

## URDC CULTURAL AWARDS HONOUR WEALTH OF TALENT

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre is pleased to announce its five 1994 cultural award winners.

The Yatran Dance Ensemble of Ardrossan is the winner of the Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178 Award for Ukrainian Performing Arts with its *Caravan of Colour*. The production allows the young dancers to develop their acting as well as dance technique through a story-line specially choreographed for them.

Formed 11 years ago, Yatran trains more than 70 youngsters, aged four to 17, in traditional Ukrainian folk dancing. Some will go on to perform with Cheremosh and Shumka like their teachers. The group's director, Joe Weleschuk, and choreographer-instructors,

Douglas Hnatiuk and Patricia Kostyk, are all Cheremosh alumni.

Belonging to the group takes a great deal of commitment from the young dancers who rehearse two evenings a week and give 15 to 20 performances a year, travelling throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, B.C. and the U.S. "It's like a hockey schedule except the season is longer," according to Weleschuk. Many of the children

also study other dance forms such as jazz and ballet.

After winning numerous awards at the Cheremosh Dance Festival, Vegreville Pysanka Festival, North Battleford Dance Festival and other events, Yatran decided to broaden its focus this year from competition to the more artistic aspects of dance. "We felt the kids needed to dance for the love of dancing," says Weleschuk.

The youngsters had become technically proficient but they had much to learn about the artistic presentation of movement. The result was *Caravan of Colour*, an ambitious production showcasing the talents of 12 ethnic dance groups — ranging from Italian to Chilean — and 220 dancers as well as those of Yatran. "It was quite a challenge getting the various groups to agree with the artistic direction," says Weleschuk. The show was performed twice at Sherwood Park's Festival Place in March.



SCADE PHOTOGRAPHY



SCADE PHOTOGRAPHY

**TOP:** Ensemble members (l. to r.) Joclyn Weleschuk, Kim Kolenc and Chelsea Weleschuk.

**LEFT:** Yatran Dance Ensemble with instructors (back row, r.) Douglas Hnatiuk and Patricia Kostyk.

Ukrainian literary scholar, Tatiana Nazarenko won the Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers for her analysis of the poetry of Edmonton's Yar Slavutych. Nazarenko first became interested



in the literature of Ukrainian writers in the diaspora while researching her Ph.D. thesis on the Canadian post-war novel at Kyiv State University. She had a hard time finding much material in Ukrainian libraries, however.

"The literature of the diaspora is not known to Ukrainians," she says. "Certainly not to the extent that it should be. What most of us had heard about was the terrible life of Ukrainian settlers — not that they had accomplished something of artistic value."

A native of Kyiv, Nazarenko is working on her second Ph.D., in comparative literature and film studies at the University of Alberta. She is also compiling an anthology of Ukrainian — Canadian creative writing. Her book, *The Powerful Flash of Truth: Poetry of Yar Slavutych (Pravdy potyshnyi spalakh: Poetychna tvorchiy Yara Slavutycha)* will be published by Kyiv University Press.

Nazarenko decided to undertake a critique of the poet's work after being approached by Slavutych himself. She became intrigued by his later use of classical poetic forms to express contemporary political ideas.

Michael Muc, a biology professor at Augustana College in Camrose received the Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178 Award for Museum Programs for his study of plant use among early Ukrainian settlers in Alberta.

Muc is compiling an oral history of how settlers used native plants as well as those they brought with them to Canada in their everyday lives for dietary, medicinal, veterinary and religious purposes. Native plants such as sage, yarrow, plantain and pigweed were used extensively. The latter was an important dietary staple because it grew everywhere. The pigs liked it too.

Potatoes, garlic and onions were common food staples and frequently used in folk remedies. A popular headache cure called for thinly sliced potatoes to be wrapped around the forehead with a cloth. Potatoes were also used to draw boils and bring fevers down.

"One elderly lady remembered a mother going crazy watching her young child run a high fever. There was no doctor, of course.

Baba suggested that she grate up some potatoes and wrap these around the child's feet. By evening, the fever was down."

Muc's first priority is to get as many interviews on tape as he can. The tapes will be turned over to the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Any plants he collects will be deposited in the Provincial Museum of Alberta's herbarium.

