a highlight of the business was the report from the Lands Development Committee, delivered by Bill Harasym, with a question-and-answer session including planner Grant Morris and architect Len Sedun.

The report discussed some of the problems connected

with the development of the property which the Foundation owns in Oakville, as well as the opportunities which lie ahead.

The question period was a lively session, probing various aspects of the project. In particular, Shirley Uhryn of Edmonton respectfully posed a series of questions which reflected uncertainties which any stakeholder might want clarified. Ms. Uhryn indicated that she was satisfied with the replies she got.

The AGM concluded this point on the agenda by adopting a resolution “unequivocally (agreeing) with and (endorsing) the development of the Shevchenko Lands with the objective of achieving long term, stable financing of the THS Foundation and the AUUC as approved by both institutions upon the recommendations of the Shevchenko Lands Development Committee.”

Of course, the AGM also

considered other reports. One of those was the President’s report, by Andrew Gregorovich. In his report, Mr. Gregorovich detailed some of his personal contributions to the work of the Foundation, in the context of the institution’s ac-

tivity. Among the many interesting items in his report were: the reference to the 150th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko’s death, and the special Museum display on this theme; the indi- (Continued on Page 12.)



Planner Grant Morris (left) and architect Len Sedun exchange thoughts during a break in the AGM.



The talented Natalia Kolach, on the keyboard, played a Shevchenko medley and her own composition.



Bernardine Dobrowolsky (left) and AUUC National Treasurer Kathy Schubert discuss a point.



Snack time for Dianna Kleparchuk, Shirley Uhryn and Pat Dzatko.



Some of the diners, paying rapt attention to the sound of Natalia Kolach.

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky/Wilfred Szczesny



Bill Malnychuk, Olesya Pogoryelov and Ann Malnychuk at the banquet.



After dinner, George Duravetz (back turned), makes a point to Andrew Gregorovich, Robert Seychuk and Wilfred Szczesny.

**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**



## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

### Another Chornobyl?

(This page is being written just after the earthquake, and subsequent nuclear plant explosions, took place in Japan. The explosions raised fears of a disastrous nuclear meltdown).

The explosion and partial roof collapse at Japan's Fukushima nuclear reactor last month stirred sometimes still-raw emotions all across Ukraine, site of the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear power accident.

The reactor at Chornobyl went critical and exploded, killing dozens and raising a radioactive cloud of dust and smoke to drift as far away as Sweden. But nuclear power, despite Chornobyl, is far from universally condemned. Ukraine, a former Soviet republic is one of Europe's most enthusiastic users of atomic energy, producing about 53 percent of the country's electricity by reactor.

"The thing that Chornobyl taught us is that, even after a radioactive explosion, the world does not end, life goes on," said Petro Dmytrych, a construction engineer who, in 1986, lived in the town of Slavutych, a few dozen kilometres from the accident's epicentre. "Yes, people died, but many thousands more were evacuated, were forced to leave their homes for years," Dmytrych said.

More than 300,000 persons were evacuated after the Chornobyl disaster, with the state putting a priority on transporting children. "All must work to protect the children," said housewife Maria Radchenko, a resident of Zabriie village, a Kyiv suburb where every single child was pulled from school and sent to a summer camp on the Soviet border with Turkey three days after the accident.

### Naughty Children

The town fathers in a locality near Ukraine's port city of Odessa have imposed a nighttime curfew on children under 16.

The municipal council in Izmail (citing rising crime, heavy drinking and tobacco addiction among its children) said it wanted them at home and not in clubs, computer cafes or on the streets after dark.

"The children come to school and openly sleep through the first classes," Tetyana Yenakieva, head of the local children affairs service, told a media conference.

According to Izmail's official website, the town of 77,100, once the scene of fierce battles between the

Russian and the Ottoman empires, has five night clubs and a dozen bars and cafes.

Yenakieva said children under 14 were now barred from being out after 9:00 pm, while those under 16 could stay out just one hour longer.

Police and other government agencies are in charge of enforcing the rules. Parents of those who breach the curfew will be fined along with the owners of clubs, bars or computer gaming facilities where the children are found.

### Churches Trusted

According to a recent poll, 67.1% of respondents fully or mainly trust the church, 46.4% trust the Ukrainian mass media, 40.1% trust the Ukrainian Armed Forces, 37.4% trust the Russian mass media, 36.5% trust the western mass media, 31% trust the president, 22.9% trust the government, 21.4% trust trade unions, 18.7% trust parliament, 17.4% trust the police, and 14.3% trust the courts.

