

HERALD ВІСНИК

СІЧЕНЬ, 2015р. HOME P 264 PIK XXIV

JANUARY 2015 NO. 264 VOL. XXIV Price \$2.25



**HAPPY NEW YEAR —
3 НОВИМ РОКОМ!**

**The National Executive Committee of the
Association of United Ukrainian Canadians
extends best wishes for a
happy, healthy and peaceful 2015 to
all members and friends of the AUUC
and readers and supporters of
*The Ukrainian Canadian Herald!***

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated February/March, 2015. Announcements of events in February, March or early April, 2015, as well as articles for the February/March issue should be in our office by January 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Climate Deal or Evasion?

They did not get it done on time, and there is some question whether they got it done at all, but top representatives of almost 200 countries appear to be proud of their achievement: the Lima Accord. The greatest source of their pride is that every country in the world, for the first time ever, committed to reducing the fossil fuel emissions that cause global warming.

The question, however, is what they agreed to do.

The answer appears to be that they agreed that each country will submit its own plan and targets for reducing the use of coal, oil, and gas. The plan is to be submitted by March, 2015. If that target is missed, June, 2015, will do. And if the June target is missed, there will be no punishment, except the disapproving clucking of other countries and people around the world who will be able to access the plans on a UN website.

Furthermore, the plan is to outline cuts to be made after 2020.

Countries who are ready to thumb their noses at international opinion may submit weak plans or, even, no plans at all.

The negotiators can congratulate themselves on reaching a deal, but it remains to be seen whether it was a deal to protect the environment or a deal to avoid acting to protect the environment.

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Now It Gets Serious

As we go to press, it is being reported that the federal government is increasing transfer payments to the provinces for 2015, including an extra \$1.25 billion to Ontario.

This is in sharp contrast to the treatment of Ontario in 2014, when the Harper government dropped a payment which would have given Ontario and additional \$640 million in 2014.

The \$1.25 billion includes an additional \$735 million in transfer payments for health care, \$149 million more for social programs, and an additional \$375 million in equalization payments.

Ontario's increase is the largest to any province or ter-

ritory. The total transfers to Ontario are expected to be about \$20.4 billion.

Quebec will get \$20.3 billion, British Columbia will receive \$6.1 billion, Alberta expects \$5.4 billion, and Manitoba \$3.4 billion. Others will receive smaller amounts.

Transfer payments are determined by complex formulae which include population among the criteria.

On Monday, December 15, federal Minister of Finance Joe Oliver met his provincial counterparts in Ottawa, the

first such meeting since the death of former Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty.

The transfer payments were on the agenda of the one-day meeting. As were the Canadian economy and the effect of falling oil prices.

Some observers have speculated that the financial announcement and the meeting are part of mounting Conservative preparations for the coming federal elections. The speculations include thoughts about the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Harper and Ontario Premier Wynne. The last such meeting was in December, 2013.

Big Bank Bonuses

In fiscal 2014, Canada's five biggest banks have set aside about \$12.2 billion for bonuses, an increase of 13% compared to last year.

The biggest increase for the year ending on October 31 was at the Toronto-Dominion Bank, at 18%.

The increased bonus allocations reflect the very successful year for the bankers.

The amounts set aside for bonuses exceed the total combined earnings of the banks just a couple of decades ago.

Five years ago, the Toronto-Dominion Bank had a net income of \$3.1 billion; this year it had net earnings of about \$8 billion, and has set aside \$1.93 billion for bonuses. Last year the net was \$6.6 billion

Five years ago, Bank of Nova Scotia earned a net of about \$3.55 billion; this year its bonus allocation was \$1.67

billion on net earnings of \$7.3 billion. Scotiabank made a net \$6.7 billion in 2013.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce had net profit \$3.2 billion this year, \$3.4 billion in 2013, and \$1.2 billion five years ago. This year CIBC allocated \$1.48 billion for bonuses

The Royal Bank of Canada, Canada's largest, allocated \$4.39 billion for bonuses. In 2009 the RBC earned a net \$3.9 billion. This year, it netted about \$9 billion, compared to \$8.4 billion a year ago.

The Bank of Montreal set aside \$1.94 billion for 2014 bonuses. Net income in 2009 was \$1.8 billion, \$4.3 billion in 2014 and \$4.2 billion in 2013.

The last five years have been very profitable for the six biggest banks. The five largest ones doubled, and in some cases almost tripled, their net

earnings.

Bonus allocations for management usually reflect the financial success of the institutions. This year, there was some departure from this.

So why are shareholders not complaining about the big bonuses piled on top of big salaries for management? Some of them may be complaining. However, most of them are probably too busy counting their dividends. When everyone is making money, nobody wants to rock the boat.

Well, maybe not everyone. The banks' front-line employees such as tellers really are not rolling in dough, and never know whether they will survive the next wave of staff reductions.

Most of the banks' customers don't do that well either, with low interest on deposits, ever-increasing fees, and high interest rates on credit card balances.

It is still true: the richer the bankers get, the poorer the workers get.

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

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Current Eclectic

About the Economy

The Bank of Canada is optimistic about the country's economic prospects. So it said in its December, 2014, issue of the "Financial System Review" — even though home prices could be overvalued by as much as 30%.

Bank of Canada Governor Steven Poloz (the man who thinks people should work for nothing) thinks that the threats posed to Canada by higher US interest rates, lower Chinese

growth rates and renewed problems in the Eurozone are lower than they were six months ago.

He also likes the lower Canadian dollar, higher non-energy exports and pockets of job growth in response to stronger US growth.

Declining oil prices are a concern, because Canada is a net exporter. Though lower oil prices are good for world economic growth, for Canada the

reduced income could dampen the country's economic growth. The effect is increased because of lower demand for oil, in part because of slower growth in China.

The greatest concern is for Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador, provinces highly dependent on oil revenue. The federal government has reduced its income predictions by \$2.5 billion annually.

Other concerns are higher consumer debt loads and the growth of higher-risk loans on cars and homes.

Whatever, the Bank of Canada Governor may think, investors generally do not like the low oil prices, and the stock market has dropped severely as a result.

Most Canadians do not like the low Canadian dollar because it means higher prices on the goods and services we buy.

The continuing growth of consumer debt loads reflects the continuing reality that earnings do not meet people's needs.

The higher-risk loans also reflect the inadequacy of incomes. Financial institutions like payday loan companies and other consumer loan companies are taking advantage

of people's desperation and engaging in predatory practices. A glaring example is Money Mart, which was giving people 50 cents on the dollar for gift cards.

In November, Canada lost a net 10,700 jobs, so Canadian workers are still not seeing the recovery about which the Prime Minister brags.

The use of food banks is rising as a result of poverty created by the reality of precarious work, and with that is found a decline in physical and mental health.

Social assistance, according to anti-poverty campaigners

has lagged behind inflation while, simultaneously, various benefits are removed from the system.

In Quebec the government's austerity measures announced on December 2 included a cut of \$700 million to public-service jobs, a reduction of \$300 million in transfers to municipalities, and \$200 million less for the health-care system. The reaction has been protests in the street and a growing opposition.

The Canadian Labour Congress has launched an ad campaign calling for fairness.

The Ottawa-Ontario Deep Freeze

It has been said that, in terms of population, the economic and political importance, Ontario is to Canada what California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey, combined, are to the USA. Such a statement may not find unanimous agreement, but it can not be denied that Ontario is a rather important part of the country.

Ontario has more seats in the House of Commons than British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia combined. Of Harper's 163 Members of Parliament, 72 are from Ontario.

Therefore, it is somewhat remarkable that on December 5, 1914, one year had passed since the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario had sat down together to discuss anything.

Shortly after that anniversary, Premier Wynne sent a letter to the Prime Minister calling for "collaboration, not confrontation". The letter suggested a meeting early in the new year.

Mr. Harper showed no indication of interest in a meeting with Ms. Wynne. Nor are Harper's Conservatives saying anything to explain the deep freeze from Ottawa.

It is possible that the Prime Minister is merely showing the streak of ultra-partisanship for which he is famous. Perhaps Premier Wynne's criticism of federal legislation is his reason for giving her the cold shoulder. Perhaps the decision of the Ontario provincial government to create a supplement to the Canada Pension Plan so galls Mr. Harper that he can not be civil.

