

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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## Regina's Mosaic Remains Popular

— Photo: Mark Greschner



Regina's Mosaic Festival of Cultures was held on May 30 and 31, and June 1. The Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion, one of 21 pavilions scattered throughout the city, was located at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. The pavilion was visited by over 7,000 patrons.

The 68 students of the AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts presented five half-hour programs, opening with a welcoming dance (shown above).

A report on events at the Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion, with pictures, appears on Page 7.

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated November, 2013. Announcements of events in November or early December, as well as articles for the November issue should be in our office by October 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## Think About It

Not all that long ago, none of Canada's big banks had a net income of a billion dollars a year.

Now, they each (except CIBC, which fell slightly short in 2012) make more than that quarterly! Some of them average almost \$2 billion quarterly — and that's net!

Here are the numbers they reported for their year ending in 2012:

- CIBC — \$3.3 billion
- Montreal — \$4.19 billion
- Scotiabank — \$6.47 billion
- TD — almost \$7 billion
- RBC — \$7.3 billion.

In the days when all the banks made less than a billion dollars a year, we could afford to pay Old Age Security from age 65. Now we plan to raise it to age 67.

In the old days, we could have full-service hospitals in each sizeable community. Now, in Ontario, people have to travel for hours to hospitals in Hamilton from Welland or Mississauga for services that used to be available locally.

Until recently, OHIP could pay for sugar test strips for diabetics (in spite of alleged overuse), but soon it will be user pay.

In the good old days, outpatients could access some physiotherapy, podiatry and similar services in hospitals. Now that banks are so rich, it's user pay in private care.

Remember when schools could afford libraries and librarians, and provide reasonably priced space for community use? With the banks getting one or two billion dollars quarterly, only the classroom can be funded, and community organizations can pay commercial rates in these publicly funded buildings.

There was a time when Mississauga Transit sold passes to senior citizens for \$30.00 a year. Last year, the pass cost over \$500.00.

This list of changes barely scratches the surface. Though many of the changes given are from Ontario, similar examples can be found in every

province and territory.

Some questions come to mind. Is there a relationship between the greatly increased net income of banks and the erosion of our social safety net? If so what is that relationship? If the big banks have such great increases in net incomes, is the same true of other corporations? How are these increased bank net incomes related to the governments' complaints that they can not afford the social programs that used to keep the Canadian ship afloat?

## In This Issue

AUUC Toronto July 1 Celebration.....	6
Canada Spies on Us Too ..	3
Canadian Group Leaves IFJ .....	3
Commentary.....	4
The Culprits: Government and MM&A .....	3
Current Eclectic .....	3
Editorial .....	4
The Fellow Traveller .....	8
Happy Birthday, Friends ..	10
Israel—Palestine Negotiations .....	4
Join Us! .....	11
A New Home for Lesya Ukrainka .....	12
Sonia Ostash .....	11
The Passing of Time and Friends .....	2
Regina's Annual Mosaic Remains Popular .....	7
Myron Shatulsky .....	2
Steve Smoly .....	11
Some Very Interesting Developments .....	8
Sustaining Fund .....	5
Thank God for the NSA! ..	4
They Don't Have a Clue! .....	5
Ukrainian News Briefs .....	9
Welland Orchestra a Hit...	5
Who, What, When, Where .....	10
Work on Behalf of Taxpayers .....	3

## Salute to Convention Delegates

The Editorial Board of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* salutes the delegates to the 45th AUUC National Convention!

The eve of every AUUC National Convention feels like a critical time for the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. The lead-up to the 45th AUUC National Convention is no different. As usual, this feels like a critical time for the AUUC.

The discussion at this Convention will be on the very existence of the AUUC — whether it should start its shut-down immediately, whether it should plan its shut-down in a few years, or whether shut-down should be off the table in favour of a determined effort to build.

The existential issue will be discussed in various forms, including a discussion on finances. The organization is in a position to establish adequate funding into its foreseeable future. Whether it does so will be determined in the discussion at the Convention.

You, the Convention delegates, will also face many less momentous decisions which will, nevertheless, be important for the life of the organization.

The organization is in your hands. We truly hope that your devotion to the AUUC will lead to discussions both fruitful and wise.

## DND Seeks New Toys

As we go to press, *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star* both have a story from The Canadian Press news agency reporting that

the government of Canada has been testing a prototype of a "stealth" snowmobile intended for use in the Arctic.

These tests are happening about two years after an agency of the Department of National Defence invited bids for the construction of a snowmobile costing less than \$550,000, with silence as a top priority. The equipment being tested is slightly more expensive, at \$620,000/unit.

The snowmobile under consideration is a hybrid-electric vehicle.

Tests described as "infor-

mal" were conducted at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa in February, under varying snow conditions. The military has been testing such features as speed, noise level, endurance, battery endurance, acceleration, towing capacity, mobility, usability.

The heavily redacted report, which The Canadian Press obtained under the Access to Information Act, says that the prototype "must be at least nearly as capable and reliable as a standard internal combustion snowmobile", and also be significantly quieter.

## Target Is Missing

Is there a Target store in your municipality? It may not be there long, though the company is not saying that yet.

Target bought many Zellers stores, revamped them and, so far this year, has opened 68 stores in five provinces. Its plan is to open 124 stores this year.

Initially the new stores drew many customers, particularly among people who had shopped at Target in the

USA. Unfortunately for Target, many of the early visitors to its stores seem to have been disappointed. Complaints include items being out of stock and prices being higher than in the USA.

A customer-satisfaction survey showed that Target had dropped in customer satisfaction over a four-month period, while Wal-Mart had improved. Costco was at the top, of the (Continued on Page 12,)

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separate  
page.**

## Current Eclectic — Long and Short

### Canada Spies on Us Too

The theory says that we are all connected by six degrees of separation. If this is true, then the gathering of communications metadata in electronic surveillance programs should become a matter of heightened concern, regardless of whether we personally have anything to hide.

Any one of us can find ourself connected in a communications chain with six links to any nasty character in the world.

Senator McCarthy's witch hunt in the 1950s is an instructive model for how this might work.

The Senator would "establish" that someone was a Communist or a Communist sympathizer. Then, anyone acquainted with that person could also be labelled a Communist. People who knew this second "Communist" could also be accused. By this process, based only on contact

with other people and the assumption of guilt, no one was safe from accusation by Senator McCarthy and his House Un-American Activities Committee.

In those days the price paid even by the innocent for such an accusation could be quite high. That has not changed, as the case of Maher Arar and others has shown.

The lesson to take away from that is: even if you have nothing to hide, you have much to fear.

These matters are in the consciousness of Canadians largely because of revelations in the United States, thanks to a whistleblower. In Canada, the surveillance programs are deeper hidden, but still here.

A report in the *Toronto Star* in June of this year tells us that the Conservative Government of Canada, through Defence Minister Peter MacKay, flatly denied that

"Canadian spy agencies are conducting any unauthorized electronic snooping operations".

A casual reader might interpret this to mean that there are no such operations. That would be an error, showing why it is important to read official pronouncements very carefully.

**What Mr. MacKay's statement actually means is that there is, in fact, electronic surveillance, and it is authorized.**

Outside the House of Commons, Mr. MacKay reportedly told the "Star", "We don't target Canadians, okay."

Again, what's on the surface is misleading. "We don't target Canadians," does not mean, "We do not do not spy on Canadians". It means, "We do broad surveillance which results in spying on Canadians."

It also includes, "When Canadians come to our attention, we follow up in some way."