Other winners include Lilea Wolanska who received the Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178 Award for Educational Exchanges. A music



Edmonton singer  
Lilea Wolanska



# CENTREPIECES BICTI 3 ЦЕНТРЫ

is produced by the  
Ukrainian Resource and  
Development Centre (URDC)  
twice a year.

For a free subscription or for  
further information about URDC,  
please call or write:

UKRAINIAN RESOURCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
Grant MacEwan  
Community College  
Box 1796  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2P2

Phone: (403) 497-4374  
Fax: (403) 497-4377

URDC Director  
Dr. Roman Petryshyn

Administrative Assistant  
Alice Chamer

Writer & Editor  
Olenka Melnyk



specialist, formerly with the Ukrainian Bilingual Program in Edmonton, Wolanska has been studying in Ukraine for the past two-and-a-half years. The award will enable her to prepare for her upcoming operatic roles this spring in M. Lysenko's *Taras Bulba* and contemporary composer J. Meytus' *Stolen Happiness*.

Ray Uzwyshyn, a cinema student at New York University (formerly of Winnipeg) won the William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts for his 22-minute experimental documentary video, *Women of the Earth*.

This is the fourth year the awards (\$500 for each category) have been offered. ♦



## UFCE LAUNCHES GALA FUND-RAISER

**G**ood food, convivial company, and a chance to catch up on what's happening in Kyiv.

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) is

Proceeds from the fund-raising dinner will go towards the operating costs of the GMCC Kyiv Office, jointly administered by URDC and the college's International Education Centre. Now in its second year of operation, the Kyiv Office provides a wide range of services from basic translation to customized research and market analyses for

Organizers of the event include UFCE president Dr. Albert Hohol (former Minister of Alberta Advanced Education), vice-president Brent Chmiliar, and treasurer William Chmiliar (former Edmonton alderman).

"Anyone who has an interest in Ukraine will find this an informative and enjoyable evening," promises Pidruchney.

Further information and tickets can be obtained by phoning URDC at 497-4374. Tax receipts will be available.



*LEFT: (Back row, l to r) Dr. Roman Petryshyn, URDC Director with UFCE founding members John Krupicz, Anna Zwozdesky, Brent Chmiliar (vice-president), John Shalewa, Dr. Peter Savaryn; (front row, l to r.) Andriy Semotiuk, Dr. Albert Hohol (president), Bill Chmiliar (treasurer), Bill Pidruchney (secretary) at Feb. 3 inaugural meeting in Edmonton. ♦*

offering all this — plus the opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile cause — on Thursday evening, May 26th at Grant MacEwan Community College City Centre Campus.

**T**he *Kyiv Konnection* is the theme of the evening, the first fund-raising event put together by the newly-inaugurated UFCE. The purpose of the organization is to raise funds for the advancement of Ukrainian education in Alberta colleges, and to keep the public and Ukrainian community informed about college projects in Canada and Ukraine.

government, business and education clients.

"It's very important that we strengthen the ties between Ukrainians and the community in Canada during this critical point in Ukraine's development," says Bill Pidruchney, UFCE secretary and executive director of the Edmonton Multicultural Society. "In its short existence, the Kyiv Office has proved to be extremely invaluable in providing contacts and logistical support for Canadian businesses — and other clients — in Ukraine."

The \$75-a-plate evening will feature speakers, displays, a draw and a guest performance by Edmonton singer, Lilea Wolanska.

## CIRCLE YOUR CALENDARS

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education is hosting a fund-raising dinner Thursday evening, May 26th at Grant MacEwan Community College City Centre Campus 10700 - 104th Avenue.

Tickets are \$75 a person or \$125 a couple (tax receipts available.)

Proceeds go towards GMCC's Kyiv Office.

Dress is semi-formal.

Reserve your tickets now by phoning the URDC office at 497-4374.

♦



## EXCHANGE GROUP AIMS TO HOST UKRAINIAN FARMERS THIS SPRING

**M**aureen and Art Mykyte are the kind of couple that make for delightful company at the dinner-table.

Funny and ebullient, they are also vitally interested in the goings-on in the world around them. Their conversation may range from the lecture they took in at the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies about Ukraine's latest troubles with Crimea (they drove 100 kilometers into Edmonton from their Waskatenau farm just to hear it) to their thoughts about Edmonton writer Myrna Kostash's latest book, *Bloodlines*.

to take over the Canada-Ukraine Farmers' Exchange Program previously run by URDC.

