

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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## Toronto 18 “Hammered”

The so-called Toronto 18 were arrested in 2006. In spite of the claims of solid evidence of their participation in a terrorist plot, seven of the accused had the charges against them dropped, some after having been held for months in solitary confinement.

In 2009, after being held for years, with no evident prospect of release, seven others pleaded guilty. Five of these were sentenced to time served or very little additional time.

Four more of the accused went to trial. All were convicted.

The trial revealed circumstances which should make us all uneasy. Starting as a group of bumbling apparently playing at jihad, the so-called terrorists were joined by police agents who were paid serious money for their work.

Their work was to encourage and enable the suspects to do what they would otherwise have been unable to accomplish, if accounts from the trial are to be believed.

The evidence of their own incompetence and the role of the police agents notwithstanding, the four who went to trial were all convicted.

Nishanthan Yogakrishnan, a youth was convicted in September, 2008, and in May, 2009, he was sentenced as an adult to 2½ years of time already served. He was the first person convicted under Canada's anti-terrorism legislation. (Another report gives that distinction to Momin Khawaja, arrested and convicted in a

separate case.)

Fahim Ahmad pleaded guilty in May, 2010, and was sentenced to 16 years.

Shareef Abdelhaleem was convicted in January, 2010, and on December 17 was still awaiting sentencing.

Amin Mohamed Durrani pleaded guilty in January, 2010, and was sentenced to 7½ years. Given credit for time served, he was released.

Jahmaal James pleaded guilty in February, 2010. He was sentenced to seven years, credited with time served, and released.

Steven Chand was found guilty by a jury, and sentenced to 10 years.

Mohammed Ali Dirie pleaded guilty in September, 2009, and was sentenced in October, 2009, to seven years with five years credit for pre-trial custody.

Asad Ansari, found guilty by a jury, was sentenced to 6.5 years of time served.

Zakaria Amara pleaded guilty in October, 2009, and was sentenced to life in prison. He appealed his sentence. On December 17, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld his sentence.

Saad Khalid pleaded guilty in May, 2009, and September, 2009, was sentenced to 14 years, with seven years credit for time served. The prosecution appealed the sentence, and it was increased to 20 years on December 17.

Saad Gaya pleaded guilty in September, 2009, and was sentenced in January, 2010, to 12 years, with seven years credit for time served. On December 17, the Ontario Court of Appeal increased the sentence to 18 years.

There are many aspects of the case of the Toronto 18, which raise concern. These include, but are not limited to, the delays in coming to trial, the use of at least one highly paid agent provocateur, and sentences of time served.

The Ontario Court of Appeal, in its rulings announced on December 17, apparently felt that the lower courts did not take terrorism seriously enough, and decided that “it is up to the court to shut the door (on any thought that Canada is an attractive place to be a terrorist) swiftly and surely.

On the other hand, in old England, it is reported, pickpockets worked the crowds which came to watch pickpockets being hanged.

## No-Help CPP Proposal

As Canada's finance ministers prepare to gather just before Christmas, the federal government generated an uproar by announcing a change in policy on changes to the Canada Pension Plan.

The supposed reason that the CPP was an issue at all was concern expressed in some quarters that Canadians were not saving enough to provide for their retirement.

In the discussion which ensued, it was generally agreed that a slight increase in CPP payments, along with an improvement in benefits would go a long way toward fixing the problem. The trade union movement and most provincial governments seemed to agree that such changes to the CPP were the best way to approach the problem of providing for Canada's senior citizens.

In the summer of 2010, Harper's government expressed support for changes to the CPP. However, on the eve of the finance ministers' meeting Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced that the federal government would

press for a different approach.

Harper's government, he said, would instead be pushing for a private sector solution. The plan was for a Pooled Registered Pension Plan, a voluntary plan administered by the financial sector.

Several provincial governments attacked the announcement as a betrayal of agreements. Dwight Duncan, Finance Minister of Ontario, reportedly said, “They basically misled us.”

The Ontario Federation of Labour was sufficiently angered that Sid Ryan, with about two dozen other labour leaders and activists, occupied Jim Flaherty's Whitby, Ontario, office.

Alberta was reported to be in immediate support of the proposal from Harper's government. Soon after, Quebec and Saskatchewan, which have their own pension programs, joined Alberta and Harper's government. This allowed Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to claim that there was not enough support for

## Tymoshenko Facing Criminal Charges

Yulia Tymoshenko, former prime minister of Ukraine and one of the leaders of the Orange Revolution, has been charged with abuse of power. She was not detained, but had to give a pledge not to leave the country.

On December 15, Yulia Tymoshenko was invited to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's office, where she was informed that she was being charged in connection with misappropriation of funds that Ukraine received for selling the quotas under the Kyoto Protocol. Under Ukrainian law, this crime can carry a punishment of up to three years in prison.

Ms. Tymoshenko called the charges an act of repression, and accused current President Viktor Yanukovich of deliberately prosecuting the opposition.

Prosecutors also charged former Interior Minister Yury Lutsenko and former Natural Resources Minister Georgy Filipchuck, former officials from Tymoshenko's government.

Filipchuck was arrested and kept in custody.

Lutsenko was charged in a different case: paying too large a salary to his driver, Leonid Prystupliuk, and illegally promoting the man to higher ranks.

Prystupliuk has been also charged under two articles of the criminal code.

Though the opposition is calling the charges political repression, Ukrainian officials note that the Kyoto Protocol case was instigated only after international organizations audited Tymoshenko's government. The report, prepared

the CPP changes.

Earlier, the Harper government had only claimed that, in the depressed economic climate, it would not be good to add to the employees' burdens.

This is clearly an ideologically driven diversion from any effort to resolve the problem of retirement income for Canadians.

The Harper government is far more likely to be concerned about the employers' share of the premiums than the employees' burden.

In addition, it should be borne in mind that two vehi-

by the Kroll company, was made public in October, 2010.

A massive brawl erupted in the Ukrainian parliament, the *Verkhovna rada* (Supreme Council), on the evening of December 16.

Legislators from the opposition party, headed by Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, blocked the parliamentary chamber in the morning. They paralyzed the work of the parliament, demanding all charges against their leader, who is accused of abuse of office, be dropped.

Pro-government legislators tried to regain control of the chamber, using chairs and fists.

In the brief scuffle, several members of parliament sustained injuries serious enough to require medical assistance.

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## Current Eclectic — Long and Short

### Toronto G20: Story Continues

It's hardly to be believed. On November 25, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU), whose job is to investigate allegations of criminal wrong-doing by police, announced that six allegations of police brutality by G20 protesters were being dismissed. In each of the six cases police violence resulted in fracture: broken noses, cheek bones, ribs, arms, a finger and a shoulder.

The SIU claimed that in most of the cases, there was insufficient evidence to lay charges. In two of the incidents, the SIU said, there was reason to believe that the police had used "excessive force". Available evidence included camera recordings of the events. However, the SIU was unable to identify the officers involved. (Remember, it has been admitted that at least 100 cops had taken off their name tags.)

One of the victims of supposedly unidentifiable police thugs was Adam Nobody, who ended up with a broken nose and cheek bone. His capture was recorded, but the arresting officer gave a badge number that could not be traced to him.

Toronto newspapers reported the SIU decision on November 26, with varying degrees of disbelief and disgust.

That could have been it. The *Toronto Star*, in an editorial on November 28, concluded, "But it is now highly unlikely any officer will be disciplined for beating, kicking and injuring demonstrators."

Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair couldn't leave it at that. Even the suggestion that cops

had done anything wrong got him running off at the mouth. In a press release on the police web site, and in an interview on CBC radio in Toronto on November 29, he accused the SIU of sloppy investigation, including acceptance of a tampered YouTube video by John Bridge, doctored Chief Blair claimed "very likely" to remove evidence why the arrest and the violence were necessary.

The reaction was fast and furious.

In his column in *The Toronto Sun* on November 30, Joe Warmington, who had been a victim of the police rampage, savaged Chief Blair. To start, he questioned Chief Blair's leadership, as officers "allowed the real bad guys to vandalize the city while arresting 1,000 innocent people".

Mr. Warmington listed police wrong-doing, including: removing or hiding their name tags and badge numbers, ignoring attacks on cruisers and store fronts, and having "90% of their phony G20 charges thrown out of court".

