

# THE CATHEDRAL CONNECTION

April 2021



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## ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!



Всечесні отці, дорогі браття і сестри!  
В ці дні світлого Христового Воскресіння молитовно бажаю, щоб  
Воскресший Господь дарував всім вам духовну радість і спокій, здоров'я  
тілесне і допомогу Божу в усіх добрих справах на многі літа!

## Christ is Risen!

In these festive days when we joyfully celebrate The Holy  
Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - the victory of life  
over death, I heartily greet you.

May the joy of Easter never be extinguished in our hearts, and  
let the Risen Lord bless you with health, peace, and prosperity for many  
years.

## Дорога Катедральна родино!

As your Presiding Hierarchy of the Cathedral, I greet all of you on this glorious and festive day, The  
Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Although it is not possible to be in the presence of every one of you during these challenging times as the  
COVID pandemic continues to interrupt our lives, please know that you are always in my prayers, as we  
await the time when we can be together in large groups like we did in years gone by.

We have been together spiritually during the dark and solemn days of our Lord's betrayal, trial, crucifixion,  
and we mourned for His suffering, His death, and we felt a terrible emptiness in our life. We watched His  
arrest, Apostle Peter's denial, His interrogation by Pilate, His march to Golgotha, His anguish on the Cross,  
His death. And we were overwhelmed with sorrow as we relived these tragic times and our hearts and  
souls were empty. The emptiness we felt was transferred from our hearts to the emptiness of His tomb  
which was discovered by the women who approached to anoint His Holy Body. He was not there. He  
arose on Holy Easter Sunday.

Our hearts are filled with joy and we rejoice at the empty tomb, and our hearts are filled with exceeding  
gladness once more. The sorrow is replaced with joy.

At this time, I thank all of you, individuals and organizations, for your prayers and for your continued  
support of our Cathedral during these difficult times as the COVID virus continues relentlessly to affect our  
lives: spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially.

I thank you for your sacrifices, patience, and understanding in the current situation which none of us have  
ever experienced before. God willing, we can meet in person, and our Church can be filled to capacity  
once more. I pray that the current crisis in our Church never be repeated again.

Нехай Воскресший Господь благословить вас Своїми великими милостями і щедротами на довгі і  
благі літа!

З архіпастирським благословенням

+ Іларіон



## GREETINGS FROM THE CATHEDRAL DEAN

### ВЕЛИКОДНИЙ ПРИВІТ

### Христос Воскрес!

З нагоди великого й радісного Свята Воскресення Христового, від себе та своєї родини, щиро й сердечно вітаю всіх членів та прихильників Катебри Св. Івана та бажаю всім веселих Великодних Свят!

The Resurrection of Christ is the crown and the glory of the acts accomplished for our salvation through the sacrificial love of Our Lord Jesus Christ for humanity. May the inexhaustible grace-filled joy of Pascha be ever with us, shining in our hearts with the unwaning light of Christ's Resurrection.

Let us celebrate in joy the Holy Pascha on the bright-dawning night of the Resurrection of Christ and at this light-bringing Paschal Season; and let us this day especially glorify from the depths of our faithful hearts Christ Risen from the dead, and sing to Him, the Victor over Death, the hymn of love and gratitude: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon them in the tombs bestowing life. And unto us hath He given life eternal. Wherefore, let us adore His Resurrection on the third day!**

Therefore, we greet all of you with this glorious and blessed holiday. We pray to God that the grace of this Holy Day will illuminate each one of you with its heavenly light.

З нагоди Світлого Воскресення Христового ми засилаємо Вам і Вашій Родині найщиріші побажання – Божого благословення, міцного здоров'я та повної воскреслої радості!



CHRIST IS RISEN!  
In Christ's love,  
Fr. Stephan.

### In Memoriam

The St. John's Cathedral Parish Family would like to remember the following individuals who have reposed to the Lord over the past months.

We pray that the Lord God will establish their souls where the righteous repose.

Katherine Tkaczuk	December 2020
Dobr. Zinaida Turzansky	December 2020
Florence Mitchell	December 2020
Yaroslava Poritska	February 2021
Victoria Lazaruk	February 2021
Steve Kunyk	March 2021
Walter Moroz	March 2021
Dmetro Chernesky	April 2021

**MESSAGE FROM FR. CORNELL  
PASCHA 2021**

Beloved-in-Christ, Brothers & Sisters!  
Faithful of our Cathedral Community!

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

For a second consecutive year, I am composing this message just a few days away from the beginning of Holy Week, unsure what that week will look like, or with whom I will be celebrating the beautiful and moving services that are scheduled, or ultimately, if we will make it to Pascha without another lockdown...

By this time we are all frustrated, we all are anxious to get back to "normal" (however that will look!), and now, with the reality of new variants and their increasing dominance, we are, once again, afraid – of exposure, of infection, and of the unknown. On the other hand, this year differs from the last because we have vaccines, which afford us hope and anticipation for a return to a more authentic experience of the life we wish to live; we have some assurance that we are moving from the darkness and despair of disease toward the dawn of a world free of pandemic.