It also does not exclude

that our allies in this effort (particularly the USA, Britain, Australia and New Zealand) also spy on foreigners, which includes Canadians, and we all share information.

Among the agencies conducting surveillance are the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC), and arm of the Department of National Defence, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

On November 21, 2011, Mr. MacKay signed an authorization for the metadata surveillance program, renewing a secret decree in 2005 by the then Liberal government. This authorization included additional programs which remain shrouded in secrecy.

Among the concerns surrounding these programs is that they are conducted on the basis of Ministerial decree without parliamentary oversight. As they are, without question, intrusions on our privacy, it is reasonable that Parliament should have a say.

### The Culprits: Government and MM&A

Some fifty people died in Lac-Mégantic in Québec, and much of the town's centre was destroyed, because the Government of Canada believes that private businesses are their own best regulators, and because a self-regulating railway company did what such companies do best: it saved a few bucks.

The main culprit is the Government of Canada, whose rules allowed Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway Inc. (a company that has had a bad safety record extending over many years) to be operating entirely within the law and its regulatory obligations (so it seems) while doing stupid things, any one of which could lead to a disaster?

To protect public safety, Transport Canada requires railroad companies to submit a safety management plan for approval, which is then audited. Part of the "safety management plan" of MM&A included operating trains with a crew of one. MM&A was one of only two companies allowed (since 2012) to operate with one-person crews. This was in spite of MM&A's history of accidents involving dangerous materials.

Who in his/her right mind would imagine that a one-person crew on a long trip was safe to operate just a locomotive, let alone trains with 73 or more cars loaded with dangerous substances? So many problems could arise when the

train is moving: falling asleep, heart attack, stroke, drinking on the job — just to mention a few. And when the train is stopped, failures of the braking system, misjudgment of the braking required, a slip in applying brakes — again, just to mention a few.

So who indeed — well, the genius who wanted to save money in the operation of MM&A for one, and the Transportation Canada person (people?) who approved operating with one-man crews. Just incredible!

As for monitoring compliance with even a stupid plan, Transport Canada says that there are 30 million shipments of dangerous goods annually in Canada (not to mention the hundreds of millions of other shipments, including passenger trains). To monitor that level of activity, Transport Canada is proud to deploy "over 80" inspectors.

However, one-man crews are not the only shortcoming in Transport Canada's requirements.

It is not against the rules for a train to be left unattended overnight on a main rail line. The train which derailed in Lac-Mégantic was left unattended in Nantes while the one-man crew left to go to sleep. It rolled between the two towns with no crew aboard. The US does not allow trains to be unattended.

It is not against the rules to leave locomotive cars un-

locked while the trains are unattended. Nor is it required by the rules to shut down a locomotive being left unattended. Imagine — leaving a locomotive engine running, unattended, with cars full of hazardous materials!

Local firefighters reported shutting down the locomotive when fighting a fire in the cab (which could have released the brakes).

Federal official said that releasing the brakes should not have allowed train to move, as there should have been enough hand brakes to prevent it.

The rail cars which exploded were all low-pressure tank cars which the Transportation Safety Board in Canada and the National Transportation Safety Board in the USA found will puncture in a crash because of their thin walls with ends that puncture easily and valves that break in a roll-over.

How concerned about public safety has the Government of Canada been? So concerned that it cut its rail safety budget to about \$33.8 million for this year, about \$3,000,000 less than last year. Several safety initiatives scheduled for this year or earlier have been postponed to 2014.

While the Government of Canada is the main culprit, because it allowed MM&A to do all the unsafe things, it is MM&A which actually acted in ways that led to the disaster.

Remarkably, the company, in the person of MM&A Chair Edward Burkhardt, who is also President of the parent

company Rail World, wriggled every which way to deny responsibility. The initial attempt was to shift the blame to Nantes firefighters, who shut down the locomotive when fighting a fire in the cab. (There has not been much information about that fire.) Then the finger of blame was pointed at the engineer, the one-man-crew, charged with not doing a good enough job of setting hand brakes before going off to get some sleep. (How long had he been on duty? How long a break did he have before having to get back to work?)

MM&A failed to pay contractors working to clean up the mess, and soon filed for bankruptcy.

In a classic "to soon old, too late smart", the government announced a new set of safety regulations: banning one-person crews, setting standards for application of brakes, and prescribing procedures for leaving trains unattended.

Still, as Mr. Burkhardt pointed out, the question is compliance. Most accidents arise from violations of existing rules. So far, there has been no indication that the government intends to invest more money to create an effective system of inspection and enforcement.

The Conservative chair of Parliament's transportation committee unsuccessfully resisted calls for an emergency meeting of the committee. He wanted to postpone consideration of rail safety until investigation of the causes of the Lac-Mégantic tragedy had been completed. That could take months.

### Canadian Group Leaves IFJ

An umbrella group of Canadian media workers, the Communications Workers of America Canada (CWA/SCA), has withdrawn from the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), following the IFJ Congress in June.

The IFJ, the world's largest organization of journalists has some 600,000 members, of which about 7000 were in Canada.

Martin O'Hanlon, communications director for the CWA/SCA, spoke of "past dubious politics, practices and behaviour" in explaining the decision to leave the IFJ.

The immediate cause of the decision was an irregularity in the election of the IFJ president at the IFJ Congress held in Dublin, Ireland.

It seems that the election committee reported a higher number of votes cast than the number of ballots distributed. The delegates voted to accept the reported result, rather than redo the vote.

Mr. O'Hanlon suggested that the IFJ had lost the moral authority to condemn corrupt governments and rigged elections.

Mr. O'Hanlon said that one German union has also left the IFJ, and others were considering doing so.

### Work On Behalf of Taxpayers

It was an unexpectedly ill-considered choice of words, but one reflecting a mind-set. An e-mail went out outlining what should be in handbooks distributed to members of Prime Minister Harper's Cabinet of Ministers following a shuffle.

The contents of the handbook included "Who to engage or avoid: friend and enemy stakeholders". There was a similar reference concerning what civil servants to avoid and what "pet bureaucratic projects" to avoid.

The opposition parties had a field day, as did some of the media. It was not the bad grammar that drew their attention.

The *Toronto Star* treated the e-mail as evidence that the alleged tension between the Harper-led government and the civil service was real.

In a very serious editorial, that paper raised the alarm while drawing a parallel between Prime Minister Harper and former US President Ri-

(Continued on Page 5.)

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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**Thank God for the NSA!**

AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY

On June 21, *The New York Times* reported that Edward J. Snowden, former National Security Agency contractor had been charged for disclosing classified information to *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*. The information revealed that the NSA was compiling logs on almost all telephone calls in the USA, as well as conducting other surveillance of electronic communications. The information reported that NSA was working with surveillance agencies in Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

NSA's first reaction was to deny the reports, but it soon went over to stressing the importance of its program, and the safeguards that were built into its activities.

The discussion of the propriety of NSA's invasion of American's privacy continued, with scepticism widespread about the safeguards. So the NSA took the next step: it said that machines automatically logged contacts and looked for significant patterns, but did not access the content of the communications.

The public response was, "It's none of your business who I talk with. And if you can log my call, you can access the content."

Anger spread over the American public, which was surprised over the scope of the surveillance, and to foreign governments who learned that they had been targeted.

The government then claimed that the surveillance had prevented acts of terrorism. "Yeah, right," was the response of a doubting public, made cynical by too many earlier lies.

