

HERALD ВІСНИК

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Shevchenko Museum Holds AGM

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



The 21st Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation was held at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on March 4. Among the participants were: (seated left to right) Shirley Uhryn (Edmonton); Debra Skrabek (Calgary); Andrew Gregorovich (re-elected President); Lyudmyla Pogoryelova (re-elected Museum Director); Bernardine Dobrowolsky (re-elected Recording Secretary); (standing left to right) Larry Kleparchuk (Vancouver); Jerry Dobrowolsky (re-elected Auditor); Lily Stearns (Winnipeg); Bob Dabeka (Ottawa, substituting for Bob Seychuk); Larissa Stavroff (re-elected REC Member); George Borusiewich (re-elected Vice-President and Vice-Recording Secretary); Pavlo Lopata (re-elected REC Member); Nancy Stewart (re-elected Treasurer). A report, with additional photographs, is found on Page 8.

Job Numbers Up in February

On March 10, Statscan released its “Labour Force Survey” for February, 2017. The report showed a net growth of 15,300 jobs in February.

The good news is that these were full-time jobs. 105,000

full time jobs opened up, while 90,000 part-time jobs were lost. The unemployment rate dropped by 0.2% to 6.6% because fewer people were looking for work. That means an improvement in the life of 105,000 people.

Employment increased among women aged 25 to 54 years old (the so-called core-aged women), and men 55

and more years old. There was little change among other demographic groups.

The growth in employment was not evenly distributed. More people were working in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but employment was down in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. Unemployment in the other five provinces was essentially unchanged.

There was little change in the number of hours worked in the 12 months to February.

US Health Care Concerns

President Trump moved as quickly as he could to eliminate the health insurance plan introduced by President Obama.

Many people who voted Trump for president believed his promise that Obamacare would be replaced by something better, with wider affordability. Now they are increasingly concerned that they will find themselves, once more, able to afford neither health insurance nor

health care.

In early March, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that 14 million Americans would lose their coverage in the first year of a plan being propose by Republicans inn the House of Representatives. The 2026, that number would rise to 26 million.

President Trump was busy attacking the credibility of the CBO, and administration officials were attacking the CBO report before it was re-

leased.

The CBO report estimates that the Republican legislation would reduce federal deficits by \$337 billion over the coming ten years, but it would do so by eliminating Medicaid, as well as the subsidies give to millions of people who buy health insurance under Obamacare.

When the people who will be left out in the cold by the Republican legislation are added to the people who would have been left out by Obamacare, the number of Americans who will be without health insurance by 2026 is estimated to be 52 million people.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated May, 2017. Announcements of events in May, 2017, or early June, 2017, as well as articles for the May, 2017, issue should be in our office by April 10.

Thank you for your consideration.

Safe Third Country

A significant number of people are crossing Canada’s southern border seek asylum. Canad and the USA have an agreement that each considers the other a safe country; asylum seekers crossing this border are to be sent back.

Some of those people are coming from even farther south — from Mexico or even beyond. A year ago, their choice might have been to stay in the USA, but they are increasing afraid to stay in the USA. They no longer consider the USA to be a safe country. Increasing, they are right.

Increasing numbers of Canadians no longer feel that the USA is no longer a safe country. In some instances there is a concern that someone coming from Canada will not be allowed to enter (Shades of the Red bar); in other instances there is concern that once in the USA someone might be detained and either incarcerated or deported to a third country.

People have already been turned back at the border by American authorities on a variety of pretexts, and others have had trouble returning to Canada.

An increasing number of Canadians believe that the agreement with the United States should be terminated, so that anyone who crosses from the USA to Canada can be treated as a legitimate refugee

or asylum seeker. Considering the xenophobia which is increasingly running rampant in the USA, and particularly the Islamophobia, Canada should look kindly on refugees or asylum seekers.

At the moment, people are risking life and limb to cross into Canada (at least one man had all his fingers amputated after suffering frostbite during the border crossing). Many are arriving in seriously endangered condition because of the rigours of the trip.

The human choice is to let them enter at a recognized legal point to be processed.

In This Issue

About Chrystia Freeland...	4
Attacking Russia	9
Banks Charged with Coerscive Practices	3
Chief Fobister Critical of the Prme Minister	2
Commentary	4
Current Eclectic	3
Editorial	4
Election in the Netherlands	3
Employment Report	3
Family Night in Calgary ...	7
The Far Right Has It	9
From Our Readers	4
Happy Birthday, Friends .	11
Bill Harasym	5
Household Debt Continues Growth	4
Inquiry on Missing Women	2
Join Us!	11
More Money for Ukraine..	9
Parks Canada Blocks Film	2
Probe of Russian Links	3
Relations with Canada	9
Shevchenko Museum Holds AGM	8
Spritual World of Myroslava Boikiv	10
Strong Reaction against Sen. Beyak	2
Sustaining Fund Donations	11
Tribute to Welland ULT .	12
Ukrainian Miscellany	9
Winnipeg’s Camerata Nova	7

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Strong Reaction against Sen. Beyak

On March 7, Senator Lynn Beyak, a two-time failed Conservative candidate for the Ontario Legislature resident in Dryden, Ontario, appointed to the Senate by former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, bemoaned the lack of positive commentary about the residential schools.

In spite of the whirlwind of negative reactions to her comments which quickly followed, Sen. Beyak stood by her comments about “the abundance of good” that, in her opinion, gets inadequate consideration in discussion of residential schools. Calls for her resignation notwithstanding, as the “UCH” goes to press Sen. Beyak continues to serve in the Senate and on the Senate Aboriginal Peoples committee.

On March 20, the Anglican Church of Canada issued an open letter which we reprint below.

Dear Senator Beyak:

Not only in the Red Chamber on Parliament Hill, but across the country, many people – both Indigenous and non-

Indigenous – were dismayed by your remarks. You said “I was disappointed in the TRC’s Report and that it didn’t focus on the good,” associated with Residential Schools. Had you, Senator, made these remarks within a discussion of the TRC’s Report, your comments might have been less shocking.

Senator Beyak, you are quite right in saying that for a small minority of survivors, their personal experiences of Residential School were “good”. But in much greater numbers, the personal experiences of children who were housed in those schools were “bad” – very bad in fact. One only needs to have attended a local, regional or national event hosted by Canada’s Truth & Reconciliation Commission to know this. The Commissioners listened to the personal stories of thousands of students – of survivors – all of which bore witness to the horrific experience they had.

There are hundreds of students who went to Residen-

tial Schools administered by the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC). They have told their stories at our church’s National Native Convocation and at Sacred Circle Gatherings. We have been rendered speechless by what we heard. We have hung our heads in shame and raised them with remorse over the pain our church inflicted upon those children.

There was nothing good about a federal government policy of forcibly removing children “from their evil surroundings”, housing them in schools with the intent of “killing the Indian in the child...and turning them into a civilized adult”. It was an attempt at cultural genocide, an attempt whose failure bears witness to the courage and resilience of those children and their communities. As elder Barney Williams of the Survivors’ Society has so often said, “We were all brave children.”

There was nothing good about practices of taking away children, removing their traditional dress, cutting their hair, taking away their name, confiscating their personal effects and giving them a number.

There was nothing good about forbidding children to speak their own language, to sing and dance in a powwow,

to practice their own spirituality. It was a denial of their dignity and human rights.

There was nothing good about experimenting with children’s diet to monitor the impact on their dental hygiene or their digestive systems. There was nothing good about pressing children into forced labour. It was state-sanctioned cruelty.

There was nothing good about denying a child a celebration of his or her birthday, about separating siblings one from another, not allowing them to be home for Christmas, or to enjoy summer holiday.

There was nothing good about child abuse – and it was rampant in Residential Schools – physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and spiritual abuse. Such abuses were nothing less than crimes against humanity.

There was nothing good about children going missing and no report being filed. There was nothing good about burying children in unmarked graves far from their ancestral homes. It heaped cruelty upon cruelty for the child taken and the parent left behind.

There is nothing good about a lingering and sordid legacy of intergenerational trauma reflected in poor health, the struggle to enjoy healthy relationships, addictions, domestic violence, astonishingly high rates of incarceration and communal dysfunction.

There is nothing good about Indigenous people treated as “second class”, the blatant evidence of which persists in lower funding for health care, education, policing, and emer-

gency health services. It is a travesty.

