



## President's Message; Ukrainian Student Leaders Working Together

*Olena Kit, McMaster University*

I have always admired the Ukrainian sense of community in Canada because there are many different ways for students to get involved within many different communities. There are over 20 Ukrainian Students' Organizations at post-secondary institutions across Canada, in which hundreds of students participate. Furthermore, Ukrainian language schools, dance troupes, music ensembles, church groups, and youth associations are just some of the numerous examples of student involvement and leadership opportunities.

Thus far, the SUSK National Executive and I have been hard at work attempting to bridge the gaps between these different groups. This is an effort to establish a better connected Ukrainian community of which we as students, regardless of our specific involvement, can all find a sense of belonging. I believe the role of SUSK is to act in this capacity. We must bring these students together, not only to build our shared community but also to solidify a student voice into a cohesive entity.

As we usher in a new year by gathering our family and friends, several Ukrainian customs are joyfully continued across Canada. These traditions are the heart of the Ukrainian community because it strengthens the celebration of our culture and language. As the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union we should be constantly striving to build a community that is inclusive, engaging, and dynamic while still maintaining our roots. This is our purpose and one I intend to achieve.

How do you see your Ukrainian Students' Organization, group, or ensemble fitting into the larger Ukrainian community in Canada? Your ideas and perspectives are more than welcome and I would be thrilled to discuss your thoughts on the matter.

- Olena Kit  
[president@susk.ca](mailto:president@susk.ca)

## Новорічні та Різдвяні Свята

*Kateryna Ivanchenko, University of Ottawa*

Ось і скінчилися Новорічні та Різдвяні свята! А скільки радощів, приємних турбот та гарного настрою вони нам принесли! Ніби вчора ми прибирали ялинку та готували



святковий стіл для зустрічі Нового року, а сьогодні Новий рік вже панує по всьому світу, надихаючи новими досягненнями, успіхами та надіями.



здійснення професійних планів, особистих бажань та усіх мрій та задумів.

Я дуже люблю Різдво, це моя найулюбленіша пора року. І я ще раз хочу всіх привітати та сказати: Нехай Новий рік принесе Вам тільки добробут, благополуччя, родинне тепло та злагоду, щирих друзів та партнерів, шани та любові від рідних та близьких Вам людей, щасливих та яскравих подій та усього самого найкращого!

- Kateryna Ivanchenko

Свято Різдва Христового для всіх українців особливе. Православне Християнство починає святкувати його 6 січня, як тільки зірочка зійшла, свята вечерея підійшла. В цей святий день ми зустрічаємо перших колядників, пригощуємо їх святою кутьєю, вареничками, грибочками, рибою та огірочками! Сміх та радість панує в ці дні в українських хатах. Колядники відвідують наші оселі ще протягом тижня і в кожній хаті лунає: Христос народився! Хвалімо його! Від щирого серця вітають нас і зичать міцного здоров'я, творчих натхнень,

*Вітаю  
усіх із Новим Роком!*

### Коляда in the Capital

*Adriana Sirskyj, University of Ottawa*

Twas the night before Різдво,  
When all through the хата  
Not a creature was stirring,  
Not even a мишка.  
The вареники were sealed  
By the кухня with care,  
In hopes that the carb intake  
Would soon be there.



It was that special time of year again; the wonderful aromas and unique sounds of Ukrainian Christmas filled the homes of many families. The University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club was particularly enthusiastic and eager in going kolyaduvaty (carolling) for their second annual kolyada.

Despite being faced with icy weather on several occasions, the University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club was extremely successful in their kolyada this Christmas season. The funds raised will largely be going towards supporting Dzherelo, a children's rehabilitation center in Lviv, Ukraine. The U of O USC is delighted to continue the caroling tradition, as a means of raising funds for a very special and deserving organization in Ukraine. We look forward to continuing this annual tradition for many years to come!

our fundraising efforts this Christmas season.



Feel free to visit our club website for pictures and videos of our kolyada at [www.uofoukrainians.webs.com](http://www.uofoukrainians.webs.com).

We can also be contacted on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/suskOttawa](http://www.facebook.com/suskOttawa).

Z Novym Rokom!  
See you all next year

- Adriana Sirskyj

## SUSK Celebrates International Human Rights Day

International Human Rights Day was on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares a powerful idea: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". These words are the premise of international human rights law establishing that human rights are universal, yet they are not universally accepted.



The University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club would like to warmly thank all the students who attended this year's kolyada, as well as all the families who welcomed us into their home and supported



The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) opposes acts of discrimination, exclusion, oppression, and violence and honours all human rights defenders who work towards freedom, justice, and peace.

SUSK strongly disagrees with the current Ukrainian Government's actions of harassing and intimidating the Ukrainian academic community and infringing on the autonomy of academic institutions. Primarily, these actions have been focused on historians who draw attention to Ukrainian national sentiment relative to Soviet oppression.