And then, proof of value! In early August, the United States announced that it was closing 19 embassies, consulates and other posts because of intercepted "chatter" emanating from a "particularly dangerous and active Al Qaeda franchise in Yemen". Canada also closed a couple of installations. This was the most serious threat in years, no less.

Five drone strikes in 10 days in Yemen killed some top terrorists (the number varies with the account), and the world was once more safe for democracy. Thank God for the NSA.

As this was related to defeating terrorism, no evidence of anything had to be produced; official assertions had to be accepted. President Obama, supposedly bowing to Americans' concerns, said that he would introduce more oversight and transparency.

Did anyone believe him?

**COMMENTARY****Israel-Palestine Negotiations**

After a hiatus of several years, the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority are back at the negotiating table.

However significant the return to the table, most observers seem pessimistic about the possibility of a positive outcome to the talks.

The reason for this pessimism is the history of failed talks. This thought is buttressed by a pattern which recurs whenever there is an agreement to negotiate, a pattern which has emerged again. What is that pattern?

To show its good faith, Israel agrees to free a few (in this instance, 104) of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in its jails. The prisoners will not be released all at once, but over time, and on condition that Israeli authorities are satisfied with the talks. Those being released are mostly prisoners very close to the end of long (sometime decades-long) sentences.

While showing this supposed good faith, Israel steps up its activity on one of the touchiest subjects in Israeli-Palestinian relations — it increases the pace at which Israelis are settled on lands occupied after the 1967 war.

The use of prisoners as hostages with which to try to coerce the Palestinian negotiators is certainly a source of resentment, but the acceleration of settlements on occupied lands (settlements which almost everyone considers illegal) is a source of rage.

Based on history, many suspect that Israel does not want successful negotiation, and hopes that speeding up the settlement process will drive the Palestinians away from the negotiating table, while diverting the blame for failure away from Israel.

Current reality is the more compelling reason for doubt that the talks can succeed. The current reality is that the two

sides have conflicting interests which will be hard to reconcile. Those interests include land, especially the most fertile areas, and available water.

The current reality, too, is that neither side can afford to be seen to have "given away the store".

In Israel, the governing coalition is torn between those right wingers who recognize the need for a two-state solution and those right wingers who refuse even to contemplate it. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needs the support of the ultra-right to stay in power.

In the West Bank too, however, even those who want the situation resolved quickly have little confidence in the possibility of a satisfactory negotiated agreement. Their situation is complicated by the fact of Gaza — controlled by the militant Hamas, free of Israeli occupation, and admired as heroic by many Palestinians.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, with Fatah and the PLO, the core of the Palestinian Authority, struggle to stay in control over the opposition to negotiations.

On the other hand, these are not the only realities.

Although the Palestinian Authority has been making progress internationally toward recognition of a Palestinian state, that progress has been slow. In the meantime, Israel has been settling more and more of the best land in the West Bank. If the process continues, there may be no room for a viable Palestinian state. Therefore, the Palestinian Authority has a serious interest in normalizing relations with Israel.

Similarly, the ultra-right notwithstanding, Israel is facing a choice: a two-state solution or a binational state which ceases to be Jewish.

In spite of their conflicting interests, then, the government of Israel and the Pales-

tinian Authority have compelling reasons to reach an agreement.

(This discussion, of course, does not include all the conflicting interests, nor all the pressures for negotiation.)

The government of the United States of America is aware of these realities. It, too, has reasons for wanting a resolution of this impasse. That is why it sent John Kerry to bring the two sides to the bargaining table. (That and, perhaps, President Obama's need for domestic political considerations, to restore America's image as a friend of Israel, without further alienating the rest of the Middle East.)

While the Israelis and the Palestinians came to the table because they needed to do so, US Secretary of State John Kerry is being credited (correctly) with a substantial diplomatic achievement in bringing the two parties together. He was the agent through which the USA flexed its still powerful muscle. Perhaps as important, he brought together (though neither he nor the State Department necessarily initiated any of them) some bits and pieces which allowed the two sides to talk without losing face.

What were some of those elements?

One was the statement by the other states in the area that they would accept any two-state solution which the Palestinians found acceptable. That is an important guarantee of security for Israel.

Another was an agreement that a previous condition for talks, Israel's return to its pre-1967 borders, no longer applied. Israel's borders could be negotiated on the basis of an exchange of land. This not only holds out the possibility of more secure borders for Israel, but also removes some thorny problems of resettling illegal settlers.

In exchange for these concessions, the Palestinian Authority got 104 released prisoners, and (reportedly) some heavy arm twisting by the Americans.

These negotiations are not what one might envision. (Continued on Page 10.)

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

# They Don't Have a Clue!

Artifacts of early Ukrainian immigration were brought by William Uhryn to the June 18 gathering of the Edmonton seniors, and displayed for the participants.

One highlight was a copy of the CPR advertisement which showed a ready-made farm and ready-made house in early Canada. However, when many of the immigrants came, their house of survival was a hole dug in a bank of dirt!

Another feature of the display was pictures and articles about the internment camps for Ukrainians, as well as other groups of immigrants, during WWI. These immigrants were regarded as enemy aliens because, at that time, part

of Ukraine was occupied by Austria and Austria was an enemy.

William and Lucy Antoniwiw viewed the display and the conversation ensued!

"They don't have a clue!" William declared, in reference to the younger generations. "They've never been hungry!"

William continued with the reflection that his father Stephen, who came to the Peace River district in 1928 as an immigrant, at one time had only two left shoes since the right ones had worn out, so Stephen wore daily two left shoes as his footwear.

"But they came from the harsh background in feudal Europe, so they could adjust,"

Lucy Antoniwiw reflected. "Our grandchildren's world is totally different!"

The discussion concluded with Bill's observation that with "assimilation and intermarriage everything changed with time".

Pauline Warick, the President of the Edmonton seniors, resumed her duties this month. Pauline opened the gathering by thanking the seniors and the AUUC Edmonton Branch for their cards, flowers, and donations to the cancer foundation in memory of her husband Maurice.

"Your thoughtfulness and kindness are appreciated more than words can say," Pauline shared.

Bob Kisilevich played "Happy Birthday" and "Mnohaya leeta" on the piano as

we saluted the 15 birthday celebrants with a toast of wine and best wishes for good health, love and happiness.

The June, July and August birthday celebrants were: Nestor Began, Sandy Gordey, Paul Greene, Nick Kereliuk, Sophie Sywolos, Mike Uhryn, Virginia Witwicki, Mary Woyewidka, Mandie Began, Clara Yaremchuck, Edna Chmiliar, Emil and Mary Tropak, Marion Ursuliak, and Anne Kawchuk.

Pork tenderloin and asparagus were the features of our meal, prepared by our able chefs Diane Ries and Michael. Other dishes, such as broccoli salad, accompanied the meal, along with home-made desserts featuring raspberries and strawberries.

Rose Kereliuk and Mary Tropak, activity planners, reported that the proposed June day trip to a honey factory in Spruce Grove would have to be delayed to September be-

cause of troubles securing a bus.

Mike Uhryn, President of AUUC Edmonton Branch, updated the group about several topics, such as the developments at Sylvan Lake, the coming Annual General Meeting which would hear reports by National President Bob Seychuk and National Treasurer Cathy Schubert, and the selection of six delegates for the 45th AUUC National Convention in October, which would be determining the continuation of the AUUC past 2013.

Various announcements were made, including the information that Victor Horon (our photographer — that's why there are no pictures) and Bill Chomyn were both hospitalized recently, but are now at home recovering. The seniors signed a card for each wishing them a speedy recovery.