No doubt this sort of stuff plays some role in Mr. Harper's attitude. Just as probably the motivation is more subtle. Mr. Harper may well be hoping that the Premier will lead the province into such a sorry state that the Progressive

Conservatives in Ontario will be able to seize power, and the federal Conservatives can ride to re-election on a wave of anti-Liberal feeling. Leading into the last Ontario provincial election, the Ontario MPs may well have been encouraging the isolation of Ontario.

That sort of reasoning may explain why not a penny of the \$200 million in the Advanced Manufacturing Fund, earmarked since February, 2013, to assist manufacturing in Ontario, has been spent, a fact ferreted out by Peggy Nash, MP, the NDP industry critic.

That is a dangerous game, and Mr. Harper knows it.

Ms. Wynne handily won the provincial election, in which the Progressive Conservatives were clearly rejected. Public recognition that the government in Ottawa was deliberately crippling Ontario could send the Conservatives back to the opposition benches.

The Prime Minister continues to snub the Premier, but the federal elections are only months away. There were signs in early December that Mr. Harper would soon launch a re-election campaign in Ontario.

Economic largesse spread while bypassing the government of Ontario could well be part of the strategy.

An example may be the \$300 million invested in Pratt and Whitney Canada, through the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative, for the development of a jet engine.

Industry Minister James Moore and Infrastructure Minister Denis Lebel made the announcement at company facilities in Mississauga, Ontario, and Longueuil, Quebec, where much of the work will be done.

It is not known how many of the anticipated 1500 jobs over five years will be created in Ontario.

Stem Cell Progress

A team of about 50 scientists from Canada, the Netherlands, South Korea and Australia, led by Dr. Andras Nagy of Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, studying stem cells at the molecular level, has made a breakthrough in producing stem cells, and found a new kind of stem cell in the process.

Stem cells are cells which can develop into any kind of cells in the body. Embryos, which begin with an ovum and a sperm cell, are one source

of such cells. Another is already specialized cells which can be made to act as stem cells.

It is expected that stem cells will provide ways to treat illnesses in which cells are damaged or cease to function, ranging from burns to Parkinson's, and even replacing organs.

The new kind of cells, cheaper and easier to produce, will encourage more research, and bring effective medical use closer.

Lying to Veterans

Every government seems to do it in every budget — loudly announcing a large number to be spent on some popular program, and softly spreading the spending over years. The government of Canada has raised this technique to new levels being more deceptive than anyone else and extending the time to decades, instead of years.

In the process of lying to us, they lie shamelessly to the very veterans they make such a show of honouring.

On Sunday, November 23, at a press conference in Halifax, Veteran Affairs Minister Julian Fantino announced that \$200 million, including an immediate \$19.1 million, would be spent over six years to support veterans with mental health issues. This was in addition to an ongoing \$16.7 million.

Mr. Fantino was seconded by Justice Minister Peter MacKay, also in Halifax on the same day, as well as a third Cabinet Minister.

The day's announcement of added support for Canada's veterans included a list of all the things the money would do. The list included things like digitizing records, research into treatment, and other matters not directly and immediately helping veterans. Still, it all sounded like very impressive support for veterans.

Perhaps coincidentally, the announcement came a few

days after it became public that the Department of Veterans Affairs had returned over \$1.1 billion of unspent funds to the governments general revenues over seven years. Perhaps coincidentally, too, the announcement preceded by two days the planned release of a report by the Auditor General on veterans' health services and benefits.

On November 24, Minister of Health Rona Ambrose announced an additional \$5 million for the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research.

The report by Auditor General Michael Ferguson on November 25 criticized the government for its handling of the disability benefits program. 20% of applicants wait more than eight months for the benefits to which they are entitled. Red tape, more red tape and long wait times are the story on applications for benefits.

The Auditor General noted that almost a quarter of over 15,000 veterans applying for mental health benefits in 2006-2014 were denied — and 65% of appeals against the denials were successful.

In an editorial on November 26, the *Toronto Star* noted that in the past decade 160 veterans have committed suicide — more than were killed in Canada's entire Afghanistan combat mission.

With Minister Fantino safely out of the way on a jaunt to Italy, in the House of Commons Prime Minister Harper promised to "implement recommendations to improve these processes". Also carrying the ball for Mr. Fantino were Minister of Defence Rob Nicholson and Minister of Public Safety Steven Blaney.

Well, maybe it is actually Stephen Harper's ball, as he sets all the policy, and the biggest money shifts from Veterans Affairs coincided with the periods of biggest stress on balancing the budget.

As harshly as the report by the Auditor General criticised the government, the worst was still to come!

On November 28, five days after the big announcement, *The Globe and Mail* reported that the government had misled the media, and the media had misled the public. In fact, only the "immediate" \$19.1 million was going to be spent over the next six years. Most of the balance will be spent as needed over the next 50 years!

In 2010, the government used a similar tactic, when it announced an expenditure of \$2 billion to support the New Veterans Charter. A year later, it came to light that the money would be spent \$40 million annually over 50 years.

There are many ways to lie, and the current government of Canada, directed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is adept at them all.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net**Ukrainian Canadian Herald editorial offices are located**
at 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639; Fax: 416-588-9180
E-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.com**Subscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)**
\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.**Advertising rates available on request.****PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476***Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.***Profits almost Guaranteed****AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY**

There is a school of thought that anything the government can do the private sector can do better. Out of that belief grew the public-private partnership, as it was known in Ontario. P3s, now called Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) in Ontario, are the preferred method for undertaking large projects.

The public is told that the participation of private corporations will reduce the cost of the project.

In early December, the Auditor General of Ontario presented a report which showed that the rationale for public-private partnership is flawed.

The Auditor General considered 74 such projects started since 2005 and concluded that they cost \$8 billion more than they would have as purely governmental projects.

The main reason is that large projects are built with borrowed money, and a province can borrow more cheaply than a private company. In addition, the participation of private companies requires provision for a profit to be made. Then there are factors like the higher legal and management fees charged by private operators.

Infrastructure Ontario, which was set up to handle public-private projects disagrees with the Auditor General, and claims that the 74 projects would have cost an extra \$6 billion as public sector projects, because of cost-over-runs and delays. However, the Auditor General has the numbers, while Infrastructure Ontario has anecdotal evidence from biased sources.

Corporations like the AFP because the profits are almost guaranteed, with the government being the guarantor.

A striking example is the decision of the NDP government of Ontario to contract a private consortium to finance, build and operate Highway 407. The road was needed, and Bob Rae wanted to avoid another \$1 billion in government debt. Ultimately, the government had to borrow the money and pass it on the consortium. The government wouldn't let the contract die. The company continues to operate the highway as a toll road, setting the tolls at a profitable level.

Infrastructure Ontario President and CEO Bert Clark claims, in a letter to the *Toronto Star* printed on December 11, that 97% of its 40 infrastructure projects in the last ten years came in on budget and nearly three quarters on schedule.

That means that over a quarter do not come in on time and the Auditor General says that Infrastructure Ontario systematically inflates initial cost estimates.

COMMENTARY**Barbarism**

It was over five years in the making. The full report is over 6000 pages long and is classified — “unlikely to be seen in this lifetime”, as the *Toronto Star* reported. The summary, redacted before being made public, has over 500 pages.

Massive as it is, the report of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence which informs the world about the CIA's detention and interrogation program tells us little of great importance which we did not already know.

We already knew that the Central Intelligence Agency had a system of secret centres around the world in which they systematically practised a program of “enhanced interrogation” (torture by another name) of captives. We know, among other ways, because we saw pictures of the torture, and we were informed of discussions between branches of the state about the definition and use of torture.

We already knew that CIA counterparts in other countries provided facilities for these centres and cooperated with the CIA — sometimes with the knowledge of their governments and sometimes not (beyond one or two or a few key people). We knew, among other ways, because we had reports of governments prosecuting people involved in these activities.

We already knew that the torture did not lead to reliable intelligence, and that any useful intelligence could have been elicited by other methods. We knew, among other ways, because many knowledgeable experts told us.