### Palestinian Kidnapped

A Hamas spokesman says Ukraine must investigate how a Palestinian man was seized from a Ukrainian train and apparently transferred to Israeli custody.

Hamas Interior Ministry spokesman Ihab Ghusein said recently that if reports that Dirar Abu Sisi is being held in Israel are correct, Ukrainian authorities must "uncover the facts."

Ukraine's government has said Abu Sisi disappeared on February 19 from a train from Kharkiv to Kyiv "under unknown circumstances". Ukraine would not comment further.

An Israeli rights group and a U.N. refugee agency official have said Israel is holding him. His Ukrainian wife alleges Israeli agents kidnapped him in order to sabotage a key power plant in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip (Palestine), where he worked. Israel has not commented.

### Cuba, Ukraine Strengthen Bonds

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko said his country and Cuba are willing to strengthen their political bonds while increasing them in the economic and commercial sectors. To underline his statement, he and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla signed a memorandum of cooperation last month in Kyiv.

Rodriguez, on an official visit to Ukraine, met first with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. Later, discussions with Ukrainian Prime Minister Nikolai Azarov resulted in the exciting announcement that Cuba would set up a medical facility in Ukraine for the treatment of cancer patients, staffed by Cuban doctors using Cuban medical technology, and supplied with Cuban pharmaceutical products.

Ukraine has an extensive national network of solidarity committees which support the struggle to free the "Cuban Five", anti-terrorist fighters Rene Gonzalez, Ramon Labanino, Fernando Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernandez, and Antonio Guerrero, unjustly imprisoned in the United States since 1998.

Foreign Minister Rodriguez included in his busy schedule a meeting with activists from the Solidarity Movement with Cuba, which recently organized a campaign of pro-Cuba political and cultural activities in Kyiv.

Before his departure from Ukraine, Rodriguez thanked Ukraine for supporting Cuba in the United Nations in the demand that the United States lift the 50-year-long economic, financial and commercial embargo against Cuba.

### Richest and Poorest

Billionaire Rinat Akhmetov is the richest Ukrainian in the world, according to the US publication *Forbes*. His net worth in 2011 is estimated at US\$16 billion, and compared to the previous year (US\$5.2 billion), it grew by over \$US10 billion in one year.

Victor Pinchuk, who (according to *Forbes*) owns US\$3.3 billion, ranks second in Ukraine. His wealth increased by US\$200 million since last year.

According to a recent report released by the Ukrainian State Statistics Service, 21.4% of people in Ukraine (9.5 million) lived below the minimum subsistence income of UAH700 per month in 2010 (UAH700 is less than US\$100). Two years earlier, in 2008, 18.1% of Ukrainians lived below the minimum subsistence income. (That's capitalism. - gb)

### Health Deteriorating

According to the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, the incidence of illness among Ukrainian school-age children over the past ten years has grown by almost 27%. Thus, if in the first grade more than

30% of children have chronic diseases, by the fifth grade the number rises to 50%, reaching 64% in the ninth.

In general, only 7% of Ukrainian schoolchildren have a satisfactory functional condition of the body.

The Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the National Academy of Medical Sciences notes that only 6-10% of adolescents 12 to 18 years of age are healthy.

According to the *Zerkalo Nedeli* newspaper, the health status of Ukrainians is on the brink of disaster.

### Stem Cell Therapy

(This is a summary of a February 23, 2011, report on *The Small Business News-wire*.)

There is nothing worse than not being able to see properly and finding that your eyesight is decreasing.

One female patient from Ukraine felt exactly that after she was diagnosed with maculodystrophy, also known as Best's Disease.

This patient found that by the time she was a young teenager, she could no longer read or write. After visiting handfuls of clinics and undergoing a number of therapies, she heard about EmCell Clinic in Kyiv.

EmCell was founded by Professor Alexander Smikodub, who holds a Ph.D., and is credited as the inventor of various methodologies of treatment with embryonic stem cells. He is also the head of the Cell Therapy Clinic of National Medical University.

Dr. Smikodub has performed thousands of embryonic stem cell transplants on patients who arrive every month from foreign destinations such as China, Germany, and the United States (where stem cell therapy treatments have not been approved).

The treatments have been found to restore the function of a variety of organs and tissues, and offer effective relief from a variety of conditions and disorders.

Our Ukrainian patient, after six months of treatments, had her central vision not only improved, but also stabilized. She subsequently completed high school and entered university.

### Households Suffer

According to Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, Ukraine's government will raise the price of natural gas for households by 30% this year, as the country seeks to qualify for an International Monetary Fund bailout loan.