"All of us former host families wanted to see the program continue," says Mrs. Mykyte. "We really want to see them (Ukrainian farmers) make it," adds her husband. "We got a tremendous satisfaction when we visited Ukrainian farmers who had been out here last time and saw how they had profited from their experience."

The exchange program was developed by URDC with Popper Foundation support to provide independent Ukrainian farmers with much needed practical experience and training in the running of private family farms. During the first two years, nearly 70 farmers from Ukraine were

placed for six months with farm families in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

*LEFT: Art Mykyte (centre) interviews 1994 trainee Volodymir Kurponoc (l) at his Orepka home, 140 kilometers west of Kyiv.*

*BELOW: Ukrainian village architecture ranges from the traditional to the modern.*



One of their favourite conversation topics these days is their work with the newly-formed Alberta-Ukraine Agriculture Exchange Society and the eight Ukrainian farmers their organization wants to bring to Alberta this spring. Maureen Mykyte is secretary and her husband, Art, is treasurer of the society set up in January when farmers decided

**W**hen Alberta farmers took over the program this year, they decided to scale it down and place eight Ukrainian farmers with east-central farm families in the province.

The Mykyles and Art Lebid, an Athabasca farmer, spent four weeks travelling throughout Ukraine interviewing 23 applicants this winter before finally selecting eight. Applicants had to be between 25 and 40 years of age, and either actively engaged in farming or studying agriculture. Successful applicants included a number of former collective farm employees — a couple of teachers, a welder, a truck driver and even an accountant — who were able to acquire land after Ukraine's land reform laws were passed.

**M**ost of the time, the trio stayed with Ukrainian farm families. The tremendous hospitality they received more than compensated for the outdoor privies, bad roads and poor telephone connections. For Mr. Mykyte, the journey was a long-postponed homecoming, especially the side-trip to his ancestral village Zastavna near Chernivtsij. It was the first time anyone in his family had gone back to the village his great-grandparents had left nearly 100 years ago to come to Canada.

Another major highlight of the trip was the warm reunions with former exchange farmers. The Mykyles was particularly delighted to be able to spend a week with Radion Khirliouk, the







**LEFT:** Reunion of 1992 farm trainees in Kyiv; (l to r) Vassili Kolnohoziuk, Radion and Yaroslav Khirlouk, Vladimir Liaschenko, and Art Mykyte, treasurer of the agriculture exchange society.

Donetsk area farmer who grew to be part of their family two years ago when he lived with them for six months on the 2,000-acre mixed-grain and cattle farm they run with two of their three sons.

They found him thoroughly Canadianized in his views and practising many of the farming methods he learned in Canada, despite the skepticism of his more traditional village neighbours. "He's keeping his cattle outside now," says Mr. Mykyte. "Everybody in the village is waiting for them to die." Like most Ukrainian farmers, Khirlouk still lives in the village but dreams of the day he will be able to buy his own land and build a house on it.

Money is the biggest problem facing the farmers as funding from the Popper Foundation runs out, and the group struggles to continue the program on a permanent self-funding basis. After sending out 35 to 40 letters to possible funding sources including farm machinery, fertilizer and seed companies early this year, the society received only two replies. Happily, one of these was a positive commitment from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The society (whose chairman is Steve Zarusky, former Redwater-Andrew MLA and

former Alberta Multicultural Commission Chairman, and whose vice-chairman is Nestor Romaniuk of Willingdon) welcomes new members and public input. For further information, write to: Alberta-Ukraine Agriculture Exchange Society, c/o R.R. 1, Waskatenau, Alberta, T0A 3P0; or phone 1-403-358-2592. ♦

## MEDICAL EXPERTS STUDY UKRAINE'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Canadian health care professionals who have been involved in projects in Ukraine had an opportunity to meet for the first time at an April seminar at Grant MacEwan Community College.

Sponsored by URDC and GMCC's Health and Community Studies together with the Canadian Society for International Health, the two-day gathering, *Canada's Strategy for Education of Health Professionals in Ukraine*, allowed participants to share their experiences and make recommendations regarding future programs.