In light of recent events in Ukraine, including the apparent politically motivated arrest of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and concerns of lack of transparency in her hearings and trials which do not comply with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the recent Holodomor Awareness Day and the opening of an exhibit as part of recognition

of Canada's First National Internment Operation, SUSK recognizes them because of their distinct contribution and value to human rights education.

## **Holodomor Awareness at the University of Western Ontario**

*Danylo Kostruba, UWO*

November 18th, 1932: The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine began applying stricter grain collectivization methods in select villages which were considered to be underperforming in grain output. The farmers were required to return any extra grain they previously earned when meeting targets, being forced to part with the grain by state police and Soviet armed forces.

November 18th, 2011: Seventy-nine years later, the Ukrainian Students' Club at the University of Western Ontario held its third annual Holodomor Awareness day in the University Community Centre (UCC). The project was part of an initiative by the 2009 club executive, under the presidency of Illina Frankiv, to educate the UWO student body about the Holodomor.

The commemorative exhibit Holodomor: Famine by Genocide from the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC) was displayed in the main forum of the UCC and drew



the attention of many students, professors and tour groups.

Starvation later that night at the Grand Theatre in London.



Another ongoing project is an annual, two-week display of selected posters from LUC's publication in the D.B. Weldon Library. With the help of Elizabeth Mantz, the posters were on display from November 15-30th. Interested students were granted access to the library's extensive selection on Soviet history as well as other publications on the Holodomor. The club executive would like to thank all those who helped make the Holodomor Awareness events successful this year. In particular we thank Elizabeth Mantz for her continued support at the Weldon Library, Lindsay Harris for her guidance as Student Organizations Events Services Officer and Emily Vereshchak for helping set up the exhibit in the UCC. The executive would also like to thank Buduchnist Credit Union, Peter Kryworuk, Mykola Wasylko, Jim Kozak and Lew Figol, as without their help, these events would not be possible.

Left to Right: Lyuba Lytvyn, Tanya Hussar, Danylo Kostruba, Ana Ostapchuk, Peter Nahirny

The executive and club members were able to answer questions such as: "Why have I not heard about this?", "Who orchestrated such an event?" and "Where can I get more information?". Those who showed more interest were directed to websites and organizations involved with raising awareness about the Genocide. After informing students on the horrors of the Holodomor, Ana Ostapchuk, Danylo Kostruba, Diana Stepczuk, Bohdan Zaricznik and Alexandra Lazar had the opportunity to attend Fr. Edward Danylo Evanko's Holodomor: Murder By

If you would like to learn more about the UWO Ukrainian Students' Club and its projects or events, email the executive at [ukienews@gmail.com](mailto:ukienews@gmail.com).

- Danylo Kostruba  
Vice President, [vp@susk.ca](mailto:vp@susk.ca)

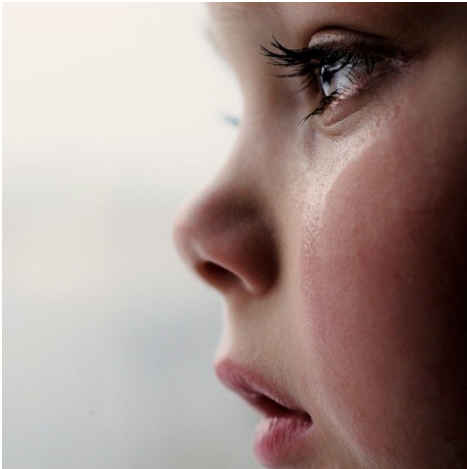




## In the Eyes of a Child...

*Julia Fediw, University of Western Ontario*

“I kept looking out of the window, wondering when they would come back. They are my parents, they have to come back for me, did they forget I’m here? They will be back, they will! But days turned into years, I would look from the orphanage window and see kids with their parents pass by, they would fall down and their parents would pick them up and kiss and hug them. When I fall down, I get in trouble for ruining my clothes, I only have one pair. If I cry, I get yelled at “stop crying! Why are you crying?!” The safest place for you here when you cry, is under your bed, alone, but don’t make noise, cry silently!



That “hug”, what is one? I only know the word but no idea to how it feels. I imagine it feels like love, whatever that feels like. I always think about these things, like hugs, and love, how nice it must be for those kids, to go to their home, a place they will be safe, and loved always. They don’t have to try to be perfect always, they can make mistake, and still be loved. I have to be perfect; I have to so that when a Western couple comes to look to adopt a child, I may, may get picked. If I’m perfect, all the time, I just may deserve... earn a family. Obviously, there is something wrong with me, my parents left me here, the people who are supposed to love you the most in the world left me here, so I must be awful, horrible, and stupid. I have to work to be perfect, then maybe someone will want me.