The country first turned to the IMF in 2008, when its budget deficit swelled. The nation received US\$10.6 billion before payments were frozen, when the government declined to cut spending before presidential elections at the start of 2010.

The IMF approved a second lending program last July only after Ukraine agreed to raise gas prices, which the government did last August when it raised consumer prices by 50%.

(Ukraine's unions have fought against dealings with the U.S.-based bank because of the onerous terms forced upon the Ukrainian people by the IMF. - gb)

In further bad news for consumers, the National Forum of Trade Unions recently posted on its website a warning that the government is considering doubling the price of electricity on April 1, and increasing it by a further 39% in August.

### Ukraine-Diplom.com

(The information below is, from the Ukraine-Diplom.com website)

The poor economic times, mixed with growing unemployment, the destruction of science, the lack of money for education, culture, and arts has created an atmosphere in which the average citizen feels they have little hope.

People have lost hope that changes will ever occur.

The costs of living here are enormous, as the average prices for consumer goods have risen by 83,000 times in the past five years, while the price for communal services has risen by 170,000 times.

Today, Ukraine is a far way from prosperity, but the promise of a great future is there.

Geographically located between Europe and Russia, Ukraine has the potential to become a key trading hub between east and west, while the Black Sea ports Ukraine possesses show promise of becoming key naval links.

Ukraine also possesses huge quantities of natural resources, including the fertile steppes. Mixed with a trained and well-educated working population, all the keys to success are there.

With the economy growing at a steady rate, Ukraine seems poised to move ahead and become a major world economic power. However, if it is to do so, it must begin to alleviate the suffering of its people, and implement programs which help everyone, not just the wealthy.

(When I read this, tears and anger churned in my heart — tears for the people of Ukraine and anger at the capitalists that betrayed them. - gb)

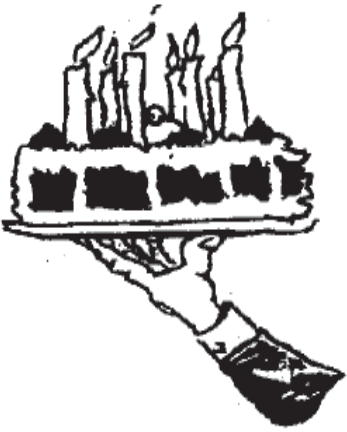
## Statement on Libya

(Continued from Page 4.)  
oil and gas resources of Libya and expand their spheres of influence.”

The key responsibility of the peace movement in Canada is to prevent Canadian involvement in aggressive, unjust and illegal military endeavours. [Therefore], the Canadian Peace Congress:

- declares its solidarity with the Libyan people and demands an end to the bloodshed;
- denounces the UN sanctions against the Libyan people;
- calls on the Canadian government to withdraw from its military interference, including cancelling the deployment of the HMCS Charlottetown;
- opposes any foreign mili-

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Anne Husar  
Cheryl Romach

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 April celebrant:

Marie Harasym

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends best April birthday greetings to:

Joan Kowalewich  
Nick Mackiewich  
Audrey Skalbania

Hope you have a great day!!

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

George Sitak  
Greta Taylor

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

tary intervention, including efforts to impose a no-fly zone over Libya.

(About the Canadian Peace Congress: The Canadian Peace Congress ...

works for world peace and disarmament. The Congress is affiliated to the World Peace Council and is a founding member of the Canadian Peace Alliance.

## Who, What, When, Where

**Calgary** — The Calgary Ukrainian Hopak Ensemble, with special guest artists, the Trembita Choir from Edmonton, invites you to the annual **Spring Concert**, Sunday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the **Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary**. This concert will include a **musical tribute to Taras Shevchenko**, as well as joyfully celebrating **120 years of Ukrainian pioneers to Canada**.

Remember that May 8 is also Mother's Day, so treat your mom to an afternoon of music, dance and song.

Tickets are **\$15.00 advance or \$20.00 at the door**. Reserve your tickets by calling the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre at 403-246-1231 or Darlene at 403-271-2379**.

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — A memorial meeting celebrating the life of **Mary Prokop**, jointly sponsored by the **AUUC Toronto Branch and the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum** will be held at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West**, at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **April 3**. For more information, call the AUUC at **416-588-1639** or the **Museum at 416-534-8662**.

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — AUUC Toronto Branch will host a concert of the **Hahilka Singers and the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra** of the AUUC on Sunday, **May 1**, at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West.**, at **2:00 p.m.** Coffee and sweets will be served. Admission — **\$20.00/person**. For tickets, call the AUUC at **416-588-1639**.