— Shirley Uhryn

# Welland Orchestra a Hit

The United Senior Citizens of Ontario are a feisty bunch. They advocate on seniors' issues at all levels of government. Their members are lively, well-informed, concerned people who work hard and play hard.

Part of their work is an annual meeting at which they consider social policy issues affecting seniors, and elect a leadership for the coming 12 months. On August 12-14, the USCO held its 55th Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn Conference Centre in St. Catharines, Ontario. There they worked hard.

Of course, every convention needs a convention banquet, and every convention banquet needs high quality entertainment. The USCO convention banquet this year chose the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC as its quality entertainment. There they played hard.

When he learned that the orchestra would be appearing at the USCO convention banquet, orchestra conductor Rudy Wasylenky selected a program which would strike a chord with senior citizens; when he heard that there would be a small dance floor,

he adapted most of the pieces to make them more suitable for dancing. (Primarily that meant eliminating sudden and/or notable changes or interruptions in rhythm or tempo.)

The orchestra started playing just before 8:00 p.m., with an invitation to those present to feel free to dance or sing, as the spirit might move them.

And join in they did. They danced to music as diverse as the instrumental "Yellow Bird", "Ukrainian Folk Medley" (a duet by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny, described as a Ukrainian polka) and "Moon River" (sung by Margaret Card). They sang along with the protest song "Blowin' in the Wind" (vocal solo by Wilfred Szczesny), "Jamaica Farewell" (duet: Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny), and "Beer Barrel Polka" (sung by Margaret Card with Rudy Wasylenky).

A USCO Executive Board Member, Margaret Card was a crowd favourite through "Embraceable You", "My Heart Will Go On", "Just Because", "Try to Remember", and "Vera Lynn Medley".

As 9:00 p.m. approached, there was a thought that some of the remaining numbers

— File Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Margaret Card delighted the audience with seven vocal selections, delivered with just the right touch of showmanship.

should be omitted, out of consideration for the audience. However, it was decided to perform all the scheduled numbers. At about 9:30 p.m., their program of 15 numbers completed, the members of the orchestra (including the conductor) were ready to call it an evening.

The audience, on the other hand, was not. They rose to salute the orchestra with a standing ovation and calls for an encore. Not expecting such a response (Seriously? Seniors? At 9:30 p.m.? After a banquet? After a day of meetings? With another day of business tomorrow? Seriously?) the performers had nothing prepared, so they played a few lines from their closing number.

The performance was good, but not flawless. Ignoring all the cuts, holds, and tempo changes which have been rehearsed for hours, it turns out, is harder than might be expected. Nevertheless, as the musicians folded their stands and cleared the floor, there were many enthusiastic, extremely positive comments directed at the performers, and many a "Thank you!"

There was also a criticism: "Do you know what was wrong with your program? It was too short!"

Did the performers feel good? You bet!

— Participant



Conductor Rudy Wasylenky (left) and mandolin player Wilfred Szczesny blended their voices in "Jamaica Farewell" and "Ukrainian Folk Medley".

# Work On Behalf of Taxpayers

(Continued from Page 3.) chard Nixon. That is the President Nixon of "I am not a crook" fame; the President Nixon who also had an "enemies" list.

Suggesting some of the negative consequences which could flow from such a list to the people and projects on the list, the editorial notes, "A government doesn't keep an enemies list for no reason."

The reaction of former Harper staffers, apparently, was that "it was unusual, if not provocative, for Harper's office to put such instructions in

writing". That certainly leaves the impression that such instructions are seldom written but frequently expressed.

Casual reading of the article in the paper's July 17 print edition might lead to the conclusion that the former staffers actually said those words.

However, the words are not in quotation marks in the article, which makes it rather probable that not the former staffers, but rather the "Star" and its writers, are the source of this particular formulation.

All the drama aside, there is a disquieting aspect to this information: that the Prime Minister's Office will set Ministers' attitudes, not allowing the skills and personalities of Ministers to alter relationships.

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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.**

# AUUC Toronto July 1 Celebration

On Monday, July 1, AUUC Toronto Branch and the Shevchenko Museum held their annual Canada Day/Shevchenko Day celebration at the AUUC Cultural Centre on Bloor Street.

After being greeted at the door by Otti Nicolai, the guests were immersed into the usual splash of red and white decor. However, this year a checkered pattern was featured, still honouring the two national colours, but adding to the picnic-like atmosphere. Enjoying the decorative props of summertime and the daisy centre pieces on each table, everyone could feel a little bit closer to being outdoors at the Shevchenko Memorial Park at Palermo, where this event used to take place.

Long before the official program began, the visitors had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities: a 50/50 draw, a Canada Day trivia contest, a sale of Shevchenko prints from the Museum, and of course, munchies and liquid refreshments served by trusty bartender Anne Bobyk. Natalka Mochoruk and her daughter, Bobbi Mackellar, were selling tickets for a chance to win some of Natalka's beautifully embroi-

dered artefacts.

With Nancy Stewart acting as MC, the ceremony began with the singing of "O Canada", followed by the presentation of flowers at the large photo of the Shevchenko monument that once stood tall in the park at Palermo. This year, a single floral basket on behalf of the two hosting groups, the Toronto Branch and the Shevchenko Museum, was presented. The Branch was represented by George Borusiewich and the Museum by Bernardine Dobrowolsky.

A beautiful recitation of Shevchenko's "Zapovii" (Testament) was then given by Natalka Mochoruk in Ukrainian and Wilfred Szczesny in English. The duo ended with a second recitation, called *Young Masters*.

The finale to the program was a video of clips of past events that had taken place at Camp Palermo. Created by Jerry Dobrowolsky, the video elicited both laughter and emotional sighs and tears.

The traditional July 1 barbecue followed the program, with Jerry's hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages smothered in his speciality of fried onions. Added to the menu were Natalka's famous *kapusta*, Nancy's coleslaw



Some participants at the Canada Day/Shevchenko Day are shown standing as the program started with the singing of "O Canada".

and Bernardine's traditional potato salad. A welcome surprise were Nita Miskevich's home made dill pickles.

Now, "Let the games begin!"

The results of the Canadiana trivia quiz were announced, with one answer in particular seeming to surprise many participants. Did you know that "O Canada" did not become our official national anthem until 1980? Well, that fact did not stump Walter Rasiuk, who scored a perfect 10! While Walter got to receive his prize first, all participants were invited to choose from a selection of Canada Day souvenirs.

Congratulations to Vera Borusiewich who won the 50/50 draw, and to the four very happy winners of Natalka's embroidery, who went home with either a change purse, an eye glass case, a cosmetic bag or the grand prize of a beautiful pillow.

A new feature to this year's games was a team scavenger hunt. With Patricia Dzatko, Len Sedun and Anne Magus acting as team captains, the

three groups scoured the hall furiously for the list of items that they were to find. Although Team Sedun won the competition, again all participants were able to claim a prize.

It may not have been a day in the great outdoors as in years gone by, but everyone left for home feeling that they had truly been to the first great picnic of the summer.

— B. Dobrowolsky

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



AUUC Toronto Branch President George Borusiewich and Museum Resident Executive Committee Recording Secretary Bernardine Dobrowolsky placed a floral arrangement at the base of a picture of the Shevchenko monument.



Natalka Mochoruk recited Taras Shevchenko's poems "Testament" and "Young Masters" in Ukrainian. Wilfred Szczesny did the same in English.



Bernardine Dobrowolsky announced the results of the Canada Day trivia contest.