All these atrocities associated with the Indian Residential Schools have been documented through the work of TRC Commissioners Murray Sinclair, Marie Wilson, and Wilton Littlechild. The several volumes of their report attest to this dark chapter in the history of Canada. We encourage you to review them. The ninety-four Calls to Action that complement their report are a “roadmap”, as they put it, for journeying toward healing and reconciliation. It will take years to address these Calls to Action fully, but in our commitment as a country to do so, we must be unwavering. We implore you to share in that commitment.

It is true that there were some glimpses of good, well-intentioned teachers, nurses and staff in those schools. We know a number of them personally and we know something of their own internal turmoil and agree that their stories have to be heard. It is true that some Residential School survivors can speak of a personal positive experience. We do not deny that their stories need to be heard too. But we are compelled to say that while there are those glimpses of good in the history of the Residential Schools, the overall view is grim. It is shadowed and dark; it is sad and shameful.

Senator Beyak, you hold up colonial historic accounts of church-run schools across Manitoba (the Pas, Grand Rapids), northern Ontario (Fort Frances, Fort Albany), and Athabasca. The accounts
(Continued on Page 10.)

Chief Fobister Critical of the Prime Minister

In mid-February, Chief Simon Fobister of Grassy Narrows First Nation spoke happily and enthusiastically about a promise by the Ontario provincial government that, at long last, the mercury pollution in the English-Wabigoon River system would be cleaned up. In early March Chief Fobister was accusing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of backing away from a pledge to solve the mercury problem.

On March 3, the Toronto Star reported that, “The allegation comes a day after Trudeau, at a press conference in Calgary, Wednesday, said: ‘The Grassy Narrows issue is very much a provincial issue, but the federal government, under my leadership, is certainly very engaged with the province to ensure that we’re moving forward in the right direction.’”

In January, the Prime Minister’s Office told the “Star” “that federal officials would meet with indigenous leaders and the province to ‘get to the bottom of the science, and the next steps necessary to deal with this issue once and for all.’”

In the period between 1962 and 1970, the paper plant in Dryden, Ontario, about 100 kilometres up-stream from Grassy Narrows and nearby Whitedog, then owned by Reed Paper, dumped 10

tonnes of mercury into the river.

Chief Fobister asked, in a prepared statement, “How can Trudeau say that he is reconciling with First Nations while passing the buck on cleaning up an ongoing toxic leak that has plagued our health and undermined our culture for 50 years?”

The “Star” reported that a spokesperson for Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, said that the federal government is involved in many ways. The involvement, however, did not include actual clean-up of the pollution.

The Ontario provincial government has announced it is “completely committed” to finding and cleaning up the mercury”. However, Ontario Environment Minister Glen Murray, when asked by NDP critic for indigenous relations Michael Mantha why Murray’s government had not tested sediment in front of the site of the old paper mill, did not answer the question. Instead, Mr. Murray placed the responsibility for inaction on previous governments.

Unfortunately, this Ontario provincial government habitually delivers less than it promised.

It may be some time yet before the mercury pollution is cleaned up.

Inquiry on Missing Women

Hearings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls are supposed to start by the end of May, but as the “UCH” went to press the dates and locations of its sessions had not been announced.

Families of missing and murdered women still did not know how they would be able to participate. There was no specific information about the availability of travel costs, emotional support, access to traditional First Nation ceremonies or other services.

In early March, in a written statement, Waneek Horn-Miller, the commission’s director of community relations, did promise that there would be travel costs for those families and survivors of violence who will be speaking, and support services will be available.

The inquiry will examine the systemic causes of violence against indigenous women and girls, and why the rate of reported violence against indigenous women is more than triple than that against non-aboriginal women.

The Commission is expected to issue a preliminary report in November of this year, with a final report due by the end of 2018.

Parks Canada Blocks Film

Is a film depicting an Indigenous gang leader contrary to public policy? If so, should a government agency block its production?

These are just two of the questions raised by *Hard Powder*, and Parks Canada believes the answer to both of these questions is “yes”. Therefore, it denied permission for the movie to be filmed in Rocky Mountain national parks. Shoots were planned for Banff, the Lake Louise townsite and ski hill, and the Columbia Icefields.

Hard Powder is a crime drama set in a Colorado ski town. The plot includes a turf war involving a First Nations gang boss.

Parks Canada confirmed that it has concerns about the script. The feeling is that it is contrary to the commitment of the government of Canada to “reconciliation and nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples, based on a

recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership”, according to Meaghan Bradley, Parks Canada representative.

The decision was made despite a letter of support from Tom Jackson, First Nations actor, musician and Order of Canada member, who wrote, “As a consultant to this production, I have taken a strong stance to ensure that the humility and integrity of First Nation roles do not cross the line of disrespect to my culture. I don’t feel my culture is insulted even slightly by the script.”

Mr. Jackson was to play the First Nations crime boss.

Mark Voyce, location manager for the film, which had been scheduled to start shooting in March, has previously organized movie shoots in national parks from Newfoundland’s Gros Mome to Pacific Rim on Vancouver Island.

Current Eclectic

Election in the Netherlands

General elections were held in the Netherlands on March 15 to elect all 150 members of the House of Representatives. According to preliminary results released that same day, 28 parties contested the election, with 13 of them winning seats. Different sources give slightly different results. Official results were to be released on March 21, one day too late for inclusion in this article.

A coalition of at least four parties will be required for a majority government.

Immediately after the voting, all parties started the spin

doctoring to claim success.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte claimed a dominating victory, with 33 seats, for his People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), over anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders and the Party for Freedom (PVV), with 20 seats. However, the VVD lost the proportion of votes (and seats), while the PVV made gains to reach second place.

Wilders' one-page election manifesto included pledges to close borders to immigrants from Muslim nations, shutter mosques and ban the Qur'an, as well as to take the Nether-

lands out of the European Union.

The parties tied for third place also made gains.

The biggest gain was by the Green Left Party, which went from 4 seats to 14, and the biggest loss went to the Labour Party, which lost 29 seats.

From another perspective, two parties which had no members and elected some, Denk (Think?) and the Party for Democracy, were winners.

Unlike those crowing that right-wing populism had been routed, Thomas Walkom, writing in the *Toronto Star* on March 17, thought that the "results in full suggest that Dutch resistance to immigrants, particularly Muslim immigrants, remains high".

"But Wilder's (sic) Freedom Party still did well," he wrote. "It came a strong second, winning five additional

seats in the 150-person legislature, for a total of 20.

"More important, other parties felt compelled to ape Wilders, at least in part.

"Prime Minister Mark Rutte's People's Party for Freedom and Democracy ran on a platform of economic liberalism and cultural nationalism, warning immigrants to adopt Dutch values or leave"

"The Christian Democratic Appeal, another conservative party, campaigned on a nationalist platform that included banning dual citizenship and requiring schoolchildren to sing the national anthem" Their seat total rose, he pointed out, from 13 to 19.

Mr. Walkom then goes into a discussion of left and right populism, and animal rights populism.

Writing in the "Star" the next day, Tony Burman draws "five lessons from the Dutch election". Like his colleague

Thomas Walkom, writer Tony Burma does not believe that the Dutch Prime Minister has slain the "right-wing, populist dragon in Europe".

In abbreviated form, here are his five lessons:

1. Its a triumph with limited impact

Voters in France go to the polls next in April, followed by Germany and then, possibly, Italy. But, even though Rutte's victory may give other mainstream European politicians a psychological boost; most analysts believe it will have little impact on other elections.

2. The mainstream lost as much as it won

Rutte, ostensibly a "liberal," did little to challenge the anti-Muslim rhetoric of Wilders. In fact, Rutte incorporated some of Wilders' themes into his own campaign. This included a full-page letter in Dutch newspapers that criticized Muslim immigrants for not integrating into Dutch society. Rutte fought Wilders on his own terms, instead of providing Dutch voters with a positive, high-minded vision of a Netherlands strengthened by its multicultural character.

3. The real winner was Jesse J. Claver.

Jesse Claver's party boosted its number of MPs from four to 14. Mr. Klaver told reporters on election day that the left should challenge the far right by standing up for their ideals.

4. The battle for France is key

Perhaps the most enthusiastic reaction to the Dutch election came from mainstream politicians in France, where far-right leader Marine Le Pen is a serious threat. The first round of presidential election voting is in April, and a win for Wilders would have been a considerable boost to Le Pen.