Soon, the sting of 2020 and 2021 will disappear and will become but a bad memory of a tragic moment in our history, yet another reminder that, ultimately, just because we, humans, think we have the control and power over creation, we indeed do not. For every moment we feel free to exhibit our pride, there are also moments we are reminded to live our lives in humility and with deep respect for our world and for those who share it with us. What we have experienced / are experiencing is very much analogous to the experience of all those disciples and followers of Jesus Christ who were forced to witness the most horrific and vicious infliction of humiliation, physical abuse and torture, and a painful, lonely, agonizing death which traumatizes and shocks all who are forced to stand and observe.

In these moments of darkness, then as now, we observe the same reactions: lack of vigilance leading to restriction and loss of freedom, fear of the outcomes, open denial, anger, a false sense of power and authority, and loss of faith. Nevertheless, then as now, we are called to remember that there is a promise of the end of darkness and the coming of the Light. Death will be conquered, and evil will be destroyed. The Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, reconciles creation with Creator. Paradise, where "sickness, sorrow, and sighing are no more," is restored. The vaccine to the disease of sin is the resurrected Christ, present in His most pure and precious Body and Blood, administered in the clinic that is His Holy Church. The vigilant and the careless; the faithful and the denier; the diligent and the one who "comes at the 11th hour – all are invited to step out from the shadow of the Cross and participate in the radiance and joy of the empty Tomb!

Faith... hope... love... patience... courage... humility. For the believer living these attributes, whether in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago, or in our times, leads us to a cure for that which afflicts us: for mankind after the Fall of the first Adam – the cure is the restoration of Paradise and humanity's perfect Communion with God through the razing of Hades' gates and the Resurrection from the dead of the New Adam. In the 21st century, for mankind living in a fallen world, and as a result is confronted with a serious and deadly pandemic, it is putting these attributes into action so that we can suppress our arrogance and pride which blind us from seeing the gifts God sends us in the minds, skills, and talents of scientists and physicians, and those who work and struggle to restore humanity to health, giving us more time to repent and prepare for eternal life in that Paradise, in that Kingdom prepared for us by the resurrected Lord, who awaits us there!

On behalf of my family, I greet you all with the joyous and radiant Feast-of-Feasts, the glorious and triumphant Resurrection from the dead of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! May our collective joy sustain us through these difficult times and may it inspire us to continue to hope for peace, health, and a long life in this world, living for the promise of our own resurrection at His glorious return, inaugurating a new life in the New Age that is to come!

**Truly He is risen & none are left in the grave!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Христос воскрес!  
Воістину воскрес!**

**Christ is Risen!  
Truly he is Risen!**

Dear fellow Parishioners:

With Easter Greetings we hope to find you safe and in good health. We are all looking forward to Easter celebrations as we are traditionally used to. Despite the many challenges we remain motivated to welcome better days. The dedication of many of our members shown so far will make this possible.

On behalf of our Parish Council our best wishes to our congregation as each of you celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus during this difficult time.

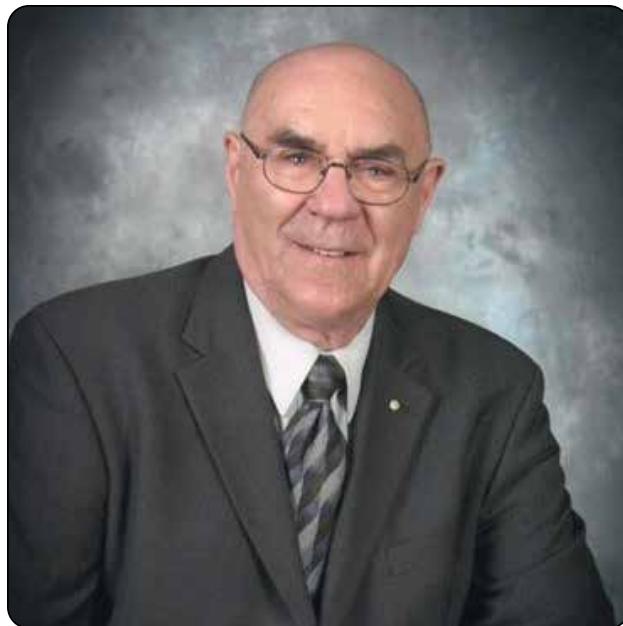
Thank you to all who participated virtually at our AGM. Total participants in person and online was 47. The executive elected will remain the same as in the past year. We appreciate your support and in response will endeavour to serve you to the best of our abilities. As President I wish to congratulate and thank my colleagues who serve our church community.

Our work will be helped by your financial support until this pandemic is brought under control. Our membership pledges remain unchanged from the past year. It would help us considerably if these pledges were paid as soon as possible as it is now our only source of revenue together with generous donations.

We will soon be actively working on our 100th anniversary celebrations in 2023. With this in mind, you will find in this edition some members who have reached this milestone. They have been blessed to celebrate 100 years or more on their birthdays. Congratulations to these members on their special achievement. МНОГАЯ ЛІТА!!

In conclusion Thank You your Grace Bishop Ilarion, Fr. Stephan, and Fr. Cornell for your prayers as we look towards a better future.

God Bless  
In Christ with Love  
Marshall Kachmar  
Parish President



## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parish Family and supporters:

Over one year has passed since our world was changed and turned upside down- a year of many challenges for all of us, and continues to be so for the near future. Thanks to your support and generosity along with the help of our dedicated volunteers and programs available – the parish continues to weather the storm and hopefully get back to sunny days soon!

