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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 2020 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, 2020. Announcements of events in February or early March, 2020, as well as articles for the February, 2020, issue, should be in our office by January 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Notice

We regret that, because of health issues, production of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* over the next few months may be somewhat irregular.

We apologize for any inconvenience, and request your patience.

Dakota First Nation

The Dakota people fought alongside the British in the War of 1812. Even though the Dakotas were promised a permanent settlement for making this alliance, the English abandoned their Indigenous allies at the Treaty of Ghent signing in Belgium in 1814 that brought the conflict to an end.

The Canadian government’s previous position on the Dakota’s heritage maintained the idea that the Dakota people are “American refugees” and, therefore, not eligible for Aboriginal land rights in this country.

Following the events of the Dakota War in 1862, the United States military drove some of the Dakota population into Canada, back to lands they had not given up. Yet they were forced to live on reserve lands in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

By the time Confederation rolled around, the Canadian government didn’t give serious consideration to the Dakota people, and never included them in the numbered treaty system Indigenous groups are still governed by today. Recently, the Canadian government conceded that members of Birdtail Sioux First Nation (BSFN), as descendants of the Dakota, “traditionally used and were present on the lands that would become Canada after Confederation”. This made them eligible to obtain full treaty rights under Canadian law.

In a conversation with the *Brandon Sun*, in early November, Chief Ken Chalmers presented a new frame-work agreement that was signed by then-Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett in April, 2019.

For roughly 150 years, the BSFN lived without a treaty. As wards of the Crown, BSFN members were forced into much smaller tracts of land compared to typical treaty bands. According to Chief Chalmers, this limited area does not give them enough space for economic development that would allow them to become self-sufficient.

Back in 2007, the government rejected claims from Dakota and Lakota First Nations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan that they have Aboriginal rights to land.

In 2009, Canupawakpa
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About the USMCA

Whether called USMCA or CUSMA or something else, the new North American free trade agreement which the governments of the USA, Canada, and Mexico accepted on December 10 has generated much discussion. The only point of agreement, perhaps, is that ratification will not be speedy.

Supporters of Canada’s Liberal government, like the *Toronto Star*, are urging that the agreement be ratified as quickly as possible. Like Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, they call it a progressive pact, but most of all, they stress Canada’s need for an agreement which provides some protection to

Canada against arbitrary actions by the USA.

Other supposed benefits include: a stronger dispute-settlement mechanism; protections for labour, the environment, intellectual property, the automotive sector, and drug prices. Another benefit of the new deal is the elimination of Chapter 11, which allowed companies to overturn laws, like environmental protections, which interfered with their profitability.

Opponents have a range of concerns. For example, Yves-Francois Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois, is critical of the deal because it does not protect the market for aluminium, an important resource in Quebec. (In contrast, the

chief executive of the Aluminum Association of Canada, while agreeing that protections for the industry are weak, has urged ratification of the pact.)

Also unhappy are dairy farmers, whose markets have been opened up yet a bit more, following on reduced protections in the Canada-Europe trade Agreement and other pacts.

Critics are not at all confident that the dispute settlement mechanism is much protection. The USA has, long before the advent of Donald Trump, repeatedly applied arbitrary measures against Canadian steel, softwood lumber and other commodities. President Trump has ramped up the problem by undermining the operation of the World Trade
(Continued on Page 7.)

Environmental Issues

Every day seems to bring new details about humanity’s assault on the environment. Global warming is one area of concern; plastic, and particularly microplastics, is another.

On November 23, a number of newspapers in Canada ran a story by The Canadian Press news agency about a study of beluga whales in the remote Arctic Ocean which found that every one of seven beluga whales tested had microplastics in the digestive systems.

There was an average of 10 microplastics, particles less than 5 millimetres in size, in the gastrointestinal systems of the marine mammals. Nine

different polymers were identified, the most common being polyester.

The study was conducted by Ocean Wise, on whales harvested in 2017 and 2018 by hunters in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT, an Inuvialuit community. The first study in Canada of microplastics in a marine mammal, the work was conducted in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Simon Fraser University, and published in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

The lead author of the study, Rhiannon Moore, said that she was surprised to find so much plastic in a top predator in the
(Continued on Page 6.)

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Ukrainian Miscellany

Diplomatic Offices

A report in December said that Ukraine plans to open one new embassy and two general consulates in 2020. The embassy would be in Albania, with a Consulate General in Marseille (consular services in France are available only in Paris) and a Consulate General in Houston (the United States).

Andriy Zayats, Secretary of State of the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs of Ukraine, said that President Zelensky had approved the proposals. Ukrainian officials hope that the new offices will start working in the summer of 2020.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also planning to increase the number of consular officials in its busiest existing offices, including Poland, Israel, and others with heavy workloads.

Steinmeier Formula

Ukrinform reported on December 20, that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine suggested that a Steinmeier formula should be incorporated into Ukrainian legislation through the introduction of amendments to the Law on the Peculiarities of Local Self-Government in Certain Areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions.