Scavenger hunt team captains (left to right) Len Sedun Pat Dzatko and Anne Magus.



Fred Panasiuk (left), Joe Dzatko and Lorna Clark selected from among the many gifts available to Canada Day trivia quiz participants.



Vera Borusiewich (left) was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw prize, presented by Nancy Stewart, MC.

# Regina's Annual Mosaic Remains Popular

Regina's Mosaic Festival of Cultures was held on May 30 and 31, and June 1, with the participation of the Regina AUUC Inc. Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion. It was one of 21 pavilions scattered throughout the city.

Open for 19 hours over the three evenings and one afternoon, the pavilion was visited by over 7,000 patrons.

The Poltava Pavilion was located, as always, at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, allowing for excellent seating for both concert-goers and those enjoying the Ukrainian cuisine.

The professional, expansive stage, and the 22-member orchestra in the foreground, were excellently viewed by all in the auditorium.



Vocal soloist Geunnadey Ostrikov, formerly of Rostov-On-Don, rendered a number of Ukrainian folk songs.

Audiences enjoyed 21 half-hour performances — 16 by the 50-plus members of the AUUC Poltava Ensemble of Song Music and Dance, and 5 by the 68 students of the AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts.

The calibre of the orchestra and dancers was the toast of the Festival, as exemplified by patron comments, television interviews and other media coverage.

Some statistics: Poltava Dancers performed 45 times, while the orchestra accompanied the 45 dances and performed 15 orchestral selections. Vocal solos were provided by 12-year old Valeria Honchar, formerly of Kyiv, and Geunnadi Ostrikov, formerly of Rostov-On-Don.

Of course, the Pavilion is also known for its wonderful Ukrainian cuisine, which included varenyky (perogies), borsch, sausage, oseledtsi (pickled herring), poppy-seed squares, cheese cake, Ukrainian Obolon beer, the cocktail Balalaika, and the Poltava Shooter.

This year the Pavilion display was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of Lesya Ukrainka, Ukrainian poetess/writer. This was done via historical photos and text.

[In August of this year the L. Ukrainka monument located on the grounds of the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), was moved from its original location to the U. of S. Library Building within the L. Ukrainka Garden.]

A brief history of L.



One half of the auditorium was set aside for those having the Ukrainian cuisine, while the remaining half was set with elevated risers for watching the 21 half-hour concert programs during Mosaic 2013. Both areas of the auditorium had an unhindered view of the orchestra and stage.

Ukrainka was published in the Pavilion brochure, which was handed out to those entering the Pavilion.

The success of the Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion was made

possible by over 100 volunteers who prepared for, and staffed, the Pavilion.

Forming the cultural component were Dance Directors Oleksandr Byelyayev, for-

merly of the Kyiv Kalyna Ensemble, and Lisa Wanner, graduate of the Regina University's Bachelor of Music program, and Orchestral Director Natalia Osypenko, Graduate of the Kyiv Conservatory. Recognition must also be given to the kitchen staff, managed by Jennifer Swicheniuk and Gerry Shmyr, for the hundreds of hours of food preparation, in particular, the thousands of *varenyky* needed for the Pavilion.

Gratitude is also expressed to the bartenders at the two liquor stations, Masters of Ceremonies Ken Lozinsky and Dave Wilson, Pavilion Ambassadors Dion Tchorzewski and Noah Evanchuk, Youth Ambassadors Erica Rieder and Eleanor Lekatch, and display and foyer personnel: Gerry Shmyr, Bob Ivanochko, Joanne Laslo, Lynne and Alex Lapchuk. Lynne and Joanne were also responsible for the Pavilion finances.

They all took a leading role in making Mosaic 2013 such an outstanding success. The Regina AUUC is indeed indebted to all of them.

— **Sasha Lapchuk**  
(Sasha Lapchuk is Chairperson of the Regina AUUC Inc.)



The Poltava Pavilion's pictorial display was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of Ukrainian poet/writer Lesya Ukrainka.

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



The AUUC Poltava Ensemble opened their programs with "Pryvit", the traditional presentation of bread and salt, in which various regions of Ukraine are depicted. The group is under the direction of Oleksandr Byelyayev, with Assistant Director Lisa Wanner.



Line-ups for the food buffet were the norm during the three nights of Mosaic.

**WHY NOT RENEW NOW?**

**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**



## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

### Ideal Country Of Birth

According to the Ukrainian polling organization Rating, about 48% of Ukrainians would choose Ukraine if they had their choice of countries in which to be born. The second-best choice at 9% would be Russia. Germany was third most-popular at 5%. The United States was fourth best at 4%. The USSR, the United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland, and France were the choice of 2%, while Canada was the choice of 1% of the Ukrainian population.

The polling organization analysed the results and determined that the younger the respondent, the less likely he/she was to choose Ukraine (troubling - **gb**).

Women are more attached to Ukraine than men. The latter often chose Russia, Germany, and the USA (better work opportunities? - **gb**).

(I would have chosen a nice, quiet, desert island with dancing girls and coconuts falling off the palm trees! -**gb**)

### Till Death Do Us Part

According to the United Nations Demographic Year Book 2011, the number of divorces in Ukraine was 173,163 in 2004, 183,455 in 2005, 179,123 in 2006, 178,364 in 2007, and 166,845 in 2008.

According to a web site called *Divorce Statistics*, the Ukrainian divorce rate during those years worked out to an average of about 5.2%.

According to that same web site, the divorce rate during the years 1960–1980 was an average of 1.2%.

(Could the switch to capitalism, and its resulting economic stress on the average Ukrainian have anything to do with the 400% increase in divorce rate? - **gb**)

### Doctors Not Trusted

“Ukrainians do not trust doctors and often choose self-medication,” said Viktor Chumak, advisor to the Health Minister of Ukraine, at a recent round-table titled “Counterfeit and substandard medicines: the life of Ukrainians is in danger”.

Mr. Chumak insisted that Ukraine needs to increase the level of health care substantially.

“Doctors are not competent in writing prescriptions, and the doctor does not enjoy the confidence of the patient. The level of self-medication is very high,” he said indignantly. According to Mr.

Chumak, Ukraine lost the Soviet system of medicine and has not yet developed its own. He noted that we can not predict how many years it will take for Ukrainians to begin to trust doctors.

### Islamic Radicals

More than a thousand bearded men, muffled in scarves and accompanied by veiled women, stand under a hot sun, waving black and white flags and chanting “*Allahu Akbar!*” (God is Greatest).

This is not a scene from the Middle East or Central Asia, but a rally of the supporters of the Islamist Hizb ut-Tahrir (Party of Freedom) in Simferopol, the capital of the Ukrainian Black Sea region of Crimea.

Hizb ut-Tahrir seeks to re-establish a Caliphate — a pan-Islamic state based on Islamic rule like in the medieval era — across the Middle East and Central Asia. Banned in several states, it is now showing surprising strength in Crimea, a region which has its own substantial Muslim Tatar minority.

The first devotees of Hizb ut-Tahrir appeared in the Crimea in the early 1990s. Now they number between 2000 and 15,000.

According to the party’s information officer, Fazyl Amzaev, “The Caliphate is not a threat but, on the contrary, is salvation for mankind amid a crisis of capitalism, democracy and liberal values in general.”

Established in 1953 in East Jerusalem, the party has been banned in Russia, Germany and several Central Asian countries.

### Economy Slipping

Ukraine’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product — a measure of all goods and services produced by a country - **gb**) in the second quarter of 2013 fell by 1.1% year-over-year, the same as in the first quarter of 2013.