In brief – so far year to date we are at a breakeven status financially with our operating budget. Recently we received a sizeable donation from the estate of John Michael (and Betty) Prokipchuk of blessed memory –parish members a number of years ago and had moved to Winnipeg for their remaining days. The bequest could not have come at a more needful time.

Please consider, as they did, providing a legacy for your family and help ensure long term viability of our parish by including a bequest in your will.

We also now have 28 members or over 10% signed up for our monthly preauthorized withdrawal giving that commenced last year – an easy and regular way to give especially in these times of restrictions and attendance....a great way to provide your support.

Your giving by way of bank etransfers to [giving@uocc-stjohn.ca](mailto:giving@uocc-stjohn.ca) has been a success as well – no need to worry about ordering cheques, mailing them off, allows you to include a message as to where the funds are to be directed ie member pledge/offering/memorial/etc ...quick and easy.

Another way of giving is by credit card using [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) finding our parish in their directory (Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St. John) . Over 3 million Canadians have used them in supporting various charities and causes. Canadahelps provides a tax receipt to you directly and credits the funds directly to our bank account.

As the federal government financial programs start to wind down we will continue to need your support as our catering operations will take time to get back on track – thank you for your wonderful help and wishing you good health and happiness during this time!

God Bless

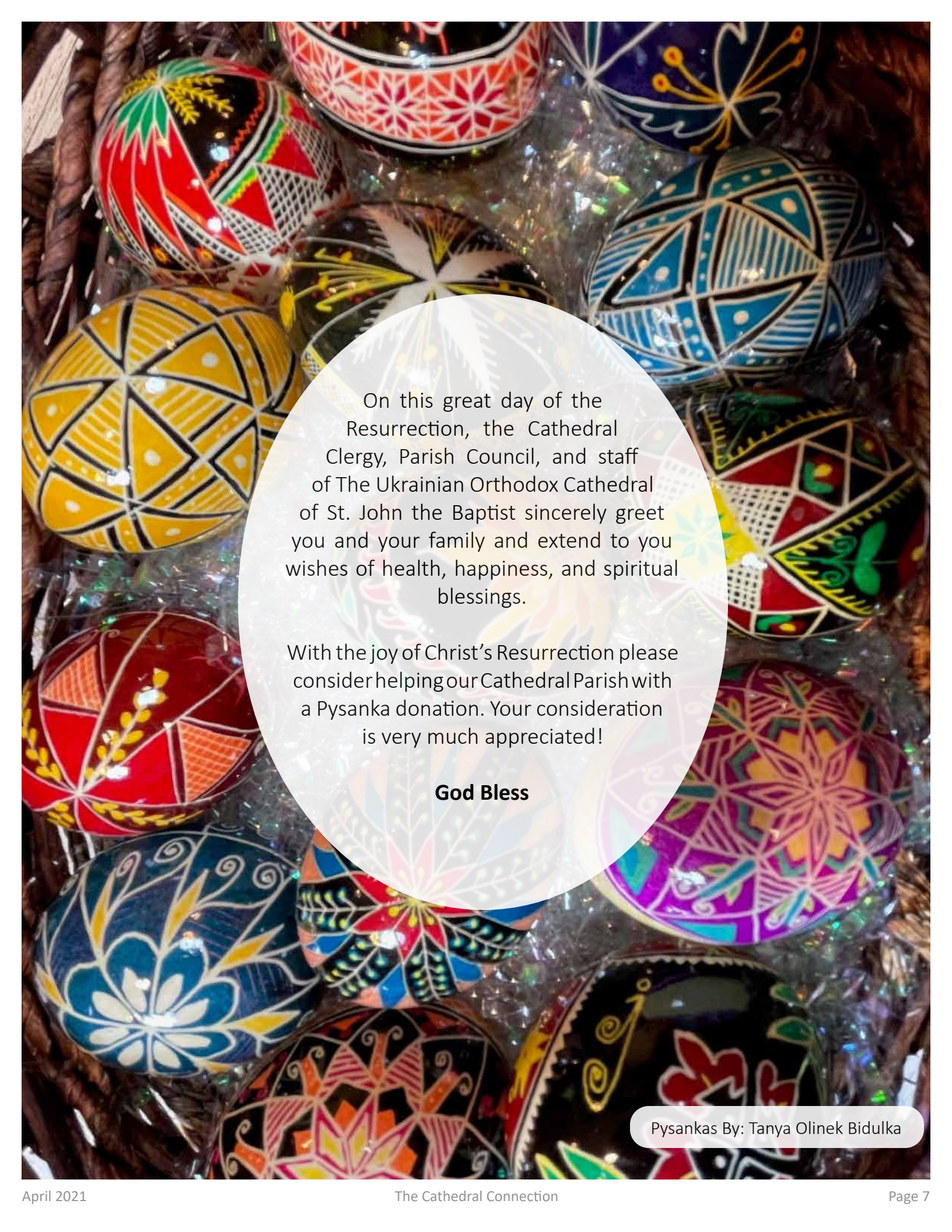
Orest Pohoreski

### **We will be celebrating our 100-Year Anniversary in 2023!**

Any individuals who are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact the parish office. Sharing your ideas will make achieving the celebration of this milestone a memorable event.

**Многая Літа**



A collection of colorful, intricately decorated Ukrainian Easter eggs (Pysanky) in a woven basket. The eggs feature various geometric and floral patterns in vibrant colors like red, yellow, blue, and green. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid in the center, containing text.