When my stomach isn’t aching because we don’t have enough food, I think about which orphanage I will go to next, or will I be moved to an asylum, that’s where the sick kids go. Am I sick? Or am I just hungry? I don’t know. When I was 5 I was moved from the only home I ever knew, my original orphanage where I grew up, to a new one, for “older” kids. This one was worse; we have more kids and less food. We are with some kids who are very sick, they can’t get up sometimes, the nurses yell “we



have no medication, be quiet!” What else can the nurses do, they don’t have any medication.

My favourite book in our orphanage is the one with the last page, where the family is together and underneath it reads “happily ever after”....although I am old enough to know better, I still sit by the orphanage window, hoping someone will come for me, hoping for my ”happily ever after. “

The above is my description seen from the eyes of an abandoned child in a Ukrainian orphanage. I am very passionate about this cause, and through my research of mental, physical, emotional trauma which can be caused by any child being abandoned, in combination with my research of conditions of Ukrainian orphanages, this is my interpretation of a child left alone. I feel sometimes it is easier to look the other way than to really think deeply of children in need.



I hope my story has started some conversation or interest in this issue, and hope that it also has encouraged some of the cultural groups, who don’t already, to include discussions of mistreatment of children in orphanages in Ukraine as part of their activities, and to seek out ways to help, even if it’s a small, it’s still important. I also hope it helps people understand and, see from a child’s eye, what it’s like to grow up alone, enough to encourage everyone who is lucky enough to have a loving family, to help kids at least have a better life for now.

- Julia Fediw

### **Inauguration of Canada’s First Internment Interpretive – Center at Spirit Lake with Government Representatives**

*Artem Luhov, McGill University*

La Ferme, Quebec: The historic inauguration of Camp Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Centre, the first such Centre to be established in Canada, took place on November 24 in La Ferme, near Amos, Quebec. Representatives of the Government of Canada took part in the official opening, affirming the significance of the Centre as well as giving recognition to the entire region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the Province of Quebec. Their participation also

acknowledged the outstanding contribution of the Camp Spirit Lake Corporation, chaired by James Slobodian of Rouyn Noranda, in creating this unique museum.

The Centre tells the story of the Spirit Lake internment site, which was the second largest of the 24 internment camps established across Canada during World War One. Over 1,200 immigrants, mainly Ukrainians, were unjustly interned here as “enemy aliens” between 1915 and 1917, during Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914 - 1920. Many were taken from Montreal and surrounding areas, a connection which has made Spirit Lake part of the collective memory of many families in Quebec.



### Internees hauling in stove wood at the Spirit Lake, Quebec internment camp.

The Centre is housed in the converted former St. Viateur Church in La Ferme. Built in 1940, the church was entirely constructed from the original stone walls that existed at the Spirit Lake internment

site. The huge stones were chiseled and transported to build the existing two-foot-thick structure now comprising the museum with its unique symbolic authenticity. The stone walls once stared at, sat on, touched by internees and their guards, are now reclaimed for posterity.

Mr. Slobodian, who steered the entire project for many years, its construction through to its opening, with his dedicated team of volunteers, officially opened the ceremony in three languages, French, English and Ukrainian. Over 100 invited guests were in attendance.

Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the evening’s first speaker, provided background information concerning the Federal Government’s establishment of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund through which partial funding of the Interpretative Centre is being provided. Minister Kenney stated that internment was a blow to the internees’ dignity, trust and hope, and a betrayal of our rule of law. He further said that Ottawa’s failure to distinguish between loyal Canadians and potential dissidents led to the injustice and tragedy of internment policy. “We now see the great fruits of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund in this Interpretative Centre. Through that \$10M contribution fund, we are seeing the good that is being





done here... let us pledge never to forget or to let the memory die.”

Member of Parliament, James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba), acknowledged the work of Prime Minister Steven Harper and Minister Jason Kenney in the recognition of a past wrong that needed to be addressed. Mr. Bezan mentioned that his grandfather arrived in Canada in 1908, and when World War I broke out, his “dido”, along with thousands of other Ukrainians, had to report to the North West Mounted Police on a weekly basis, or face being interned and sent to a work camp in isolated parts of Canada. He added that the World War I internment was “a sad mark in Canadian history, one that was ignored for so long”.



Andriy Hladyshesky, Q.C., president of the Shevchenko Foundation which administers the Recognition Fund spoke about how the First World War Recognition Fund was established, and the importance of knowing the internment story. He stated that he took great pride in seeing the Interpretative Centre realized with the help of the largest support grant allocated by the Fund, and that the funds

designated towards the Interpretative Center were effectively utilized. He commented the project’s realization surpassed all his expectations and will now serve as a barometer for future endeavors.