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Vasyl Bodnar made the proposal in a speech to the Supreme Council (Verkhovna rada), Ukraine's parliament.

Changes to the law are the way to incorporate the Steinmeier formula into Ukrainian legislation, Mr. Bodnar reportedly said.

The Foreign Minister added that these changes would be discussed and approved by the Verkhovna rada. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would simply be involved in working out the technical part of including the formula into the text.

It was agreed at the Normandy Four summit in Paris on December 9 that it is necessary to incorporate the Steinmeier formula into Ukrainian legislation, in accordance with the version agreed

on by the Normandy Four and the Trilateral Contact Group.

On December 12, the Verkhovna rada approved amendments to the Law on the Peculiarities of Local Self-Government in Certain Areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, extending its validity to December 31, 2020. President Zelensky signed it on December 18.

The Normandy Four (also known as the Normandy contact group) countries are Germany, France, Russia, and Ukraine.

The Trilateral Contact Group is composed of representatives of Ukraine, Russia, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

At a forum held in Kyiv, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vadym Prystaiko explained the content of the Steinmeier Formula at a joint briefing with the US State Department Special Representative in Ukraine Kurt Volker:

1. The occupied part of Donbas must be granted temporary special status on the day of local elections in these territories.

2. If the OSCE recognizes

this election as "democratic and in accordance with the standards of the organization", the Ukrainian Parliament should capture this special status in legislation on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Volker confirmed the validity of this statement at the briefing.

The Minsk Protocol was the first deal to end the crisis in Ukraine. It was signed in early September, 2014, (long before President Zelensky was elected) by the members of the Trilateral Contact Group and, later, by representatives of the People's Republic of Luhansk and the People's Republic of Donetsk. The Minsk Protocol included, among many other provisions, special status for PRL and PRD, and linguistic self-government.

While Ukraine's former president Petro Poroshenko agreed to the Minsk Protocol (and reportedly insisted on the signatures of the PRD and PRL), Ukraine resisted implementation of the agreement — until, that is, President Zelensky's election on a platform which included ending the strife.

Right-wingers in Ukraine and their supporters abroad consider these terms a capitulation to Russia.

Parliamentary Immunity

In September, Ukraine's Verkhovna rada (parliament) voted for the removal of parliamentary immunity in the Constitution. Draft law No. 2237 was intended to abolish the parliamentary immunity of members of parliament from criminal prosecution while in office. On December 18, Ukraine's Anti-Corruption Action Centre complained that the final law, which was adopted, preserved and even strengthened the parliamentarians' protection.

Under the law as amended, only the Prosecutor General is allowed to initiate criminal proceedings against members of parliament. No one else can submit information to the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations. Previously, under the Criminal Procedure Code, any investigator or prosecutor could initiate criminal proceedings against members of parliament.

The amended law also introduces the requirement that the suspected Deputy (as member of parliament are called) must be present during consideration of requests in the court.

These requests may relate, for example, to the seizure of property of the suspected Deputy. Now, it will not be possible to seize this property

without warning the Deputy about the court and without his presence during the hearing. This will allow Deputies to re-registering property to relatives to avoid its seizure. As another example, investigators will not be able to seize the bribe received by the Deputy who was caught red-handed.

Previously, the investigating judge was allowed to consider such requests in the absence of subjects in the case if, for instance, there was a risk of destruction of documents, property, or evidence due to the Deputy's awareness of such a request.

The Anti-Corruption Action Centre noted that the Verkhovna Rada approved the draft law on first reading at the beginning of December. Deputies cast 291 votes for the amended act, which comes into force on January 1, 2020. The law was supported by 223 Deputies from the Servant of the People faction, 22 from Opposition Platform, 15 from the For Future faction, 17 from *Dovira* (Trust) faction, and 14 independent Deputies. No Deputies from the European Solidarity, *Batkivshchyna* (Fatherland) or *Holos* (Voice) factions voted for the law.

Naftogaz vs Gazprom

It was reported on December 19 that Ukraine, Russia, and the European Commission had reached agreement in principle on a new deal on the transit of Russian natural gas across Ukraine to Europe. The agreement was to come into effect after January 1, 2020. Ukraine is still a key transit route for Russian gas exports to Europe.

It was also reported that Russia had offered to pay Ukraine about \$3 billion to end a legal dispute involving gas transmission. The amount is close to the amount proposed in arbitration between Russia's Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftogaz.

The US is continuing its efforts to stop the Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea, now over 80% complete.

In a show of bipartisan unity, the US Senate voted 86-8 to impose sanctions on companies working on a "Russian pipeline". The sanctions, part of a defence spending bill, cleared the House of Representatives earlier.

The pipeline, with a capacity of 55 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually, is to be completed early in 2020.

The US interest is to market its own natural gas and coal by restricting Russia's access to the profitable European market.