On this great day of the  
Resurrection, the Cathedral  
Clergy, Parish Council, and staff  
of The Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral  
of St. John the Baptist sincerely greet  
you and your family and extend to you  
wishes of health, happiness, and spiritual  
blessings.

With the joy of Christ's Resurrection please  
consider helping our Cathedral Parish with  
a Pysanka donation. Your consideration  
is very much appreciated!

**God Bless**

Pysankas By: Tanya Olinek Bidulka



# Многая Літа

**100 ЛІТТЯ**

**John Belseck**

**Born February 27, 1921**

John Belseck was born on February 27, 1921 in Vilna, Alberta to Metro and Maria (Serna) Belseck who had immigrated to Canada in 1910. He attended Lilyfield School as a young boy but left school at the age of 16 to apprentice as a carpenter. His early background in construction led him to a variety of jobs throughout his life.

After taking drafting courses at NAIT, he graduated as an Architectural Draftsman and eventually worked on a number of city projects including the Cross Cancer Institute, University Arts Center and Library. In 1966, he designed St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish and oversaw its construction.

His final employment was as a Health and Safety Inspector for the Alberta Provincial government where he travelled extensively throughout Alberta to inspect construction sites, logging companies and oil rigs.

He has two children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He is currently enjoying relatively good health while living at the McTaggart Senior Residence in Southwest Edmonton. He has been a long standing member of St. John's Parish and a member of the Order of St. Andrews.





## 102 ЛІТТЯ

### Bohdan Volodymyr Tataryn

**Born March 7, 1919**

Bohdan Volodymyr Tataryn is a first-generation pioneer in Alberta and a Canadian Ukrainian patriot. Bohdan was born on the family homestead in Radway Alberta and was the second liveborn child for John and Teklya Tataryn. Prior to his arrival on the planet there had been 2 other male children that had died either in childbirth or as newborns and were buried in unmarked graves in the Radway Cemetery. Bohdan grew up on the family farm in the Radway area that his father, John Tataryn, had homesteaded in 1916. This property is still in the family, over 100 years later.

Bohdan and his sister Stefka and his Aunt Olga attended grade school in Shakespeare School. The addition of a bilingual teacher, Ivan Genik, helped to further activities such as drama and music and allowed the students to speak Ukrainian freely. Ivan Genik was fluently bilingual and developed an active drama club at the school and furthered the creative activities in drama in the Radway area in both English and Ukrainian languages. When another bilingual and musically talented teacher, Olga Kuchinski, arrived it added a musical dimension of singing in English or Ukrainian and Ukrainian dancing to the activities that were now available after school for all the students who wanted to participate. All were welcome and included in these creative endeavours.



As a young boy Bohdan had a big dog that he called “Brownie”. Brownie was dearly loved and this dog was able to pull little Bohdan around on a sleigh and must have been a protector and a wonderful companion for this young boy in the cold Alberta prairie winters. Story is that Brownie would pull little Bohdan on the sleigh to the school at Shakespeare and then would return home to the farm and be unharnessed until it was time to go back and bring him home from school. Brownie and Bohdan would also go to Radway in the winter on small errands to purchase tobacco for Bohdan’s Father. Sadly, Brownie was stolen by somebody who needed a good dog to go up North and mine for gold.

In 1939 Bohdan enrolled in Edmonton Normal School and in September 1940 had a teaching position in the Wisla School of the Smoky Lake School Division.

In August 1941 Bohdan was drafted into the Canadian Armed Forces and was stationed in Tofino, British Columbia where the troops were protecting Canada’s west coast from hostile foreign invasion. To this day, there are remains of foreign air balloons still being uncovered in the Canadian Arctic that were released and had flown across the Pacific Ocean and landed with their boxes of ammunition and radioactive materials.

Bohdan had wanted to fly fighter planes but his Father requested that his only son not be sent overseas. In 1946 Bohdan received a formal discharge from the Army upon which his commanding officer had a meeting with him and he recommended that Bohdan attend the University of Alberta. Somewhere in this busy time he found the love of his life Michalina (Lena) Shwetz and they were married on June 24, 1948. Bohdan enrolled at the University of Alberta under the Veterans Loan Assistance Program and graduated in 1950 with a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in genetics. He also had a former teaching certificate prior to the draft. Bohdan completed his B.Ed. degree in 1952 by attending summer school between his teaching jobs. He continued his liaison with the Faculty of Agriculture and was one of the first people to grow rapeseed (canola) in the Radway area. The first year that he grew the canola he had very clean seed going into the hopper on the combine because he used his wife and daughter to shake the screen to remove many of the unwanted contaminating seeds from the final “black gold” going into the hopper.

In September 1950 Bohdan started teaching in Thorhild High School. By continuing his University education in the summer Bohdan obtained a minor in Ukrainian and this allowed him to teach Ukrainian in the high school in Thorhild. He assisted in the development of a language laboratory in the high school and this was one of the first language labs in Alberta. Bohdan had the privilege of preparing the first Ukrainian 30 Departmental Examination for the 1965-66 school year.

Bohdan carried a teaching load that included Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Mathematics for grades 10, 11, and 12 as well as Ukrainian, in addition to being Vice Principal. He also directed the drama club at the High School and one of the plays that he worked on was called "Still Stands the House". He was asked on several occasions to move to different schools but did not want to move away from the area.