Representing the Government of Canada were also Members of Parliament Peter Goldring (Edmonton East, Alberta), vice-chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group; Bernard Trottier (Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ontario); and Christine Moore (Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Quebec). In a news release, Mr. Goldring stated, “Many countries of the world today conceal or refuse to admit their historical misdeeds to their citizens... Canada not only faces up to its past, but contributed resources, as it has done here, so that past government wrongdoings are memorialized. That way future generations can see, learn and hopefully not repeat such tragedies.”

In a sense of togetherness, prayers were said in memory of the internment victims buried in the Spirit Lake cemetery, by representatives of three religious denominations including Monseigneur Gilles Lemay, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Amos with Rev. Robert Lalonde, the former priest of the St. Viateur Church; Rev. Theofan Heto of Kirkland Lake, Ontario representing Bishop Stephen Chmilar of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto; Rev. Volodymyr Kouchnir, Dean of the Montreal-Ottawa District of the Orthodox Church of Canada,



representing Bishop Andriy of the Eastern Eparchy; and Rev. Dr. Ihor Kutash of St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Montreal, also representing the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada, Taras Pidzamecky, national president. The brief service ended in the singing of the deeply touching "Vichnaya Pamyat" (Eternal Memory).

Among other guests present were: Taras Zalucky, executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) representing Pavlo Grod, national president; Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova, president of UCC Montreal branch and Quebec Provincial Council who together with filmmaker, Yuriy Luhovy, received a special award of appreciation from Mr. Slobodian for their long-time commitment to exposing the Spirit Lake internment story and their dedicated support in helping to establish the Interpretative Centre; Yourko Kulycky, general manager of Caisse Populaire Desjardins Ukrainienne de Montreal and Roch Ouellet, chairman, Caisse Desjardins Amos; Paul Bourget, general director, and Laurent Corriveau, board chairman, of Co-Op IGA Amos; Yaroslava Iwasykiw, national president of the Ukrainian Women's Organization (OYK).

Additional guests included Roman Zakaluzny, chair of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association; UCC Ottawa president, Mykola Bilaniuk; and Dr. T. S. Sosiak of Toronto, representing the

decedents of those imprisoned during Canada's first national internment operations.

The museum, designed by Nicole Catellier, interweaves historic photos, relics excavated since 1999 from the internment site, artifacts and pictures donated by families of the interned, government documents, interactive displays, documentary films on the internment and more. The explanatory texts are presently in French, the official language of Quebec, with special guidebooks soon to be made available in English and Ukrainian. Guided tours will also be available in either of the three languages.

The event garnered extensive media coverage from various local, provincial, national and international news outlets including CTV national, CTV Sudbury, Radio-Canada, CBC-TV national, Radio Nord Communications Media, Abitibi Express,

Le Citoyen Harricana, Timmins Daily Press. The inauguration was also picked up by TV5 television and aired in France giving the opening immediate European coverage. The entire ceremony was filmed by Yuriy Luhovy, with soundman Volodymyr Hayduk. Simon Kouklewsky, producer of "Ukrainian time" radio in Montreal prepared special coverage.



The Centre's opening was a testament to the considerable cooperative effort of the entire community of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue area, including the mayor of Amos, the cities of Val d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda with their respective businesses, as well as the Government of Quebec and the Ukrainian and French communities of Montreal and other parts of Quebec.

Together, many obstacles and challenges were overcome to reach a common goal. The Centre will serve to inspire future research and educate visitors on the topic of the internment.

The idea of ensuring the historical memory of the beginnings of the Spirit Lake internment site in some concrete form for future generations, germinated back in the early 1970's. However, it was only in the last dozen years and especially the last three, that Slobodian and his co-workers made this vision a reality. The two documentary films *Ukrainians in Quebec 1891-1945* and *Freedom Had a Price* continue to bring to life the story of the internment in Quebec and other parts of Canada.

It was Bill C331 and The Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act introduced by Inky Mark, M.P., Dauphin-Swan Lake, Manitoba and passed by the Government of Canada that enabled, in 2008, the establishment of the Ukrainian First World War Internment Recognition Fund within the Shevchenko Foundation, following negotiations with the Ukrainian

community represented by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Shevchenko Foundation, and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. A major grant designated from this endowment, helped support the establishment of the Centre, which was successfully completed in record time and on budget. The Center is awaiting the balance of the approved grant to cover its remaining building costs.

In concluding the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Slobodian thanked all for their valued attendance. In turn, he was given a prolonged ovation in recognition of his significant work in the establishment of the Spirit Lake Internment Interpretative Centre. A reception followed, allowing everyone to view the museum, mingle, and interact.

The McGill Ukrainian Students' Association and the Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union will be visiting Spirit Lake in the spring. Other clubs are welcome to join us!

For additional coverage and information about the opening, the filmed ceremony can be viewed at [www.yluhovy.com](http://www.yluhovy.com).