We already knew that the CIA was lying about the program. We knew, among other ways, because they kept denying the things we knew.

We already knew that doctors and other health practitioners were part of the program. We knew, among other ways, because there was public discussion whether such

participation was ethical.

We may not have known how brutal the treatment of detainees was, but we knew it was very brutal. The rest is detail, a question of degree, rather than kind.

We did not know that the program was created by a couple of psychologists who knew nothing about interrogations or counter-terrorism. That information speaks to the low quality of the Bush administration. However, it is not relevant to the issue of that administration's depravity. Whoever was hired to do the work, crime was deliberate and went to the highest levels of the administration.

We knew the things we knew with enough certainty to justify calling the then President of the United States “George the Torturer Bush”, referring precisely to the matters discussed in the report.

All of which does not mean that the report was (or is) useless. Quite the contrary, the report is very important.

One reason why the report is very important is that it documents, in great detail and with great precision, that which we knew with certainty but incompletely and generally. It is a record which has the evidence which can be used against individuals in criminal trials or other actions.

Release of the report has led to calls for even deeper research.

Among these is a call for investigation into child victims of rendition. Reprieve.org cites the case of Khadija al Saadi, who was forced onto a plane and sent to Libya at age 12. There is also the case of Omar Khadr, who as a wounded child soldier, aged 15, was initially given rough treatment in Afghanistan and then sent to Guantanamo for ten years.

Not surprisingly, the CIA is trying to defend itself. For example, CIA Director John Brennan, acknowledged in a press conference that the tac-

tics were “abhorrent”, and that CIA officers sometimes went outside the policy guidelines and authorized techniques. At the same time, he defended the program, claiming that it produced information which saved lives.

Mr. Brennan, appointed by President Obama, is echoing the position of previous (President Bush era) CIA Directors. Those directors include Michael Hayden, former CIA Director and head of the National Security Agency, whose reaction was, in effect, “I agree with Mr. Hayden.”

The report disputes that claim, and specifically argues, with detailed documentation, that any information generated by the torture was available in other ways. That disagreement extends to the claim that the information gained by torture led to finding and killing Osama bin Laden. The report documents that the claim is untrue.

Mr. Brennan claimed that most CIA operatives worked within the legal and policy guidelines they were provided. It should be noted however, that the policy guidelines allowed the infliction of pain at a level consistent with “organ failure... or even death.” In other words, semantics and self-serving definitions aside, the official guidelines permitted (indeed, encouraged) torture.

So harsh was the treatment that at least one victim died of exposure and others attempted suicide. Others have been physically and/or psychologically damaged permanently.

In spite of the five years spent on researching the report, there has been an effort to cast it as merely a stunt by Democrats in the Senate to tarnish a program that saved American lives.

Distinguishing himself from his Republican colleagues, Senator John McCain, who has consistently opposed the use of torture by the USA, defended the report. He called the techniques discussed in the report “ultimately against the nation's fundamental values”.

Part of the attack on the
(Continued on Page 8.)

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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.

Edmonton Seniors Focus on Remembrance Day

The birthday celebrant in Edmonton in November, 2014, as the seniors gathered to party on was Martha Ursuliak, 97 years of age!

Lucy Antoniow prepared a birthday card which we all signed at our gathering. Then Martha's sister, Marion Ursuliak, along with President Paul Greene, Rose Keryliuk and Shirley Uhryn, went to

visit Martha at her continuing care facility nearby.

Upon entering her room Paul Greene led us all heartily in "Happy Birthday" and "Mnohaya leeta". Although frail, Marion broke into a wide grin as she listened and received us!

Martha was born in Shupinetz, Ukraine. Paul Greene speaks of all her chil-

dren dancing in the hall and all the Ursuliak family participating in the many activities of the Edmonton hall.

Some items of business were discussed by the assembly.

Appreciation was once again expressed to Michael Hollen and Diane Ries, our chefs, for their preparation of a hot meal for us. The features

of the meal were a well seasoned pork roast with gravy, and brownies. These brownies, Hollen said, were the BEST he ever tasted. The recipe was that of Diane's German grandmother.

A sheet was distributed to each. It contained a list of the brain-stormed ideas for a calendar of activities for our year.

An update was provided on the artifacts that were sent from the seniors to the AUUC archives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Lily Stearns received the items in early November. On behalf of the archives, she is most grateful and will send a letter of formal recognition shortly.

Of particular interest and historical value were several embroidered, long, women's pure linen tunics that, we assume, came from the villages of Ukraine at the point of immigration to Canada.

In the trunk was a note on AUUC letter head. "These are the goods that are locked in the Women's Branch trunk which was turned over by Mrs. Slobodan on the 20th of May, 1982." The list was signed by Mrs. Slobodan and witnessed by William Chomyn.

Our speaker this month was Bill Askin, with a Masters in history, who shared some interesting reflections on Canada and Remembrance Day.

Bill Askin named relatives of his who were in the wars. For example, his Uncle Cecil Askin was flight instructor at the Commonwealth Training Plan.

Askin started with his interpretation of the current condition of Remembrance Day. It was first called Armistice Day, from 1921 to 1930, when it was observed on the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell. In 1931, Parliament declared November 11 the day and renamed it Remembrance Day. It became a statutory holiday in all provinces and territories except Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Remembrance Day this year drew large crowds because of the murders of Captain Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent.

When Capt. Cirillo was shot, the media reported that "Canada lost its innocence." Askin convincingly refuted this statement with historical facts.

There have been wars and rebellions on Canadian soil for centuries. These events most often involved wars between Britain and France.

The war of the Spanish succession ended with the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), with a major loss of French territory, including Acadia. From 1755 to 1762 there was the expulsion through deportation of 3/4 of the French from Acadia to Louisiana. Then there was the Seven Year's War (1756 to 1763) which resulted in the fall of Quebec to Britain. In 1837 in Lower Canada, under the direction of Papineau, there was a rebellion which involved the death of 327 who were killed in battle and 13 who were executed.

Mr. Askin went on to recall William Lyon Mackenzie in Upper Canada, the Boer War, and Louis Riel, to name a few in Canada's history.

Why the wearing of the poppy? Bill Askin read the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, who was a Canadian Medical Officer who died in January, 1919, of pneumonia incurred in the trenches during WWI.

Mr. Askin used a well illustrated book, *In Flanders Fields*, from his Vegreville, Alberta, library to put the poem into historical context. The poppy became the universal symbol of remembrance.

Paul Greene provided background to the universal symbol of peace which decorated our tables alongside roses. Paul also enriched our understanding of Remembrance Day by reading a passage of tribute about the Doskoch family of AUUC Edmonton Branch.

— Shirley Uhryn

"Concert of Peace and Friendship" in Winnipeg

Dozens of children and adults from many cultures celebrated peace and international friendship in Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple on November 16. The AUUC School of Ukrainian Folk Dance invited groups to showcase their dance and musical talents.

The beloved and internationally known Cree Elder and performer Winston Wuttunee opened the concert with the "Cree Prayer Song" in English and Cree with his wife Geri Biy. The beautiful drum song was accompanied by a dozen rattles played by members of all the other performing groups who joined Winston on stage. This solidarity and mutual respect set the mood for the rest of the show.

The AUUC's School took to the stage *en masse* in a lively ribbon dance showing fall's vibrant colours and the cooperation of 24 young dancers aged 4 to 14. They welcomed the audience of nearly 150 enthusiastic friends.

The Festival Choir of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians sang three Ukrainian folk songs with their usual lovely harmony, led by Vasylyna Streltsov and accompanied on piano by Anna

Khomenko. The meaning and background of the songs were sensitively explained by Lily Stearns.

Dakbeh and Dance Troupe of the Prairie Palestinian Concert proudly presented the "Grandmother's Shawl", an intricate dance with handmade shawls, choreographed by Siham Tasse. The young Palestinian dancers also performed a moving dance with huge key props called "Key to Return".

Going into exile, the Palestinian homeowners took their keys with them to come home when the war was over. This demonstration showed us how, decades later, they still hold their keys, hoping someday to go home again.