Emmanuel Macron, the centrist candidate, is just barely ahead of Le Pen in recent polls

5. Europe's moderate centre can win.

In addition to the loss by Wilders, there are signs that support for Le Pen and for the far-right party in Germany is declining. There maybe a backlash beginning to merge against the radical right.

After the British vote to leave the European Union, and the win by Donald Trump, there was much concern that right wing populism was going to roll over Europe. After the vote in The Netherlands, many pundits seem to be breathing a sigh of relief, as though the Dutch voters have stopped the wave.

If there is any lesson in history, whether political history or sports, it is that momentum is an illusion, and those who believe in it will face a rude awakening.. Every event develops by its own internal logic and balance of forces.

Banks Charged with Coercive Practices

Banks have many ways to reach new profit levels annually. Two unexpected ways were just made public in mid-March: to browbeat customers into buying products and services we don't want, and to illegally change the conditions of our accounts. The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada announced on March 15 that, in April, it will launch a review of business practices in the federally-regulated financial sector. The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) is an independent government agency that enforces consumer protection legislation.

The FCAC learned of charges that big banks have

been pressuring and even "tricking" customers into buying their products and services. They have also been increasing customers' credit limits without the customers' previous consent, an illegal practice.

FCAC commissioner Lucie Tedesco said that financial institutions are required to obtain their customers' prior consent and disclose key information about the costs and charges of the products they are purchasing.."

The CBC has reported that many bank employees have reported that they are pressed by their supervisors, on pain of losing their jobs, to sell profitable products to customers,

even when those products do not benefit the customer.

The CBC reported in mid-March that it has been flooded with stories from employees of all five of Canada's big banks about "how they feel pressured to up-sell, trick and even lie to customers to meet unrealistic sales targets and keep their jobs."

In the first CBC program aired on the issue aired, three TD employees spoke about feeling "incredible pressure" to meet "unrealistic" sales targets by signing customers up for unnecessary financial products.

The CBC followed with another story after it received almost 1,000 e-mails from employees of the five banks across the country that described "the pressures to hit targets that are monitored weekly, daily and in some

cases hourly," according to an article on the network's web site.

The banks put on their best faces of innocence, with statements that they are acting in the best interests of their customers.

TD Bank said it doesn't believe the reported allegations are "an accurate portrayal of our culture, or that it reflects the experience of most of our colleagues, but we take the concerns very seriously."

"The banks look forward to cooperating with the agency's review," said Terry Campbell, president of the Canadian Bankers Association.

"As we have with previous reviews, Canada's banks will cooperate fully and constructively with the regulator," he said in a statement.

"We are confident that the banks' strong policies, procedures, and controls are functioning well," he said. "Canadians are well-served by their banks."

Tedesco noted "these issues have been discussed in my recent meetings with the CEOs and boards of Canada's leading banks."

"In addition, in a recent address to their compliance professionals and in an industry-wide letter, I expressed my expectation that banks and other financial institutions be proactive in scrutinizing the effectiveness of their policies, procedures and practices to ensure that consumers are protected," she added.

Edward Jones analyst Jim Shanahan likened the situation to similar allegations facing Wells Fargo last year. In that case, the U.S. bank issued an apology and paid large penalties after regulators concluded that its employees had opened millions of unauthorized accounts and credit cards on behalf of clients.

(Continued on Page 10.)

Probe of Russian Links

Director James Comey of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testifying on March 20 before the Intelligence Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington, confirmed that the FBI is investigating Russian interference in last year's presidential election. Part of the investigation involves possible links and coordination between Russia and associates of President Donald Trump.

The investigation will also explore whether any crimes were committed.

The investigation, according to Mr. Comey, began in the summer of 2016. Because of the complexity of the work, Mr. Comey was unable to say when the investigation would be completed.

The FBI does not normally discuss ongoing investigations, but did so in this case because of "the extreme pub-

lic interest in this case".

Replying to Representative Adam Schiff, the committee's top-ranked Democrat, Mr. Comey contradicted tweets from President Trump claiming that President Barack Obama had ordered Mr. Trump's phones tapped during the campaign. Mr. Comey said that there was no evidence of this within the FBI or the Justice Department. At least one of the two agencies would have had to be involved.

(We expect that the next suggestion, by President Trump and/or his supporters, will be that the evidence may have been eliminated or suppressed.)

Tweeting before the hearing started, Trump claimed that allegations about his campaign associates' contact with Russia during the election were fabrications by Demo-

crats.

Perhaps with the intent of turning the tables, or perhaps merely to muddy the waters, President Trump suggested, again without evidence, that President Clinton's campaign was in contact with Russia and had possibly thwarted a federal investigation.

USA intelligence officials' official line is that they believe Moscow hacked into the Democrats' computers in a bid to help Trump's election bid.

Also testifying was National Security Agency Director Michael Rogers. Mr. Rogers, disputed allegations that by the Trump camp that British intelligence services were involved in the wiretapping the Trump tower in New York.

This hearing is only one of several by congressional panels probing allegations of "Russian meddling". The Senate Intelligence Committee has scheduled a similar hearing for later in March.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

Everyone should agree that Chrystia Freeland is not responsible for the actions of her grandfather. Everyone should also agree that she is responsible for her own actions. Her grandfather's actions did not tarnish her, but her own certainly did.

When someone raised the fact that her grandfather, Mykhailo Khomiak had been a Nazi collaborator, Ms. Freeland had a number of options. One of them was to say, "Yes, he was. It's no secret. But I am not my grandfather." However, she did not choose that option, because that is not who she is.

Instead, she chose another option: to claim that the information was part of a Russian disinformation campaign, targeting her, and through her, the country, as part of a Russian attack meant to destabilize democracy. She did so in terms that could lead people to believe that the information was "fake news" generated by the Russians.

For a brief time, commercial media around the world bought the Freeland version, rushing to the defence of Freeland, Ukraine, and Canada against this Russian villainy, the sort of things the Russians do.

Then, the world was reminded that the information was true, that it had first come to light decades ago, and that it was originally revealed in Canada by Freeland's uncle in an 1996 article which she had edited. That put a different light on the matter, and the public discussion became more varied. Now there is some discussion, among other things, of the importance of her having tried to mislead the Canadian public.

The fact is that, by her choice of response, Chrystia Freeland showed herself to be part of that section of the Ukrainian Canadian community which puts fighting the Russians above all else, the section which will sacrifice truth and accept falsified information to combat Russia, the section which supported Hitler before World War Two and championed Nazi collaborators because they opposed the Soviet Union, aka. "the Russians".

Canadians are right to wonder whether the Minister of Foreign Affairs is promoting policies which best serve Canada's interests, or making her decisions primarily in the interests of Ukraine's current right-wing government..

If Canada's interests and those of Ukraine were identical, that might not matter; however those interests are not identical. Canada is best served by a peaceful settlement in Ukraine on the basis of the international agreement. Ukraine's right-wing government wants to impose a settlement which ignores the desires of the people in the east. Which does Ms. Freeland want?

COMMENTARY**Household Debt
Continues Growth**

Statistics Canada has reported that the amount of household credit-market debt rose to 167.3% of adjusted household disposable income in the fourth quarter, compared to 166.8% in the third quarter. Robert Kavcic, senior economist with BMO Capital Markets attributed the growth to "torrid" gains in Vancouver and Toronto housing markets, along with low interest rates.

Mortgage debt accounted for almost 2/3 of the debt.

Policy makers, a report in

the *Toronto Star* on March 16, so the high debt rate as a key risk in the economy. A rise in interest rates, or a economic slump resulting in substantial job losses could be disastrous.

What the economists do not seem to grasp is that increasing debt is the only survival mechanism for many people with low-paying and/or part-time work, especially those with precarious employment. Even if they manage to stay out of debt, any economic downturn will be devastating to people in these circum-

stances ..

While the representatives of the banks and other large financial institutions admonish people to manage their money better, the institutions themselves act in ways that encourage higher levels of debt and greater personal impoverishment.

The most recent revelation is the predatory approach of financial institutions to generating greater debt levels among their customers, even in fraudulent and illegal ways, so that the greed of the shareholders for ever-higher returns on investment can be satisfied.