In December, the news agency UNIAN reported that two police officers were hospitalized amid clashes with protesters outside the building of the Verkhovna rada, Ukraine's parliament, in Kyiv.

Though organizers had announced a peaceful rally, some participants tried to set up a tent on Hrushevsky Street. Law enforcement officers stopped the citizens and began to talk with them to prevent offences, but the protesters started a scuffle with the police, leading to a clash.

Early reports were that two police officers were injured in the ensuing brawl, and were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Several thousand protesters blocked Hrushevsky Street in Kyiv. They were demonstrating near the Supreme Council building, opposing the adoption of a bill on the sale of farmland and protesting against the adoption of Bill 0931 on the harmonization of anti-discrimination laws with European Union legislation.

Law enforcement officers started dispersing the protesters. They demolished tents and dragged them towards the hotel, according to an UNIAN correspondent.

As people began to run to-

wards *Ploshcha konstytutsii* (Constitution Square), police followed them, beating mainly those who were trying to throw objects at them. On Constitution Square, protesters started picking up paving stones. Several individuals were detained.

An ambulance arrived at Hrushevsky Street, and gave first aid to the injured.

One of the injured protesters was taken on a stretcher into the ambulance. Judging by his uniform, the victim was a member of the National Squads [Natsionalni druzhyny] organization.

Parliament's Speaker Dmytro Razumkov closed the morning part of the parliamentary session ahead of schedule. After lengthy discussions with lawmakers, in particular those from the *Batkivshchyna* (Fatherland) Party and the Opposition Platform — For Life, near the blocked presidium, Speaker Razumkov and his first deputy, Ruslan Stefanchuk, managed to get to their seats. Razumkov announced that the situation was tense both in parliament and outside the parliament's building.

Some time earlier, about 600 members of the organization National Squads held a swearing-in ceremony, walked

through the centre of Kyiv wearing uniforms, shot the whole ceremony, and posted the video on the internet.

The National Squads organization is a power branch of the nationalist party National Corps of Andriy Biletsky.

National Corps has been described as "openly neo-Nazi" by the *New York Times* and was banned from receiving American military training by the US Congress.

A representative of the National Squads said that, "In general, these are ATO (Anti-Terrorist Organization) veterans, in particular, those who served in the Azov regiment, as well as other servicemen. We have members of organizations from Donbas, from the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

"This is patriotic youth, particularly senior students, journalists, historians, and even managers. People, who are not indifferent to the fate of our country, people who are frightened by what is happening in our streets. We have returned to the '90s years, by the level of crime."

We wish President Zelensky success in bringing peace to Ukraine in 2020!

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Not Reconciliation

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

As the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* goes to press, the Government of Canada continues to resist the order of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for compensation to children and families harmed by underfunding of child welfare and health services. Rather than meeting its obligations, the government continues to seek court action to try to overturn the CHRT order.

The government's obligation is clear: to pay \$40,000 to children and parents or grandparents affected by the underfunding after 2006. These victims of what the CHRT calls racial discrimination number in the tens of thousands. This compensation would represent reconciliation.

The government, which has raised welfare and health services funding, claims that it wants to compensate the victims of its policies. However, instead of the payments ordered by the CHRT, it wants to proceed through the class action law suit which was started in March.

The government claims the CHRT order is flawed because it does not take into account different levels of harm done, nor does it compensate children and families injured between 1991 and 2006. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society points out that the CHRT ruling does not prevent the government from setting up a process for compensating other victims, or for increasing the level of compensation in specific cases.

On January 1, extensive changes to arrangements for child welfare of Indigenous people were to come into effect, but the people being affected were concerned about the lack of detailed information.

Observers may be forgiven if they see several motives in the government's position: to minimize the cost, to erase the charge of racial discrimination, and to retain as much control as possible.

The government estimates that the CHRT order would cost as much as \$6 billion. Meanwhile, the government has set aside a \$6 billion fund to settle the class action suit involving victims all the way back to 1991. That is clearly a much lower compensation rate over all.

Over the years, the government has rejected the charge of racial discrimination, whether from the CHRT or from United Nations agencies. Overturning the CHRT order would help take that charge off the table.

Finally, as we have seen in other instances, such as pipeline negotiations, the government sometimes (often?) goes through the formalities of consultation without actually taking other opinions into account.

Hong Kong: For Your Reference

For the last six months, events in Hong Kong have captured the headlines. The mainstream media repeat the "pro-democracy" message of the protesters with no analysis of the situation whatsoever. In Canadian cities with large Chinese populations we have seen demonstrations both in support of and against the Hong Kong demonstrators. Canadian think tanks such as the MacDonald-Laurier Institute and right-wing newspapers such as the Toronto Sun have argued for Canada to take an active role in supporting what they describe as a "pro-democracy movement". In a series of articles, Editorial Board member Glenn Michalchuk will present an analysis of the situation in Hong Kong to bring into focus what is at play in the Hong Kong protests. The next article in the series will further explore the money and the foreign support for the protests.