Mr. Warmington continued by listing some of the lies concerning aspects of G20 policing Chief Blair told the public. He concluded by suggesting that Chief Blair's attack on the SIU was the top cop's warning to others that "they had better keep their mouths shut."

Police public relations representative Mark Pugach, who was rather prominent around the G20 demonstration, seconded Chief Blair, according to a *Toronto Star* report on November 30.

Asked about the eight officers who had been inter-

viewed by the SIU about the attack on Mr. Nobody, and the two who had exercised their right not to be interviewed, Mr. Pugach said "it would be wrong to assume the officers were uncooperative".

Reporting on an interview with Mr. Nobody in an article on November 30, *The Globe and Mail*, told how the victim had the boots put to him because the cops didn't like his answer to "What's your name?".

It was standard operating procedure, after beating him up, to charge Mr. Nobody with assaulting a police officer and obstructing a police officer.

The "Globe" story ends with a paragraph quoting Julian Falconer, Adam Nobody's lawyer, reciting the list of unprofessional acts by Chief Blair and the police, ending with, "This is the stuff of totalitarian regimes."

Neither did the Special Investigations Unit take it lying down. On December 1, it was reported that the SIU, on November 30, had announced that it was reopening the investigation concerning Mr. Nobody. Ian Scott, Director of the SIU, indicated that he would be asking Chief Blair for any additional information, including any forensic evidence (which Chief Blair had claimed to have) of tampering with the videotape.

*The Toronto Sun* is the Toronto paper that loves our cops and hates to see them criticized. However, on December 1, in an editorial, the "Sun" sang the praises of Chief Blair, and acknowledged that it had opposed a full inquiry in G20 policing. Then it continued, "But Blair

looks like a scrambling man spinning stories. It makes us think he's hiding something." The editorial concluded, "On this one, the chief has lost us."

In its report, the *Toronto Star* quoted Howard Morton, former head of the SIU, as saying, "For Bill Blair to not fully cooperate and order every officer in his command who have some knowledge of who these officers are is a disgrace."

On December 3, Chief Blair, unable to back up his claims of forensic evidence that the tape by Mr. Bridge had been doctored, apologized to Adam Nobody.

The SIU was not the only source of trouble for the authorities. Ontario Ombudsman André Marin signalled on December 1 that he would have something to say about Regulation 233/10, the Public Works Protection Act.

The PWPA was requested by Chief Blair, reportedly against the wishes of the Ontario Provincial Police and the RCMP. It was passed in secret by the provincial government and kept secret as long as possible, misrepresented to the public, and repeatedly misapplied far beyond even the fictitious five-metres near the security fence.

On December 7, Mr. Marin issued a report in which he called the law illegal and likely unconstitutional. In a meeting with the press, Mr. Morin said it was "the most massive compromise of civil liberties in Canadian history", and "amounted to martial law in Toronto".

Chief Blair's biggest problem was the *Toronto Star*, which did what the SIU and the entire Toronto police force was unable to accomplish. The

newspaper checked thousands of photographs and poured over available videotape, including a second, longer, and clearer recording of the incident by another person.

And they came up with images which allow identification of at least some of the officers involved in the first violent attack on Adam Nobody (when he was first taken into custody) as well as the second one (when boots broke his face, behind some police wagons, when they didn't like his name). They also allowed identification of other officers who either observed the attacks or aided and abetted them.

The *Toronto Star* had identified a total of fourteen officers, as of December 10. One of the officers was seen in at least three assaults.

While the offending officers have a right to refuse to cooperate with the SIU, the witnesses have no such right. Quite the opposite—they have a responsibility to bring the law-breakers to justice. Even Mike McCormack, President of the Toronto Police Association, has recognized that officers are duty-bound to report misconduct.

There has been increasing pressure on Chief Blair to order his officers to do their duty.

There has also been increasing pressure for a full public inquiry, instead of the many inquiries looking into some small aspect of the way G20 policing was done in Toronto.

Chief Blair has made his apology, and (after declining to appear before the Ombudsman) now promises his full cooperation with investigations. He assures us that people will be held accountable for their conduct, but many are taking a "wait and see" attitude.

(Continued on Page 14.)

### Keeping People Poor(er)

Social welfare policy, we are repeatedly told, aims to help people climb out of reliance on social assistance and into self sufficiency. Mostly, however, the rules are set up to discourage people from trying to get ahead.

This is true throughout Canada, though details may vary from place to place. Details may also vary from case to case in the same place, as different agencies serve different "clients", each agency applying its own rules.

One way in which welfare programs tend to keep people dependent is in their treatment of any income a welfare recipient may receive. The *Toronto Star* recently reported, and then editorialized about one example in Ontario.

The case was of a woman who received help through both the Social Housing Reform Act and the Ontario Disability Support Program. The woman got a job in a facility where she had been a patient, but she had to quit the job because working put her deeper into poverty.

The problem was that the Ontario Disability Support Program reduced her support by half of whatever income she earned. On the other hand, under the Social Housing Reform Act, her rent went up dollar for earned dollar.

Welfare support in Ontario

is not very high. The penalty the woman would pay for working would have represented a serious increase in hardship.

Premier Dalton McGuinty has reportedly recognized that this is "a system of counterproductive rules that 'stomp' people into the ground, hurting them and our economy." ("A smack down, not a hand up", *Toronto Star*, November 23, 2010).

The solution proposed by the "Star" editorial — to set rents on the basis of net, rather than gross, income — is not a solution at all. The result would be that all her earnings would be clawed back, hardly an incentive to get a job, and certainly not helping the woman climb out of her hole.

The solution which would be neither "mean-spirited" nor

"unfair" while allowing people to move "toward self-reliance" would be a welfare system which provides support at an adequate level, and working conditions which provide a level better than that.

Unfortunately, the political approach to social assistance has been mean-spirited and unfair. Premier Harris, in his day, adopted a particularly punitive approach to people receiving social assistance, and subsequent governments, particularly the Liberals led by Premier McGuinty, have done little or nothing to undo the damage done by Harris.

In the meantime, all the new user fees, and all the higher fees, and all the user costs arising from privatization have hit everybody hard, but have been particularly hard on welfare recipients.

— Volodymyr Lucky

### Cause for Concern

Tom Flanagan suggested that Julian Assange, he of WikiLeaks fame, should be assassinated, and he replied with a threat to at least one person who objected to his comments. Then he apologized.

That, apparently, will be that.

However, that should not be

that. Though Mr. Flanagan said that he wasn't serious, his statements, in today's world were very serious indeed.

It should be noted that the president of the United States has the power to order assassinations abroad, including assassination of American citizens, merely by claiming that

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UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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**Who Will Police the Police?**

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

In the old days, if a cop broke your bones, he would then charge you with assaulting a police officer and/or resisting arrest and/or a selection of other options. In court, it would be your word against his — and he always got the benefit of the doubt. If other cops had been present during the incident, they would support his version of the story. Usually, when the police decided to go after you, for whatever reason, your goose was cooked.

Stories about the G20 policing in Toronto, the assaults on prisoners in Ottawa, and a host of other places across Canada show that things have not changed that much. Police still assault innocent and defenceless citizens, they still lay charges against their victims, and they still support each others' lies. They still get the benefit of the doubt in court.

Over the years, various oversight mechanisms have been tried to rein in police anti-civilian violence. In some instances, they have not been able break through the code of silence within the ranks. In other instances, as shown in the Special Investigations Unit investigations around G20 policing, they are investigating their brother officers and are quite happy to close the investigation with "not enough evidence".

No, things have not changed that much. There can be no doubt that cops are still getting away with murder, or at least mayhem and who knows what other illegal acts.

There is one important new element: the ubiquitous camera. In Ottawa and many other places, it was cameras installed to record the treatment of prisoners; in Toronto and many other places it was cameras and camcorders carried by ordinary citizens. The police violence is caught on camera for the world to see

It sometimes takes a serious effort to access official film, or to keep the citizen's recording from being buried or dismissed. However, increasingly the lawyers, or an incensed public, or even a crusading newspaper spurred on by obvious malfeasance of officials, are getting the truth into the open. Thus, police forces, cop-loving media, oversight bodies, judges and who ever else are forced to deal with that truth.

Who, then, will police the police?

Not the police themselves, not oversight bodies, not the courts, not the mayors (so-called chief magistrates) who have no sympathy for anyone who was brutalized.

No, the only force with the will and the strength to police the police is a concerned, courageous and vigilant public. Only we can police the police.