The museum is open throughout the year - to visit or arrange group tours of the Spirit Lake Internment Centre, contact [campspiritlake@cableamos.com](mailto:campspiritlake@cableamos.com) or tel. (819) 727-2267.

- Artem Luhovy



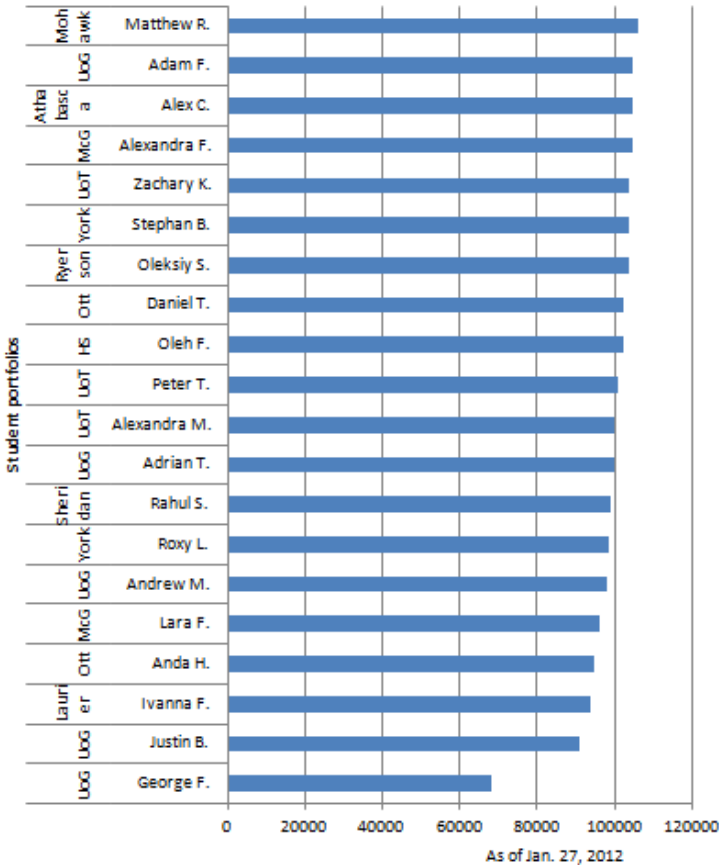


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UCU **УКС**

**INVESTMENT  
CHALLENGE**  
**UPDATE**

We kicked off the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the UCU Investment Challenge at midnight January 13 with 59 participants including at least 20 students representing 10 universities and colleges across Canada!



*Student-held portfolios after the first week of the Challenge. Currently we've identified 20 students, but there might be more that we are not aware of.*



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**UCU** **УКЦ**

**INVESTMENT  
CHALLENGE**  
**UPDATE**

## Results of the first round

Lara Franko, a student from McGill, took third place and claimed the \$500 prize in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. Guelph won a prize for having the most students participating. The prize was a \$50 certificate to hold a club pizza party. Congrats to both.

## Additional student prize!

Since Guelph might win the club prize again in round 2, we are offering another student award for the club that creates the best video about why one or more of your members is/are taking part in the investment challenge. This prize will be \$100 donated to your club's general fund\*.

You can read more about the contest on our website ([www.ukrainiancu.com](http://www.ukrainiancu.com)) and follow regular commentary on our blog <http://ucu-building-community.blogspot.com> by Mike Zienchuk, Manager Wealth Strategies Group. If you want to sign up for some up-coming seminars on budgeting, dealing with student debt and financial planning more info email Mike at [mzienchuk@ukrainiancu.com](mailto:mzienchuk@ukrainiancu.com) or call him at 416-705-3634.

\* Please note that this prize can only be won by an official students' club, not by an individual, and that the prize will be either deposited directly into the clubs' bank account if you hold it at UCU or issued as a cheque made out in the name of the club. For more info call or email Yuriy Diakunchak at [ydiakunchak@ukrainiancu.com](mailto:ydiakunchak@ukrainiancu.com) or 416-922-2797 x309.

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ATM locations.



Join us in Hamilton for the 54th National SUSK Congress,  
"SUSK is the New Steel" from May 10 - 13, 2012!

Hosted by McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association in the beautiful city of steel and waterfalls! This is an incredible opportunity to connect with Ukrainian students from across Canada and take part in various beneficial professional development seminars and workshops. The SUSK executive looks forward to welcoming you in Hamilton this spring! Registration begins February 13, 2012.