Bohdan had an excellent tenor voice and he would on more than one occasion sing on the long winter drive home from a trip to Edmonton a love song to his wife Michalina (Oh How We Danced on the Night We Were Wed).

Bohdan and Michalina were very involved in the Thorhild community and Ukrainian Orthodox Church. As a cantor for many years, Bohdan travelled to rural parishes in the area and helped lead the responses during services. Bohdan also held a variety of Church Council executive positions.

The entire family moved from Thorhild town onto the original farmstead in 1955. Bohdan and Michalina raised all four children Ivanna, Donna, Dennis and David on this family farm. Dennis and David did much to help with all the work on the farm. Michalina stayed at home with the children until David was of school age. She looked after the cattle and chickens until she went back teaching when David started school. All the children followed orders assisting in the non-ending tasks of helping run Bohdan's "hobby experimental farm." In addition to the rapeseed, he also grew peas and flax.

Both Bohdan, Michalina and their children were involved in caroling at Church during Christmas, attending Church School, and during the summers went to Camp Bar-V-Nok. Dennis and David went to Winnipeg's St. Andrew's College for one summer and both completed their Ukrainian 30.

On November 21, 2002, Bohdan received the Hetman Award from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta Provincial Council.

Bohdan has had a long, healthy and prosperous life. He continues to be interested in events going on in the world and in the people around him. All his grandchildren have been a joy for him. From Samantha playing with the dog and riding horses and Tara learning to drive at the farm to visiting with Alexis in Montreal when he was growing up and recently with singing to Marena while tuning her Ukulele. Recently on his birthday Bohdan was able to see and talk all his grandchildren via Skype technology- Samantha Youssef in Montreal, Tara Youssef in Toronto, Alexis Youssef in Montreal and Marena Tataryn in Edmonton. He was able to recognize their faces on the computer screen and could not understand why his little grandson Alexis had gotten older looking? We pointed out to Bohdan that Alexis was still very young he had just grown up and had started growing a moustache and a little bit of a beard as he had experienced a very busy week.

The family and the community hold Bohdan in high esteem and his achievements speak for themselves and endure.

Mnohaya Litta Bohdane!





## 100 ЛІТТЯ

**Joana Janis**

**Born January 19, 1921**

Born on January 19, 1921, in Hyas, Saskatchewan, Joana recalls childhood birthday celebrations as immediate-family-only events. Friends and relatives, often unable to travel to the homestead in mid-winter, phoned instead. Flash forward 100 years ... and Joana's 2021 birthday celebration in Edmonton was a bit of a flashback!

Under current pandemic regulations, daughter Leslie and her husband Max, as Joana's designated essential visitors, were the only ones allowed in her Shepherd's Care suite. Today's technology enabled daughter Eleanor, eight grandchildren and four grandchildren-in-law, and five great-grandchildren from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and Nova Scotia to Zoom in for the birthday party. Seeing and talking to so many on a computer screen can be pretty overwhelming, but Joana gamely joined in the new-to-her experience. That's how she's been through much of the last century: welcoming and appreciating what life offers—which has included being a member of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral since 1949.

Sunday Divine Liturgy and Feast Day services throughout the year were always an integral part of Joana's life. Not unexpectedly, getting older and less mobile reduced her attendance over the last decade or so. Yet, prayer and a life in Christ remain central to her daily living, while attending church and her activities within church life remain strong in her memory. Still always in good spirits, she looks amazingly young for her age and reminds her family regularly that there is something to be grateful for each day.

Joana served as church board secretary for several years; taught Sunday School and Ukrainian School; was involved in the Iconostas, Church, and Stained-Glass Windows and numerous other committees; and participated in the seniors group. As long-time members of St. John's, Joana and her husband, Walter, generously contributed time and treasure as they were able, supporting many church activities and initiatives. This included donation of the ceiling icon of the Theotokos over the altar. Joana is an honorary member of the cathedral, and in 2018, she was presented the St. Andrew Award by Metropolitan Yuri for her contributions to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada. She was also very active in the cathedral branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada. In 2019, she was honoured with her 70-year pin by the UWAC at the St. John's Branch annual membership banquet.

Joana's "Happy 100th Birthday Memories" book comprised lovely cards and notes from family and friends; greetings from the Queen and government representatives; and thoughtful messages from Archbishop Ilarion, St. John's Cathedral, and the UWAC. Staff at Joana's residence also did much to make the day special, presenting her with a Shepherd's Care Foundation glass centenarian key engraved with her name and birthdate.

The Zoom party wrapped up with the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" ("Many Years"). It definitely takes on a deeper significance when sung for someone who's turned 100—that's already a great many years! We know such a long life is rare and special, and we're very thankful for all the years we have had with Mom/Baba/Prababa. We pray that God, according to His will and by His grace, will continue to bless her with health, peace, love, and joy.

~ Submitted by Leslie Vandersteen and Eleanor Gasparik, Joana Janis's daughters



Joana Janis, member of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, on January 19, 2021, at Shepherd's Care in Edmonton

## 100 ЛІТТЯ

**Пані Надя Лукша**

**12го лютого, 1921р.**

Пані Надя Лукша народилася 12го лютого, 1921р. на Волині. Коротке щасливе життя п. Наді, обірвалося через воєнну хуртовину війни. Як багато з нас, вона зі своїм мужем, бл. п. Петром, мусіла залишити, разом з Родичами, свій хутір, і почати довгу скитальську мандрівку.