**COMMENTARY****About Household Debt**

As the world economy collapsed, our Minister of Finance and our Prime Minister Harper urged us to spend. They told us that the Canadian economy was too sound to fail, that Canadian domestic demand could keep the wheels of industry turning in this country.

They were in serious error.

There is no Chinese wall separating the Canadian economy from the rest of the world, nor could domestic demand, even if it rose slightly, ward off the depressing effect of losing our foreign markets.

One particularly has to wonder about economists who thought (if in fact they did) that Canada could prosper while the USA went into a steep economic drive.

In fact, the Canadian economy too, went into decline. With the decline came job losses, meaning income losses.

The income losses inevitably brought increased household debt, as people struggled to hold on to their homes, their cars, and the other items which have come to be con-

sidered necessary, in many cases with contractual obligations for continuing payments. Without any income, or with the drastically reduced income generated by the mcjobs of which the government is so proud, higher household debt also grew out of the efforts of people to feed themselves, cloth their families, pay for medications, and even spend a few dollars a day to get to and from work.

And yes, at some point the available credit ran out. Even before threatened interest rates rise, people have been losing their homes and their cars.

Life became one big spiral downward.

The bankers, the university economists, and the ministers of finance, among other high-earners, now warn the people that we are living beyond our means. They tell the suffering or face disaster as interest rates rise.

They make it sound as though it is the fault of the victims of the downturn that the needs of life are increasingly

slipping out of reach. They want us to believe that the struggling people whose incomes have been slashed, or even eliminated, have a lot of choice.

If you have no money, and can't provide for your family, they are telling us, you had best consider the higher-interest-rate future and live within your means.

The question is — what means? Are they talking about the means stolen by the new costs of harmonized sales tax? Perhaps they are talking about the means grabbed by higher smart-metered utility costs. Or maybe they are referring to the means gobbled up by the new and higher user fees for the privatized services which were recently publicly-funded.

Perhaps they think that a minimum-wage, part-time job provides the kind of means that gives a worker a chance to choose between spending and saving.

Vast numbers of people are not facing disaster; they are living it now. What all the talk about living within our means reflects is the certainty that even more people, many more people, will be added to those living a disaster.

They know full well that they are snowing us. Their  
**(Continued on Page 11.)**

**From Our Readers**

Our publication, *Ukrainian News*, ceased publication in 2006, and I look forward each month to receiving your "UCH". To see pictures of — and to read about — your choral groups, dance groups, instrumental ensembles, and all your many activities brings joy to me.

Our Ukrainian American League has also come to a close — not enough younger people to carry on, so with our remaining finances, we wanted to send our support to our Canadian brothers and sisters, with hopeful expectation that your publication and cultural activities continue to thrive.

I congratulate all the "Old Timers" who laboured for many years to build up your publication and organization, the AUUC.

Looking forward to reading your "UCH" for many more months, I remain

Fraternally,

**Genevieve Hanusiak,**  
(Sec./Treas., UAL)  
New York, NY USA

\* \* \*

When the reports came back from the national convention about the state of our finances I proposed a challenge to all for the up-coming year, as it is a major year for a lot of us. I am talking about those of us born in 1941 and still active in the AUUC.

The challenge is this:

To all my friends across Canada, in the year 2011 I challenge each of you to donate one dollar for every year

old you are to the AUUC national organization and one dollar for every year old you are to the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.

My mother, Sonia Ostash, on the occasion of her 93rd birthday, extended the challenge to everyone no matter what age to do the same, and sends \$93.00 to the AUUC National Committee and \$93.00 to the "UCH". Please find enclosed Sonia's contribution and also my contribution of \$70.00 to the AUUC and \$70.00 to the "UCH".

**Sylvia Surette**  
Richmond Branch

\* \* \*

I'm very much looking forward to your opinion and your very newsy articles.

**Mary Danilevitch**  
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## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

### Meat Consumption

Credit Suisse is a world-leading financial services company. It has about 50,000 employees around the world, and is headquartered in Switzerland. In a recent report, it sounded a sombre note on meat consumption in Ukraine.

A decline of some 0.4% a year expected in Ukraine's population is due to "weak economic conditions, an unpredictable political situation and *poor financing* for health care and social programs," Credit Suisse economists said (my emphasis-gb).

And whatever the social implications of such a reduction, which will see Ukraine's population fall by 2 million to a little over 45 million in the decade to 2015, it poses an issue for meat sellers, who are seeing their market shrink.

The report continues: "Just when Ukraine's per capita consumption of meat, which is below that of Russia and less than half that of the U.S., looks set for a 'slight improvement', the number of consumers is to fall."

"Negative population dynamics and slow per capita meat consumption recovery could lead to low meat volumes growth . . .," said analyst Victoria Petrova at Credit Suisse's Moscow office.

### WikiLeaks Ukraine

According to Ukraine's administration, the Ukrainian authorities have nothing to fear from a batch of confidential U.S. diplomatic cables recently made public by the WikiLeaks website.

"What the current authorities say in *tete-a-tete* conversations is no different from the official position of our state and those who have power," said spokesperson Anna Herman. "We do not have double standards."

Since the end of November, WikiLeaks has released thousands of confidential cables from U.S. envoys around the world, from the more than 250,000 to which it has access.

Julian Assange, the founder of the WikiLeaks website, turned himself in to police in December. He is wanted in Sweden on sexual assault charges. He was later denied bail, and remanded in custody by a London court.

Meanwhile, WikiLeaks was forced to move to a Swiss host after being dumped by American internet companies. It continued to spawn mirror sites from supporters around the world, despite Washington's efforts to halt its activities.

Other supporters (computer hackers) banded together to orchestrate "denial-of-service" attacks on the web sites of those deemed to be persecuting Assange, causing the websites to crash.

Amongst those websites were those of the American government and Mastercard.

### Blood-Sucking Leeches

Leeches are gross, but they are on the biting edge of science. From plastic surgery to muscle pain, these blood-sucking worms seem to know more about humans than we can imagine.

Surgeon Leonid Sarzhan picked up his first leech five years ago. Practising in an old Soviet-built polyclinic in Kyiv, at one point he got tired of cutting people.

"Leeches are more efficient than a scalpel," said Sarzhan. "Eighty percent of all surgeries simply cripple people. Operations send a shock to a human body, and recovery takes a long time. Leeches aren't as traumatic."

Used for blood-letting, these worms (yes, that is what they are) have been around for centuries. Before there were antibiotics, doctors prescribed medical leeches to chronic wounds.

This alternative medicine, known as hirudotherapy, now helps to relieve patients from a variety of pains: from arthritis to a gumboil.

Dr. Sarzhan buys his worms from St. Petersburg laboratories, where he said they are carefully synthesized away from Mother Nature.

In his Kyiv laboratory, leeches swim in a family of a dozen in big glass jars. When he opens the lid, they try to escape.

"A leech is a unique creature. It doesn't cure only an illness, it cures the energy of a body cell," Sarzhan explained philosophically.

His patient, Melania Pavlenko, 74, closes her eyes as the nurse plants the black worms on her legs.

### Historical Treasure

(The following is an abbreviation of a recent report in the *Kyiv Post*).

Archaeologists retrieved a rare treasure in November from the bottom of Ukraine's Dnipro River near the city of Zaporizhzhya.

After waging wars some 300 years ago, a Cossack (Cossack) boat rested, waiting to be discovered, under water off Ukraine's largest island and historical stronghold, Khortytsya. Historians are excited by the finding, claim-

ing it to be the only well-preserved artifact of 18th century Ukrainian shipbuilding.

Sediment apparently helped preserve much of the boat's structure, making it much more than a retrieved pile of wood.

The story of Ukraine's first freedom fighters, which can be traced behind the water-soaked beams and masts, is what makes this find truly special. The boat is like a time capsule representing an important part of Ukraine's history. Historians think the boat participated in the 1735-1739 Russian war against the Turks and most likely was part of the Dnipro Flotilla.

The reason for unleashing the war in which the boat allegedly took part were the numerous attacks by Crimean Tatars, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) vassals, against left-bank Ukraine.

The war was also a part of Russia's campaign to gain access to the Black Sea. Cossack vessels were the main force to resist Turkish galleys in the Black Sea.

With a capacity to carry up to 40 people on board, the boat is 17 meters long and 3.4 meters wide.