# LIV **May 10-13** Hamilton, Ontario SUSK CONGRESS

## THURSDAY, MAY 10

- REGISTRATION
- HOSPITALITY SUITE
- WELCOME RECEPTION

## FRIDAY, MAY 11

- OPENING CEREMONIES
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS
- PUB CRAWL

## SATURDAY, MAY 12

- ROSEWOOD WINERY TOUR
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS
- SUSK EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS
- SUSK CONGRESS BANQUET/ZABAVA & ALUMNI REUNION

## SUNDAY, MAY 13

- RESOLUTIONS & STRATEGIC PLANNING
- CLOSING CEREMONIES

54<sup>th</sup> Congress Hosted By:  
McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association



Details and Registration Info: [www.susk.ca](http://www.susk.ca)



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СТУДЕНТСТВА КАНАДИ  
UNION DES ÉTUDIANTS UKRAINIENS CANADIENS



## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Registration begins

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Member Organization Application Due, Member Organization Membership Per Head Dues & Membership List Due

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Deadline for Early Delegate Registration

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Guestroom Release cut off date for Accommodations

May 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Dates of Congress

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More information coming soon at [www.susk.ca](http://www.susk.ca)

### Congress Contacts:

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## University of Alberta Zakarpattia Zabava a Success

*Stephan Bociurkiw, University of Alberta*

On Friday, January 27th, the University of Alberta Ukrainian Students' Society transformed the Edmonton Walkabout Australian Pub into a Ukrainian Pub for their much anticipated Annual Zakarpattia Zabava. Decorated in Ukrainian colours and stocked with Ukrainian beer and vodka, the sold-out event was a huge success!



The event brought together blue and yellow clad Ukrainians from across Alberta. "There's nothing better than a packed pub full of Ukrainians in the heart of Whyte Ave." Says SUSK VP West, Mila Luchak.

The event featured Zhyto, a Calgary based band which was formed in the fall of 2008. They bring together musicians and sounds of every style, including jazz, rock and classical to create a unique sound in the Western Canadian polka scene. Zhyto

played a versatile mix of both Ukrainian polka favorites and English hits which was enjoyed by all!



- Stephan Bociurkiw  
VP Finance, [treasurer@susk.ca](mailto:treasurer@susk.ca)  
Photos: Cassian Soltykevych

## Canadian Train of Ukrainian Pioneers

*Larissa Schieven – Carleton University*

One hundred and twenty years ago, Ukrainian pioneers arrived in Canada, with dreams of a better life for themselves and their families. After years of hardships, struggles and hard work, these brave Ukrainians made a home for themselves in Canada, and today, more than 1.2 millions Canadians have Ukrainian heritage.

This past summer, in celebration and recognition of the hard work and sacrifices of these first Ukrainian-Canadian pioneers,





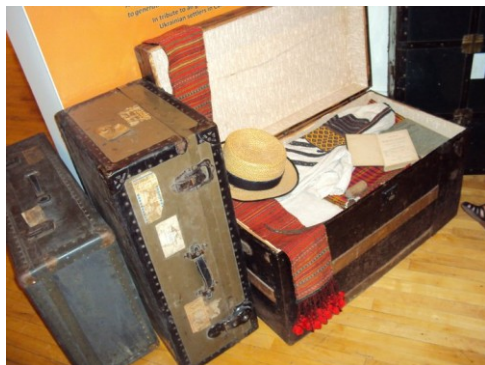
the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada launched the Historical Train of Ukrainian Pioneers, tracing the path of the first Ukrainian settlers, beginning in Halifax and ending in Edmonton.

His Excellency, Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's Former Ambassador to Canada, graciously donated 3 full-trip tickets to SUSK, the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union during the 54<sup>th</sup> National SUSK Congress in Ottawa. Four students, past and present SUSK executive members, had the opportunity and honour to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience, on segments of the trip.

Augustine Krawchenko, Internal Relations Director, Nadia Demko, Secretary, Marco Jakuta, Past President and myself, Larissa Schieven, Project Director, took part in the trip. On the train trip, which stopped in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and finally Edmonton, were politicians, Ukrainian community leaders, members of Canadian and Ukrainian media, as well as artists, performers and musicians. Passengers were encouraged to wear authentic Ukrainian costumes.

The SUSK participants are all extremely grateful to the Ukrainian embassy for the opportunity. On the Toronto to Winnipeg

segment of the journey that I participated in, the scenery along the way was beautiful. Meeting and spending time with Ukrainian politicians, artists, musicians, journalists, as well as members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community was a wonderful way to pass the time..



A number of the participants on the train created our very own "Ukrainiski Dim" aboard the train, complete with vyshutya, kobassa, horilka and Ukrainian decorations in one of the cabins.

A number of the participants on the train created our very own "Ukrainiski Dim" aboard the train, complete with vyshutya, kobassa, horilka and Ukrainian decorations in one of the cabins.

Upon arriving in Winnipeg we were met by a group of musicians, members of the Ukrainian community, and greeted with the traditional bread and salt. It was wonderful



to see so many members of the Ukrainian Canadian community out so early on a Saturday morning to welcome us to their hometown.