\* \* \*

**Vancouver** — Join the **Night of Foolishness**, the spring family dance and fundraiser at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, on Saturday, **April 2**, with a concert at **7:00 p.m.** and a dance at **8:00 p.m.** to the band **S-Bahn**. Great give-aways, door prizes, Toonie Toss, and snacks — all for **\$20.00 (kids: \$12.00)**. For information or tickets, contact **Kelly at 604-299-2590** (email: [bizovie@telus.net](mailto:bizovie@telus.net)).

\* \* \*

**Vancouver** — The **2nd Annual "Bikes & Borscht" Perogy Lunch & Mini Bazaar** will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, on Sunday, **April 17**, with the bike sale at **11:00 a.m.** and the other events from **11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

\* \* \*

**Vancouver** — The AUUC School of Dancing will participate in the **BC Ukrainian Dance Festival and Competition** on Saturday, **May 7**, at Clarke Theatre, Heritage Park Secondary School, **33700 Prentis Street in Mission, BC**.

\* \* \*

**Welland** — The AUUC Welland Branch will sponsor a concert and banquet remembering Walter Hunka at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, **342 Ontario Road**. The **Ukrainian buffet** will start at **1:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **April 10**. The concert will feature the **Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra** of the AUUC and the **Hahilka Singers** of the Toronto AUUC. Admission is \$20.00. Call Clara **(905) 732-4716**, Rudy **(905) 332-9336**, or Lida **(905) 834-4213**.

\* \* \*

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.



## JOIN US!

Join the AUUC community! 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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Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
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Calgary AB T3E 0R8  
Phone: (403) 246-1231 E-mail: [calauuc@telus.net](mailto:calauuc@telus.net)

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Phone: (780) 632-3033

### VEGREVILLE BRANCH

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Vegreville AB T9C 1R6  
Phone: (780) 632-3021

### REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
1809 Toronto Street  
Regina SK S4P 1M7  
Phone: (306) 522-1188 [www.poltava.ca](http://www.poltava.ca)

### WINNIPEG BRANCH

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Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca  
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404

### OTTAWA BRANCH

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Ottawa ON K2E 5A9  
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Phone: (705) 674-5534

### TORONTO BRANCH

AUUC Cultural Centre  
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Toronto ON M6P 1A7  
Phone: (416) 588-1639 Fax: 588-9180  
[wilfredszczesny@gmail.com](mailto:wilfredszczesny@gmail.com)

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## Taras Shevchenko Museum

### Museum Foundation Holds 15th AGM

(Continued from Page 7.) Suggestion that over a quarter of a million visitors had visited the Shevchenko Museum website since it was established in 1999; and several proposals for future actions.

In the Museum Director's report, Lyudmyla Pogoryelov presented a report on the many accomplishments of the institution since the last AGM, and projected plans for the future.

Ms. Pogoryelov drew the attention of the meeting to the annual deficits of the Foundation, and to the cost of the annual meetings. In her report, she suggested that face-to-face AGMs alternate with virtual AGMs, using the power of modern communications technology. The AGM subsequently adopted a resolution to implement this proposal, with the first virtual AGM set for March, 2013.

The AGM reviewed the status of the items in the General Resolution of the 14th AGM, many of which had been completed and some of which remained. The General Resolution of the 15th AGM was to complete the tasks set at the previous AGM, with a few additions added verbally by Bill Harasym. From the floor of the meeting came two main proposals which were adopted: to combine the 2012 AGM with a special event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Foundation, and to undertake a major fundraising effort during the 60th anniversary year.

Nancy Stewart presented the Treasurer's report, which included, among other items, information concerning possibilities for reducing the taxes on the Oakville lands.

The Audit Committee report, presented by Dianna Kleparchuk, indicated that the finances were in good order

and properly conducted. Suggestions were included for changes meant to make reporting easier.

An extraordinary agenda item was the presentation of a tribute to Mary Prokop. Mary Prokop, who died on February 27 at age 97, was part of the Foundation from its beginnings, until declining health ended her participation.

After the AGM adjourned, many of those present accepted the invitation to visit the Shevchenko Museum to view the exhibition related to the 150 anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's death.

The day ended with a banquet catered by Baby Point Lounge

As part of the heightened concern about costs, for the first time in memory Foundation Board members were asked to pay for tickets — and they did. So did an additional number of friends and family members who came for the opportunity to visit with representatives from across Canada, savour a delicious meal, and enjoy a bit of performing art.