### Chornobyl Tours

Starting in 2011, Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry plans to arrange official tourist excursions to Chornobyl, the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Emergencies Minister Viktor Baloga recently stated that a large amount of work has already been carried out on this project, and that the tours will begin in the next few months.

Today, about 2,500 employees maintain the remains of the now-closed nuclear plant, working in shifts to minimize their exposure to radiation.

Several hundred people have returned to their villages in the area despite a government ban.

A few firms now offer tours, called "extreme tours", to the restricted area, but the government says those tours are illegal and their safety is not guaranteed.

Spokeswoman Yulia Yershova said experts are developing travel routes that will be both medically safe and informative for visitors.

### Scary Pumpkins

Think jack-o-lanterns are frightening? Try being a man in Ukraine. Then you'll truly understand what it's like to fear a pumpkin.

For centuries in that Eastern European nation, a pumpkin meant one thing: No, I

won't marry you.

An old tradition held that a would-be suitor would visit a woman's house to propose. If the answer was yes, there was family toasting and celebration. If no, the poor guy was silently handed a pumpkin.

Volodymyr Yantsur, a tour guide in the western city of Lviv, dates the tradition to medieval times and says many Ukrainian men would propose only at night so they wouldn't be seen with a pumpkin in their hands if rejected.

Why a pumpkin? As vegetables go, pumpkins are not the prettiest. And maybe that was the message for the boyfriend.

### Famine, Not Genocide

A court in Ukraine has dismissed a lawsuit against President Viktor Yanukovich for saying that the famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s should not be called genocide.

Volodymyr Volosyuk, a member of the far right-wing party, Svoboda (freedom), had sued Yanukovich for saying last April that the great famine of 1932-1933 could not be called genocide against the Ukrainian people because the famine was not confined to the territory of Ukraine.

The court, in its ruling, upheld a previous ruling by a lower court in Kyiv's Pechera District.

(According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the famine killed 6 to 8 million people in the Soviet Union of which 4 to 5 million were Ukrainian. — gb).

### Euro 2012

The 2012 UEFA European Football Championship, commonly referred to as Euro 2012, will be the 14th European Championship for national football teams sanctioned by UEFA.

The final tournaments will be hosted by Ukraine and Poland between June 8 and July 1, 2012. In both countries, preparations for the competitions were a major headache until earlier in 2010, but are now well on course. Two of the four stadiums in Ukraine — at Kharkiv and Donetsk — are already finished. Kyiv and Lviv are on track.

According to UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino, "We are a little behind the ideal schedule on the practical implementation of security, transport logistics and other things, but in general it is well on track and we are confident that, with the collaboration of governments, it will all be ready on time."

### Minimum Wage

(The following is an abbreviated version of a report in the *Kyiv Post*).

According to trade union data, there are 2 million Ukrainians who receive the official minimum wage of Hr 907 (\$115) a month, not enough to live on.

In order to prove this insufficiency, the National Trade Union Forum of Ukraine set up an interesting experiment last October. They recruited five volunteers in five different cities, gave them each Hr 907, and asked them to live on this sum for the entire month.

Only one participant, Hanna Pokotylo, a 47-year-old teacher from Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, managed to last the whole month.

Zaporizhzhya resident Serhiy Chyzhov, 48, ran out of money after 25 days. His comments? "This minimum wage we have in Ukraine is only good to live on an isolated equatorial island. There you won't have to pay taxes, won't have to spend money on clothes or hygiene items, won't shave, won't pay utility bills. At the same time, you won't have children, family and friends."

All the participants reported that they did not have enough money to cover their most basic need: food. They described their hunger and hardship in their diaries, along with the side effects of a changed diet. All of them were forced to switch to cheaper and lower-quality food: meat and fresh vegetables were replaced by bread, potatoes, cheap pasta, and cereals.

Commented Leonid Alpatov, a 21-year-old student from Luhansk, "I am suffering from constant hunger."

Two other participants became sick. Neither could afford medicine.

In addition to those living on minimum wage, there are millions of pensioners whose minimal pension of Hr 723 (\$91) falls below the minimum wage.

According to Natalia Velyka, head of the nutrition department at Bohomolets National Medical University, "An empty stomach not only makes a person feel worse, but also causes aggression. Other negative effects include rapid weight loss and weakened immunity."

(My comments: I am not so blind that I believe that poverty exists only in Ukraine. I am certain that pensioners and minimum-wage earners in Canada are struggling, too. We just need to be reminded of the existence of people who are neglected by our governments.— gb)

**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**

**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**



—Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky

## Toronto AUUC Grey Cup Party

On Sunday, November 28, 2010, the Toronto Branch held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Grey Cup party, with about 25 people attending.

It was a touch of déjà vu, since the two competing teams were the same as played in last year's match. Yet, unlike 2009, the majority of the guests were cheering for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, hoping for their redemption after last year's heartbreaking loss to the Montreal Alouettes.

On arrival, guests were greeted by AUUC Toronto Branch President George Borusiewicz, and given a badge with their favoured team's logo, as well as a string of beads in that team's colours.

Everyone was invited to take part in a football pool at



About 25 people attended the Grey Cup Party at the AUUC Cultural Centre on November 28.

\$5.00 a square and a football trivia contest with Christmas items as prizes.

With the pre-game program being shown on the wide screen TV, the guests enjoyed munchies and the liquid refreshments being served by Joe Dzatko at the bar. Just before kickoff, everyone was treated to the now famous chili dinner prepared by Jerry Dobrowolsky.

While Mark Stewart, as winner of the trivia quiz, was invited to make the first choice of a prize, all participants were eventually offered a prize too.

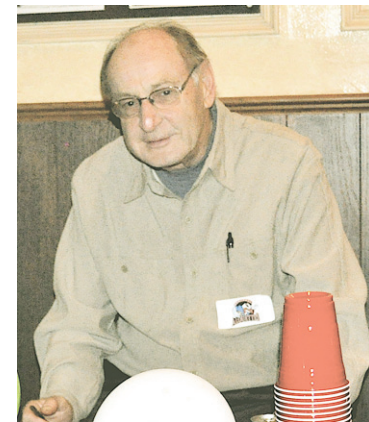
Added to the excitement was the anticipation of the pool winners. Doubly lucky was Pam from Canada Post, who won with the first and third quarter scores. Niki Ross claimed the half time winnings, and the final score jackpot went to Erik Dobrowolsky.

For the entire evening, the AUUC Cultural Centre was filled with both cheers and moans on every play, and with Montreal winning for the second year, there were some happy people and some disappointed ones.

But, in the end, a good time was had by all, so everyone is

looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Grey Cup party.

— B. Dobrowolsky



Joe Dzatko tended bar.

—Photo: Nancy Stewart



Grey Cup Party chef was Jerry Dobrowolsky.



Erik Dobrowolsky, big winner in the football pool, received his prize from Nancy Stewart.

## Toronto AUUC Movie Afternoon

On Sunday, December 12, 2010, AUUC Toronto Branch held its third monthly Movie Afternoon at the AUUC Cultural Centre with the showing of the seasonal classic *White Christmas*.

As everyone in the audience munched on freshly-popped popcorn, they enjoyed the talented singing and dancing of the actors and laughed at their antics and humorous dialogue. The heartfelt ending

even drew a tear or two.

When the film was over, the wide screen TV was put on the Yulelog station, adding a sense of warmth and crackle as the guests enjoyed the Christmas baked goods and coffee.

Even though the reality outside didn't emulate the fresh snowfall of the movie, everyone left with a warm glow and the spirit of the season.

— B. Dobrowolsky

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



A dozen people, most of them shown above, braved the elements on December 12 to attend Movie Afternoon at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto.



Mark Stewart displayed his erudition by winning the trivia contest at the Grey Cup Party.

## NC AUUC Meets

The National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met in Winnipeg on the weekend of November 20 and 21, with the future of the AUUC the focus of their consideration.

The assembled NC members adopted a budget for 2011 for the AUUC, and looked at various possible solutions to the looming financial crisis in the organization.

The National Committee also examined the operations of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. The NC took steps to reintroduce a press campaign as part of the process of generating more income for the "UCH and increasing circulation.

The meeting re-established a range of AUUC standing committees.

The AUUC National Committee will meet again in June.