В 1949 р. Надя з мужем Петром, прибули до Канади і оселилися в Едмонтоні. Старанням і працею звели нове гніздечко для Родичів і разом прожили багато років.

Як членкиня СУК, ще від 1970 р. п. Надя була знана як скромна, працювита і щедра членкиня, яка допомагала в громаді, там де її було потрібно. Надя, і її покійний муж, Петро, брали участь у всіх церковних зборах, концертах, та академіях. Вчащали на Богослуження що неділі, і жертвенно підтримували потреби церкви.



Залишившись самою вже 17 років, п. Надя висловлює подяку п. Едові Томсонові, якій дуже сердечно допомагає її в щоденних потребах. Еді є нашим братчиком при Катедрі Св. Івана і дуже працювитий і добрий член нашої громади.

Пані Надя завжди цікавиться новинами з України і її любов до Батківщини, глибока віра в Боже милосердя і великодушне розуміння людської природи. Сприяє на те, що з нею завжди приємно поговорити. Вона вірить, що з Божою поміччю все буде гаразд.

Отож, з нагоди таких серйозних лім, ще раз вітаємо, привітом яким п. Надя часто кінчає телефонні розмови: "Здоров'я доброго і віку довгого!"

На Многії Літа п. Надю!

З пошаною,

О. Логвиненко, членкиня СУК і приятелька

## V-NOK CULTURAL SOCIETY

### What is V-Nok Cultural Society?

Very simply, V-Nok Cultural Society is the fundraising arm of St. John's Cathedral. In its original state, it was a bingo committee made up of members of the Parish that conducted bingos in the Cultural Centre. In due course, the bingo committee applied for Society status as granted by Consumer and Corporate Affairs, a department of the Provincial Government. Following is a description of the voyage undertaken from a committee of parish members to a registered society that is required to complete an annual return for Alberta Registries as mandated by the Societies Act of the Alberta Government.

### Bingos

Initially, for its fundraising, St. John's Cathedral conducted the Silver Dollar Bingos in the Cultural Centre starting in the sixties shortly after the construction of the Cultural Centre in 1963 and stopped the bingos in 1985. These bingos were conducted under the direction of a bingo committee appointed by the church board. Many parishioners worked the bingos and will recall the eight foot long tables set in rows from the front to the back of the Cultural Centre. At a meeting of the Society dated July 27, 1986, a motion was passed to sell the bingo machines and all supplies and to apply to several bingo halls in the hope of obtaining a regular bingo slot.

### Incorporating as a Society

During the time that the committee was conducting bingos, at a meeting held October 22, 1979 a motion was passed to



incorporate the bingo committee under the Companies Branch of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of the Government of the Province of Alberta. At that time, this Branch advised that the full name of the parish had to be included in the name of the Society so the “Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish of St. John Cultural and Recreational Association” came into existence. After providing all the required documentation, the “Certificate of Incorporation” was issued July 25, 1980.

Incorporation of the bingo committee into a Society was extremely fortuitous since bingos such as our Silver Dollar Bingo collapsed in favour of the large ten-car bingo or thirty thousand dollar cash bingos conducted at the old Edmonton Gardens. Additionally, 50 game go-go bingos operated out of bingo halls operated by various bingo associations became very popular. The first bingo held by the Society in another venue was July 25, 1985 as operated by the Jasper Place Bingo Association.

## **Casinos**

In the mid seventies, a new fundraising activity became a reality – casinos. For this activity, only organizations that were registered as a Society with Consumer and Corporate Affairs were eligible to conduct casinos. Consequently, the first casino conducted by Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish of St. John Cultural and Recreational Association was in July 1986, followed by a second casino in September 1988.

## **Name Change**

The name of the parish’s Society was cumbersome to say the least, prompting application to have the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish of St. John Cultural and Recreational Association renamed. In January 1986, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs provided a list of “search companies” that would advise if a proposed name was already in use. On August 27, 1986, a “Certificate of Amendment” was issued by the Corporate Registries of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs changing the name of the organization from “Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish of St. John Cultural and Recreational Association” to “V-Nok Cultural Society”.

After the second casino in September 1988, V-Nok Cultural Society became dormant and its status as a registered Society was nearly lost since the annual reports that were legally required had not been filed. At a meeting of interested parish members held November 25, 1991, a motion was passed to reactivate the Society. The required reports were filed, and an application was made to the Alberta Gaming Commission December 21, 1991 for the third casino that was slotted to be held during the period July to September 1993.

## **Use of Proceeds**

The proposed use of proceeds was for two specific areas:

- 1) to assist with specific maintenance projects and with cultural and religious activities, and
- 2) to assist with the building fund (plans had already been prepared to expand and renovate the Cultural Centre and connect the Cultural Centre to the Cathedral via a pedway).

Since the casino in 1993, a casino has been conducted every two years with the most recent being conducted February 2020.