The Chilean musical group Andes del Sur presented five songs of South America, with themes of conquest and oppression but also of joy and thoughts of home. The nine musicians have played together and in other groups throughout their exile in Canada, and the Winnipeg community has been enriched and empowered by their songs and activism.

Two of the Crocus Metis Dancers gave a rendition of the "Red River Jig", a hybrid

dance mixing cultural forms. It is the only danced national anthem in the world.

A real treat for the audience and fellow performers was the participation of Erudite, Winnipeg Russian Children's Centre School, who wore brand new costumes of sky blue brought that morning from Moscow. They danced the "Kadri" very smartly, performed "Lozhkary" with painted wooden spoons, and sang a wonderful "Friendship Song". Their precision was admired by everyone.

Several dances were done by the AUUC School, but one, "Gypsies of Moldovia", was special to this Peace Concert to keep in mind why the struggle for peace and friendship is important. One of AUUC's teachers, Che Madden-Carr, sang "Peace Will Come", in whose sentiments she believes.

The Yunist Folk Ensemble, directed by Elise Pierre, ended the concert with a sprightly "Kozachok". Like the teachers of the AUUC, many of these dancers came through the School, and having them commit to this concert made this a proud day.

The "Concert of Peace and Friendship" was a great success and a wonderful time for all involved who vow to work collaboratively again and promote friendship among more performing arts groups. Significantly, there has been no other venue until this performance to do just that.

It was noted by the organizations that "throughout the concert we came to see the similarities among the struggles and the heartaches of our peoples, but also the resilience, the beauty and the joy in our respective cultures."

Among the many people from the organizations, the families of performers and many volunteers and audience, there are a few who worked exceptionally for this historic occasion: Rana Abdulla, Dmitriy Shishkin, Victor Bustmante, Gloria Gordienko, Darrell Rankin, Anna Carr, Yuris Mangolds, Eugene Semanowich, and Cheryl-Anne Carr, Director of the Dance School and MC for the event.

— AUUC School of Dance Staff



The precision of the Erudite, Winnipeg Russian Children's Centre School was admired by all.

— Story photos: Anne Celestrya-Carr



The Yunist Dance Ensemble ended the concert with a sprightly "Kozachok".

NEC Meets in Winnipeg

The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met in Winnipeg on the weekend of November 29-30.

One of the main items on the agenda was the two-part report of the Alternatives Committee, referred to the NEC by the National Committee at the NC meeting in September. The NEC provided for later consideration of the "wind-up" section of the report, and adopted a list of actions to start the process of implementing the "build the AUUC" option.

The meeting considered ideas for the marking of two

approaching anniversaries: the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to, or settlement in, (the terminology is to be decided) Canada (2016), and the centennial of the establishment of the AUUC (2018).

Implementation of 45th AUUC National Convention resolutions concerning the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* was also discussed, as well as the role of the paper in the anniversary celebrations.

The date of the next NEC teleconference was set, and a tentative date was proposed for a National Committee meeting.

AUUC Grey Cup Social in Winnipeg

On November 29, the night before the big game, the Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians celebrated with a Grey Cup Social at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. The hall was decorated with the colours of the city's Blue Bombers and many attendees came decked out in football jerseys to show their support

for their favorite teams.

Some of the crowd was keen on dancing up a storm, and the music sure was perfect for doing so. DJ Chris Graeb mixed it up with a variety of tunes from polka to pop music.

The main act, a rockabilly band called the Flip Cats, had people hopping, stomping, shaking and swinging to their

— Story photos: EmilyHalldorson



The Flip Cats, a rockabilly band, was the main act.



Suzy Szczepanski and John March were the bartenders.

catchy numbers. The band is comprised of Mike Melnyk on guitar and vocals, Alistair Macintosh on bass and vocals, Dan Barr on drums and Deano Dean on tenor sax.

As one of the organizers, I know first-hand that we worked tirelessly to put together an impressive lineup of silent auction prizes, including many tickets for Winnipeg attractions and theatre groups, and original art by local artists.

I want to extend a huge "thank you" to all of the individuals and businesses that made generous contributions to the cause. The response we got from all across the city was amazing! The prizes were pouring in right up until the last minute, and it really demonstrated the support that the AUUC has from various arts

and culture groups, businesses and other Winnipeggers.

While it was a lot of work, it was also a lot of fun, and so worth it, to see all of our members and friends out having a great time!

Because an AUUC National Executive Committee meeting was held in Winnipeg

that weekend, we had AUUC members from Calgary, Ottawa and Toronto on the dance floor as well.

I hope all had a wonderful time and we'll see you at the next good old-fashioned Ukrainian social at the Labour Temple!

— Emily Halldorson

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To All Its Tenants
and
AUUC Members for a

HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR



AUUC Grey Cup Social in Toronto

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowsky

The Toronto Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians sponsored its annual gathering at the AUUC Cultural Centre on November 30 to watch the Grey Cup game.

To my great surprise, there were many Calgary supporters in attendance. This is not to suggest bias towards another Canadian city, but, usually, eastern-Canadian fans support the eastern team, while western-Canadian fans support the western team.

Whatever the split, we all had fun. As usual, our partyers watched the game on the large-screen T.V. which we installed in our hall some years ago (and on which we watch popular movies at other times).

For atmosphere, the hall was imaginatively decorated by Bernardine Dobrowsky and Constance Prince with the logos, cheers and icons of the two competing teams.

Delicious chili, prepared by master chef Jerry Dobrowsky (generations-old secret family recipe), was so good that I saw many who went up for seconds. Fresh French-stick baguettes, liberally covered with a thick layer of garlic butter (again a Dobrowsky recipe), tempted many into ditching their diets.

The mood was festive, and the cheers (and groans) were heart-felt, as the Stampeders galloped into the winners circle.

To boost the spirits of many of our guests, liberal prizes were distributed in lotteries and pool prizes, organized by Bernardine. Some of the winners were: Treasure Basket (worth \$100) — Nancy Stewart; \$50.00 pool (times 3) — John Manning, Matthew Stewart, Deb Bell; \$100.00 pool — Stan Nazarec (general manager).

(Continued on Page 8.)

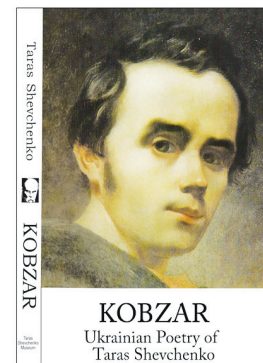


Attendance at the AUUC Grey Cup Social at the AUUC Cultural Centre was affected by competition from other events. However, compensating for the diminished numbers was an augmented festive spirit.

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Best Wishes to All!

AUUC Richmond Branch

To All AUUC
Members and Friends



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

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

Winnipeg Salutes North End Pioneers

The Seven Oaks Historical Society is a group of people interested in the collection, preservation and dissemination of the rich history of the Seven Oaks neighbourhood, which constitutes the northernmost part of the North End of Winnipeg. Their inaugural concert was held two years ago, and showcased the music and culture of Indigenous Canadians and the first English and Scottish settlers to the area.

Following this success, the group hosted a second concert on November 22 of this year at St. John's Cathedral. The church's cemetery is the final resting place of many of the area's first settlers, and the building and grounds are a historical landmark in the community. In fact, as you walk

between the rows of gravestones, you will discover that it is these settlers after whom most of the streets in the area are named.

The performers for the evening's concert were selected to represent some of the earliest pioneers to settle in the area, after those from the United Kingdom and, of course, Indigenous Canadians, the first people of Canada.

Master of Ceremonies Lionel Steiman provided a narrative between acts which explained the struggles that each group of immigrants faced upon arriving in Canada and settling in the Red River Valley.

German accordionist Christine Kretschmann was an absolute delight, serenading guests as they took their

seats. She even sparked a sing-along after the show, when she started playing "The Happy Wanderer" as guests were exiting the hall.

The AUUC's Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, represented Ukrainian settlers. The Orchestra played a variety of pieces from their diverse repertoire, including excerpts from a new work by Sid Rabinovitch entitled "Red River". "Red River" was commissioned by the Seven Oaks Historical Society in 2012 in honour of the 200th Anniversary of the Selkirk Settlers arrival in the Valley, and was originally performed by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in a concert that same year.