— Sz

**Season's Greetings from the Dovbush Dancers!**  
**Wishing all AUUC members and volunteers a happy and healthy 2011. Thank you for everything you do for us!**  
 Dovbush Dancers  
 Vancouver, B.C.

**Season's Greetings from beyond the mountains to all AUUC Performing Arts Groups and friends across Canada.**  
**Wishing you happiness, hope and peace this holiday season.**  
 Barvinok Choir and Vancouver Folk Orchestra  
 Vancouver, BC

*Best wishes for the new year and a healthy future to all*  
 Sylvia Surette  
 Richmond, B.C.

*The AUUC Ottawa Branch sends Warmest Greetings and Best Wishes to all AUUC members and supporters for a Happy and Peaceful New Year*



## Welland Orchestra's Busy Close

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra gathers for a performance at Garden City Manor on December 7.

It seems that, every year, the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, follows a period of relative inactivity with an intense flourish of activity.

This year, with nothing in its September to November calendar except the AUUC National Orchestral Workshop, the orchestra ended 2010 with three performances in seven days.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



The overflow audience at Garden City Manor reacted enthusiastically to the concert on December 7.

## Garden City Manor

The first of these performances was an appearance on December 7 at Garden City Manor, a long-term care facility in St. Catharines, Ontario. Part of the fun of this appearance was that it was not confirmed until the morning of the previous day, leading to much uncertainty. As the appointed hour approached there was some concern (not entirely unfounded, as it turned out) that some players might fail to appear.

The audience, many of them in wheel chairs, overflowed the relatively small space available. The anticipation was palpable; one or two even got into the sing-along spirit before the concert began. As might be expected, then, the orchestra's offerings were very well received. Oohs and aahs as various tunes were recognized, voices raised in song, and more than merely polite applause, were among the signs of appreciation which the orchestra was pleased to receive.

The program consisted of Christmas songs interspersed with a variety of other music.

In the first category were instrumental versions of "Silver Bells", "Winter Wonderland", "We wish You a Merry Christmas". Also in this category were "Jingle Bells" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town", with vocals by Wayne Hosick, "White Christmas" with a vocal by Ken Speck, and "Silent Night", with the entire orchestra singing.

The second category included the Ukrainian dance music "I Shall Weave a Wreath", "Yellow Bird" and "Jamaica Farewell" (duet by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny) with a West Indian flavour, the medley "Mariana/Bachko Kolo" from regions of the former Yugoslavia, the world famous Czech song "Beer Barrel Polka" (vocal duet by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny), pop songs "Just Because" (vocal by Ken Speck) and "Sentimental Journey", and additional numbers from stage and film ("Speak Softly, Love" from *The Godfather* and "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina" from *Evita*).

Making his debut as Master of Ceremonies for the orchestra was Bill Luken.

## Shevchenko Seniors

The orchestra continued its schedule of performances with an appearance at the annual Christmas party of the Shevchenko Seniors of the AUUC on Sunday, September 12, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Welland.

The party was attended by about fifty people, who braved



— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny

The audience at the Bella Seniors Care Residents, waiting for the start of the concert on December 13. Their patience was well rewarded, judging by their reaction.

the snow and (later) the rain. The festivities started around 1:00 p.m. with a buffet luncheon featuring wings and several kinds of pizza, a huge veggie tray and other vegetable options (like potato salad), a cheese tray with crackers, miscellaneous sauces and

other enhancements on the main table. Then celebrants were invited to partake of a delightfully sinful dessert table.

When the orchestra moved to take its place for the performance, half the audience

(Continued on Page 11.)

— Photo: Norman Boucock



Conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra prepares for its performance on December 13.

## To All AUUC Members and Friends



Best Wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity in a World of Peace!

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes to All!

AUUC Richmond Branch

May the New Year bring

Peace, Happiness and Joy to all our friends.

Olga and Myron Shatulsky

At this joyful time, thoughts turn to friends across the country. We share the task of carrying our heritage forward with every graceful dance step.

AUUC Vancouver School of Dancing Vancouver, BC

## IVAN FRANKO MANOR

200 McGregor Street Winnipeg, Manitoba

Extends Best Wishes To All Its Tenants and AUUC Members for a

A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR



Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research

A HAPPY 2011 TO ALL

**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**



## About Household Debt

(Continued from Page 4.) main purpose, one can't help but suspect, is to divert our attention from the fact that the suffering of working people is the price being paid for the "jobless recovery" being enjoyed by the (virtual) coupon clippers.

They want us to overlook their continuing assault on the shrinking means of working people.

They don't want us to notice that full-time jobs continue to be lost.

They want to blind us to the new rules being imposed on young workers, with two-tier compensation in work places

— including unionized places.

They want us not to see the attacks on public service workers, with a variety of schemes to cut hours or cut compensation packages.

By accusing the working people of being careless with their expenditure, they want to draw attention away from the reality that employment insurance does not ensure employment, but has become merely another tax used for anything but income support.

By blaming the victims, they want to mask the fact that the welfare system is in reality a system to create and maintain soul-crushing poverty.

We are being told that the impoverishment of the working people will continue as long as we have a "jobless recovery". Then the impoverishment of the working people will be deepened as interest rates charged by financial institutions rise and the drive for higher profit rates continues. The attack on living standards will continue, with an aging population and leveling of public and private sector compensation among the excuses. Then, over a course of years (possibly decades, we've been warned), huge numbers of working people will live in dire poverty.

Statistics will be cited proving that things are improving on average, and mask-

ing the reality of deep misery behind the average.

That is the scenario being projected, the future we face.

The fact is, however, that low interest rates, when they came, were not the salvation of working people; nor will increasing rates, when they come, be our damnation. The living and working conditions of working people will be the result of decisions made by

the politicians at the behest of the bankers, and by the bankers at the behest of their shareholders.

The levels of Canadian household debt will be determined by the policies of the money lenders (whether it be banks or credit companies or others) and the difference between incomes and the cost of survival.

— Wilfred Szczesny

## Welland Orchestra's Busy Close

(Continued from Page 9.) disappeared — many orchestra members are also members of the Shevchenko Seniors. The two groups also account for most of the perogy makers, the other invited group.

In this context, the concert was quite informal, with much banter between the orchestra and audience members. Aside from "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", "Just Because", and "Beer Barrel Polka", the numbers were seasonal, including

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



After the meal, participants waited for the start of the orchestra presentations.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



Revellers enjoy the last few bites of dessert before the orchestra gathers to lead a sing-song of Christmas carols and winter songs.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



Dressed in suitable apparel, Joan Sitak conducted skill-testing contests of the afternoon — a fifty-fifty draw.

the final "Auld Lang Syne".

Although vocal solos and duets were provided by Ken "Bud" Speck, Wayne Hosick, Rudy Wasylenky (who also conducted, of course), and Wilfred Szczesny, the accent was on audience participation, with a lot of singing along, and even a bit of dancing.

MC was Bill Luken.

The afternoon ended with several games of Bingo, with George Sitak serving as caller.

Shortly before 4:00 p.m., most participants called it a day. As they left they took with them door prizes and other winnings — and a loot bag given to each person there. Oh, and the happy feeling of having just left a fun-filled and friendly party.

## Bella in Chippewa

The next day, December 13, the orchestra was on the road again, this time to perform at the Bella Senior Care Residence in Chippewa, a community in Niagara Falls. The day was even snowier and colder than the previous day had been. However, the players did not disappoint the Bella seniors: at 2:00 p.m. the performance was under way, under the conductor's baton of Rudy Wasylenky.

The program was a repeat of that presented the previous week at Garden City Manor. The reaction of the residents and staff was also pretty much a repeat of that which greeting the earlier performance. Nevertheless, the atmosphere was somewhat different, with some of the informality of the previous day creeping into the presentation in Chippewa.

This flurry of three joyful appearances completed, the orchestra took a short break, until January 10, 2011. When it resumes rehearsals, the orchestra will start work on a program in preparation for joint appearances in Toronto and Welland, being negotiated for spring.

— Carl Honor

## Cause for Concern

(Continued from Page 3.) the target is a dangerous member of a terrorist organization. President George W. Bush used that power, and President Obama is suspected of having used that power.

So far American courts have expressed concern about the president's power to be judge, jury and executioner without judicial oversight, but have not ruled on its legality.

It should also be noted that his opponents consider Mr Assange an anarchistic terrorist, a position that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appears to support. Additional voices for the assassination of Mr. Assange should not be

taken lightly.