We had the chance to tour Winnipeg, including the Oseredok museum, featuring Baba's Trunk exhibit, and the Manitoba Legislative building on Saturday. This was followed by a public reception at the Leo Mol sculpture garden. On Saturday evening we were invited to a lovely dinner at the home of Mr. Leo Ledohowski, where we mingled with Ukrainian community members from Winnipeg. On Sunday morning we visited the first Ukrainian Catholic church in Western Canada in Stuartburn, the Gardenton Ukrainian

museum, and St. Micheal's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the oldest Ukrainian church in Western Canada. The rest of the participants departed for Saskatoon and Edmonton on Monday morning, while I unfortunately had to return to Toronto. All in all, the trip was an amazing experience that I feel truly lucky to have had the opportunity to participate in.

Augustine and Marco had the opportunity to travel between Toronto and Edmonton by train. Upon boarding the train, we met past Ambassador Dr. Ihor Ostash, as well as other influential Ukrainians, such as Oles Donij (Member of Parliament in Ukraine) and Olexander Donalaieko (Consulate General of Ukraine), Marika Burmaka (Ukrainian Singer/ Songwriter), and Yaroslav Jus (winner of Ukraine's Got Talent).



Our Ukrainian Canadian heritage was celebrated in all of the host cities, and made each and every one of us proud to be a part



of the rich history of Ukraine and Canada. One of the highlights of the trip was celebrating Canada Day on the train. It was a uniquely Canadian way of celebrating as we headed west. We sipped complimentary wine, ate cake, played Canadian trivia games and then spent the remainder of the day sitting in the Panorama Cart of the train singing Ukrainian folk songs to the beautiful sound of the bandura. We ended the night by singing both national anthems, under the star lit sky in the great open space of our country.

For Augustine, a memorable moment was being called up on stage at a banquet by the Ambassador. He called upon all the train delegates who together sang "This Land is Our Land" while he played the guitar. This became a tradition of the "pioneers" (as we were called) and we sang this song for all of the host cities.

Nadia joined the trip in Winnipeg, and continued on to Edmonton with Marco and Augustine. One of Nadia's most memorable moments was lunch with the Ukrainian Sisters of St. Joseph of Saskatoon at their beautiful garden shrine (erected to honour two modern day martyrs who served in a community outside of Lviv following WWII, when the Ukrainian Catholic Church was outlawed by the Communist

regime) where the pioneers were welcomed with such warm hospitality, delicious food, and the beautiful singing voices of the sisters.



Nadia will never forget being a part of the pioneer "flash mob" at the train station in Saskatoon, right before boarding the train for the last stretch of the journey to Edmonton. Accompanied by Yaroslav Jus on the bandura, all of the pioneers joined together to sing a medley of our favourite Ukrainian songs (including everyone's favourite, "This Land is Our Land" in Ukrainian) while Kalyna, the youngest pioneer on the voyage, showed off her Ukrainian dance moves and brought in other children from the crowd to join her.



After exciting the crowd with our vibrant music and dance, we boarded the train for a final time, and were once again greeted according to traditional Ukrainian customs in Edmonton even at the pioneerly hour of six o'clock am.



At last, we spent our last few days visiting and discovering heritage sites in and near Edmonton – among them the Ukrainian Museum of Canada and St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church. At our final destination, the Ukrainian Heritage Village outside of Edmonton, the pioneers were warmly greeted in a heritage house, complete with a traditional Ukrainian meal cooked on a wood burning stove.

We are all very thankful for the opportunity to have taken part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience and extend our sincerest thanks to Dr. Ostash, the Ukrainian Canadian Embassy and SUSK for allowing us to participate in the Canadian Train of

Ukrainian Pioneers. We are proud to be Ukrainian, and proud to be Canadian. Even more so, we are proud to be Ukrainian-Canadian.

## MUSA's 10th Annual Golden Horseshoe Volleyball Tournament

*Christina Bajus, McMaster University*

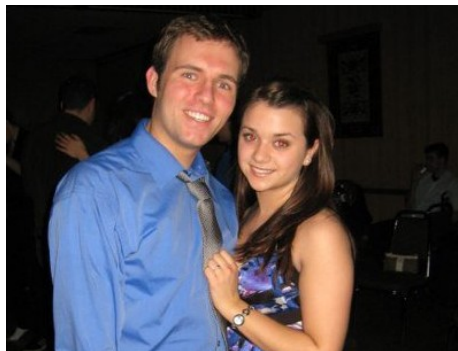
It's that time of year again! Time to take out those lucky sneakers and jerseys and compete against your friends and other Ukrainian student clubs at MUSA's Annual Golden Horseshoe Volleyball Tournament! What's this tournament you may ask? Every year, the McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association hosts a volleyball tournament in Hamilton, Ontario, where Ukrainian student clubs and other organized teams across the country, compete against each other for fun, honour and prizes! This year is particularly a special year, for it is the club's 10th year running this thrilling and popular event!