The current protests in Hong Kong are not spontaneous, not leaderless, and have not emerged overnight. There has been resistance to the "one nation – two systems" agreement struck between Great Britain and China, as part of the terms of handover, from the beginning in 1997.

The "Umbrella Movement", in 2014, was the first large scale challenge to China's economic and political system. While it, and more recent protests, are described in the western media as a "pro-democracy movement", the money and influence behind this movement indicate that it is the wealthy, elite and anti-China forces in Hong Kong, with close ties to the United States, who are the prime movers of the protests.

The "pro-democracy" movement wants a Hong Kong that is independent of China. It is entirely an anti-China current, refusing to accept Chinese administration and its economic and political organization. Thus, in terms of the clash between China and the West, Hong Kong is seen as a weapon to undermine China internally and develop public opinion for external action by Western governments.

To this end, Western media have picked out key figures to personalize and idolize the movement for public consumption. Their "youth" is emphasized as a strategic part of this public relations stance.

In August, 2019, a CNBC article wrote: "Young people are at the forefront of Hong Kong's protest movement. Many of the most prominent opposition leaders are still in their 20's, but they're demanding big changes that could alter the future of their entire

generation." ("Many of the leaders of Hong Kong's protests are millennials", CNBC, August 12, 2019.)

As we shall see, the key figures promoted as leaders of the "pro-democracy movement" are supported in their efforts by foreign governments.

The Players:

Joshua Wong Chi-fung

Or just Joshua Wong, as he is referred to by the media, is one of the pre-eminent spokespersons for the opposition movement for western media. He was interviewed extensively after the recent city elections elected a majority of "pro-democracy" legislators. He has toured widely outside of Hong Kong to promote the "pro-democracy movement" and seek support for it from governments and NGO's alike.

Wong enjoys celebrity status. Wong first rose to international prominence during the 2014 Hong Kong protests known as the "Umbrella Movement" or "Umbrella Revolution". His role in the "Umbrella Movement" is the subject of the Netflix documentary *Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower*.

Joshua was included in *TIME Magazine's* "Most Influential Teens of 2014". In 2015, *Fortune* magazine called him one of the "world's greatest leaders". In 2017, Wong, along with Nathan Law, Alex Chow and the "Umbrella Movement", was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by U.S. lawmakers, including U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, for "their peaceful efforts to bring political reform and protect the autonomy and freedoms guaranteed Hong Kong in the Sino-British Joint

Declaration". ("Chairs Release 2017 Annual Report—Announce New Initiatives on Hong Kong & Commemoration of Liu Xiaobo". Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Washington, DC. 5 October 2017.)

Nathan Law Kwun-chung

Along with Joshua Wong, Nathan Law was one of the "leaders" of the "Umbrella Movement". Law was also prominent during the Occupy protests of 2014 and was one of the student leaders who negotiated their demands with Hong Kong officials.

In April, 2016, Law, Wong, and other leaders of the "Umbrella Movement" formed a new political party, DemosistM, which aimed to fight for the self-determination of Hong Kong's population when the "one country, two systems" agreement ends in 2047 and Hong Kong is to be fully incorporated into China's legal, economic and political system. Law was the founding chairman of the new party. In 2018 he resigned from any official role.

Alex Chow Yong-kang

Like Wong and Law, Chow shares the same "pro-democracy" credentials of the "Umbrella Movement". Chow, Law, and Joshua Wong were convicted in July, 2016, of unlawful assembly (incitement in Chow's case) as part of Occupy protests of 2014 for seizing the public square in front of the Central Government Offices.

The occupation of the square and other key roadways lasted for 79 days. For this, Wong, Law and Chow were sentenced to three weeks imprisonment, which was then raised to seven
(Continued on Page 5.)

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— Photo: Thea Kaminski

Winnipeg AUUC Celebrates the Holiday Season

— Photo: Gloria Gordienko



Unable to gather at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, on December 1 AUUC Winnipeg Branch hosted a Holiday Potluck Party in the recreation room in the basement of the adjacent AUUC national office.

Although none of this year's festivities could take place in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, due to ongoing renovations, AUUC Winnipeg Branch still found ways to gather to cel-

— Photo: Gloria Gordienko



Tim Gordienko attended the Holiday Potluck Party with an unexpected guest.

brate the holidays together.

On December 1, the Branch hosted a Holiday Potluck Party in the recreation room located in the basement of the AUUC national office. Guests in attendance included AUUC members and friends, and tenants of Ivan Franko Manor. The crowd was entertained by two young dancers from the Yunist School of Dance. The performance served as great practice, as the young ladies were busy after that performing at other Christmas parties!

Special thanks to Sharon (tenant in the Manor), who made festive Christmas corsages for all the women in attendance, which was a nice surprise!