As reported by the State Statistics Service, the Ukrainian economy, in 2012, slowed its growth rate to 0.2% from 5.2% a year ago.

The International Monetary Fund in mid-April downgraded the forecast for GDP dynamics in Ukraine to zero from 3.5% in October, 2012.

### Insulting Poland

(From *The Wall Street Journal*). An egg smeared on Polish president’s jacket (re-

cently) in Ukraine did little to help ease the two country’s shaky relationship as Warsaw tries to drag Kyiv out of Moscow’s sphere of influence.

Television footage showed a man in his 20s approaching Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski as he was walking through a crowd in Lutsk, in northwestern Ukraine. The man appears to greet the president before smashing an egg on his shoulder and staining it.

The man wasn’t officially identified.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Komorowski had commemorated an act of ethnic cleansing during World War II, perpetrated by Ukrainian nationalists who killed thousands of Poles in Volhynia, now part of Ukraine.

“We believe that violence and ethnic cleansing can never be a method for conflict resolution between neighbouring peoples or nations. They can’t be justified with any political, economic or religious reasons,” the Polish president said. (From *Polskie Radio*).

It is estimated that about 60,000 ethnic poles were killed in the wartime Volhynia massacres, which were carried out by the guerrilla Ukrainian Insurgent Army on territory which was then under Nazi German occupation. Poles fought back, and it is estimated that over 20,000 Ukrainians were killed across the Volhynia region and in other parts of Nazi-occupied southern Poland.

### Heroes? Or Traitors?

(This is an abbreviated version of a much longer article by *Associated Press*, dated August 1, 2013).

Ukrainians dressed in Nazi SS uniforms trudge through trenches and fire model rifles in a reconstruction of a key battle against the Soviets during World War II.

An Orthodox priest leads a ceremony for fallen soldiers of the Nazi unit, sprinkling his blessing over several men sporting swastikas who lower a coffin in a ritual reburial.

These scenes were part of recent commemorations of soldiers whom many Ukrainian nationalists, along with a smattering of hard-core ultrarightists, hail as heroes. The men they are honouring belonged to the SS Galician division, a Nazi military unit made up mostly of Ukrainians, which fought Soviet troops during World War II.

More than 20 years since gaining independence from the Soviet Union, Ukraine remains painfully divided over the legacy of World War II and the actions of Ukrainian nationalist fighters, who are hon-

oured as heroes by some and condemned as traitors by others.

Some of those fighters served under, or cooperated with, the Nazis, seeing a chance to overthrow the Soviet regime, while others fought both the Red Army and the Nazis.

(*Question*: Why do these “patriots” not hold similar rallies commemorating their alleged battles against the Nazis?)

(*Question*: The massacres of Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians carried out by these “patriots” are well-documented. Where is the evidence that they massacred the Nazis?)

(*Question*: Is whistleblower Edward Snowden considered hero or traitor by President Obama for actions critical of the American government? - **gb**)

Post-Soviet Ukraine has failed to investigate, prosecute or bring to trial a single Nazi war criminal, according to Efraim Zuroff, the top Nazi hunter with the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. “Ukraine’s efforts, or lack of efforts, to investigate and prosecute Nazi war criminals is assessed as a total failure; they haven’t done a damn thing,” Zuroff said.

### Oops! Train Loses Way

The good thing about trains was that you could always be sure about where they went. Well, not any more.

An express train in Ukraine took the wrong turn and ended up in the wrong city. Instead of Zaporizhyya in central Ukraine, the train from Lviv arrived to Dnipropetrovsk, 85 kilometres north of the supposed destination.

Passengers cited train staff as saying a traffic controller directed the train the wrong way when trying to lead it around repair works on the railroad. Railroad officials declined comment.

No compensation or transportation to the original destination was offered to the passengers, who were unloaded in Dnipropetrovsk and left to fend for themselves.

### Old Egg

Researchers announced the discovery of an Easter egg that may be five centuries old. The egg was discovered in part of a drainage system in the rich historical and cultural city of Lviv.

The ancient egg discovered on Shevtska Street in Lviv is probably a goose egg, and researchers believe that it is the oldest egg found in the region so far.

Ukraine is a religious na-

tion, and more than half of Ukrainians are Orthodox Christians. The tradition of decorating Easter eggs is an essential part of Easter celebrations in the country.

Ukrainian folk artists have perfected the ornate artwork of the traditional *pysanka*, elaborately decorated Ukrainian eggs, over hundreds of years.

Easter eggs are often created as gifts for friends or neighbours.

Every aspect of a *pysanka* has meaning. The colours of the egg can indicate the age of the owner — bright colours for younger members of the community, darker colours for elders.

They are also steeped in symbolism. There are symbols that represent the sun, others that represent the stars. Eternity is represented by curving lines, or lines that encircle the egg.

Certain animals, for example deer, represent wealth. If you give an egg with a deer design on it to your neighbour, this means you wish them wealth.

### Ukraine Insulted

Ukraine has banned the bass guitarist of the American rock group Bloodhound Gang from entering the country for five years after he appeared to urinate on the Ukrainian flag. Jared Hasselhoff’s stunt took place in Kyiv on July 30.

The next day, he stuffed a Russian flag into his underpants on stage in Odessa. The band has also been banned from a Russian music festival.

The Ukrainian security service said that at the concert in Kyiv, Hasselhoff “publicly desecrated the state flag of Ukraine” and “was barred from entry for five years”.

On August 2, the band was due to perform at Russia’s Kubana rock festival on the Black Sea coast, but the gig did not go ahead. Instead they were questioned by police and told to leave Russia.

### 100-Metre Stiletto Race

Women in Ukraine aren’t afraid to run in their stilettos! Nearly 100 women strapped on their heels for a recent 100-Metre Stiletto Race in Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital

The rules required women to wear heels of at least 3½ inches, but some donned stilettos 6 inches high!

The 95° degree weather didn’t slow the women down. In fact, the fastest runner crossed the finish line in just 15 seconds! The winner of the race received a car as a prize.

# COMMENTARY

(Continued from Page 4.)

There will be no big table with large delegations meeting daily for full-day sessions. There will, instead, be a couple of representatives from each side, perhaps with a few aides, getting together weekly.

Nor are they going to get right to the key issues. The first matters for discussion will be where to meet, how to meet, how to decide what will be on the agenda, and such

procedural matters. Each side will try to ensure that the other does not have some small advantage (whether physical or psychological) in the bargaining.

Then, perhaps, they will discuss what should actually be on the agenda, and in what order. Only after all the preliminary stuff is out of the way will they get to the discussion of a two state solution — if they actually get that far.

Many unforeseen circumstances, particularly in the seething cauldron that is the Middle East, could derail the entire process.

President Obama, as expressed by Mr. Kerry, would like the negotiations to be completed in nine months. That seems rather improbable. More likely, the talks will just go on very long, neither side wanting to end them in

spite of a lack of progress, or some event will intervene to end the talks abruptly.

In the latter case, the outcome will depend on the cause. In the former eventuality, the pressures within Israel and the West Bank will continue to grow, as will the pressures from their neighbours. The situation will be resolved. The question is how much blood will be spilt. — Sz

## Who, What, When, Where

**Toronto** — AUUC Toronto Branch starts its 2013-2014 season with a film showing and lunch on **September 8** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **12:30 p.m.** (movie at 2:00 p.m.). Admission: **\$7.00.**

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — AUUC Toronto Branch will host an **Oktoberfest** celebration starting at **noon** on Saturday, **October 26**, at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West. Good food, good fun, good company! Admission is **\$10.00** (children under 12 years — **\$5.00**). More information about this popular event will be available soon.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg** — The **45th AUUC National Convention Banquet** will be held at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, Pritchard and McGregor, on Saturday, **October 12**. For more information, contact the AUUC National Office.