Before the actual tournament, it's tradition to kick off this event with a Pre-Tournament Pub Night where teams meet their competitors as well as reunite with their friends from other schools and organizations. On the actual day of the tournament, the teams that dare to challenge, take part in the Competitive division, while those that just simply enjoy the thrill of the sport, take part in the Recreational division. Registered teams are not the only ones found on the courts but also dedicated fans and welcomed viewers!

After the tournament, MUSA traditionally hosts a classy reception. The tournament is celebrated with an awards ceremony, delicious food and a Zabava!



MUSA looks forward in hosting its 10th Annual Golden Horseshoe Volleyball tournament! Join in on the fun on February 4, 2012!

See you on the courts! If not, then on the dance floor!

### Itinerary

Friday, February 3rd, 2012  
Pre-Tournament Pub Night  
Slaintes Irish Pub  
33 Bowen Street, Hamilton  
[www.slainteirishpub.ca](http://www.slainteirishpub.ca)  
19+ event, ID required

Saturday, February 4th, 2012  
Volleyball Tournament  
Ancaster High School  
374 Jerseyville Rd. West, Ancaster  
Team Registration: 8:45 am  
Tournament: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

### Awards and Zabava:

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
855 Barton St. East, Hamilton  
Cocktails: 7:30 pm  
Awards Presentation: 8:30 pm  
Zabava: \$25, 9:00 pm - 2:00 am  
Featuring Bands:  
SKOPA & ZAPOVID

Purchase tickets online:  
<http://susk.ca/2011/12/01/musa/>

Dress code: Semi-Formal  
ALL AGES, but ID required for 19+  
Appetizers and food platters will be provided throughout the night!!



## Who Is Your Community?

*Tamara Caris, University of Ottawa*

My name is Tamara Caris, and I am a twenty-year-old, Dutch-Ukrainian-Canadian. I am in my third year of studies at the University of Ottawa in a Bachelors of Commerce program with Honours in International Management. Currently, I am studying abroad on an international exchange semester at De Haagse Hogeschool (The Hague University) in Den Haag, Netherlands.



A few years ago I embarked on a journey to discover the answer to one simple question:

“Who is your Ukrainian Community?”

When asked that question, many of us first think of the immediate community within our city limits and the organizations that we are a part of. This is exactly how I use to define mine. Since I was a child, I have been active and continue to be in my local

Ukrainian community through PLAST, Ukrainian dance, University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club, and more recently SUSK.



### SUSK Executive 2011-2012

Most of these organizations either operate on national or international levels, but as a member I was typically more focused on local activities. It was this narrower or more specific scope and outlook of mine that formed my previously held definition. This characterization held true until recent years where what I described as my community underwent a great transformation as a result of new self-defining experiences and travels.

The evolution and growth of my framework began the summer after my first year of university. During that summer I began my work for an international organization in Chesterfield, England. Unfortunately, in Chesterfield there was not an active Ukrainian community; regardless, I still sought out the Ukrainian Catholic Church



of Our Lady of the Holy Patronage and St. Alban's in Nottingham, England, a nearby city. I had attended mass at Our Lady of the Holy Patronage and immediately after, numerous members of the church approached me and welcomed me into their community. Many of them were quite curious and surprised to see a young Ukrainian speaking Dutch-Ukrainian-Canadian working and reaching out to their community in England. It was at this point that I realized that regardless of my location, whether it be in my hometown of Ottawa or a city across the world, that the Ukrainian community is truly international and limitless.



My journey and work soon lead me to Prague, Czech Republic. Once again, there was not a Ukrainian community present, but unfortunately this time there was not even a Ukrainian church nearby. In this case I took it upon myself to try to enrich non-Ukrainians of our colourful culture through

the sharing of our music and dance, as well as cooking traditional dishes. I learned that it is our responsibility as Ukrainians in the diaspora to live by and share our Ukrainian heritage, culture, and traditions.



This journey brings me now to my current adventure; I am studying in the Netherlands. For the first time I am completely immersed into the Dutch culture. I have been raised Ukrainian knowing very little of my Dutch heritage. It is now time to enrich myself of this beautiful culture, all the while still keeping connected with my Ukrainian roots. Here in The Hague is the Ukrainian Embassy of the Netherlands as well as other Ukrainian organizations and schools. I have already reached out to them and I eagerly await



becoming involved and once again expanding my community. I view this as a prime opportunity to have these two rich cultures mesh and coincide.

Once again when asked that question of “Who is your community”, I now answer that it is not limited to the boundaries of a city; on the contrary its interconnected framework is international and spans the globe. I hope to one day be able to encompass into my characterization both sides of my heritage, the Dutch and the Ukrainian. To me, the world is becoming one local community.

Now I ask you the very same question: “Who is part of your community?”

- Tamara Caris

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