However, there have been other tactics in other times, such as mailing out credit cards even to people already in financial trouble, who did not understand that this was not free money

FROM OUR READERS

No, Chrystia Freeland, I am not a victim of Russian disinformation or propaganda. I don't search through the internet for Russo-centric blogs. I don't subscribe to the Russo-oriented cable channel. Since my high school days, I have gained some insight into propaganda analysis. My information sources are mainly on the spectrum from the democratic left to intelligent conservatism.

For decades my main print source has been Edmonton's daily paper (established in 1903 as a conservative paper). This latter paper (the *Journal*) headlined, on March 9, 2017, that the Freeland family's alleged Nazi ties were "...irrelevant to Freeland's role with foreign affairs". Untrue, Paula Simons of the *Journal*. It is most important, for environmental and geophysical reasons, that Canada have satisfactory relations with our extensive Arctic neighbour. And, of course, trade always fits in with the Canada-Russia equation.

The *Journal* writer states that Freeland is "a smart, articulate, and potent critic of Putin, so potent she's banned from Russia (my emphasis)."

True, I am not a disciple of Putin or many of those other leaders of Russia pictured in the Russian film *Leviathan*. But, I also do not have a grandpa such as Freeland's Mykhailo Khomiak or Michael Chomiak. He was chief editor of a pro-Nazi propaganda paper in occupied Poland during World War 11. (This paper was the *Krakivski visti*.) During that time, almost all my uncles — and my father — were with our military, fighting for Canada and for Britain.

Chrystia's mom went to Ukraine at the time of the break-up of the Soviet Union. Purportedly, she was a party to the drafting of Ukraine's constitution. It is a pity that she did not use her Canadian background to see that there was an obvious need for federalism in the constitution because of the large number of Russo-Ukrainians living in the eastern region and in the Crimea.

What about the Crimea? Didn't mom ever read about Russia's extensive involvement there? At the very least, Russia would want permanent use of the Crimea for naval/military reasons and for the

protection of the large number of Russo-Ukrainians living in that region. Were it not for the bloodbath in eastern Ukraine, perhaps now, or in 1991, a power sharing agreement could have been reached between Ukraine and Russia pertaining to Crimea. (Witness the successful one achieved in Northern Ireland as of 1998 after a nasty civil war). What Ukraine doesn't need is to be used as a cat's-paw for the U.S.-dominated NATO.

Trudeau: Canada is supposed to be an independent country. Do not let Chrystia Freeland increase our current subservience to U.S. hegemony. Don't let Canada assist the U.S. in sucking Ukraine into the NATO orb to a greater extent than it already is.

Trudeau: give Chrystia "the hook" (and not the kind used by the employers of Mykhailo Khomiak during the 1940s. I use the vaudevillian expression.) We need persons in the Foreign Affairs Ministry capable of projecting Canadian interests vis-a-vis the U.S. and other countries. Let us achieve productive relations with Ukraine. Let us not station troops in western Ukraine with a large degree of support for the radical right.

— William Askin
Vegreville AB

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Bill Harasym

Wasyle Ivanovich Harasym was born on October 23, 1924, near Red Deer, Alberta, in the home of his parents Ivan and Domka, (Dora, née Hotsuliak) Ukrainian immigrants to Canada, in the first decade of the 20th century, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Like many boys named Wasyl or some variant thereof, he came to be called William, or more familiarly, Bill.

He survived two brothers, Peter and Nick, who lived into adulthood, and is survived by his sister Doreen. Three other siblings perished from childhood diseases.

There were very few, if any, other Ukrainian-speaking families in Red Deer. Bill remarked that his parents must have felt isolated, both in language and culture. On one occasion his father said he felt like a crow in a field of white doves.

The 1920s and 1930s were a difficult time for the Harasym family. The parents were, as a matter of survival if nothing else, very hard-working. He spoke with fondness and respect for his parents and recounted many stories from his happy childhood.

One of Bill's favourite stories was his recollection of his father, with very little help, digging a very deep well – 45 feet deep – and lining it with bricks to provide water for the family.

Perhaps it was here that Bill developed his work ethic.

Bill's schooling was in English, of course, and he had several stories about being the only Ukrainian kid in the school. One he told frequently was of being taken aside by the teacher after class one day to be asked whether he had been eating garlic. "Yes," he proudly replied. "My mother says it's good for me!"

It was under the name of William Harasym that he was drafted for army service in 1943. However, like many men from the prairies, he volunteered to serve in the navy instead.

He served in the navy from September 4, 1943, to October 11, 1945.

After training in Quebec, he was made signalman on board the corvette Lachute, part of the C-5 Canadian Escort Group operating between St. John's, NFLD, and Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

This North Atlantic service, protecting ships of the merchant marine from attack by the German navy, particularly submarines, was extremely hazardous, with a high casualty rate. Bill often spoke of his experiences during the war as his small ship dropped

depth charges against submarines or provided other defence for the convoys which were crucial to victory in World War Two.

Bill later remarked that he was docked in Londonderry at the war's end. He said that he and fellow crew members boarded a German submarine there, and were astounded to come upon a grease cartridge manufactured by the Shell Oil Company.

After he was discharged from the navy, Bill was given civilian clothing and provided employment in a greenhouse in Calgary.

He considered a future in gardening or landscaping, but he soon realized that he was only being used as hired labour, rather than learning a skill. So, in 1947, he and a friend travelled to Vancouver, where he was hired to work at a sawmill in Port Alberni, B.C.

During the years 1947-49, Bill worked at MacMillan Blodel in Port Alberni, BC. He became active in the International Woodworkers of America, and then the Woodworker's Industrial Union of Canada. He became a Head Job Steward, and attended various provincial conventions and other gatherings. He was actively involved in enlisting fellow employees for union dues payroll deduction.

He was involved in a campaign to elect Nigel Morgan.

He went to an educational program on Salt Spring Island, where he met Misha Korol. He was noticed by John Dubno who encouraged him to join the AUUC. However, he was not comfortable in the Ukrainian language, and hesitated to join.

Nevertheless, he was recruited into AUUC by veteran activist John Senkiw. He became more interested in the AUUC when he learned that there were English-Speaking Branches, and began reading the AUUC's English-language paper, the *Ukrainian Canadian*. In his notes he wrote that, without these two factors, he doubted that he would have become as deeply involved in the AUUC.

In the summer of 1949, he attended a BC AUUC Provincial School on Galiano Island. It was organized by BC Provincial Secretary John Dubno and led by NEC member Misha Korol.

In 1950, Bill attended a four-month AUUC Higher Education Course at the summer camp near Palermo, Ontario, taught by William Teresio, Peter Prokop and Chris Duffef. After the course, in the fall and winter

of that year, he led a series of weekend and evening schools across Canada, from Fort William to Vancouver.

This was followed, in 1951, with a year as AUUC Provincial Organizer in BC, and in 1952 as Alberta Provincial Organizer. In both cases he worked under the guidance of senior, experienced members: John Dubno in BC, and George Solomon and Nick Alexciwich in Alberta.

In 1952, Bill moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where he met Marie Alexandruk. They were married on June 4, 1954, and started a family.

Bill worked for a year as the Edmonton City Organizer of the Labour Progressive Party, and was LPP candidate for an Edmonton seat in the 1955 provincial election.

In that same year, Marie sailed to Europe to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students in Warsaw. Around that time a house was built in Beverly, a suburb of Edmonton.

Sons Terry and Peter were born 1956 and 1959.

Bill was given a scholarship to attend school in Kyiv in 1959. When he returned to Canada after two years, he was assigned a job in the national office of the AUUC in Toronto. The family moved to Toronto in 1962. There they took out a mortgage on a house which they renovated, and which served as their home for the rest of Bill's life.

From 1962 to 2001, Bill was in the AUUC national leadership. Though he was terminated as paid staff in April, 1993, at age 69, he remained as National Secretary on a voluntary basis to the 39th AUUC National Convention. He served as Assistant to the National Secretary in the Canadian Born Sector from 1962, as President from 1966, and as National Secretary from 1972. At the 39th Convention, in 1994, Bill was elected to the National Audit Committee, and in 1997, at the 40th National Convention, he was elected to the National Committee.

These were all positions to which he was elected at national conventions. It was like having a national performance review every three years or so. There may not have been many who would have wanted his jobs, but there were probably also not many who could have succeeded at them.

Of course this period of success was accomplished with the support and help of his wife, Marie. She very effectively ran the household and did much of the child-rearing while Bill was busy with work (including his two-year absence at school) during which she raised a toddler and an infant..