It should also be borne in mind that the person who received a message from Tom Flanagan that said, "We know where you live," also received many other nasty and threatening messages. Mr. Flanagan talks to the kind of people who believe what they read in *The National Post* (where they can read articles by Mr. Flanagan), which makes his comments especially dangerous.

(Flanagan's comments, actually, were made in an interview on the CBC, which show the level to which the CBC has sunk under the current government of Canada.)

## JoKe TiMe

Tom's problem was getting up late in the morning and always being late for work. His boss was mad at him and threatened to fire him if he didn't do something about it.

Tom went to his doctor. The doctor gave Tom a pill and told him to take it before he went to bed.

Tom slept well and in fact beat the alarm in the morning

by almost two hours. He had a leisurely breakfast and drove cheerfully to work.

"Boss," he said, "The pill actually worked!"

"That's all fine," said the boss, "But where were you yesterday?"

\* \* \*

The boss returned from lunch in a good mood and called the whole staff in to listen to a couple of jokes he had picked up. Everybody, but one girl laughed uproariously.

(Continued on page 16.)

## Sustaining Fund Donations

Alex Lysak, Edmonton AB .....	\$100.00
Mary Semanowich, Winnipeg MB	
<i>In honour of Kosty Kostaniuk's</i>	
<i>95th Birthday</i> .....	50.00
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<i>90th Birthday</i> .....	50.00
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Lesya Ukrainka Manor, Vancouver BC .....	70.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.



The story printed below was taken from the January, 1981, issue of the magazine *The Ukrainian Canadian*. The author is given as M. Seno-Oberholets, an obvious pseudonym. We do not know the real name of the author, but would appreciate being given that information.

With this story, we start to mark the year of the 110th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

## VASYL ZHMURYN

By M. SENO-OBERHOLETS

**THIS STORY, ONE OF MANY WORKS OF FICTION PUBLISHED IN THE PROGRESSIVE UKRAINIAN PRESS AND JOURNALS IN THE EARLY '20S AND '30S, IS A VIVID EPISODE TAKEN FROM UKRAINIAN IMMIGRANT LIFE IN CANADA. IT IS TYPICAL IN DEPICTING THE LIFE OF HUNDREDS OF EARLY UKRAINIAN IMMIGRANTS TO THIS COUNTRY WHOM CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR FAMILIES TO REMAIN IN CANADA FOREVER, FREQUENTLY LIVING IN DESPAIR, UNLOVED AND ALONE.**

**THIS YEAR MARKS THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN SETTLEMENT IN CANADA. IN TRIBUTE TO OUR PIONEERS DURING THIS JUBILEE YEAR, THE "UC" WILL RUN A NUMBER OF SHORT STORIES REFLECTING THEIR EARLY IMMIGRANT LIFE.**

The railway station was crowded. There was a loud hubbub from groups of soldiers and women and girls who, red-eyed from weeping, kissed and bade farewell to their beloved husbands, brothers and dear ones, wishing them good health and a safe return.

The trains came in and left almost every hour; the crowd was meeting some and saying goodbye to others.

"Winnipeg!" shouted the conductor. "All change!"

A diverse group of figures began to disembark, among them the huge figure of an old labourer, Vasyl Zhmuryn. In ancient, but clean clothes, carrying a small wooden chest, he slowly descended the stairs with the other passengers, many of whom were being met by friends and family.

Zhmuryn didn't expect anyone to meet him, because not only didn't he know anyone in Winnipeg, he had never been there. Except, of course, when he rode through seven years ago when he came to Canada from the old country. He sat down on a bench, pushed his wooden chest beneath it and glanced around at the people. From time to time his right hand fingered the belt that girded his waistline.

"What do I do here and where do I go?" he muttered to himself.

For three years he had worked in the mines, four years on the railroad. Now he had been laid off. For what reason, he didn't know. He was given a railway ticket and he only understood that he was being fired, that he wasn't needed any more.

"To the devil with work," he thought. "The sooner I get to the city, the better. I'll ask where I can get a ship's ticket, buy a few things for the

road and then off to my wife and my children..."

Zhmuryn had originally decided to work only one more year and then leave, because he had already spent seven years at heavy labour on the broad prairies of Canada and under the earth. He was a hard-working man and strong. Even his bosses and foremen used to call him "Big Bill".

And Zhmuryn truly wasn't human, but an ox in strength. Standing over six feet in height, he was big-boned and broad of shoulder. His hands were like the hooves of a Hamburg horse, except for the veins which had begun to swell heavily beneath the skin, and the head that seemed to weigh more heavily on the shoulders.

Fifty-eight years of his life had gone by. The hair was grey, the eyes had sunk deeper into their sockets, though he felt no pain. And how much of tragedy had he lived through in his lifetime! Only his grey head knew. He had started working on the manorial estate at seven years of age. He was born in the landlord's manger and there he grew up. His three eldest children were sickly and died. They had to be cared for, then buried, and there was no money. It was indeed hard. Two were left — Mikhailo and Olenka. It was for these two, to assure a better life for them, that Zhmuryn decided to go to Canada, to buy them out of manorial slavery, to leave each of them at least a home, a poor one, perhaps, but their own.

It was hard getting the money for the journey, but get it he did, somehow. Mikhailo Hladun loaned him 400 kroner. In return his Mikhailo had to pasture Hladun's cattle for a whole year, Olenka look af-

ter the geese, and his wife Horpina do the laundry and help grind hemp in the fall. All this just to pay the interest on the loan. But this was all past. The money had been returned the very first year; the children had grown and were living on their own.

All thanks to Zhmuryn. He not only worked hard, he was thrifty. During the seven years of his life in Canada he had not once visited a city. In the old country he had also never visited cities, because there had been no need. He also never served in the army, and on his way to Canada, he had had no time to pay attention to the cities. There had been no need to — everywhere they had been shown where to get on and where to get off. Once in Canada and working, he did his own cooking, washing, mending — he didn't drink, only saved. He had sent \$800.00 to his wife Horpina and she had bought a house with a garden and a small piece of land by the woods from Ivan Siniak. So that now they had their own small property.

Now Zhmuryn had \$500.00 on his person. This was to pay for his trip and the rest was to go toward buying horses and other farm necessities at home, to put them into the same category, at least, as that of the smaller property owners in the village.

Mikhailo would soon be twenty years old and Olenka seventeen. Another year or so, dreamed Zhmuryn, and he would bring home a daughter-in-law with a few acres of land, because he was not a manorial servant any more, but the son of a property owner. Olenka too, would marry into property, because she was an honest, intelligent and hard-working girl.

"Maybe she's already married?" thought Zhmuryn. "But no, she'll wait for me to return, for my blessing... She has always obeyed and respected me. She'll wait..."

Zhmuryn's head was filled with various flitting thoughts and questions which he asked himself, then answered in a way that gave him the most pleasure. Finally, he rose from the bench, glanced at the chest under it, fingered his belt, and started to look around to see if he could find a fellow compatriot. He walked about the station a bit, but soon returned to the bench, for he was afraid that someone might be tempted by his "valuables" — the chest in which he had a few mended shirts and empty tobacco cans and match boxes that he had collected and saved.

In a household everything comes in handy.

Zhmuryn had been told that there were "bums" in the city, that was why he was so concerned about his "valuables". Horpina, when seeing him off



**He recalled how hard his poor Horpina had to work and dreamed of the many changes his return would make in her life.**

to Canada, enjoined him to watch and not to lose the little chest.

"As I am sending you off, so you must return, in good health," she said to him, seven years ago.

But Vasyl was not returning the same as he had left. Not only had the wooden chest his wife gave him seen better days, but he was also not the same man he was seven years ago. His hair had reached the final stage of turning grey, with no further to go. But this was unimportant. He comforted himself with one thing — he would be spending his old age and living out the rest of his life in his own home.

Rejoicing in his good wife and children, Zhmuryn recalled how his poor Horpina used to milk the manor cows till her hands were numb... How they had both married having no home nor land, and continued in the same way — Horpina milking the cows and he, Vasyl, driving the horses for the landlord. Both were slaves of the manor.

"Now it will be different," dreamed Zhmuryn. "What I have made should last us both the rest of our lifetime. Although some may have made more, their wives, instead of acquiring land, acquired an extra child or more... Mine respected me and was honest."