On November 27 and December 4, the Yunist School of Dance performed at Irene Baron Eden Centre and Holy Family Home, personal care

homes in North Winnipeg. For these performances, the Yunist School of Dance joined forces with the Dobriansky School of Dance, to put on a great show. At Holy Family Home, the AUUC Festival Choir was a great addition to the program. Each of the groups incorporated Christmas favourites into their repertoire, to wish all of the residents very Happy Holidays.

On December 8, the two young dancers from the Yunist School of Dance were guest performers at the Dobriansky School of Dance Christmas Party at Blessed Virgin Mary Church, which is located near the Labour Temple in the North End area of Winnipeg. This annual event, in which the Yunist School of Dance has participated for several years, is a family-oriented gathering with food, a bake sale, a silent auction, and a

(Continued on Page 8.)

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



On December 4, the Senior Dancers of the Dobriansky School of Dance performed for residents of Holy Family Home.



Kim Boss of the Yunist School of Dance prepared Maddy and Ember for their appearances during the holiday season.

— Photo: Glenn Michalchuk



Victor and Wendy Dobchuk attended the Holiday Potluck Party with their granddaughter Sylvia.

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



The youngest dancers of the Dobriansky School of Dance appeared in performance at the Holy Family Home.

— Story photos: Dan Fung

AUUC Vancouver Branch Community Involvement

The last couple of months have been a flurry of activity for members of the Vancouver Branch of the AUUC at 805 East Pender Street.

Strathcona, one of the oldest Eastside neighbourhoods in Vancouver, is where our hall has been situated since 1928. It is a vibrant community of artists, activists, writers, historians, and proponents of social justice in an area of Vancouver that encompasses one of the poorest postal codes in Canada, as well as ever encroaching unaffordable real estate development. It is with remarkable resilience that people living in this neighbour-

hood have managed to keep this community together and engaged in so many ways.

In May of 2019, the community organized a Strathcona Walking Tour, in a bid to highlight the contributions of early immigrant communities to this area.

The tour began at Lord Strathcona Elementary School, which is Vancouver's oldest elementary school, built in 1891. It is the school to which many of our Ukrainian immigrant families would have sent their children.

From this starting point, groups of people proceeded to various points of interest, led

by knowledgeable guides. The 3.5 kilometre route covered Hogan's Alley, once a busy hub of Vancouver's Black community, Chinatown, Japan-town and Jewish Strathcona. Different guides, each well versed in the history of their particular community, reflected on the struggles and contributions of early immigrant communities.

At the last stop, participants were given a brochure from our Ukrainian Hall outlining a bit of our history and featuring our performing groups. For our contribution, we were given an Award of Merit for Excellence in Community Engagement.

For many years, Vancouver Moving Theatre, with the Carnegie Community Centre and the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, has played a pivotal role in organizing and celebrating the Heart of the City Festival. This year there were over 100 events throughout the community, in 40 plus locations, which ran for 12 straight days.

One of the highlights of this festival is always a concert and Ukrainian dinner at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, which invariably sells out well in advance. This year, it took place on Sunday, November 3, and it didn't disappoint. Our own Barvinok Choir, Vancouver Folk Ensemble and Dovbush dancers performed, along with a number of spe-



The Heart of the City Festival draws a full house for the Ukrainian dinner.

cial guests.

Guests included Kamolika, a talented Vancouver based Bharatanatyam dance artist, Vostok, an East Vancouver vocal group bringing music from Eastern Europe and the Balkans which included singers Aliya Griffin, Jessica Hood and Emily Villavicencio, and Sudanda, a world music band led by Vancouver's Alaeldin Abdalla, a master Sudanese musician.

The Ukrainian dinner after the concert was, as always, a major hit.

Our last big event for the year is always the two-day perogy dinner and craft sale, which coincides with the Eastside Culture Crawl. This year was the 23rd annual Culture Crawl, which was expected to bring in some 45,000 visitors.

This neighbourhood is one of the most densely populated communities of artists in Canada. Hundreds of artists showcase their work in stu-

dios throughout the area.

The two day perogy lunch that we run is usually one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We have seen occasions where hungry Crawlers have lined up for two blocks for our delicious borscht, perogies and cabbage rolls.

Not unlike farmers, who watch the skies at harvest time and pray that there will be no frost or snow, we watched as the skies opened up with typical west coast torrential rain. Unfortunately, not everyone was willing to line up in the pouring rain, and we saw a decrease in our usual hungry crowd. Better luck next year!

Community involvement has always been an integral part of our work here in Vancouver. We continue to seek out other community partners with whom to share our history and culture. It's an approach that bodes well for everyone involved.

— Libby Griffin



A highlight of the Heart of the City Festival is the concert at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre.



The line of diners anticipating a perogy lunch extends out the doors and over the sidewalk.

Award of Merit

Excellence in Community Engagement

The Cross Cultural Strathcona Walking Tour working group

2019

Tania Muir, President

BC MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

This Award of Merit for Excellence in Community Engagement was given to the AUUC Vancouver Branch.