Bill's work involved frequent travel across Canada to raise funds, especially for the



Bill Harasym

October 23, 1924 — January 26, 2017

press, and much travel to Soviet Ukraine. He served often as AUUC host for visiting performing artists and other dignitaries from Ukraine.

Bill himself wrote that, "The bulk of my leadership responsibilities have been divided into organizational trips and projects, leading short schools and courses of various kinds, and administration within the programs of the AUUC."

While serving in the national leadership of the AUUC, Bill was for years a member of the central leadership of the Communist Party of Canada. He was also an active member of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms until its wind-up in 2013, was involved in the Veterans and Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion until its suspension. He was a member of the Communist Party of Canada for over 40 years. He had a close, supportive relationship with such organizations as the Canadian Peace Congress, the Canadian Cuban Friendship Association, and others.

Bill Harasym was a founding member of the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research, which was established in October, 1985, by a decision of a joint convention of the AUUC and the Workers Benevolent Association on October 6, 1984, and which continues to function.

After the AUUC national office was moved to Edmonton, Bill served on the Ontario Provincial Council. He also participated on the Executive of the AUUC Toronto Branch.

Bill Harasym's greatest contribution to the community following his resignation from full-time work with the AUUC was his efforts toward the success of the Taras

Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. Bill led the work of the Museum Board, adding his energy and practical skills to forming and maintaining the building and its exhibits, and his organizational skills to developing a capable cadre of Museum workers.

His attention to ensuring the future of the institution led to the formation of the Lands Development Committee to which he devoted close personal attention until failing health forced him to stop, shortly before his death.

Bill's father died in November, 1966, and his mother, in August, 1974, both at age 76. His son Peter died tragically on September 13, 1984.

Marie died on April 18, 2016. Bill died only nine months later, on January 26, 2017 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto.

Bill Harasym is survived by his son Terry and daughter-in-law Carmel (Keane), grandchildren Darwin, Liam, Niamh and Mary, sister Doreen (Derek) Mansell, sisters-in-law Mary Welikoklad and Cindy (Fedechko) Alexander, and many nieces and nephews.

Bill Harasym had strong personal qualities which contributed to his accomplishments. He had a strong commitment to self-improvement, and at one time made a concentrated effort to improve his vocabulary.

Part of this effort at self-improvement, somewhat motivated, too, by his interest in a broad range of subjects, was his reading program. Bill read the commercial press, including *McLean's*, but he was a particularly staunch supporter of the alternative press, including the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, the *People's*

(Continued on Page 11.)

POLTAVA ENSEMBLE ANNUAL CONCERT

— Story photos: Mark Greschner

On Saturday, February 4, the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance and the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts presented their Annual Concert/Recital at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. All 385 people in attendance enjoyed an evening that showed the skill and talent of over 100 performers.

The Regina Performing Arts Centre has been the Ensemble's main venue for over 20 years.



Poltava vocal soloist Guennadi Ostrikov performed the well-known and humorous Russian song "Eslu u vas net sobaki".



Poltava vocal soloist Elena Bryleva performed "Those Were The Days".



The Intermediate Dancers of the Poltava School performed "Shchaslyvi dite".



Natalia Koshelieva, accompanied by the Poltava Orchestra, performed the well-known violin solo "Czardas".

Keep an eye out for information about the Potlava Pavilion at Regina's Mosaic, a Festival of Nations,



Performing for their very first time, the Novice Dancers of the Poltava School presented "Wheels on the Bus".



Beginner dancer Mila Wanner of the Poltava School performed "Veseli Hutsul-yata".



The Junior Dancers of the Poltava School presented "Kryzhachok".



The Poltava Orchestra, under the direction of Vlad Osatiuk, performed "Ukrainian March".



The Poltava Dancers, under the direction of Lisa Wanner, performed "Palekh Box".



Poltava Dancers perform "Tambourine Dance" which features the use of the traditional Ukrainian instrument – the bubon.



The Lileya Dancers of the Poltava School performed "Uzhansky veselny".



The Pre-Poltava Dancers of the Poltava School performed "Volynsky tanok".

Winnipeg's Camerata Nova

On the Saturday evening of March 4, the Ukrainian Labour Temple was the scene of an original event. Camerata Nova, which calls itself a "vocal ensemble without fear", presented the second concert of its subscription series at our Hall. The concert fulfilled all of this listener's expectations. This professional ensemble

was founded over 20 years ago by the very talented Andrew Balfour, of Cree descent. Andrew is the artistic director of the group, and specializes in "concept concerts". Last year, the group presented their concert *nortend-luvsongs* at the Labour Temple, with the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra as the pre-

show performers. This year's theme concert, *Taken*, was the group's formal contribution to Canada's process of truth and reconciliation. The conductor was Mel Braun. The group will also perform this concert in Ottawa as part of the Canada Scene festival in June.

Andrew invited several special guests to contribute their composing and performing skills to the concert. The opening Mi'kmaq traditional "Honour Song" was performed by Jeremy Dutcher, a Toronto-based composer and vocal artist. This was followed by his composition "*Maceptasu*" (It is taken away), with Jeremy on piano and vocal, and cellist Leanne Zacharias, joined by the choir. In Jeremy's notes, he says that "this piece explores what has been lost by detailing a sound journey

from my home community of Tobique First Nation to Shubenacadie Indian Residential School." The piece evokes the sad story of so many children who were forcibly removed from their community. How will they find their way back to their lives and their language?

The next guest was Lindsay Knight, a.k.a. Eekwol, a Saskatchewan Indigenous hip-hop artist. She performed two of her original songs. The first, "Ghosts", describes the grief of separation when children were removed from their families to attend residential school; "Taken", with instrumental improvisation and vocal drone by the choir, refers to the culture, language and songs that have been lost, and speaks of the disproportionate number of incarcerated Indigenous people.

The final presentation was "*Quamaniq*" (Bright Aura), a very creative composition



Jeremy Dutcher is a Toronto-based composer and performer.

by Andrew Balfour. In preparation for the writing of this dramatic piece, Andrew spent time in Iqaluit, where he collaborated with throat singer Madeleine Allakariallak.

Andrew wrote the story of "*Quamaniq*", which is de-



Among the performrs were (left to right) Andrew Balfour, Jeremy Cutcher, Lindsay Knoght and Madeleine Allakariallak

—Story photos: Dennis Lewycky

Family Night in Calgary



Dancers were accompanied by the Hopak Orchestra, conducted by Violeta Dimitrova

— Story photos: Darlene Hrynchyshyn



The Boys Group, under the direction of Diane Gereluk, performed Harni Sharavary

The annual Family Night took place on March 4 at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Calgary.

The children arrived in costume, all ready to entertain families with their new dances and skills.

There was a quick break while the children changed into their party clothes, and the

festivities were under way.

Guided by Trista Smandych and her fearless kitchen staff of Malvina Smandych, Gary Komusi and Andrea Whitley, all participants and their families were treated to a wonderful meal complete with ham, perogies, salads, vegetables, desserts and more. It didn't take long for the food to be

devoured.

The fun events were about to begin!

We were so delighted to align 49 brightly decorated cakes along the stage, all waiting for the Cake Walk to begin. From "Hello Kitty" to "Pikachu", from chocolate frosting to chocolate eggs in a cakey nest, the variety of cakes presented was overwhelming!

And it is always exciting to see which cake will be the first selected by the winner, as the children were instrumental in creating these masterpieces. All the winner has to do is be standing on the correct number when the music stops!

Once all the cakes had all been won, the dancing began. The energy in the hall was incredibly sweet as kids and parents boogied into the night.

Thanks to all who make such a fun night possible

See you next year, with your new cake creations!

— Darlene Hrynchyshyn



All the pretty cakes in a row. Which one will be picked first?



Ann, Claire and Lauren McKlusky find their lucky numbers for the cake walk.



Claire Hopkins is the proud owner of a Cookie MOMster cake!

Shevchenko Museum Holds AGM

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



The Board of Directors of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation met at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on Saturday, March 4.

—File Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky

On March 4, at the AUUC Cultural Centre, the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation held its 21st Annual General Meeting. The timing of this AGM was noteworthy, as were some other aspects of the gathering: it was held only six months (instead of a year) after the 20th AGM, it was the second consecutive face-to-face AGM, and it was held on March 4 instead of the more traditional March 11. These anomalies arose from requests by members of the Board of Directors.