\* \* \*

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.

Season's Greeting Ad sizes at Various Prices	
Name and city (one line only) .....	10.00
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The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of September and October.

- Bill Askin
- Sherry Capowski
- Olga Horon
- Ann Parfeniuk
- Shirley 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 September and October celebrants:

- Helen Banville
- Wilfred Szczesny
- Vicky Vuksinic

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends birthday greetings to September and October celebrants:

- Stella Moroz
- Audrey Moysiuk

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

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to September and October celebrants:

- Clara Babiy
- Dorothy Boucock
- Anne Cain
- Janice Robins
- Rudy Wasylenky
- Robert Young

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

## Ukrainian Canadian Herald

### Season's Greetings

**Remember your family and friends with a message!** We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, either in the December, 2013, or the January, 2014, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. **See the diagram on this page for sizes.** Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

**Deadlines:** November 10, 2013, for December, 2013.  
December 10, 2013, for January, 2014.

**Send your request to:**

SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE  
595 Pritchard Avenue,  
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4  
Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404  
e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE  
1604 Bloor Street West  
Toronto ON M6P 1A7  
Phone : 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180  
e-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.com

**Please indicate the desired ad size:**  
\$10.00 (One line: name and city only)  
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Other

**Issue requested:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ December issue (deadline November 10)  
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Greeting in: English \_\_\_\_\_ Ukrainian \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**MESSAGE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheque enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
Invoice required \_\_\_\_\_ Office receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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:**

## AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

National Executive Committee AUUC  
595 Pritchard Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4  
Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404  
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

## VANCOUVER BRANCH

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

Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
3316-28 Avenue SW  
Calgary AB T3E 0R8  
Phone: (403) 246-1231  
E-mail: calauuc@telus.net

## EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre  
11018-97 Street  
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9  
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013  
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

## VEGREVILLE BRANCH

c/o Lil Humeniuk  
Box 481  
Vegreville AB T9C 1R6  
Phone: (780) 632-3021

## REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
1809 Toronto Street  
Regina SK S4P 1M7  
Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: www.poltava.ca

## WINNIPEG BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple  
591 Pritchard Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca  
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404

## OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk  
24 Attwood Crescent  
Ottawa ON K2E 5A9  
Phone: (613) 228-0990

## SUDBURY

Jubilee Centre  
195 Applegrove Street  
Sudbury ON P3C 1N4  
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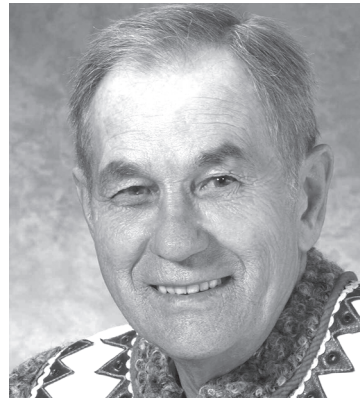
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1604 Bloor Street West  
Toronto ON M6P 1A7  
Phone: (416) 588-1639 Fax: 588-9180  
auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

## WELLAND BRANCH

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

# Steve Smoly



The Smoly family is sad to announce the passing of Steve Smoly on July 7, 2013. Steve passed away at the Regina General Hospital, after a very brief illness, at the age of 74 years. Steve was predeceased by his parents, Peter and Katherine. He is survived by his children: Corrie Smoly, Scott Piercey (Stacey), Angela Behnke (Dave); grandchildren Hunter, Emma, Murdoch, Lochlan, Ewan, Brandon, Christopher, Mason and Maddison; brother Ivan (Ukraine); sister Olga (Hamilton, Ont.); many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and great grand nieces and nephews.

Steve graduated from Balfour Technical High School (Regina) in 1957 and went to work for Saskatchewan Government Telephones (now SaskTel) as an apprentice switchman soon after. At SaskTel Steve worked his way up, holding a variety of supervisory positions.

While at SaskTel, Steve was very involved with the trade union movement, carry-

ing out a variety of duties within his union, from shop steward to service on the union executive. Steve served as Local CWA Treasurer for 17 years, was President of the Regina Labour Council, and sat on many committees of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour over his 35 years with SaskTel. Steve retired in 1992.

Steve had two great passions in his private life. One was Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and the other was the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC).

Steve was very proud to have been a member of AA, for over 35 years. Steve was always willing to be an advi-

sor, leader, sponsor, and mentor to those willing to confide in him and ask for his assistance. Steve's door was always open to help those who were ready to admit that they had a problem and needed help.

Steve sought to help AA members not only in Regina, but across Canada and the United States. Some 30 years ago, Steve set out to provide additional support to AA members by supplying written material, pins and other mementos that could be used to celebrate one's accomplishments within AA. He opened his own business, Serenity Creations. Steve indicating many times that this business operation was one of his most rewarding endeavours.

Steve continued his business until the day before entering the hospital.

Steve's second great passion was the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. Steve always joked that he was a lifelong member as, before he was born, his parents had been members from the early 1930s.

Steve's participation with the AUUC and WBA (Workers Benevolent Association) **(Continued on Page 12.)**

# Sonia Ostash



Sonia Wishinski was born October 19, 1917, in Prud'homme, Saskatchewan.

She had three brothers (John, Peter and Mike) who predeceased her. She is survived by her sister Doreen, who lives in Kelowna, BC.

In Prud'homme she attended classes at the Catholic Convent school where she learned both French and English, while speaking Ukrainian at home. Sonia loved interchanging the languages and especially singing in all three.

She first met Dave Rutka in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at the Ukrainian hall. They both went to Toronto to find work, and were married in 1940. Dave and Sonia settled down on the farm in Calder, Saskatchewan, and had one child, Sylvia, in 1941. By 1942 they decided to give up the farm and move to Winnipeg. However, their stay there was short lived, and in 1944 they moved to Vancouver, following Sonia's brothers.

In Vancouver, Dave and Sonia bought Cook's cafe at 715 East Hastings Street, just one block away from the AUUC hall. They both worked very hard.

They got a lease at Oakland Rooms on Richards Street. Sonia looked after the rooming house, while Dave went fishing with the Wishinski brothers. Sonia eventually worked at the Cooperative

Book Store, and Dave turned his hand to cooking on the tug boats.

Both Sonia and Dave were adventurous, and when their daughter Sylvia went north to teach they bought a hotel in Fort Nelson, BC. There they prospered, and when they sold out they went to Edmonton where Sonia became the manager of East West Travel.

They finally retired to Penticton, BC, in 1975.

Dave died in 1977.

From the early days at the Mud Hall in Prud'homme, Saskatchewan, through stints in Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Saskatoon, as well as in the communities of Vernon, Penticton and Kelowna here in British Columbia, Sonia was an active and contributing member of the AUUC.

She served on various committees and executives and gave assistance in the kitchen when called upon. Sonia was the candidate for Bazaar

Queen at several of our AUUC financial campaigns (Sylvia says she has the ribbons to prove it!). Sonia enjoyed singing in the choir.

Eventually Sonia also became active in the seniors' clubs.

She loved to attend all the functions, and especially loved to dance. This is where she met Mike Ostash, who danced her off her feet, and in 1990 Sonia and Mike got married in Kelowna.