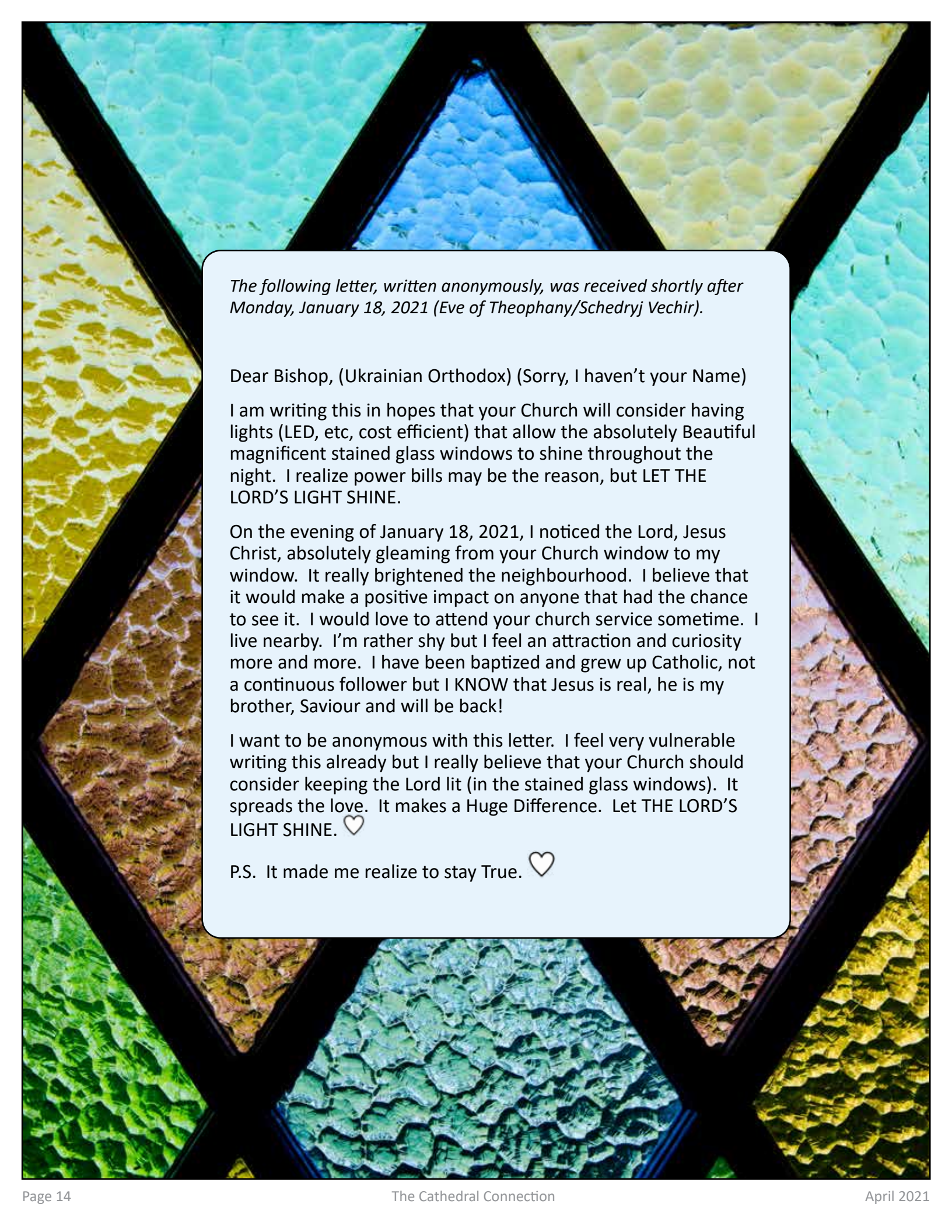
In total, proceeds from the casinos amount to approximately one million dollars. It has been instrumental in our parish being able to complete all the major renovations and expansions that have been completed to bring our facilities to the excellent conditions as they currently exist.

## **Support of the Council of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of Edmonton (CUOCE)**

Starting in 2012, the Parish has used casino funds to provide financial assistance to the Council of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of Edmonton. This annual \$10,000 operational levy was approved at an annual meeting of the CUOCE where the parish representatives passed a motion to provide financial support. This is in keeping with an agreement signed by all five parishes in 1994 whereby they became financially responsible for the development of St. Stephen’s cemetery.

## **Membership and Conclusion**

All members of St. John’s Cathedral are automatically members of V-Nok Cultural Society and are eligible to serve as volunteer workers at the casinos. To maintain the Society’s legal standing, a brief annual general meeting is held each year in conjunction with the parish’s annual general meeting, where an executive is elected, and a financial statement is presented. The results are filed with the Registrar of Corporations in order to maintain its Society status.



*The following letter, written anonymously, was received shortly after Monday, January 18, 2021 (Eve of Theophany/Schedryj Vechir).*

Dear Bishop, (Ukrainian Orthodox) (Sorry, I haven't your Name)

I am writing this in hopes that your Church will consider having lights (LED, etc, cost efficient) that allow the absolutely Beautiful magnificent stained glass windows to shine throughout the night. I realize power bills may be the reason, but LET THE LORD'S LIGHT SHINE.

On the evening of January 18, 2021, I noticed the Lord, Jesus Christ, absolutely gleaming from your Church window to my window. It really brightened the neighbourhood. I believe that it would make a positive impact on anyone that had the chance to see it. I would love to attend your church service sometime. I live nearby. I'm rather shy but I feel an attraction and curiosity more and more. I have been baptized and grew up Catholic, not a continuous follower but I KNOW that Jesus is real, he is my brother, Saviour and will be back!