A number of medical initiatives have been undertaken by the Canadian government and various

organizations in Ukraine during 1991-93 but these have yet to be co-ordinated or evaluated as to their overall impact, points out Gerri Nakonechny, Co-ordinator for Health and Community Studies Outreach.

"Until now, the different projects have operated separately," she says. "We wanted to get people together to talk to each other, build on each other's experience and expertise, and set priorities."

Guest speakers included Daria Wallsten, program officer for Partners in Health which is run by the Canadian Society for International Health; Myroslav Kohut, a consultant for the World Bank; Dr. Ehor Gauk, director of the medical project Osvita (formerly Children of Chernobyl); Dr. Orest Talpash, of the Medical Textbook project; and André Potvin, deputy director, Former Soviet Union Division, Bureau of Central and Eastern Europe, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

Participants had a chance to become better informed about the health care system in Ukraine, evaluate the results of health



**ABOVE:** Partners in Health advisory committee members, Connie Sarchuk, Winnipeg (l) and Gerry Nakonechny (c) visited Dr. Tatiana Chernychenko in her Kyiv office.





assistance projects carried out in Ukraine under Canadian sponsorships, and look at how Canada might best provide future assistance.

The seminar was scheduled to coincide with the two-month visit to Canada of Dr. Tatiana Chernychenko, a medical education expert with the Ministry of Health in Ukraine, currently involved in revamping nursing education. Her trip was sponsored by the Professional Partnerships Program administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada for Foreign Affairs.

well. "We have a large professional army — some 600,000 people — working at the medical middle-level with no professional representation. The absence of such an organization prevents us from raising our standards."

Dr. Chernychenko notes similarities between the nursing profession in Ukraine and Canada. The vast majority of nurses in both countries are women and bear the primary responsibility for care-giving in the health care system.

While in Edmonton, Dr. Chernychenko met with nursing faculty at GMCC and the University of Alberta as well as

efforts to overhaul nursing education, according to Gerry Nakonechny who is on the advisory committee for Partners in Health. The two met in Kyiv when Nakonechny first visited Ukraine with other committee members to assess health care needs and determine possible projects.

**A**mong other problems, there is a serious lack of up-to-date Ukrainian-language medical textbooks and other learning resource materials. "I was in a classroom with 24 anatomy and physiology students," says Nakonechny. "There were only six textbooks to go around the class. There were no Ukrainian books, and the most recent edition dated back to 1967."

Nursing students in Canada work with texts that are revised or replaced every two or three years. "There's been a tremendous explosion in medical knowledge in recent years. They (Ukrainians) haven't had access to current information on health and technology."

On the other hand, Ukraine is far ahead of Canada in its long recognition of a holistic approach to medicine that includes acupuncture, massage therapy and naturopathy. ♦



**P**rofessional nursing standards in Ukraine currently lag behind those of other industrialized nations, says Dr. Chernychenko, who sees better education and training as part of the solution to the problem. After decades of centralized Moscow control, her ministry is now trying to develop its own nursing curriculum and Ukrainian-language textbooks.

Dr. Chernychenko believes that a self-regulating professional nursing body — like the Canadian Nursing Association — would help to improve standards in Ukraine as

visiting health care institutions involved with nurses' training such as the Royal Alexandra Hospital, St. Michael's Extended Care Centre and the Edmonton Board of Health. She also spoke with nursing association representatives in Alberta and Ottawa.

Back home, Dr. Chernychenko faces enormous challenges in her



*ABOVE LEFT: Nursing classes such as this one in Lviv suffer a shortage of up-to-date texts.*

*BELOW RIGHT: Lviv's school of nursing celebrated its 220th anniversary last year.*



## DOCUMENTARY CAPTURES WAR INTERNMENTS

Montreal filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy has completed a one-hour documentary, *Freedom Had a Price*, about Canadian internment camps during World War I.

URDC is proud to have played a part in the successful completion



LEFT: Filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy.

BELOW: Internees at Spirit Lake internment camp, Quebec c. 1915-16.



of the project through its \$5,000 contribution during early filming.

"The support came early in the project when it was most needed," said Luhovy in a telephone interview from his Montreal office. "It helped strengthen our determination to persist to the end."

