

Taras H. Shevchenko Museum & Memorial Park Foundation NEWSLETER

Toronto, August 2011, NO.10

SHEVCHENKO MUSEUM PRESENTS LARISSA SOUSHKO ART EXHIBIT

October 29 - December 30, 2011 Artist reception – Saturday, October 29 at 4 pm 1614 Bloor Street West, Toronto







Larissa Soushko is an architect, an artist and a poet. She has participated in numerous art exhibitions in Ukraine, where she grew up, in Russia, where she studied and worked for many years, in the United States, and in Canada, where she lives now. Her works reside in many private collections in Europe and North America. Her current series presents landscapes with a warm, delicate atmosphere, where human presence is felt, but not seen. Lyricism and emotionality are seen in spontaneity of strokes, fresh compositions and harmoniously matched colors. Larissa published five books of poetry in the former Soviet Union, where she lived for most of her life. Refreshments will be available. **Everybody is welcome!**

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Taras Shevchenko Museum is constantly looking for ways to better meet the needs of the Ukrainian heritage community and cultural community in Canada and abroad. Over the past year we have had a few successes. With the help of our members and volunteers, we had four exhibitions: Sculptures by Roger Golden, special exhibit devoted to the 150th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's death, Shevchenko poetry and art presentation in a Toronto Public

Library. We also organized an extensive exhibition at a Shevchenko concert at the Holy Protection Catholic Church in Toronto on May 22, 2011.

Taras Shevchenko Museum website now has a new page with information about Shevchenko Museums around the world. 14 museums, 8 of them in Ukraine, are described in detail. This page is the only source of information of this kind available in English on the worldwide web. We are a proud donor to the erecting of a Taras Shevchenko Monument in Ottawa. The Foundation's name is inscribed in the memorial plaque located near the Monument, unveiled in June 2011 in Ottawa. The Museum also was among sponsors to bring ten orphaned children from Ukraine for one month to attend a summer camp in Ontario. This action was organized by the Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada.

We are happy to congratulate the Museum's Board Member, Oryst Sawchuk, for receiving a Community Builders Award in February 2011. Oryst is the AUUC Sudbury President, Director of the Jubilee Folk Ensemble, a noted architect, painter, sculptor, musician, urban planner and a business and community leader.

We appreciate our regular donors and we look forward to new opportunities to raise levels of our work and share our heritage with all Canadians and people the world over.

> Co-operatively yours, Lyudmyla Pogoryelova

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DONORS TO THE MUSEUM'S OPERATIONAL, EXHIBIT AND LIBRARY FUND (MARCH 2010 - JULY 2011)

We express our deepest appreciation to everyone who has generously donated to the Taras Shevchenko Museum and who continue to support our work. We thank you for seeing in the Museum a potential to meet higher standards for exhibitions, research, collections care, and educational and public programs. The Taras Shevchenko Museum would like to thank the following donors for their kind generosity:

Arnott, Katherine and John - \$25.00 in memory of

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AUUC Welland - \$100.00

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Borusiewich, George & Vera - \$200.00

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Malnychuk, Ann & Bill \$200.00

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McCulla Sharon, - \$25.00 in memory of Mary Prokop

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Shevchenko Seniors, Welland - \$25.00 in memory of

Michael Wasylenky

Sedun + Kanerva Architects -\$20.00 and \$50.00 00 in

memory of Mary Prokop

Shevchenko Ensemble - \$100.00

Smoly, Steve - \$150.00

Stewart, Mark & Nancy - \$50.00 in memory of Mary

Prokop

Stewart, Ed and Ann -\$100.00

St. Volodymyr's Library and Archives - \$10.00

Uhryn, Bill & Shirley - \$100.00

Welland AUUC Mandolin Orchestra - \$25.00 in

memory of Michael Wasylenky

Woron, Mykola - \$10.00

We thank Bill and Ann Malnychuk, Andrew Gregorovich, Bill Harasym, Nancy and Mark Stewart, Jerry and Bernardine Dobrowolsky, Mary Skrypnyk, Anna Stoliarova, Lorna Clark, Svitlana Borysenko, and Larissa Stavroff for the books, albums, medals, magazines, booklets, newspapers, photographs and art items for our library and art collection. Special thanks to the AUUC Thunder Bay Group, Diana Garrett and Damon Dowbak for the donation of a beautiful stained glass portrait of Taras Shevchenko. A very warm Thank You to Roger Golden for the donation of his sculpture "Baba" to our Museum. We sincerely thank everyone who has shown their enthusiastic support of the Museum, and particularly REC members, whose professional help and commitment have made the Museum a success.

Stained Glass Portrait of Taras Shevchenko by Damon Dowbak



The stained glass portrait of Shevchenko, a gift to the Toronto Shevchenko Museum sponsored by the Thunder Bay AUUC Group and created by

artist Damon Dowbak was unveiled in the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on July 1, 2011. Diana Garrett presented the gift.