AUUC Winnipeg Branch Gray Cup Raffle 2019

Below are the Grey Cup Raffle Ticket Winners
 First Quarter: M. Moroz: score: East 3 West 8
 Second Quarter: Matt Meiers: score: East 6 West 21
 Third Quarter: Judy Cook: score: East 12 West 27
 Fourth Quarter: Kendra Jackson: score: East 12 West 33

Thanks everyone for purchasing tickets.
Gloria Gordienko

Hong Kong: For Your Reference

(Continued from Page 3.) months but overturned on appeal, with Wong and Law's sentence reduced to community service and Chow's prison term suspended.

If that sounds excessively harsh, note this: Michael Giron (Little Feather) was sentenced to three years in prison for his part in blocking a high-

way south of Mandan, North Dakota, as part of the protest against the Dakota Access pipeline in October, 2016.

All three were lionized in the West as "political prisoners". Chris Patten, former governor of Hong Kong, said their names would be remembered "long after nobody can remember who I was, and

perhaps nobody can remember who President Xi Jinping was." ("London School of Economics 'concerned' for jailed Alex Chow", Julia Hollingsworth, September 15, 2017, *South China Morning Post*). The London School of Economics and PEN took up petitions in support of the three.

William Guydash

William Guydash, a resident of the Crossfield Senior Citizen's Lodge in Alberta, passed away on Friday, July 26, 2019, at the Didsbury Hospital in southern Alberta, at the age of 96.

Bill, as he was known, was born on August 28, 1922, in Repid, Poland, located on the Ukrainian border, in Galicia.

At the age of 7, he travelled from Repid by ship to Danzig, and then to Liverpool in England with his mother, Mary, and brother, Matthew. From England, they travelled to Halifax in Canada. From Halifax they continued the long journey by train to Edmonton, Alberta, and the 300-mile trip to Rycroft, Alberta, in the Peace River Region of Northern Alberta.

They were met at the station by husband and father Peter Guydash. The family then travelled to Volin, some ten miles from Rycroft, where Peter had acquired 160 acres of farm land for ten dollars. Thus, began their arduous and very difficult life in Canada.

There was a multitude of exceptionally difficult things to be done in order to begin farming on this, their new land. They had to cut the brush, clean the land, pick the roots, break the land for seeding, seed the land, cut the grain down, stook and thresh.

The initial period was diffi-



WILLIAM GUYDASH

cult because implements and machinery had to be purchased to begin the farm work. At the age of 21 Bill obtained a Massey Harris tractor with which he broke his own land to prepare for seeding. Thus began his farming career in Volin (named for Volyn in Ukraine.) Not only was the farm work hard, but they also had to learn English.

In May of 1950, Bill met and married the love of his life, Ann Schudlo. In 1951, their first daughter, Rosemarie, was born; in 1953, son Clarence was born; and in 1962, daughter Donna was born.

They then moved south to Woking, where they continued

their farm life.

In 1980, Bill and Ann moved to Kelowna, B.C., where they lived for 32 years.

In 2012, they moved to Airdrie, Alberta, to be closer to their family.

Before moving to Kelowna, they participated in the Volin AUUC Ukrainian Centre.

Instructors from Edmonton travelled there to teach choir, Ukrainian dancing, drama, and orchestral music.

In the 1970s, Donna, the youngest daughter, participated in a dancing school in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. Later, Donna Guydash became the head instructor of Ukrainian dance in the Rycroft Community Hall.

In Kelowna, Bill joined the Vernon AUUC and participated in the Branch activities. He became an organizer for the Workers Benevolent Association.

Bill's passion was the violin, which he played from age 14 at social events in the Rycroft area. He played with the BC Fiddlers, Kelowna Branch, for 32 years.

Bill Guydash supported the CCF and NDP throughout his life.

Bill is survived by his wife Anne; his children Rosemarie (Joe) Samulenok, Clarence (Olga) Guydash and Donna (Steve) Blaskovits; sister Nellie; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. William was predeceased by his brother, Matt, and sister Anne.

— Paul Greene

Marion Ursuliak



Marion Ursuliak

On October 20, 2019, Marion Ursuliak (nee Keryluke), born in Shepenetz, Alberta, on July 15, 1925, passed away peacefully at the age of 94.

Marion was predeceased by her husband, Dmetro, (Mike) and her siblings Martha Ursulak, Peter Keryluke, Mac Keryluke, Rae Donati and Don Keryluke. She survived by her brother Silver and sister Terry Horb, her children Zena Ariel (Zena Ursuliak), Terry Ursuliak (Iris), Nova Jacobs (Dan), Darin Ursuliak (Judy), and Blain Ursuliak (Michaela), ten loving grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Marion spent her teen years in Vernon, B.C., and moved to Edmonton as a young woman. There she fell in love with a long time family friend, Mike Ursuliak, whom she married in 1945.

Both families participated in the activities our first hall, the Ukrainian Labour Temple, and in 1952 continued their activities in the newly constructed Ukrainian Centre.