The AGM, called to order by Andrew Gregorovich, President of the Board, began with a moment of silence for Bill Harasym. Mr. Harasym, who died on January 26, was an energetic, devoted and generous supporter of the Shevchenko Museum. Credited as the moving spirit behind establishing the Museum in its present location, he devoted many hours to establishing the conditions needed (both in the building and in its staffing) for its successful operation.

In the course of this work, Bill Harasym became very knowledgeable about the life and work of the Bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko. The Museum's guest book contains many words of praise for his work in guiding visitors

—File Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, who was re-elected as Museum Director presented an information-rich report.



Andrew Gregorovich, who was re-elected as President, opened the 21st AGM

through the institution.

As is a long-standing tradition at these AGMs, adoption of the agenda was followed by granting of voice to all AUUC members and invited guests, and the election of AGM officers. Elected (all by acclamation) were: Dianna Kleparchuk — Chair; Andrew Gregorovich — Vice-Chair; Bernardine Dobrowolsky — Recording-Secretary; Debra Skrabeck — Vice-Recording-Secretary.

The greeting to the AGM from the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians was delivered by AUUC National Vice-President Wilfred Szczesny, in the absence of National President Bob Seychuk. In his remarks, Mr. Szczesny called for a meeting of the leadership of the AUUC and of the Foundation "to discuss the current problems, with a view to finding solutions which will unleash the full potential of the Foundation". The current structure of the Foundation, established over a dozen years ago, said Mr. Szczesny, "has become a drag on the Foundation's activity and on its ability to grow."

After adopting the minutes of the 20th AGM, participants turned their attention to reports by the Resident Executive Committee.

First up was President Andrew Gregorovich. In his report, Mr. Gregorovich thanked the "members of the Board of Directors across

Canada and the Resident Executive Committee (REC)".

Mr. Gregorovich thanked "two people who have contributed to the great success that has resulted in the sale of our Oakville property", and noted that "It was the conclusion of a long and difficult campaign by lawyer Norm Tomas and consultant Grant Morris. Mr. Gregorovich reflected his pride in the achievement by noting three times in a four-sentence paragraph that he had signed the contract selling the property.

In the remainder of his report, Mr. Gregorovich paid tribute to Taras Shevchenko, summarized his own contributions to the Shevchenko Museum (including "(i)n 1999 I founded the Shevchenko Internet site" which is approaching half a million visitors, and spoke about the trilingual *Kobzar*, produced and distributed by the Foundation, which he called "one of the finest Shevchenko books ever published".

Mr. Gregorovich provided a page of statistics analysing visits to the Shevchenko Museum web site from March 9, 2000, to February 21, 2017.

In her report, Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova paid tribute to Bill Harasym,

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Artist Myroslava Boikiv was on hand at the Shevchenko Museum on March 4 to answer questions about her work. She later attended the dinner at the AUUC Cultural Centre

detailing his many contributions to the Foundation, as well as noting the fine personal qualities he brought to his work. Ms. Pogoryelova cited the words of Grant Morris in praise of Bill Harasym and reported Mr. Morris's offer of \$5000.00 to help fund placing "a bust of his likeness in the Museum".

(Later, the AGM adopted the resolution "On Recognizing Bill Harasym", directing that "a suitable plaque recognizing the value of (his) contribution and honouring Bill Harasym be created, and displayed in the Museum".)

Ms. Pogoryelova's information-rich report spoke of four exhibitions — "Promised Land" in September 11 to November 30, 2016, marking the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada; "Spiritual World of Myroslava Boikiv", which opened on February 24, and was available for viewing by those attending the AGM; a September, 2016, display at the Runnymede Branch of the Toronto Public Library, and the use of a display, prepared in 2014, at two Ukrainian school venues on the same weekend as this AGM.

The report outlined a multifaceted outreach program, in this section was mentioned a visit on September 29 by Viacheslav Kirilenko, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine.

Ms. Pogoryelova reported on the distribution of the Trilingual *Kobzar*, on some matters of Museum governance (including the disposition of motions from the 20th AGM), and partnership with other organizations and institutions.

The report included information about contributions of money and various artifacts, with an expression of gratitude to the donors.

After brief comments on some matters of administration and maintenance Ms. Pogoryelova concluded with gratitude to the Board and volunteers, and "everybody who generously donated to helping make the Museum so successful!"

The Museum Director's report elicited much interest, resulting in many questions and comments.

The morning session ended with a presentation by Derek Rae of Rae Lipskie Investments, the firm which has replaced FYI Capital as the investment manager handling the Foundation's investments. Mr. Rae's presentation evoked a number of questions concerning the investment policy which gives greater weight to the stock market than earlier policy did.

Discussion on these matters culminated in the passage of a motion to add two Foundation representatives to the Investment Committee, bringing the total to three. An effort to name Andrew Gregorovich

—File Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Dianne Kleparchuk of Vancouver was elected as Chair of the 21st AGM

and Lyudmyla Pogoryelova to join Bernardine Dobrowolsky on the Investment Committee failed.

The afternoon session started with a report from the Lands Development Committee. In the absence of Bob Seychuk, President of the Lands Development Committee, Recording-Secretary Wilfred Szczesny presented this brief report on the state of the sale of Oakville property and "some questions which still are within the competency of the Lands Development Committee".

The Investment Committee report was delivered by Investment Committee member Debra Skrabeck.

Providing relief from the heavy business agenda of the day was the presentation by Resident Executive Committee member Pavlo Lopata. The author of over 50 articles about Taras Shevchenko, on this day Mr. Lopata spoke on "Birth of paintings by Taras Shevchenko in 1847". The well-known artist and writer made his presentation Ukrainian, with a translation into English provided to the members of the Board of Directors and others in attendance.

Reports from Treasurer Nancy Stewart and Audit Committee member Jerry Dobrowolsky completed this section of the agenda

The resolution "On Recognizing Bill Harasym" was adopted.

The election of the Board of Directors began with the adoption of a motion adding AUUC Richmond Branch to the Branches of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians represented on the Board.

Elected to the Board of Directors (all by acclamation) were: Larry Kleparchuk (Vancouver), Debra Skrabeck (Calgary), Shirley Uhryn (Edmonton), Bob Ivanochko (Regina), Lily Stearns (Winnipeg), Clara Babiy (Welland), Bob Seychuk (Ottawa), Janice Beck (Richmond).

Elected (by acclamation) to the Resident Executive Committee were: President—Andrew Gregorovich; Vice-

(Continued on Page 12.)

Ukrainian Miscellany

The Far Right Has It

In its “Ukraine: Daily Briefing” for March 15, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported that the National Defence and Security Council of Ukraine had suspended cargo traffic along the demarcation line with the with Russian-occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (provinces).

According to the report, RNBO Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov said that the measure was taken because of “the sharp escalation of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, the forcible seizure of Ukrainian enterprises located in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions”, and because Russia had started to recognize the documents of self-proclaimed republics at the state level”. The RNBO decided to take this temporary measure, supposedly, to protect the rights and freedoms of Ukrainian citizens and to ensure the national security of Ukraine.

The “temporary stop of cargo movement will be in force, according to the report, until paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements as of February 12, 2015, are implemented, and until the enterprises which have been seized are returned to Ukrainian jurisdiction.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine,

with the participation of the Security Service of Ukraine, were ordered to stop cargo movement by rail and by road immediately.

The Ukrainian position seems to be a step-down from the position reported by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress about two weeks earlier, when President Poroshenko told UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Witold Waszczykowski that the businesses had been seized by Russia.

“(O)n March 1, Ukraine’s President Petro Poroshenko stated,” according to the UCC report, ““Another brutal and dreadful violation of international law took place — Russia de-facto confiscated Ukrainian state and private assets located in the occupied territory. This is another evidence of Russian occupation of eastern Ukraine.””

President Poroshenko reportedly continued with a variation of the usual litany of vitriolic charges against Russia.

That’s the official story. The reality is a bit different.

As reported in the last issue of the “UCH” (See “Ukraine Tolerates Terrorists”, Page 9, March 2017 issue.), in mid-February the government of Ukraine was appealing to the patriotism of right-wing militias to lift their blockade of rail traffic into Donbas, a blockade which could have severe conse-

quences for the Ukrainian economy.

The terrorists, who consider the government a “corrupt power” (with more than a little justification, but for the wrong reason), declined to lift their blockade.