Since 1976 Damon has been the artist/designer owner of Kleewyck Stained Glass Studio, in Thunder Bay, Traditional stained glass Ontario. techniques of leaded glass, painting and firing, acid etching, abrasive etching, laminating, and glass fusing are used in the studio. He creates stained glass works for residential, liturgical, and commercial applications. He has been commissioned to create works in numerous churches in Thunder Bay and the region. He has many public and commercial installations including Fort William Historical Park, the Ontario Government Building, the Community Economic Development Corporation of

Thunder Bay, as well as many private commissions.

Damon was born in 1954 in Thunder Bay, and as a young person studied Ukrainian language, mandolin, and folk dancing at the AUUC Ukrainian Labour Temple. Later he became a member and then conductor of the Lakehead Mandolin Orchestra. Damon is an adventurous mandolinist/mandocellist/guitarist. His influences include world, jazz, and electronic music. In addition to his musical talents, Damon is also a snow sculptor, a traveler, and a radio host.

Taras Shevchenko Museum is extremely proud to have a stained glass portrait of Shevchenko by Damon Dowbak on permanent display.

Taras Shevchenko Monument unveiled in Ottawa

A Monument to Taras Shevchenko was unveiled on June 26, 2011 on the grounds of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in the capital of Canada, Ottawa.

The unveiling also marked 120 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada and the 20th anniversary of independence. Ukrainian The program unveiling included participation of political, religious, and community leaders from Canada and Ukraine. The program included a ceremonial tree planting and the embedding of soil from Shevchenko's grave in Ukraine into the monument base.

The ceremony was followed by a gala concert featuring the celebrated Canadian Bandurist Capella of Toronto, Yaroslav Dzhus, bandurist, together with well-known Ukrainian Canadian choirs and performing



groups. The Monument is a work of the renowned Canadian sculptor of Ukrainian descent Leo Mol (1915 – 2009) who created the Taras Shevchenko memorials in Washington DC, Buenos Aires, St. Petersburg and other cities of the world. Architects of the monument are Derek Crain and Radoslav Zuk.

The central bronze monument shows a young, standing Taras Shevchenko surrounded by artistic creations from his poetry. Taras is in full stature, dressed in a long coat, which was a standard in the era of the poet and writer. In his left hand Shevchenko is holding a palette and three paint brushes.

The figure is looking into the distance. The height of the sculpture is 3 metres, its weight - 630 kilograms. There are three bas-relief figures complementing the composition - Haydamaky (1.2 m, 163 kg), Kateryna with child (1.2 m, 163 kg) and Banduryst (1.2 m., 156 kg).

The memorial plaque acknowledging donors is unveiled next to the Monument. Among them is the Taras Shevchenko Museum of Toronto.

OBITUARY



MARY PROKOP August 7, 1914 – Feb 27, 2011

Mary Prokop, the first Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park President, died on February 27, 2011 at the age of 96.

A many year activist of ULFTA, Mary Prokop also was a long time Taras Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation Board member. Museum assistant curator, then curator, Foundation first president and later in her life caretaker of the Shevchenko Memorial Park area. Mary spent many weekdays prettifying the park, and many weekends escorting visitors through the museum in Oakville (before it was destroyed by arson in 1988).

For years she volunteered twice a week to escort visitors through the Museum in Toronto.

Mary was tough and strong living through grievous personal loss of her family members, stoically accepting setbacks and defeats. She kept on working with people who, as a family, helped during those difficult traumas.

We are thankful for Mary's many years of dedication and service to the AUUC and the Museum Foundation. We will remember and cherish that splendid, meaningful, glorious life she lived and shared with us.

Roger Golden Donation

Sculptor Roger Golden donated his sculpture "Baba" (Grandmother) to the Taras Shevchenko Museum.



Roger Golden is a member of the Sculptors' Society of Canada. His works have been exhibited in various art galleries and museums of Toronto in group and solo sculpture shows, as well as in public spaces. His art works are figurative, intensely personal and highly emotional.

Baba, as most of Roger's sculptures, is made from a combination of Winterstone (a cement-like material) and burlap that he devised himself. Roger's sculptures are fluid, strong yet lightweight.

The Shevchenko Museum is very proud to have "Baba" on permanent display at the immigration section of the Museum's main room.

Poetry Club in the Shevchenko Museum

A poetry club was established in the Shevchenko Museum in February, 2011. Once-a-month gathering of poetry lovers became possible due to a Ukrainian poetess Iryna Shevchenko, who has lived in Toronto for over 10 years. Our gatherings are devoted to Ukrainian and Canadian celebrations, like Mother's Day or Valentine's Day.

If you are interested in joining the club, please call the Museum at 416-534-8662 or email shevchenkomuseum@bellnet.ca

Commemorating 120s Anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada

The 120th anniversary of Ukrainian settlements in Canada will be marked on September 7, 2011. This day, 120 years ago, Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw arrived in Canada. Their arrival signaled four waves of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

Virtual exhibit "First Wave of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada, 1891 - 1914", produced by the Shevchenko Museum is on the Virtual Museums Canada website.

You can find it at http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/

The exhibit contains stories of first Ukrainian settlers to Canada. It also includes visual materials, like photos, brochure covers and flyers, which are especially helpful for history teachers and school and University students. Please consider recommending this virtual exhibit to your children and grandchildren, friends, teachers, scholars, educators and community

workers. The project was funded by Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), a federal government agency.