Marion participated in Ukrainian dancing and played the mandolin in Shepenetz, Vernon, and Edmonton.

In Edmonton, she participated in the orchestra and sang in the choir under many conductors. Her children also participated in the many activities in our hall. They took part in Ukrainian dancing, choir, Junior Section, and the youth club.

Their lives revolved around the activities of the Ukrainian Centre where they spent a wonderful time.

Marion and Mike fell in love with the Caribbean island of Cuba, which they visited 26

times.

In 1982, they travelled to Ukraine, where they participated in a cruise from Kyiv, the capital, along the Dnipro River south to Odessa and back. They visited other parts of Ukraine and the Soviet Union. In 1991, they travelled to Ukraine to commemorate 100 years of Ukrainian emigration to Canada.

Marion was a beautiful, rare, precious gem of a person, a living example of someone who lived her life in gratitude. Loving everyone unconditionally, she made everyone feel they were her favourite. She was a second mother to many and called them her babies. She accepted people into her home regardless of race and without prejudice.

She cultivated this love for humanity in all her family.

They also supported the NDP and the peace movement

Mike and Marion spent many years in the Edmonton AUUC Seniors' Club. They loved and were loved by the many who were participants in the activities in the Ukrainian Centre.

— Paul Greene

Marie Ann Shmyr

Marie Ann Shmyr, resident of Rycroft, Alberta, passed away Friday, November 1, 2019, in Central Peace Health Complex in Spirit River, Alberta, at the age of 79.

Marie was born June 25, 1940, on a farm in Volin, Alberta. She grew up on a farm and attended Volin School. Marie spent her life in the Central Peace area, making substantial contributions to the community through volunteer work and always enjoyed participating in community events.

Marie married Nick in 1955, and they were blessed with



Marie Ann Shmyr

three sons.

Marie was passionate about cooking and prepared delicious food for thousands of people over her lifetime.

She was a true hockey fan and loved watching all levels of hockey.

Marie devoted herself to caring for her family and friends.

She will be sadly missed by her children David, Terry (Sandi), and Marshall (Barb); grandchildren Nichole (Aaron), Melissa (Sheldon), David Jr., Malorie (Lindsay), Dana (Hailey), Jace, and Savannah; six great-grandchildren; brother Harry (Emily); sister Anne; sister in-law Bernice; and many nieces and nephews.

Marie was predeceased by her parents Nicholas and Katherine, husband Nickolas, brother Steve, and brother in-law William.

how this framework will affect the other non-treaty Dakota bands in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Birdtail Sioux First Nation, which has 600 people, is 130 kilometres west of Brandon.

Aside from BSFN, there are four other non-treaty Dakota bands located in Manitoba. They are Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Dakota Plains First Nation and Dakota Tipi First Nation.

proach might ruin his First Nation's pre-existing partnerships with the federal government. This decision caused a lot of friction between Chief Chalmers and other Dakota members, with some even claiming he was allowing the government to employ typical "divide and conquer" tactics on Indigenous groups.

Chief Chalmers isn't sure

Environmental Issues

(Continued from Page 1.) remote Arctic. The research findings show the reach of these pollutants.

The researchers think that the microplastics would have passed through the whales without immediate damage, but the long-term effects are unknown. The whales probably ingested the plastics when they ate fish that had eaten the contaminants.

Another study of Arctic mammals was conducted in early December, at the gathering of ArcticNet in Halifax. That national gathering of researchers looked at climate change risks for so-called "sentinel species", like ringed seals and beluga whales, which have been food for Inuit for thousands of years.

Ringed seals need sea ice to thrive. With global warm-

ing reducing the amount of sea ice, it is expected that the numbers of ringed seals will decline over the next three generations.

Changing water temperatures are resulting in more harp seals moving into ringed seals territory, with consequent competition for food.

The conference also looked at beluga whales in the eastern Beaufort Sea, another source of food for the Inuit. One paper discussed the high mortality rate among beluga whales which had been restrained tagged, a process which was not harmful in earlier years.

Environmental factors like more severe storms, higher temperatures, and lack of food may have weakened the mammals' ability to withstand the stress of tagging.

Dakota First Nation

(Continued from Page 1.) Dakota Nation, Sioux Valley First Nation and Dakota Plains First Nation filed another claim in federal court alleging Canada misrepresented the Dakota people as "American refugees" in the 1870s.

However, Chief Chalmers chose not to involve BSFN in this case, claiming this ap-

About the USMCA

(Continued from Page 1.) Organization. Canada was particularly incensed by the recent actions by the American administration against Canadian steel and aluminium,

supposedly on grounds of national security. Furthermore, there is not widespread agreement that the provisions on labour, aimed at Mexico, will do much to

protect Canada. One aspect of this problem is company trade unions which accept sweetheart deals with employers. How the envisioned expert panels would enforce the labour provisions is not clear, nor is its potential effectiveness.