Comforting himself with these pleasant thoughts, Zhmuryn's body trembled with pleasure. For some reason he felt so wonderful, so happy... Before his eyes were his Horpina, his Mikhailo and his

Olenka, his own home and land...

Only one thing troubled him right now. He didn't know where to turn. He knew no English, and couldn't read. Getting up off the bench once more he again looked around. Among the people he finally recognized a "fellow" Ukrainian.

"Are you from Galicia?" he asked.

"Yes, I'm from Halychyna. And where have you come from?" replied his compatriot. "I came from work."

"Where were you working?"

"On the section."

"For long?"

"Four years."

"Why did you leave work right now, just before winter?"

"I'm going home. Would you be so good as to take me to a place where they sell ship's tickets?"

"Ship's tickets?"

"Yes, there's no point to my hanging around here when at home, thank God, I have my own..."

"But is it possible to go to the old country now?"

"Why not?"

"There's the war. Don't tell me you don't know?"

"When did they start fighting?"

"Oh, about eight weeks ago."

"Ah, well, let them fight. I'm going anyway. I'm old already, they won't take me..."

"But they won't let you leave Canada! Are you a Canadian citizen?"

"What's that?"

(Continued on Page 13.)



## Hutsul Wedding

It was the *Hutsul Wedding*, however, in the second part of the program, that everyone awaited with anticipation, and we were not disappointed. The result of three months of rehearsals, this colourful choreographic suite of one episode of a Hutsul wedding included the folk rituals, songs and dances inherent to the Hutsuls of the Carpathian Mountain area of the Ivano-Frankivsk Region of Western Ukraine. It was created in its entirety — songs, music and dances — by Myron Shatulsky, a noted musician and choreographer of Ukrainian folk dance, whose “Canadian Suite” is still being performed and is part of the repertoire of a number of AUUC folk dance ensembles.

The overture to the *Hutsul Wedding* was in itself worth the price of admission. It was a medley of highland melodies beginning with the plaintive far-off sounds from the hills and growing in sound and vigour to reflect the joyful spirit, energy and warmth inimitable to the songs and dances of the region.

The curtain finally opened on the colourful wedding scene, with the guests greeting the bride with welcoming songs, followed by the greeting of the mother and father with traditional bread and salt; the ritual seating behind the bridal table of the bride, her bridesmaids and her brother; the presentation of wedding gifts and drinking to her health and happiness; the arrival of

the groom and his attendants with an exchange of the traditional *kolach*; the buying of the bride from her brother, then the public sanctioning of the marriage through the covering of the young couple’s heads with a towel, followed by the solemn moment of the mother slowly unbraiding her daughter’s hair to the plaintive melody of women singing.

These are but a few of the rituals that were part of the wedding festivities which were broken up with songs and dances in the general rejoicing in the event.

The dances accompanying the wedding added to the kaleidoscope of colour and movement. They were a tribute to the instructor’s discipline and technical ability of the Trembita Dancers. The

## From Our History

*Twenty-five year ago, in January, 1986, The Ukrainian Canadian magazine reported on a concert which had been staged in Edmonton in December, 1985. The second part of the concert was the Hutsul Wedding, original work created by Myron Shatulsky. Printed on this page is that portion of the report by Mary Skrypnyk which discusses the Hutsul Wedding.*

dance movements were performed lightly, artistically and musically, their cultural level and portrayal of the highland character of high quality.

There were six dances in all, and their costuming, as well as that of all the wedding participants, produced a riot of colour on stage. The costumes showed detailed research and were a credit to Myron Shatulsky who also designed them, to Eileen Makowecki, costume committee chairperson, and Olga Mulawka, in charge of costume patterns,

as well as to those who worked to produce them.

The *Hutsul Wedding* was a unique and artistic triumph for the Edmonton and Calgary cultural forces as well as for choreographer Myron Shatulsky, who wrote and directed the suite.

The Concert Orchestra deserves particular mention. Not only did they enrich the program with three numbers, they also accompanied the dancers throughout as well as the songs and dances of the *Hutsul Wedding*.

## Vasyl Zhmuryyn

(Continued from Page 12.)

“Do you have citizenship papers?”

“I have all my papers. When I left I took everything that was necessary, and even the village reeve told me that I could return on these same papers. All I need now is the return ticket and all will be fine. The money I have also. I don’t want you to do anything for nothing, just show me...”

“But you don’t understand! I’m asking you if you have Canadian citizenship papers, if you have the right to vote?”

“To tell you the truth, I never voted even in the old country, because it never brought us any good anyway. A peasant was never allowed into that parliament, and the nobility did everything for their own good, not for us...”

“My, but aren’t you all wound up!”

“No, no, I understood you. My foreman asked me about this too and I showed him my passport. But he said the same thing you’re saying and then fired me. I know... that’s enough for me. But won’t you come with me and show me?”

“You will not be allowed to go home.”

“Not even for money? Why not?”

“Because Austria is in the war on the side of Germany and against Canada.”

“And are ‘ours’ in it too?”

“Ours’ too...”

“Then they must have taken all the boys into the army...”

“Yes, they’ve taken them all!”

On hearing these words, Zhmuryyn burst into loud sobs.

“Why are you crying?”

“My son is there...”

His countryman understood and deeply sympathized with the old man in his grief. But there was nothing he could do to help him.

Zhmuryyn leaned against the back of the bench and cried like a child. He so wanted to get home, to see his loved ones, to rejoice in them. Passers-by, watching the scene, broke into laughter. Most of them were also red-eyed, for they had just parted from their loved ones, seeing them off to war. But that was “they” and this was “Zhmuryyn” with the dilapidated wooden chest, an “enemy alien”. What the devil was he crying about?

But old Zhmuryyn, though illiterate and ignorant, had the same deep feelings for his family as the “literate” and “educated” people who, in passing by, laughed to see an old man crying like a child.

Zhmuryyn had only one thing in his mind — to get to his family!

His countryman quieted the old man and led him into a corner to protect him from the “cultured” public and its laughter.

“Please take me somewhere where there are our people.”

“Do you have an address?”

“No. But take me somewhere where there are ours...”

His countryman agreed to take him.

Zhmuryyn picked up his little chest and went with his countryman. Going through the streets of Winnipeg, Zhmuryyn saw neither the buildings nor the people they passed. He kept murmuring “I believe” and “forgive me Lord” over and over, promising that when he returned to his family he would hold a “special Mass” in church and give a large party if he would only find his dear Mikhailo at home, his Olenka and good Horpina alive. He quietly prayed and entreated for the health of his son. But his heart

paid no attention either to the prayers or to the promised Mass. It grieved. It felt as though squeezed between two heavy slabs, because it was wounded and enduring terrible torment.

\* \* \*

At the boarding house where Zhmuryyn was taken, he was soon robbed of all his savings, left without money, without food and without work. For days on end he walked the streets with bowed head and eyes red with weeping. His soul was burdened by a weight heavy as a stone. Every night he “talked” with his Mikhailo, Olenka and Horpina. He ate only once a day, and on Fridays not at all, for he “offered” his Fridays for the life of his dear ones.

He firmly believed that the war would end today or tomorrow and that he would still be able to make some money for the trip and return to his family, to his home...

But the war, instead of ending, spread its flames further and further. The newspapers brought sad news from the homeland. Thousands and thousands were killed on the various war fronts of Europe. Zhmuryyn listened when the papers were read and wiped his sunken eyes.

As day followed day the old man began to lose hope of ever seeing his dear ones again. It seemed to him that the war would never end, that the “end of the world” was near. And he so wanted to see his dear son, Mikhailo again, at least once before the “end of the world”... so longed to see him, so yearned...

One cold morning Zhmuryyn went out somewhere in the direction of the river. He never returned.

The cruel war had swallowed one more innocent, hapless victim...

— Translated by Mary Skrypnyk.



Her bridesmaids help remove the bride’s wreath, signalling her transition to a new social status.



The bride moves into her new status as a married woman, as her mother unbraids her hair and replaces the wreath of a girl with the married woman’s kerchief.

## No-Help CPP Proposal

(Continued from Page 1.)  
cles for voluntary savings — the Registered Retirement Savings Plan and the Tax Free Saving Account —al-

ready exist, with millions of Canadians not participating. The new plan would only benefit those who can already afford to save.



## Toronto G20

(Continued from Page 3.)