A concert featuring the Valley's early pioneers would be incomplete without including the Jewish community, which was so diverse and active in the area that it could not be thought of as one single group. The North End Jewish Folk Choir, conducted by Koren Kaminski, performed traditional Jewish folk songs, particularly pulling the audience back in time with playful lullabies that were commonly sung to young children.

Following the intermission, the next group of performers kicked the tempo right through (Continued on Page 12.)



A full house attended the concert at St. John's Cathedral sponsored by the Seven Oaks Historical Society.

— Story photos: Len Kaminski



German accordionist Christine Kretschmann, shown with two instructors from Der Treue Husar, was an absolute delight, serenading guests as they took their seats.



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, conducted by Annis Kozub, played a variety of pieces from their diverse repertoire.



The North End Jewish Folk Choir, conducted by Koren Kaminski, performed traditional Jewish folk songs.



Der Treue Husar, a German dance group, showcased Germany's carnival tradition.

*Best wishes
for the new year and
a healthy future to all*

Sylvia Surette and Don Robinson
Richmond, B.C.

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of the
AUUC Edmonton Branch
Extends Best Wishes for a
Healthy, Successful
and
Satisfying 2015
to AUUC Members and Seniors.
May All Your Endeavours
Flourish,
All Your Woes Diminish,
and the
World Unfold
as You Would Wish!**

Perogie Makers Party in Welland

— File photo: Tekla Chevrefils.



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra, shown above in performance at Seven Oaks in September, 2014, entertained the perogie makers at the Welland Ukrainian Labour Temple on December 14.

The Shevchenko Seniors of Welland and the perogie makers gathered at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on the afternoon of Sunday, December 14, for the annual Christmas party.

Joan Sitak served as the hostess, on behalf of the Shevchenko Seniors.

There were two parts to the event. The first was a buffet lunch, advertised as pizza and chicken wings. Of course, there was much more: trays of veggies, cheese, and fruit, along with a variety of crackers and sauces; desserts, including some seldom seen; and a

punch bowl, with a range of other liquid refreshments.

Over 50 people ate and drank their fill in the congenial company of family and friends.

The second part of party was entertainment by the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky.

In a presentation lasting about an hour, the orchestra

featured a program of Christmas music, with a sprinkling of other pieces. As is traditional at this event, the concert was very informal — no costumes, and friendly banter between orchestra and audience.

The accent was on participation, with vocal soloist Margaret Card leading the assembly in a sing-along. In a few numbers, Jesse Stanford joined in, playing the spoons.

MC Bill Lukan kept his role to a minimum, but did not fail to include a couple of jokes.

Welland AUUC Branch President closed the concert by thanking the audience for attending and extending season's greetings.

On entering the hall, participants were given a complementary door prize ticket. Between the two parts of the party, Ms. Sitak supervised the drawing of about a dozen tickets for the door prizes — potted poinsettias.

The gathering dispersed in a happy spirit, with exchanges of wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Activity at the Ukrainian Labour Temple was suspended following the party, to resume in January.

— Participant

JoKe TiMe

A fellow had been stranded on a desert island for some weeks and was struggling to survive — barely. One day he saw a canoe approaching, with a woman inside.

She beached her craft, introduced herself, and told him that she had been stranded all alone for a long time on a nearby island. The island had plentiful resources, and she was able to make many things, including the canoe.

“Amazing,” he said, “You actually built a canoe.”

He accepted her offer to move to her island, and as they approached he marvelled, “My goodness. You actually built a wharf!”

They left the boat and, after a short walk, came to a clearing with some furniture. “Wow,” he exclaimed. “You even built a table and some chairs!”

She asked whether he wanted a drink. When he said that he was tired of coconut water, she replied that she produced alcohol. “Really?” he asked. “You built a still?”

After a while she said that she was going into the house to get into something more comfortable. He looked up and whistled. “Wow. You actually built a tree house!”

In a few minutes, she came down, clad in a very skimpy outfit. After a few minutes, she took his hand and asked, “Would you like to play around?”

He was astounded. “No kidding? You actually built a golf course?”

(A variation on this joke was told by the concert MC in Welland on December 14.)

* * *

A lady was having a bad day at the tables in Vegas. Down to her last \$100, completely exasperated, she cried, “What rotten luck! What in the world should I do now?”

A man next to her, trying to calm her down a bit, calmly suggested, “I don't know... Why don't you play your age?”

He walked away. Moments later, he was intrigued to hear a great commotion at the roulette table. Maybe, she won!

Rushing back to the table and pushing his way through the crowd, he was stunned to see the lady lying limp on the floor, with the table operator kneeling over her.

He asked, “What happened? Is she all right?”

The operator replied, “I don't know, buddy.... She put all her money on 29. When 36 came up she fainted!”

* * *

What's the difference between a new husband and a new dog?

After a year, the dog is still excited to see you.

Grey Cup in Toronto

(Continued from Page 6.)

ously donated back to AUUC). After the bash, who cleaned up? Nancy, Mark Stewart, Bernardine, Norm Boychuk, and Jerry.

Unsung hero Mark Stewart set up the tables, made the coffee, bought the sweets, worked hard to sell pool tickets, drove Bill and Natalie

home after party, and did a dozen other jobs.

And finally, this report would not have been at all possible if it wasn't for the huge assistance of Nancy Stewart.

As we disappeared into the darkness, I was certain that I could hear (faintly) the famous loser's cry: “Wait Till Next year!”



Bartender Nancy Stewart supported Calgary because her son lives in that city.

(Continued from Page 4.) report is just more of the Republican ultra-partisanship in Congress, fuelled by the Tea Party. However, the effort to discredit the Senate committee report also has serious purpose. While there is no current interest in the American administration in bringing the criminals to account, the same can not be said for other countries.

Under international law, any country can apprehend and try people suspected of crimes against humanity. Some countries have indicated an interest in trying people who participated in the CIA program. A UN special investigator has demanded that those responsible be brought to justice, and human rights groups have pushed for the arrest of responsible CIA and Bush administration officials if they travel abroad.

It is troubling that the government of Canada has not taken a firm stand against torture. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has said, “Canada doesn't torture anyone. Period. Period.” On the other hand a representative of Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney has said that Canada would continue to consider information elicited by torture.

The RCMP, the armed forces, the Communications Security Establishment, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and Canada Border Services are the five

Barbarism

Canadian security agencies operating under directives permitting them to use and share such information.

The reason this is troubling is that it continues the interest of Canadian security agencies in sending people to torture abroad or providing information to put individuals in harm's way.

Canada has always been ready to claim that we don't torture anyone, but that was no protection for Maher Arar. Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad Abou Elmaati Muayyed Nureddin, Omar Khadr, some 400 Afghan prisoners turned over to Afghan authorities or some 40 prisoners turned over to USA authorities in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf.

Even if Canada does not take an active role in providing victims, its willingness to use tainted information creates a market for such information. As long as Canada (or any other country) is willing to accept such information, someone will be willing to provide it.

Nobody should expect the current Canadian government to reverse course to put human and civil rights above rough (in)justice. However, a federal election is just over the horizon. If we re-elect Mr. Harper and his Conservatives, the shame of accepting torture and creating a market for it will be ours.

—Wilfred Szczesny



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Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Till Death Do Us Part

An internet bride who made her fortune in the U.K. after marrying a cash-strapped Briton is now battling him over her money in the divorce courts.

Ukrainian Marina Ivleva left her home in Crimea in 1999, after meeting and marrying tow-truck driver John Yates through a dating site.

The average annual wage in the Crimea is not much more than \$3100, but the 49-year-old rose to be a senior administrator at a British university and, during their 12-year relationship, became a much bigger earner than her British husband. Before they split in 2012, she had amassed assets which Mr. Yates values at close to \$475,000.

Last December (2013), Mrs. Ivleva (who holds joint Ukrainian, Russian and British citizenship) emailed her husband, stating that she had divorced him in Ukraine.

The British courts rejected this action because Mrs. Ivleva kept her husband in the dark about the Ukrainian proceedings until it was too late for him to do anything about them. The British judge said that although the divorce had been advertised in a Ukrainian newspaper, Mr. Yates spoke very little of his wife's native tongue.