Sonia loved all of her family and was especially proud of her grandchildren. She appreciated the new family members she met when marrying Mike and she loved and appreciated her new extended family.

Sonia and Mike loved to travel and went to many places, including Russia and South America. They also travelled across Canada and to the United States, visiting family and friends wherever they went.

Sonia will best be remembered for her warm and fun-loving personality, and breaking into song at the slightest provocation.

She thought well of everybody, and treated all with whom she came into contact with respect and generosity. From the days at Cook's cafe, to the years at Oakland Rooms, to the House on Raymer Street in Kelowna, Sonia opened her home and her heart to all who came.

Sonia died on June 9, 2013. She will be greatly missed.

## A New Home for Lesya Ukrainka



This summer, the statue of Lesya Ukrainka was moved to a new location on the University of Saskatchewan campus. A report was printed in *Beyond the Bowl*, a University of Saskatchewan newsletter, and is reprinted here. The picture above shows the statue in its new setting.

A new garden outside the main entrance of the Murray Library is now home to the 16-foot bronze statue of Ukrainian writer and poet Lesya Ukrainka.

Born Larysa Petrivna

Kosach-Kvitka in 1871, Ukrainka was one of Ukraine's best-known poets and writers and the foremost female writer of Ukrainian literature. As a feminist in the late 19th and early 20th cen-

tury, she was concerned in her works with the role of women in family and society.

Originally unveiled in October 1976, the statue was a gift to the U of S from the Association for Cultural Relations with Ukrainians Abroad in the USSR. The group also donated 500 Ukrainian books to the Murray Library. The statue, an important marker of Ukrainian heritage and culture on campus, stood just west of the Murray Library until its relocation to the garden in early June.

Today's event featured remarks by Ken Ladd, acting dean of the University Library, Andriy Hladyshchuk, Q.C., president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, and a recitation in English and Ukrainian of Ukrainka's well-known poem *Contra Spem Spero*. Features of the garden include bench seating, the extension of Wi-Fi from the main library, as well as donor and historical plaques contextualizing the statue and the development of the garden space.

"Through the generous support of our donors, we have developed a new and welcoming entrance to the Murray Library," said Ladd. "It is one that preserves and showcases an important part of the university's history and Ukrainian heritage."

The statue's move and the creation of the new garden was funded by a number of donors, including Victor



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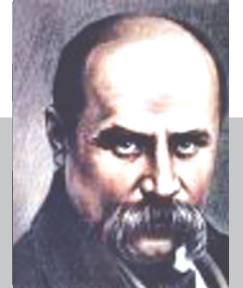
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Buyniak, former head of the U of S Department of Slavic Studies, and the Winnipeg-based Shevchenko Foundation. The project is part of the continuing transformation of the University Library and is endorsed by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Sas-

katchewan Branch).

As part of the garden project, the statue underwent a much-needed restoration. Professional conservator Sharon Deason provided careful cleaning, detailing and waxing prior to the statue's installation in its new location.

## Target

(Continued from Page 1,) eight stores in the survey, in customer satisfaction.

It should be noted that the article in *The Globe and Mail* discussed only one aspect (customer satisfaction) of the Forum Research survey, and one measure (very satisfied) of that aspect. Hardly a complete, rounded out presentation.

Furthermore, the report only included eight chains, with no indications why others (including Loblaws and Sobeys, to name a few) were excluded, and where they might rank.

In other words, *The Globe and Mail* and reporter Marina Strauss have given readers a very limited discussion of the situation in the retail market.

Target has devoted substantial resources to its foray into Canada. In addition to buying and renovating stores, it has built a supply chain (including three distribution centres) devoted to Canada, and hired and trained thousands of employees.

With investments at that level, and with the hopes of the American parent company that its Canadian operations would boost overall performance (that is, jack up returns on investment), Target will not go away quietly.

Company representatives have stressed that Target is learning fast as it strives to make a success of its first

venture outside the US. It is sharpening up its ability to forecast demand, and is listening closely to customer feedback.

Established competitors have not been sitting back in the face of the challenge from the newcomer, a respected retailer on its home ground.

The market has become more competitive as established retailers make adjustments to meet the challenge. Loblaws unveiled a huge deal to buy Shoppers Drug Mart, Wal-Mart is adding more stores and increasing food aisles, and Sobeys is taking over Safeway Canada.

Many observers see groceries as the key element in the struggle to attract shoppers. Groceries, it appears are a better shopper magnet than clothing or housewares.

Target outlets in Canada do not have the range of fresh foods offered in its US stores, but that can be expected to change over time as required.

So, Target is not doing as well in Canada as it had hoped, and has caused other chains to respond to its presence by increasing competition in the market.

On the other hand, Target is determined to make a success of its move into Canada, and can be expected to improve its performance.

That new store in your municipality may not be there long but, if you are a fan, you can relax — it is unlikely to disappear all that fast.

Maybe some other store will disappear first.

## Steve Smoly

(Continued from Page 11.) goes back to 1949, when he assisted his father as Treasurer of the Regina Branch.

Steve participated in the Regina Branch School of Dance, and at 11 years of age, sang in the choir. Steve's first major performance with the choir was at the Golden Jubilee Concert in 1955, marking Saskatchewan's 50th Anniversary.

In 1954, Steve was at Camp Palermo (Ontario) for three weeks of cultural and leadership training, a program long established by the AUUC to provide for leadership within the organization for years to come.

In 1993, Steve headed the Regina Branch organizing committee for the establishment of Regina AUUC Inc. (a provincial cultural organization that would be a member of, and receive funding from, the Multicultural Councils of Saskatchewan (MCoS) which is a part of Sask Lotteries). At that time Steve became its first President and continued in that position until 2003.

In 1994, as part of an un-

dertaking of Regina AUUC Inc., he was co-executive producer with Gerry Shmyr in the implementation and production of the Regina AUUC Poltava Ensemble Orchestra CD and cassette. The latter was the first major undertaking by the AUUC Regina Branch registered with ACTRA.

Along with other Regina Branch executives over the last 30 years, Steve was Regina Branch Bingo Coordinator, Chairman and Treasurer of Fund Raising for 15 years, ending in 2004.

Steve was Treasurer (1995 to 2000) for the Regina Multicultural Council, the coordinating body which sponsors Regina's Annual Mosaic Cultural Festival. During Mosaic Steve served as Ambassador, Building Manager and Financial Coordinator of the AUUC Poltava Pavilion in the years 1977–2004.

He also carried out a variety of roles within the Pavilion administration up to his passing.

Steve has been a delegate to many AUUC national conventions.

In 1992, he was a member of the AUUC delegation to Ukraine, and in 2002, was in Ukraine with the AUUC Poltava Ensemble as part of the Canadian delegation at the Yalta International Folkloric Festival.

Steve served the AUUC National Executive Committee in what he considered two of his, and the organizations, greatest challenges: National Treasurer of the AUUC National Committee (2003–2010) and Assistant Coordinator of the AUUC National Ukrainian Centennial Celebration – 2005, a position held from 2003 - 2005.

Steve was a very proud member of the AUUC and believed fully in its aims and objectives. His proudest moments were those when the young people (from the age of 4 years) demonstrated the unique aspects of Ukrainian dance to the general public. He was especially proud of his own children — the outstanding ability of his son Corrie and his daughter Angela — and his grandchildren.

The AUUC Regina Branch of the AUUC has lost one of its strongest supporters and leaders, and a genuine character.

Steve will be missed.