The government was quoted to have said that Russian aggression was no excuse for “creating additional stressful situations for people”, referring to threatening fuel shortages in the dead of winter.

On March 5, the *Toronto Star* carried a report that President Poroshenko of Ukraine estimated a possible cost of \$2 billion a year to the economy, with some economists putting the cost as high as \$3.5 billion.

The report in the “Star”, which was remarkably sympathetic to the “nationalist protesters and military veterans”, noted that the protest, as the blockade was called, was dragging into its third month.

The *Toronto Star* report also noted that “the separatist controlled region has also been affected economically by the blockade”. Unable to move coal and other products into Ukraine for payment of wages and other costs, the local authorities (not recognized by Ukraine’s government) seized factories and businesses (and mines, presumably, which were not mentioned).

In an update to the story, on March 19 the *Toronto Star* noted that the government’s cutting of all trade (except humanitarian trade — whatever that might consist of) would hurt Ukraine more than it hurt the “separatist” regions. While the move could cut Ukraine’s projected economic growth in half (from 3% to 1.5%), the eastern region’s trade would just move from Ukraine to the Russian market.

In the long term, a more serious consequence for Ukraine would be the appearance that the independence of the Donbas was being recognized implicitly, an important step toward the country’s partition. The “much-beleaguered Minsk peace process”, the “Star” report said, was “dealt another blow”.

By bowing to the pressure from the thugs of the right-wing militias, which President Poroshenko clearly fears, the government is weakening its claim on Donbas. Bluster will not change that.

The temptation is to say, “Thank God that the IMF and the USA are supplying assistance to Ukraine,” but that assistance is not disinterested. The Ukrainian people will pay, both the loan (with interest to the moneylenders, and with the cuts to social services which are always an IMF condition.

Relations with Canada

In its “Ukraine Daily Briefing” for March 7, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported that, “On March 6, Canada’s Minister of National Defence Harjit S. Sajjan and Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland announced that the Government of Canada is extending Canada’s military training mission to Ukraine, Operation UNIFIER, until the end of March 2019 (sic).

The Department of National Defence reportedly stated that, “Through Operation UNIFIER, the Canadian Armed Forces provides military training and capacity-building assistance to Ukrainian Forces personnel in support of Ukraine’s efforts to maintain sovereignty, security, and stability. Together with our allies and the Government of Ukraine, the Canadian Armed Forces will continue to support the professional development and enhance the capabilities of the Ukrainian Armed Forces through a range of training activities such as: small team training; explosive ordnance disposal; military policing; medical training; logistics system modernization.”

An interesting addition was that, “The Canadian Armed Forces will also be transitioning over time to support strategic institutional reform of Ukraine’s defence establishment.”

Jonathan H. Vance, Canada’s Chief of Defence Staff, is reported to have said, among other things, that, “I am confident this renewed mission will help the Ukrainian Armed Forces ensure stability in the region.” Really?

The *Toronto Star* reported on March 7 that Canada would have 200 troops in Ukraine on a noncombat mission to March, 2019.

On March 8, the UCC reported that, “Legislation on the

implementation of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement was read a second time in Canada’s Senate on March 7, and referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.”

In its “Ukraine Weekly Bulletin” for March 10–17, the UCC noted that Ukraine’s Parliament had ratified the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement on March 14.

The report said that President Petro Poroshenko, with his usual flair for dubious claims stated, “Conclusion of FTA Agreement with Canada is the recognition of progress of our state on the track of reforms. It is a symbol of trust in principles and values of doing business that are being formed in Ukraine under the best standards and practices.”

President Poroshenko noted that this trade agreement would give Ukraine access to the North American (not merely the Canadian) market.

Of course, no statement by President Poroshenko would be complete without the inclusion of Russia. In this instance, President Poroshenko is reported to have said, “The Agreement is a very important response to the Russian hybrid aggression, which threatens not only Ukraine, but also the EU countries, Canada and the whole Free World, which is the evidence of our unbroken Transatlantic unity and solidarity.”

Wow!

What is not known is how the USA will react to Ukraine’s back-door access to the southern part of the North American market. If Ukraine gains too much advantage, President Trump may press for a faster renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

More Money for Ukraine

In its “Ukraine: Daily Briefing” for March 16, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported that the European Commission had approved disbursement of 600 million Euros in assistance to Ukraine.

The European Union was reported to have said, “The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, has today adopted the decision to release the second tranche of Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) to Ukraine, a loan which amounts to €600 million.

“With this disbursement, the total Macro-Financial Assistance that the EU has extended to Ukraine since 2014 will reach €2.81 billion, the largest amount of Macro-Financial Assistance the EU has disbursed to any non-EU country.”

The EU statement reported that Ukraine had “largely fulfilled the policy commitments agreed with the EU for the release of the second payment of Macro-Financial Assistance. This included taking

important measures to step up the fight against corruption, to foster greater transparency in public finance management, to modernise the public administration, to advance the ongoing reforms of the energy and financial sectors, to improve the business environment and to strengthen social safety nets.”

The European Commission will raise the money on international capital markets, and then lend it to Ukraine.

A day later, on March 17, the UCC reported that the US Embassy to Ukraine said on March 14, that Ukraine’s Vice Prime Minister Stepan Kubiv and US.. Agency for International Development Mission Director Susan K. Fritz had signed two amendments to the Development Objective Agreement adding an additional \$54 million in assistance to Ukraine across various sectors, supporting anti-corruption efforts, agriculture and public procurement reform, and increased energy security.

Attacking Russia

A key element of Ukrainian foreign policy is a relentless attack against Russia, designed either to divert attention from Ukraine’s own shortcoming, or (if the flaws are noted) to make defence of Ukraine against Russia in a “Ukraine right or wrong” kind of way a moral imperative. Tactically this includes constantly finding new ways to attack Russia.

In mid-January, the Latvian and Ukrainian ambassadors in Canada joined forces to drum up some publicity by speaking with a reporter from The Canadian Press, a Canadian news agency. The tenor of

their comments was that Canada should use its “historic friendship and alliances with the world’s only superpower” to “educate the new administration” to “make a firm stand on Russia”. The two ambassadors were very excited by the naming of Chrystia Freeland as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Ukrainian ambassador, Andriy Shevchenko, has known Ms. Freeland since the 1990s, when they were both journalists in Kyiv. He said, “She knows the strong and the weak sides of the corrupt Russian elite and she knows how

(Continued on Page 11.)

Spiritual World of Myroslava Boikiv

The display *Spiritual World of Myroslava Boikiv* officially opened at the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto on February 24. On this page we show a few photos from the event, taken by Jerry Dobrowsky.



Tribute to Welland ULT

The *Welland Tribune* reported on February 16 that one of its five floral tribute beds this year will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Welland Ukrainian Labour Temple. The flower bed will be located at Niagara Street and Riverbank.

The other four flower beds will be dedicated to Canada's 150th anniversary (Broadway and Prince Charles Drive), the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (Ontario Road and Southworth Street), the 100th anniversary of Welland Volunteer Fire Co. No. 2 (First Avenue and Prince Charles Drive), and the 50th anniversary of Niagara College (Colbeck

Drive and Prince Charles Drive).

Writer Joe Barkovich spoke with Clara Babiy, and included these three paragraphs:

Clara Babiy, a decades-long member of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and its Ukrainian Labour Temple hall, 342 Ontario Rd. at Beatrice Street, is "proud I have lived this long to see this anniversary happen."

Plans call for the hall's 100th anniversary to be celebrated in the fall, with an open house likely.

The floral bed will be a "beautiful tribute" to that milestone, Babiy said. "Thank you, city of Welland."



Strong Reaction against Sen. Beyak

(Continued from Page 2.) emphasize the good work of missionaries and the churches' role in positively influencing the life of Indigenous peoples in these places. While there is no doubt that some good things happened, that is so clearly not the whole story that it demands a response.

What your story doesn't tell us is of the cramped and unsanitary conditions in schools run by the Church Missionary Society of the Church of England, (the Anglican Church of Canada), in the Pas and Dauphin Manitoba; Lac La Ronge and Onion Lake, Saskatchewan; and Wabasca, Alberta. Conditions in these schools led to fires, to outbreaks of diphtheria, to gas leaks. Children died. We cannot speak about the Residential Schools without acknowledging these truths. To do so would once more silence the witness of thousands of children – some of whom never returned home. It is Indigenous people who have the authority to tell the story. It is our duty to receive that story and allow it to change us.