The diners' expectations were not disappointed: the guests were there, Baby Point always delivers, and the performance by keyboard player Natalia Kolach was topnotch.

The talented Ms. Kolach, who learned her art in Ukraine, played two numbers. The first was a medley of Shevchenko songs, which was 15 or 20 minutes of temptation to sing along. The variety in the songs allowed Ms. Kolach to display her virtuosity. Her other number, two or three minutes long, was her own composition, titled "Nostalgia".

All in all, the AGM and other events of March 12 were well worth the day.

— W. Szczesny

## MARY PROKOP

For some sixty years in my memory, but in fact decades longer, the biography of Mary Prokop and the history of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians have been closely intertwined.

Actually, in her autobiographical sketch, Mary (who was born on Slava, Alberta, in August 1914) recorded her first public activity as fundraising for those arrested in a 1932 Alberta Hunger March, when she was 18, and before she joined the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association. She became active in the ULFTA in 1935, the year she met her future husband, Peter Prokop, whom she married on January 16, 1937.

When Peter, along with other anti-Fascists, was interned in July, 1940, and when the ULFTA was banned, Mary became a leading figure in the campaign to free the internees and restore the legality of the ULFTA. Release of the internees, including Peter, was achieved in September, 1942, and the ban on the ULFTA was lifted in October, 1943.

From 1942 to 1991, with a ten year break to raise her family, Mary Prokop served on the National Executive Committee of the AUUC. Her assignment was leadership to the Women's Branches, which meant also close involvement with such organizations as the Congress of Canadian Women and others.

Of course, that was not her only responsibility. For example, Mary was involved for a time with our press, and with Globe Tours.

A major one of those other responsibilities, from the 1950s, was the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation. Mary spent many weekdays prettifying the park, and many weekends escorting visitors through the museum in Oakville (before it was destroyed by arson in 1988).

As long as the AUUC is remembered, Mary Prokop will not be forgotten. On behalf of the National Committee of the AUUC, I am honoured to express the gratitude of the AUUC for the outstanding contribution made by Mary Prokop, and to extend condolences to her family and friends.

My first contact with Mary was when I was camp counsellor for Lari, who was born in 1949. Lesley, the second son of two children, was born four years later.

Mary suffered grievous personal loss. Lesley died in a road accident in England in July, 1975. Peter passed away a few years later, on October 31, 1981.

In her contribution to *Remi-*



*niscences of Courage and Hope*, Mary said, "One thing I never did after losing my loved ones was to lock myself away from people. I kept on working and meeting with people, often with tears streaming down, but I stayed with the members of the AUUC who, as a family, helped during those difficult traumas." She wrote of the pleasure she took in her son Lari and his family: wife Pat, and children Alyson and Robert.

Then another tragedy: the death in November, 2000, of her son Lari.

The loss of her husband, but particularly burying her two children, could not but damage Mary's health, both physically and psychologically. Nevertheless, Mary struggled on as best she could in the spirit she had expressed some ten years earlier. She drew particular comfort from her two grandchildren.

Mary Prokop's responses to her personal tragedies were consistent with her public persona, with her personality and character as I observed them over the decades.

Mary was tough and strong, stoically accepting setbacks and defeats while maintaining

her determination to strive toward her goals. She was able to draw encouragement from whatever bit of the positive there was in any situation.

On occasion Mary's face and body language showed disappointment and even anger, but I do not recall her ever allowing herself to voice these feelings rashly. Mary practised a debating Ju-Jitsu, appearing to yield to the powerful rush and weight of her interlocutor, while planting a suggestion (with a "don't you think....?" say) which might bear some result later, when the other party had had time to cool down and think. I've seen her use this technique in NEC meetings, as well as with her family.

Mary first showed her social consciousness as a teenager, and this quality never abandoned her. She remained ever concerned about injustice, social inequality, and the hardships imposed on people by such events as war. As long as she was able, Mary was part of the effort to improve the lives of people at home and around the world, to make our Earth a better place to live.

In my experience, Mary was a modest person, to whom achieving a result was more important than claiming the credit. Never did I hear her complain that her efforts were overlooked or undervalued, though she was quite conscious of the value of what she did.

Mary Prokop was one of the good people. She died on February 27, 2011. We mourn her death, because it is our loss, even as we celebrate her life because it made our own lives better.

Farewell, Mary. May your memory be eternal.

— Wilfred Szczesny

## Sustaining Fund Donations

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<i>In memory of Mary Prokop</i> .....	50.00
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