As of December, 2014, this battle has not yet been resolved. To continue following this real life soap-opera, access *The Telegraph* on the internet.

Condemning Nazism

On November 21, the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee passed a Russia-proposed resolution condemning attempts to glorify Nazi ideology and to deny German Nazi war crimes.

The Committee, which is tasked with tackling social and humanitarian issues and human rights abuses, passed the resolution by 115 votes in favour, to 3 votes opposed. The 3 countries who voted against the Russian resolution were Ukraine, Canada, and the United States.

Caught In Middle

(Excerpts from an article in the American newspaper *The News Observer*.)

"Glistening black sweat rolls down the spine of a beefy miner as he jackhammers bedrock along the shaft at the Chelyuskintsev coal mine in Donetsk, Ukraine's eastern

industrial heartland.

"Vitaly Khristich is one of hundreds of miners who each day brave the artillery fire that flares between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian troops to go down — deep, deep down — into the local mines. The mild-mannered man in his late 30s with a shy smile does this even though he has not been paid for months, even though his hometown has been torn up by war, and even though no one is really certain what government will eventually rule this territory — the central leadership in Kiev or the separatists who want to join Russia.

"You think about how to get to the mine, and not get caught in the shelling, and then how to get back home," said his colleague, 30-year-old chief surveyor Svetlana Momot. 'Its really scary.'

"Ukraine's eastern coal mines lie smack in the middle of this war. As the country's finances spiral out of control, the mines have become an even more vital resource of jobs, energy, heating supplies for winter and fuel for the entire Ukrainian economy.

"The mine's workers have not been paid since August. Despite the war, the mine has been shipping all the coal it produces to Ukraine's state-owned distributor.

"Mine director Vasily Dancha finds the government explanation for why the workers have not been paid their 57 million hryvnia (\$4.4 million) in back wages baffling. 'They say, "You're going to use the money we send you for military purposes," he said. 'As if they don't understand that people who have not been paid for three months have no money to buy bread.'"

Ukraine Imports Power From Russia

(Excerpts from the December 8 issue of *Business Insider*, an American website.)

"Ukraine's government has allowed state energy company Ukrinterenergo to import electricity from Russia to cover current power shortages caused by lack of coal, the Ukrainian energy ministry said.

"Energy Minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn last week said Ukraine had a shortfall in electrical power of more than 10 percent as separatist violence in the country's industrial eastern region has disrupted coal supply to power plants.

"Most of Ukraine's coal mines are in territory controlled by pro-Russian rebels. President Petro Poroshenko last month urged the government to consider importing

power from Russia.

"Ukraine and Russia have joint electricity systems and there are no technical obstacles to such imports, but analysts say importing electricity is more expensive than importing coal. Ukraine has an electricity generation capacity of 55,000 MW but only around 26,000 MW is being used. (Because of a lack of coal? - gb).

"Ukraine is traditionally a net exporter of power and relies on coal to generate around 40 percent of its energy."

(If Ukraine and Russia truly were mortal enemies, would Ukraine ask Russia for help? And would Russia grant it? - gb)

Ukraine Building New "Berlin Wall"

(The following is the complete, word-for-word report printed on the December 9, 2014, website of the American weekly magazine, *Newsweek*. The title is: Ukraine's Border Wall With Russia Will Cost Over \$500 Million.)

Ukraine has put together both a timeline and budget for a major project meant to secure its independence from Russia: a wall. The wall will take as long as four years to build, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said during a government meeting, as reported by Itar-Tass. The budget rings in at \$517.3 million.

The wall will be 1,426 miles long on the border between Ukraine and Russia. For additional security, a ditch will be dug around the wall, four meters wide and two meters deep. Surveillance towers and electrical systems will also be installed throughout the barrier for monitoring purposes. The wall extends to the sea, Itar-Tass reports "remote control systems will be installed at the sea border."

While Ukrainian officials are working to solidify wall logistics, some international officials have spoken out against the plan. Council of Europe Secretary-General Thorbjorn Jagland called the wall "unacceptable." Ukrainian billionaire Ihor Kolomoisky, a bank owner and governor of Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, stands by the decision to build the defensive wall. He was one of its first advocates and offered to contribute about \$124 million, although it is unclear if his money will actually be used.

(If this report is true, then in my humble opinion this "Ukraine Wall" should be condemned just as vigorously as was the "Berlin Wall" - gb).

Kissinger's Warning

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has given a chilling assessment of a new geopolitical situation taking shape amid the Ukrainian crisis. In November, he issued a statement warning of a possible new Cold War and calling the West's approach to the crisis a "fatal mistake".

The 91-year-old diplomat characterized the tense relations as exhibiting the danger of "another Cold war".

"This danger does exist and we can't ignore it," Kissinger told Germany's *Der Spiegel*. He warned that ignoring this danger any further may result in a "tragedy".

If the West wants to be "honest", it should recognize that it made a "mistake", he said of the course of action the U.S. and the E.U. adopted in the Ukrainian conflict.

Europe and the U.S. did not understand the "significance of events" that started with the Ukraine-E.U. economic negotiations that initially brought about the demonstrations in Kyiv last year. Those tensions should have served to include Russia in the discussion, he believes.

"At the same time, I do not want to say that the Russian response was proportionate," the Cold war veteran added, saying that Ukraine has always had a "special significance" for Russia and failure to understand that "was a fatal mistake".

Far-Right Danger

(Excerpts from an article in the November 13 issue of the British *Guardian*.)

"Pro-Russian supporters use the term 'fascist junta' to criticise the Ukrainian government. This wording is not only obviously wrong from an understanding of the words 'fascism' and 'junta', but has been detrimental to peace in Ukraine by fuelling the civil war.

"But despite the hypocritical instrumentalisation of the Russian propaganda, the Ukrainian authorities and mainstream opinion in Ukraine continue to show unacceptable ignorance of the danger from the far-right and even openly neo-Nazi forces, cooperating with them in elections and allowing them to take positions within law enforcement.

"Take Andriy Biletsky. Biletsky was the head of an openly racist Patriot of Ukraine group which was involved in hate crimes against minorities, and later formed the core of the infamous Azov volunteer battalion, which uses neo-Nazi symbolism. He was cel-

ebrated as commander of the Azov battalion and assigned to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the police. (The Azov battalion was sent by the Kyiv government to fight the Ukrainian separatists in eastern Ukraine. - gb)

"Biletsky is not the only neo-Nazi recently appointed to law enforcement bodies. In October, Vadym Troyan, another Patriot of Ukraine member and deputy commander of the Azov battalion, was appointed as the head of police in Kiev Oblast province.

"At the same time, another infamous extreme right politician from the Svoboda Party, Yuriy Mykhalchyshyn, who once promoted Joseph Goebbels' *A Little ABC of National Socialism* will head-up propaganda in the Securities Service of Ukraine.

"Allowing people with such extreme views control over positions with significant enforcement resources is an obvious danger to democracy."

"Maidan Massacre"

(Excerpts from an article in the October 10 issue of the *Chicago Tribune*.)

"For millions of Ukrainians, it was a crime against humanity. In February (2014), more than 100 protesters were gunned down in the Maidan uprising that toppled the president, Viktor Yanukovich. The victims are now known as "the Heavenly Hundred".

"In April, prosecutors arrested three suspects, members of an elite unit within the 'Berkut' riot police. Senior among them was Dmytro Sadovnyk, 38, a decorated commander, who was accused of ordering his men to fire on the crowds on the morning of February 20.

"The three stand accused of massacring 39 unarmed protesters. On September 19, the case took a turn when a judge released Sadovnyk into house arrest — and, two weeks later, he went missing.

"Maidan activists were outraged, convinced that a corrupt system had let a killer escape.

"But in a country where justice often isn't blind, there's another possibility: Sadovnyk was being framed, and saw flight as his best option.

"A Reuters (British news agency) examination of Ukraine's probes into the Maidan shootings — based on interviews with prosecutors, defence attorneys, protesters, police officers and legal experts — has uncovered serious flaws in the case against Sadovnyk and the other two Berkut officers.

"Among the evidence pre- (Continued on Page 12.)