Our church has offered apologies and will continue to

do so. We have supported community-based programmes for healing, through the Anglican Healing Fund, and we will continue that work both as it seeks to foster healing in the lives of persons and families, and to support the recovery of language, culture and spiritual practices consistent with Indigenous identities and traditions. We recognize that this work of healing and reconciliation will take many, many years and we pledge our very best efforts in being steadfast in that work. We ask for a similar expression of commitment from you, and as a member of the Senate's Aboriginal Peoples committee.

We say this as leaders in a church that ran a number of these schools. We say this as leaders in a church that has members who are Indigenous and non-Indigenous, survivors and staff, settlers and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. In 1993, Archbishop Michael Peers made an apology to Residential School Survivors on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada. Among his expressions of remorse for what had happened to so many

innocent children he said "I am sorry that we tried to remake you in our image... We failed you. We failed ourselves. We failed God."

We pray to God that our Church and our country remain firm in its resolve to support healing and reconciliation.

We pray that all the people of Canada – First Nations, Inuit and Métis – and all others who through waves of immigration have come to settle here may with goodwill forge a new future together.

We pray that future will be marked by a profound respect for the dignity with which the Creator has endowed all peoples, and by that harmony with which the Creator would have us live – in relations that are good and right and just for all.

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz Archbishop and Primate Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Rev. Mark MacDonald National Indigenous Anglican Bishop The Anglican Church of Canada

Michael Thompson General Secretary The Anglican Church of Canada



Banks Charged

(Continued from Page 3.)

"I can't remember ever hearing of anything of this magnitude happening in Canada," Mr. Shanahan told *The Canadian Press*. "It hasn't reached scandal proportions yet, but it's certainly blowing up."

Mr. Shanahan said banks are feeling intense pressure from investors to continue growing their earnings and profitability in spite of headwinds such as rock bottom interest rates and higher capital requirements. That

pressure trickles down to executives and, ultimately, customer-facing sales representatives, Shanahan said.

"I don't think we've heard the worst of this yet. This is going to probably get a lot worse before it gets better."

In a statement earlier this week, Scotiabank said "tellers do not have sales targets and branch advisers provide customers balanced advice based on their needs. We monitor and enhance sales practices and process on an ongoing basis."

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Ukrainian Miscellany

(Continued from Page 9.)
they make decisions.”

(If Ms. Freeland knows anything about the corrupt Ukrainian elite, one of whom has been charged as “a suspect in the case of fraud and embezzlement of the equivalent of more than \$100 million in tax revenues from natural-gas delivery contracts”, she’s not saying.)

On February 17, in its “Ukraine: Daily Briefing”, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported that Ukraine had brought charges in the European Court of Human Rights against Russia over the “illegal ban of Crimean Tatar

Mejlis”.

Ukraine’s defence of the Crimean Tatar representative assembly for self-government rings hollow in light of the country’s position on minority rights in eastern Ukraine. However, the main point is not human rights, but an attack on Russia. This was the sixth inter-state suit brought by Ukraine against Russia “over the latter’s invasion and annexation of Crimea, and its military aggression in Donbas”.

On March 6, the International Court of Justice began hearings on charges brought by Ukraine against Russia.

Ukraine recognizes that the case has little beyond propaganda value, as any decision may not be reached for years. The Hearings concluded on March 9.

On March 7, Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Pavlo Klimkin, was joined by ambassadors from Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia, and Poland, all of them exemplary democracies, in testifying before the US Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs to urge solidarity with Ukraine as the “only effective response to aggressive actions of Russia”.

In mid-March, President Poroshenko imposed sanctions on five banks with Russian capital functioning in Ukraine.

President Poroshenko’s decree on the sanctions also ordered the Foreign Ministry “to inform European Union and the United States about the sanctions and ask them to introduce similar measures against the banks”.

Bill Harasym

(Continued from Page 5.)
Voice, and the many publications available in Toronto.

He was very organized, as an administrator, diligently maintaining lists and notes to ensure that no detail would be overlooked or forgotten. Until the last period of his life, he never forgot a meeting, and never arrived late. One of his guides was the advice, which he attributed to Lenin: “Be on time. If you arrive early, you are wasting your time; if you arrive late, you are wasting everyone else’s time.”

Bill was very disciplined in his lifestyle, but not compulsive. He enjoyed the good things in life, but always within limits.

Bill Harasym was patient and tactful in working with other people. Whether provid-

ing leadership to the National Youth Council or participating in a meeting of the National Executive Committee, Bill was forceful without being overbearing. He could disagree without belittling or resorting to insult.

An outstanding example of his approach to people occurred during a youth school which he was conducting at Camp Palermo. One of the students dropped a piece of jewellery, apparently of no small value, into a hole in the outhouse that served as a toilet. Rather than berating the young woman, who was already quite distraught, Bill concentrated on designing a way to recover the piece. Furthermore, instead of endangering the safety of a student, Bill personally recovered the item.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Diane and Russ Garrett, Guelph ON	
<i>In memory of Bill Harasym</i>	\$100.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE “UCH”, WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.



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Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Anne Husar

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

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

Joan Kowalewich
Audrey Skalbana

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Rose Kwiecinski
George Sitak

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

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolski

Shevchenko Museum

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolski



After dinner, entertainment was provided by singers Marichka (left) and Mark Marczyk, who performed Ukrainian folk songs. Multi-talented Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova joined them for their encore.

(Continued from Page 8.)

President—George Borusiewich; Treasurer—Nancy Stewart; Recording-Secretary—Bernardine Dobrowolski; Vice-Recording Secretary—George Borusiewich; Director—Lyudmyla Pogoryelova; REC Members—Pavlo Lopata and Larissa Stavroff.

Elected by acclamation to the Audit Committee were: Bill Malnychuk, Jerry Dobrowolski and Vera Borusiewich.

Winding up, the AGM adopted a motion to explore pension and benefit plans for permanent, full-time, paid employees; and set March, 2018, as the timing for the next AGM (which will be a virtual meeting).

After brief closing remarks by the Director, the meeting was declared adjourned.

The meeting was over, but the day was not. Many AGM participants took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Shevchenko Museum to view *Spiritual World of Myroslava Boikiv*. This is an exhibition of hand-woven tapestries, images crafted of straw, and watercolours.

The imagery of the tapestries is striking, both for its colours and its symbolism. The straw icons, which at first

glance seem to be wood inlay, are painstaking creations of individual stalks of straw of different kinds and shades. Ms. Boikiv was there to answer questions from the fascinated viewers.

The day ended with a banquet catered by Baby Point Lounge, which provided its usual excellent food and service.

During the dinner, artist Oleh Nedoskytko, who was

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



Resident Executive Committee member Larissa Stavroff introduced Oleh Nedoskytko. Mr. Nedoskytko, an artist and a teacher at the Odessa Art University, in Toronto on a contract with a local art school, donated three of his paintings to the Shevchenko Museum.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



Icons on display were made of straw.

introduced by Larissa Stavroff, donated three of his works to the Museum. Mr. Nedoskytko

Entertainment was provided by Marichka and Mark Marczyk, who performed Ukrainian folk songs.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



Above and below: tapestries.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



They were joined for an encore number by Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova.

— Volodymyr Lucky

Winnipeg's Camerata Nova



Camerata Nova with conductor Mel Braun and cellist Leanne Zacharias.



The audience awarded a standing ovation to the Camerata Nova at the conclusion of Andrew Balfour's "Quamaniq".

(Continued from Page 7.)

rived from historical facts, about explorer Martin Frobisher and his encounter with the Baffin Island Inuit. There were several costumed soloists, including a narrator and actors portraying several characters – Frobisher, an Inuit woman, and a Shaman. The story shifts from Baffin Island to England, as we witness the very different perspectives of the characters.

The composition contains many different vocal and instrumental components and is at times very mysterious, sometimes comical and always intriguing. An ambitious

and very fine composition.

We were happy to welcome this accomplished group of performers to our Hall for the second time. Hopefully, they will perform again at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

Special mention must be made of the presence of the Bear Clan Patrol, who welcomed the concert-goers at the door, and were present throughout the evening. The Bear Clan Patrol is a volunteer safety group; it is made up of people from the neighbourhood who walk the streets of the north end, providing security for residents.

— Tusiya Kozub

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