Not only is there some concern about Mexico's application of the rules, critics point out that the deal does not address the problem of American states with right-to-work laws. The fear is that companies will continue to relocate operations to low-wage states, or coerce workers in Canada into accepting reduced standards to avoid such moves.

Another concern that has been expressed is the "vasalization" of Canada to the USA under article 32.10. A particularly energetic exposition of this view by Irvin Studin, Editor-in-Chief of *Global Brief* and President of the Institute for 21st Century Questions, was printed in the *Toronto Star* on December 12. Mr. Studin notes that this clause gives the USA veto power over "Canada's ability to develop meaningful relations, economic or otherwise, with any significant country other than the US without Washington's say-so".

Among the winners in this pact, according to one listing are: US agriculture, with greater access to Canada for dairy and poultry, with smaller benefits for US wheat and alcoholic beverages; internet companies, which deflected new requirements and new taxes; on-line shoppers and merchandisers, who benefit from higher tax-free shopping limits; President Trump, who gets a political win as he heads into an election campaign; Prime Minister Trudeau, who kept the eight-year (instead of ten-year) patent protection for drugs and kept Chapter 19 (dispute-settlement); and President Obrador, who kept free trade with the USA, Mexico's most important market.

Among the losers listed are: American drug manufacturers, whose patent protection was reduced to eight years; cross-border corporations, because of the elimination of Chapter 11; Mexican businesses, because of new labour provisions; Canadian dairy farmers; US ranchers, because country-of-origin labelling on beef was removed; and both the Canadian and US aluminium industries, because of fears that Mexico, Russia and China could flood the North American market with cheap metal.

Much of the support for the deal seems like whistling in the dark — hoping that the USA, and particularly President Trump — will "play nicely". The opposition often seems to present worst-case scenarios. Ultimately, time will tell.

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Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will celebrate **Malanka** on Saturday, **January 18**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street. **Cocktails — 6:00 p.m., concert — 6:45 pm, Ukrainian dinner — 7:15 pm, dancing to live music — 9:00 p.m.** Tickets: **\$60.00** — available online at auucvancouver.ca or call **(604) 254-3436**. **Dance only tickets at \$10 available at the door after 9:00 p.m.**

* * *

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



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First Shevchenko Talks Event

The Shevchenko Museum in Toronto can only be envied for its new problem: what to do with all the beautiful spaces in its new 1604 Bloor Street West location. On December 9, part of the solution was revealed, when the first of the Shevchenko Talks series was held in the upper gallery of the building.

The first speaker in the ambitious series was architect Christopher McCormack, the

man who designed the impressive structure which will surely become a Toronto landmark.

In his remarks to an audience of over 25 rapt listeners, Mr. McCormack started by referring to three other projects, explaining the need to combine a project's purposes, community culture, environment, and existing elements into a harmonious package for optimal effect. He

then turned to the Shevchenko Museum.

Drawing on the audiovisual capabilities built into the room, he displayed graphics to contrast the appearance of the museum at its former location with its current look, as well as the transformation of the former AUUC Cultural Centre into the Shevchenko Museum.

Mr. McCormack took his audience through the project's process, from the earliest contacts, to feasibility studies, to approvals, to reducing the building to its shell, to the rebuilding and, finally, to the fine tuning as occupation of the building reveals other preferences.

He spoke of the challenges of working with an existing shell. These included differences between existing documentation and the physical realities of the structure, the need to reinforce the floor to hold significantly more people, unexpected asbestos, and other matters requiring adjustments to the plan.



Over 25 people attended the first Shevchenko Talks event on December 9 at the Shevchenko Museum at its new location in Toronto.

He also spoke about some interesting facts uncovered during the renovation. For example, it came to light that the building had grown in several stages. Originally it had been a single-family one-level detached home. Then it was extended. Even later, a second floor was added. The final addition was an extension at the back to accommodate an elevator. Each addition added a new set of puzzles to be solved during the renovation.

In the course of his exposition, Mr. McCormack spoke about the work of the Renovation Committee, with representatives of the Shevchenko



Welcoming visitors and introducing the speaker was Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova. She also closed the event with thanks to all, and an invitation to socialize and enjoy the refreshments.



Christopher McCormack, the architect who designed the new Toronto location of the Shevchenko Museum, presented the first of the Shevchenko Talks series.

Winnipeg AUUC Celebrates

(Continued from Page 4.) concert. This year, a musical group spontaneously named "3 guys and 3 instruments" held a Christmas sing-along as part of the concert program. Al-

though "the weather outside was frightful", the party was a warm and fun way to celebrate the holidays with friends and family.

— Emily Halldorson

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



The Festival Choir of the AUUC Winnipeg Branch appeared at Holy Family Home on December 12.

— Photo: Emily Halldorson



New AUUC member and new Holy Family Home resident Joanna Vreeland (left) is joined by cousins Emily Halldorson (centre) and Ember Kaminski.

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