From Our History — 35 years ago

On November 20, 1959, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. To mark the 20th anniversary of the Declaration, the UNO proclaimed 1979 as the Year of the Child. On this page, we present two items related to the IYC from the January, 1979, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*. (On November 20, 1989, the 30th anniversary, the General Assembly adopted the Convention of the Rights of the Child which came into effect on September 2, 1990.)

1979: International Year of the Child

AN EDITORIAL by MITCH SAGO

One-quarter of all the people in the world are children. And each day, on this planet Earth, some 200 thousand are born. It has been said, from time immemorial, that children are our future. They are the heirs to all our tomorrows, for they shall inherit the earth. It's a biological truth that has become a familiar part of conventional wisdom. But the social truth, as a maxim of our times, has yet to be realized. The tragedy is that it must still be recognized and accepted in many parts of the world — and by the world community itself.

This year, for the first time ever, the United Nations has placed the child in the centre of our world. 1979 has been proclaimed the International Year of the Child — a challenge to all member-states on the twentieth anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

The purpose of the IYC is to inform, enlighten and mobilize world opinion, move peoples and governments of all countries, towards a universal concern and responsibility for the rights and well-being of all children. The year, now upon us, is dedicated to the promotion of the basic human rights of the child as set forth in the UN Declaration.

Many parts of the world are far removed from its objectives and provisions. There are countries and continents in which children are the vulnerable and defenceless victims of man's inhumanity to man... and where they are less than people on the scale of humanity. Millions of children do not survive the world they enter. The picture is shocking. Ninety million children in the under-developed countries on three continents live in chronic hunger; and six million die every year.

Millions suffer brief and blighted lives in an uncaring world that squanders 380,000 million dollars a year on the

arms race but has little or no resource to fight hunger, disease, deprivation and illiteracy. So that an end to the arms race, as a pre-condition to life in a peaceful world, is the highest priority for today and tomorrow.

This is in sharp contrast to the children in the socialist countries — where they are the privileged class, rooted in social security. We shall have an opportunity to learn more as experiences are reported and shared between countries and governments.

In giving special attention to conditions in developing countries, we should end the complacency about the status of children in our own society. In shaping any commitment to the children of the world, we must understand and do something to change the economic and cultural conditions in which many of our own are growing up.

The recent report by the Canadian Council of Children and Youth once again reminds us that one child in every four is brought up in poverty. Infant mortality is scandalously high. Child care for working mothers is hopelessly inadequate. And resources and opportunities in our school system are being cut back.

"Little consideration," notes the report, "is given to ensuring that every child has a real opportunity to enjoy a certain quality of life in growing up.

This journal, and the community it serves, will participate with all others in the national and local campaigns to help change and improve these conditions throughout the International Year of the Child. Hopefully, we can help to illuminate some of the issues on which new directions and actions are needed.

(For a brief discussion of Canada's experience in eliminating child poverty, see "Eliminating Child Poverty", *The Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, December 2014.)

UNESCO ROUND TABLE ON FUTURE OF CHILDREN

THE FINAL REPORT AS DRAFTED BY PETER USTINOV AND
AGREED UPON BY PARTICIPANTS

What kind of world are we leaving to our children?

A very uncertain one, concluded a group of eminent personalities which met in a round-table discussion on this theme at Unesco headquarters in June.

Unesco Director-General Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow set the tone for the discussion when he declared that the world in which children are now born is "not only a world in crisis but a world undergoing a veritable mutation", a mutation of a technical nature but above all a mutation of values and ethics which confronts all of humanity with new and serious challenges.

This note was echoed by Mrs. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations responsible for the organization of the International Year of the Child. Stressing the poverty and misery in which millions of children find themselves, she noted that half the world's deaths in any given year involve children under fifteen years of age.

At the close of three days of discussions, the participants, who included three Nobel Prize winners, a former head of state (Daniel Oduber of Costa Rica), a brain specialist, a worker for the blind, Princess Caroline of Monaco, as well as musicians, educators, writers and economists, agreed to the following report, drafted by Peter Ustinov:

"The future of children is our responsibility, just as our own future is our responsibility, and is indivisible from the state of the world as we find it. Clearly the state of the world is not showing improvement, despite the high hopes which are as ever invested in science as a solution to our problems.

"The extent of armaments is unprecedented in the history of the world, and the contribution of the man in the street in the form of taxation going directly into armaments is, on an average, two weeks of his yearly salary. One quarter of all the scientific work force are engaged in the manufacture of weapons. The demographic explosion is adding 70 to 80 million births per annum in excess of recorded deaths. World energy, based on fossil-fuels, is being rapidly exhausted at a rate of ten times its possibility of replacement per annum, and thus many predominantly agricultural countries are reduced to importing foodstuffs owing to rising costs, since to maintain the present rate of vast expenditures, the great powers are

exporting inflation.

"The inequalities between the haves and have nots are ever-increasing instead of diminishing, and an economic domination has succeeded what used to be military and colonial.

"In such a world, the future of children is under a dark cloud of confusion, penury, malnutrition and the ever-present menace of total annihilation.

"Cities are growing at a rate which suggests that in the year 2000, half the world's population will live in them. At the same time, it is projected that by the same year there will be one billion unemployed, if present trends continue.

"It is understandable that with these and other statistics at their disposal, many speakers warned of the extreme urgency of the present situation, in which children, who represent a quarter of the world's population, are already deprived of schools, hospitals and food by the extraordinary burden of the arms race, to say nothing of increasing instances of child-abuse and child prostitution, and the alarming growth of violence, for which the irresponsible use of the entertainment media must bear some blame.

"It was unanimously felt that the enormous world resources made available by nature and by science should, with the shortest possible delay, be deflected from negative ends to those which would be of benefit to the fundamental needs of all mankind. A reappraisal of our priorities is a vital necessity.

"A collapse of personal and public morality was regretted by many speakers, and some solutions were tentatively offered, ranging from a return to the ethical principles of religion to the possibilities of engineering the human brain to positive and constructive

ends, but the most general of practical proposals was an insistence on the need for a most urgent appeal to the public consciousness. Opinion must be informed if it is to be a force, as it has already become a force in defence of women's rights and of nature.

"Now, at the dawn of the International Year of the Child, it is the turn of the children to capture the public imagination. We all have 250,000,000 deprived children on our consciences, and in the future, the joy at the arrival of a new member of the family will be tinged with gathering anxiety and fear unless it is realized today, that, whatever the race, religion and nationality of the particular family, the new baby is predominantly a member of the human race, and is the moral and physical responsibility of us all."

The participants, who were invited in their personal capacity by an organizing committee headed by Jean d'Ormesson of the Academie Francaise included:

Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Anatole Alexine, Leon Boissier-Palun, William G. Brohier, Schuyler Chapin, Samuel Cookey, J.R. Delgado, Paolo Grassi, Han Suyin, Paul-Marc Henry, Aziza Hussein, Michiko Inukai, Alfred Kastler, Prem Kirpal, Tchavdar Kiuranov, Carmen Romano de Lopez Portillo, Gertrud Lutz, Sean MacBride, Mircea Malitza, Annette M'Baye d'Erneville, M.L. Mehrotra, Hephzibah Menuhin Hauser, Her Royal Highness Princess Caroline of Monaco, Philip Noel-Baker, Daniel Oduber, Jean d'Ormesson, Bibiano Osorio-Tafall, Au relio Peccei, Marcel Roche, Leon Schwarzenberg, Janez Stanovnik, Alvin Toffler, Peter Ustinov and Victor Vasarely. D

Poverty Facts and Stats

The web site <http://www.globalissues.org> has a great many facts about global poverty. Here is a sampling of the information available in the item "Poverty Facts and Stats", as updated on January 7, 2013. If anything, the situation has worsened in the last two years.

More than 80% of the world's population lives in countries where income differentials are widening. (This is currently a growing concern in Canada.)

According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty.

Less than 1% of the world's expenditure on weapons could have put every child into school by 2000 — didn't happen.

Millions of women spend several hours a day collecting water.

Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.

(Continued on Page 11.)

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

TORONTO BRANCH

AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: (416) 588-1639 Fax: 588-9180
auctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

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

Poverty Facts and Stats

(Continued from Page 10.)