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has also apologized — sort of. He admits that mistakes were made — in communications — and has appointed former Chief Justice of Ontario Roy McMurtry to review the 1939 law on which the secret law of 2010 was based. It is not known whether any recommendations from Mr. McMurtry will be translated in law before the

provincial election due on October 6.

The Progressive Conservative opposition in Ontario have been jumping all over Premier McGuinty since the Morin report, but they were the most vociferous supporters of police violence against demonstrators.

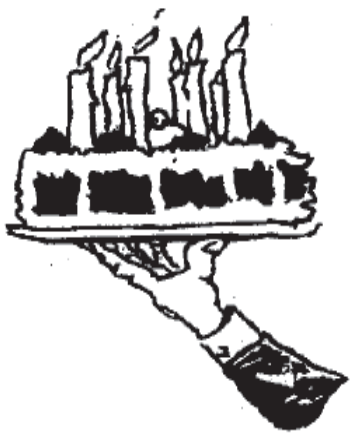
Not everyone is worried about G20 policing under Chief Blair, and the subsequent efforts by the Chief to shield himself and his officers. For example, the *Globe and*

*Mail's* Adam Radwansky tells us that Chief Blair was "just in over his head". But then, Radwansky asks in his article on December 10, "What municipal police chief *wouldn't* have been in over his head in Toronto last June?"

Of more concern is that Rob Ford, Toronto's newly elected mayor, speaking on AM640, his favourite talk-radio stage said, in reference to the police riot in June, "I have very little sympathy for the people who were down there and I support our police." That does not bode well for civil liberties in Toronto.

— Volodymyr Lucky

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

William Chomyn  
Eva Doskoch  
Victor Horon  
Rose Kereliuk  
William Maxim  
Mary Romach  
Bill Uhryn

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

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to January celebrants:

Lorna Clark  
Rose Nedbailik  
Eva Rayko  
Mike Stefiuk

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

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

Larry Kleparchuk

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

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

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

## Who, What, When, Where

**Calgary** — The AUUC Calgary Branch will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 3316-28<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, from 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, **January 15, 2011**. For tickets (\$40.00/person), call **Darlene** at 403-271-2379 or **Hazel** at 403-295-3954 or 403-246-1231.

\* \* \*

**Regina** — The **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance** and **AUUC Regina Branch** will host a **Malanka 2011** (Ukrainian New Year's) celebration at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, 1077 **Angus Street**, on Saturday, **January 15, 2011**. **Cocktails and appetizers** at 5:00 p.m.; **supper and a Poltava Ensemble performance** at 6:30 p.m.; **dancing to "The Rock and Roll Allstars"** from 9:00 p.m. Tickets (\$40.00/person) are available from the Regina Performing Arts Centre Box Office at 779-2277. **Book now to avoid disappointment!**

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — The **AUUC Toronto Branch** will host a **Movie Afternoon** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 **Bloor Street West**, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, **January 23**. Come watch a good movie, munch some popcorn and other goodies, and visit with your friends — all for \$5.00!

\* \* \*

**Vancouver** — The **AUUC Vancouver Branch** will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 **East Pender Street**, on Saturday, **January 22**. **Cocktails** at 6:00 p.m.; **program** at 7:00 p.m.; **Dinner** at 7:30 p.m., followed by **dancing to a live band**. Admission: \$40.00/person. Call (604) 879-2089.

\* \* \*

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



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E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net

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Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
805 East Pender Street  
Vancouver BC V6A 1V9  
Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436  
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net

### CALGARY BRANCH

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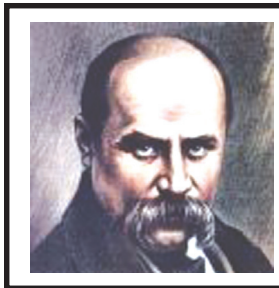
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wilfredszczesny@gmail.com

### WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple  
342 Ontario Road  
Welland ON L3B 5C5  
Phone: (905) 732-5656



**Sent as a separate page.**



## Taras Shevchenko Museum

### “My Testament”

165 years ago, on December 25, 1845, Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko wrote his outstanding and best known poem, “My Testament”, in Pereyaslav. Set to music in more than 60 versions, “My Testament” has also been translated into 147 languages.

Т. Шевченко. Заповіт. Автограф. 1845

Taras Shevchenko was fortunate enough to meet many remarkable personalities, something he invariably spoke about with gratitude and pride. Those with whom he developed close personal relationships included Andriy Kozachkivsky, whose affectionate friendship the poet valued all his life.

A professional physician, Kozachkivsky graduated from the St. Petersburg Academy of Medicine and Surgery in 1835. Back home from a trip round the world, he was

catching up on news in literature and arts, and thus came across the almanac *Lastivka* (The Swallow) edited by Yevhen Hrebinka. There he read Taras Shevchenko’s poems for the first time, and was greatly impressed by their simplicity and strength. He asked his Ukrainian countrymen to introduce him to the author.

The first meeting between Shevchenko and Kozachkivsky took place in the fall of 1841. They immediately became friends and talked late

into the night. From then on, Shevchenko would often call on his new friend to read to him his latest poems.

When Kozachkivsky moved to Pereyaslav (now the town of Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky, Kyiv Region), where he worked as a doctor and a teacher of medicine at the local seminary, Shevchenko often stayed with him during his visits to Ukraine.

Shevchenko made one such visit in August, 1845, just after graduating from the Academy of Arts with the diploma of a “free artist”. After a stay in Pereyaslav, he continued his trip but soon caught cold and had to spend several days in bed in the town of Mirhorod near Poltava. Realizing that he should not travel in such a state, he returned to Pereyaslav for treatment, but left again as soon as his health showed a slight improvement.

However, his recovery was far from complete, and on December 24, 1845, the poet fell seriously ill. He was in critical condition by the time he was brought back to Pereyaslav, where Kozachkivsky did all he could to save him. At a certain stage it looked as if the doctor might fail. And thus, one night when all hope of recovery seemed lost, Taras Shevchenko lit a candle, sat down at a table and wrote his famous “My Testament”.

Finally, the remedies prescribed by his doctor and Shevchenko’s own youthful organism overcame the illness, and the poet’s health took a turn for the better. Shevchenko grew more cheerful and communicative, and would often talk to Kozachkivsky’s patients.

That was an extremely fruitful period for the poet. In Pereyaslav he wrote “The Housemaid” and “The Caucasus”. He also painted several landscapes and a self-portrait, which unfortunately has not been saved.

The friends met again in 1859. As Andriy Kozachkivsky wrote in his memoirs, in June of that year a mail coach drove into his yard. He did not recognize the passenger at first. Shevchenko’s period in exile, with its innumerable moral and physical suffering, had altered Shevchenko almost beyond recognition.

Silently, they greeted each other and went inside the house. Too moved to speak, the poet paced up and down the room. Then he saw the bustle of a fair through a window, and suggested that they go there at once. There, among the people who were so painfully dear to him, he gradually calmed down.

When they returned from the fair, Shevchenko had cheered up sufficiently to tell Kozachkivsky about his ordeal. After lunch he wanted to see the Dnipro and set out for the river on foot, without

waiting until the horses were harnessed. Kozachkivsky picked him up when he was already past the boundary of the town and they drove on together.

That was an unforgettable experience. The friends caught some fish in the river and made soup of them. It was a quiet Ukrainian night, and the sky was strewn with myriads of stars. Placing his hands under his head, Shevchenko lay on the grass, telling his friend about his plans. He said that he intended to buy a small lot on the steep river bank near the town of Kaniv, opposite the village of Prokhorivka, and to settle there for the rest of his life.

Later that year, on his way back from Kyiv, the poet again

visited his friend in Pereyaslav and stayed two nights at his place. There he wrote down some of his early forgotten poems, which Kozachkivsky knew by heart. Then he left for St. Petersburg.

They were never to meet again. Taras Shevchenko died on March 10, 1861, and was buried in Kaniv, Ukraine, on May 22, 1861.

— Mykola Chubuk

### JoKe TiMe

(Continued from page 11.)

“What’s the matter?” grumbled the boss. “Haven’t you got a sense of humor?”

“I don’t have to laugh,” she replied. “I’m leaving Friday.”

*Love the “Herald”*

Wishing the staff the best, with our friends in Toronto.

May AUUC carry on the heritage, along with the Hahilka Singers and the Shevchenko Ensemble.

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Season's Greetings to all members and friends for a Healthy, Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year in 2011!

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