Luhovy's other film credits include the award-winning *Harvest of Despair*, a documentary about the artificial 1933 famine in Ukraine he edited and helped research and produce. He also edited *Race for the Bomb*, *Mills of Power*, *270 Years of Resistance* and *Kanehsatake*. Luhovy won first prize for his editing work on the Oka crisis documentary at the 1993 Atlantis Film Festival.

A jovial person who is very serious about his work, Luhovy first became interested in Canadian internment operations while researching his film, *Ukrainians in Quebec*, in 1974. He was shocked to discover that more than 5,000 Ukrainians had been imprisoned along with other so-called 'enemy aliens' in camps across Canada by the federal government after World War I broke out. Two young Ukrainians were shot while trying to escape harsh camp conditions and a number committed suicide.

Eighty-eight thousand people, many of them Ukrainians, were required to report regularly to local police authorities, and the majority of Ukrainians living in

Canada were disenfranchised.

"I found that I was very naive because I had always believed that Ukrainians were welcomed into this country," said Luhovy. "I

became convinced that the story of the internees had to be told. The injustice of their suffering and pain had to be remembered."

The major obstacle he faced was raising the \$200,000 necessary to make the film. About a third of the money came from grants. The Ukrainian Research and Documentation Centre in Toronto offered a \$20,000 interest-free loan. Ukrainian organizations and individuals chipped in smaller amounts. The rest was made up of personal financing — by cashing in RRSPs and taking out personal loans.

"Don't ask me how much," said Luhovy with a rueful laugh. "We could have bought a new house with the money. Filmmaking is like an addiction. Only it's worse than drugs."

Luhovy found himself racing against time as elderly internees began rapidly dying off. He had to take precious time off from his filming to work on lucrative, commercial feature film projects to earn more money to keep going. The Belgium-born filmmaker has been consistently drawn to social issues throughout his career but he vows his next project will be a comedy. ♦



## PROJECT PROPOSED TO EDUCATE FARMERS

**U**RDC has submitted a unique proposal for an agricultural business learning project to the federal government.

The 15-month project costing \$553,905 would provide an invaluable learning resource for Ukrainian farmers who are having to make their own business and marketing decisions as Ukraine moves towards a market-driven agricultural system.

Under the Soviet regime, all aspects of agriculture in Ukraine were centrally controlled from the selection of crops to the processing and distribution of goods. As a result of these restrictions, local farmers have not been able to acquire the business planning skills and decision-making experience they need to succeed in a more free-market economy.

There is a critical lack of printed and audio-visual learning materials to teach farmers such basics as bookkeeping, deciding which crops to grow, and marketing their produce. URDC's Agricultural Business Learning Project proposes to help fill this educational gap.

**T**he project which has been submitted to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada would translate into Ukrainian relevant agricultural business course materials published by the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan. These would be adapted to local conditions and needs in Ukraine. Faculty in six Ukrainian agricultural technikums (colleges) would be trained to teach the course material.

Ukrainians would also be trained to translate, edit and publish their own agricultural business materials on an on-going basis. The cost of the project includes the purchase of desktop publishing

and video equipment that would remain in Ukraine.

"We strongly believe that Canadian assistance projects over there have to be sustainable and ongoing so Ukrainians can meet their own needs," says Roman Petryshyn, Director of URDC. Dr. Petryshyn notes that the program is geared to farm women in offering modules that can be studied at home as well as in the classroom.

URDC has already been involved in developing agricultural curricula in Ukraine in two specific areas — farm management, and fruit production and marketing — thanks to federal government funding in 1991-93. The courses are now being taught in selected agricultural colleges but the need for Ukrainian language textbooks and learning aids remains. ♦

# BOUQUETS



A special thanks to Ukrainian Foundation for College Education charter members John Shalewa, Dr. Peter Savaryn, Bishop Myron Daciuk, Ann Zwozdesky, Bill Chmiliar, Brent Chmiliar, Dr. Steve Kashuba, Lon and Joyce Kowalek, John Krupicz, Dr. Albert Hohol, Andriy Semotiuk, Bill Pidruchney, Lena Gulutsan, Nestor Chumer, Roman Petriw, Walter Tkach, Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178, all of Edmonton, and Alexander Petryshyn, Thunder Bay.

Charter members contributed \$100 each to register UFCE.