(This is also the situation found in Canada — for example, but not exclusively, on some Indian reservations.)

At any given time, close to half of all people in developing countries are suffering from water-related diseases.

There are 2.2 billion children in the world; half of them live in poverty.

In 2003, 10.6 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday.

About half of the world's people now live in cities and towns. In 2005, one third of them (about 1 billion people) lived in slums.

One quarter of all people live without electricity.

The world's seven richest people, combined, have more wealth than the combined Gross Domestic Product of the 41 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (with a population of 567 million people).

It is estimated that in 2010 just 0.001% of the people in the world owned one third of all private financial wealth and almost half of all offshore wealth.

For very \$1.00 in aid received by developing coun-

tries, \$25.00 is spent on debt repayment.

In 1998, \$8 billion was spent on cosmetics in the United State, a sum that could have provided basic education for all.

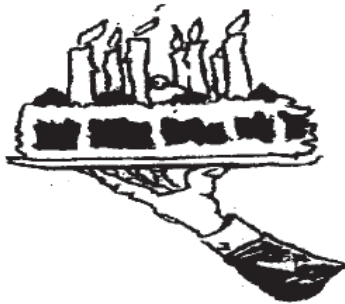
In 1998, \$11 billion was spent on ice cream in Europe, enough to provide clean water and sanitation for all.

In 1998, \$12 billion was spent on perfume in the United State and Europe, an amount that could have insured reproductive health for all women.

In 1998, \$8 billion was spent on pet food in Europe and the United State, which could have bought basic health and nutrition for all.

While the World Bank confirms that poverty has dropped (Continued on Page 12.)

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

- Eva Doskoch
- Victor Horon
- Rose Kereliuk
- William Maxim
- 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

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:

- Norman Boucock
- John Kukoly
- Joe Panetta
- Tony Pizzacalla
- John Sitak
- Sandra Sitak
- Mary Wasylenky

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

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — The **AUUC Vancouver Branch** will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, on Saturday, **January 17**. See **Page 12** for more information.

* * *

Calgary — The **Calgary Hopak Ensemble** invite you to attend **Malanka**, a Ukrainian New Year's celebration, at the Calgary Cultural Centre, 3316-28 Avenue S.W., on Saturday, **January 10**. **Cocktails** at 6:00 p.m. **Dinner** at 7:00 p.m. **Program** at 8:30 p.m. **Dance** at 9:00 p.m. **Call Kay** for tickets at 403-289-4792.

* * *

Regina — **AUUC Regina Branch** will sponsor the Ukrainian New Year's celebration **Malanka** on **January 17**, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC)**, 1077 Angus at 4th Avenue. **Cocktail Hour**, **Banquet**, **Cultural Program** by the **AUUC Poltava Ensemble and Dance**. Reserved purchased tickets of **\$50.00** only by calling the RPAC Box Office at (306) 779-2277.

* * *

Regina — **Concert-Recital** featuring 125 performers from the **AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts** and the **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance**, will be staged on Saturday, **February 7**, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC)**, 1077 Angus at 4th Avenue. For tickets call the **RPAC Box Office** at (306) 779-2277.

* * *

Winnipeg — **AUUC Winnipeg Branch** invite you to attend **Malanka**, a Ukrainian New Year's celebration, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue, on Saturday, **January 10**. Tickets are **\$10.00**. **Call Kay** at 204-333-2319 for more information.

* * *

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

Sustaining Fund Donations

AUUC Edmonton Branch, Edmonton AB	\$2,100.00
Alex Lapchuk, Regina SK	
<i>In memory of Joe Caryk from Winnipeg</i>	100.00
Lucy Nykolyshyn, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Olga & Myron Shatulsky, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Pat & Joe Dzatko, Toronto ON	25.00

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

Family Halloween Party a Success

The AUUC School of Ukrainian Folk Dance in Winnipeg hosted a Family Halloween Social at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on November 1st, delighting many boos and ghouls. That is to say, the boys and girls of the dance school along with their guests and parents came out in full costume to celebrate and let out a howl or two.

Although they had had a full night of Halloween fun previously and a day of dance lessons, the merriment got under way at 5:30 p.m. with music and dancing.

Games and a costume parade allowed prizes to be dispensed through the crowd.

The dinner of pizza kept the undead and monsters from any unnatural feasting and refuelled superheroes and princesses.

The evening hit its high note with cupcakes and the generous supply of assorted Halloween candy the party-goers couldn't help "goblin".

The adults enjoyed each other's company and the chance of winning the 50/50 draw, as well as their children's high spirits.

Everyone was satisfied and no one turned into a pumpkin by the 9:00 o'clock ending.


All in all, a successful fundraising event.

— Cheryl Anne Carr

— Photos: Anne Celestrya-Carr



A few of those present at the Winnipeg AUUC Halloween party on November 1.



The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians hosts

Ma lanka

A Ukrainian New Year's Celebration

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 East Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.

5:00 p.m. Doors open for cocktails

6:00 p.m. Ukrainian programme by the Vancouver AUUC performing arts groups

6:30 p.m. Ukrainian New Year's traditional buffet dinner, followed by dancing to live music

Admission: \$50.00/person
Dance only tickets available.
\$10.00 admittance after 9:00 p.m.
Don't be disappointed – get your tickets before they sell out.
For tickets, call (604)254-3436

Poverty Stats

(Continued from Page 11.) between 1981 and 2008, almost all the poverty reduction came from China, whose poverty rates fell from 85% to 15.9%. China raised over 600 million people out of poverty. If China is excluded, the global poverty rate fell by 10%.

(More recent stats are not more encouraging.)

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.) sented against Sadovnyk was a photograph. Prosecutors say it shows him near Kiev's Independence Square on February 20, wearing a mask and holding a rifle with two hands, his fingers clearly visible. The problem: Sadovnyk doesn't have two hands. His right hand ... was blown off by a grenade in a training accident six years ago.

"As prosecutors introduced the image at a hearing in April, said Yulya Sadovnyk (his wife), her husband removed a glove and displayed his stump to the courtroom. 'He can't really shoot,' said Sadovnyk's lawyer. 'To blame him for the crime is a political game.'"

(The original *Tribune* article is very long, and therefore can not be condensed here. Reading it leaves one with the distinct impression that *Reuters'* research shows that a miscarriage of justice is being wilfully perpetrated, and the real culprits are being shielded. - gb)

Winnipeg Salutes

(Continued from Page 7.) the beautiful dark-wood vaulted ceiling! Der Treue Husar, a German dance group, showcased Germany's carnival tradition which dates back to the 1200s. This is the mother of carnival traditions all over the world, with the first worldwide carnival parade taking place in Cologne in 1823. The dancers ranged in age from toddlers to teens, and engaged the audience in interactive dances set to traditional and modern German music.

The final group, Solskrikjan Kor (meaning choir), conducted by Kerrine Wilson, represented the area's Icelandic pioneers. In Iceland, every community, no matter how small, has a choir and Solskrikjan Kor gave us a taste of this integral piece of the country's culture.

While the Interlake area north of the city is commonly referred to as New Iceland

because of the huge influx of Icelanders that settled there in the late 1800s, it is not as well known that the city of Winnipeg was home to many Icelandic immigrants as well. Stefan Jonasson, a Unitarian minister, shared stories of early Iceland immigrants in Shanty Town and Point Douglas as he introduced the choir's selections for the evening.

The Seven Oaks Historical Society hosted an evening that taught the audience a history lesson. This was not a history lesson learned from the dusty pages of high school textbooks, but rather from the diverse music, dance and spoken word that we heard throughout the evening, and through the experience of a visit to historical St. John's Cathedral. What an engaging evening, and what a memorable lesson in local history it was!

— Emily Halldorson

*Remembering and Greeting
All My Friends
in the USA,
Canada, and the Ukraine,
and
Wishing Them Good Health,
Friendship and Peace
In the New Year.*

*Genevieve Hanusiak
New York City, USA*

**To all friends and supporters
of the AUUC —**

*May 2015
bring you
good health,
happiness, and
prosperity!*

AUUC Toronto Branch

*Welcome to the only
Taras Shevchenko Museum in the Americas!*

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