I want to be anonymous with this letter. I feel very vulnerable writing this already but I really believe that your Church should consider keeping the Lord lit (in the stained glass windows). It spreads the love. It makes a Huge Difference. Let THE LORD'S LIGHT SHINE. ♡

P.S. It made me realize to stay True. ♡



## PARISH COUNCIL 2021

President	Marshall Kachmar
Vice President	Gerald Kruhlak
Secretary	Karla Palichuk
Treasurer	Orest Pohoreski
Assistant Treasurer	vacant
Property Manager	Tony Horobec
Membership Chairman	Myroslava Chomiak
Archivist	Larissa Ewanchuk-Laniuk
Events	Roxoliana Tsisar
UWAC	Julia Elaschuk
Church School	Susan Jereniuk
St. John's Seniors	Grace Pelepchan
Sr. CYMK	Justine Jereniuk
Cathedral Choir	Karla Palichuk



**Passia 2021**



## Ukrainian Women's Association- St John's Branch

**"Our Heritage: The Past, The Present and The Future"** mural project is two thirds complete! Four murals representing *"The Past"* and four murals representing *"The Present"* (below) are mounted on the upper walls of the Cultural Centre. *"The Present"* four murals have been partially sponsored by UWAC, St. John's Branch; SUS Foundation of Canada; Shevchenko Foundation; and AUSRL.

Four murals representing *"The Future"* will be started in September, 2021. We welcome your input about the images/motifs you would like to see included in these murals. Please call or text Julia Elaschuk (780-909-1453) or Theo Harasymiw (780-718-1672) OR leave us a note in the UWAC mailbox in the Cultural Centre office.







## Our Heritage:

### The Past, The Present and The Future

The Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada - St. John's Cathedral Branch has contracted a local renowned artist to conceptualize and create twelve - 4-foot by 8-foot mosaic panels which represent three periods in the story of our parish: Past, Present and Future. The first phase has been funded by the Branch's Benevolent and Cultural Fund. For many decades our members worked countless hours organizing events and in the parish kitchen to grow this fund. Our intent is that:

- The Centennial Anniversary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Edmonton in 2023 will be celebrated.
- The Legacy of the past will be recognized.
- The Cathedral Cultural Centre will be enhanced.
- Community spirit and personal ownership will be fostered.

Julia Elaschuk, President UWAC, St. John's Cathedral Branch

### Artist's statement; Theodora Harasymiw.

*"This project has many wonderful aspects. I am able to speak directly with the community and receive their feedback on what they think of how this community has come about and what images should be included in the design. Designing 12 panels about the life of the community – past, present and future – is an interesting challenge. Also, trying to include as many suggestions as possible from that community adds to a wonderful challenge. Using various materials, from traditional glass, smalti, broken family china, wooden Easter eggs, plates and ceramic tile as well as other materials, makes the project exciting and innovative. These materials sometimes alter the original design because of their cultural importance and aesthetic quality. Seeing the panels come to life over many months is also a highlight. What I had not prepared for and what has become my favourite part of this project is all the people who have come to help assemble and become part of this legacy mosaic. Watching these hands place pieces of tile on the mosaic has a huge impact on me. Some work with strength and position. Others struggle with shaking and uncertain hands which make for some of the most beautiful tile placement. Conversations that arise are so personal and candid add to the experiential process of creating the mosaic. I've come to know many people in the church congregation in ways that I have never had before and reuniting with individuals I knew as a child. It is the intimacy and connections to these people that will inevitably flow through these works. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the individuals in the community and the next set of panels and to see what this legacy has in store for us."*





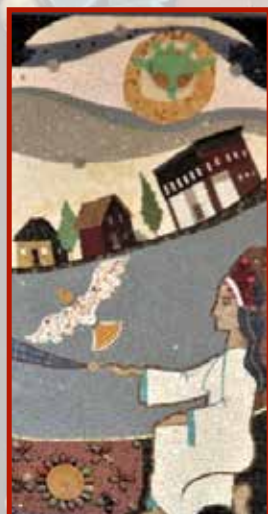
## Наша Спадщина: Минуле, Сучасне та Майбутнє.

Союз Українок Канади при Катедральному Соборі Святого Івана Хрестителя заангажував місцеву художницю уявляти і творити дизайн дванадцяти мозаїчних панелей, розміром 1,2 метрів на 2,4 метрів, які представляють три періоди в історії нашої парафії: минуле, сучасне та майбутнє. Перший етап фінансувався Добродільним та Культурним фондом нашого відділу. Цей фонд зростає десятиліттями, завдяки зусиллям наших членкинь які провели незліченні години організовуючи зустрічі, події, та працюючи у парафіяльній кухні. Ми маємо намір:

- Відзначити 100-ліття Українського Православного Собору Святого Івана Хрестителя в Едмонтоні в 2023 році.
- Визнати та оцінити нашу спадщину.
- Прикрасити культурний центр.
- З'єднати громаду та підносити її духовно.

Юлія Елащук,

Голова Союзу Українок Канади, відділ Собору св. Івана



### Заява мистця Теодори Гарасимів

"Цей проєкт має багато чудових аспектів. Я маю змогу розмовляти з членами громади та знати їхні думки про історію громади та які образи включити до дизайну. Маємо на увазі створити 12-ти панелей про життя громади - минуле, сучасність та майбутнє. Це не легка справа. Трудно включити різні пропозиції та зробити з них одне ціле. Використання різних матеріалів, наприклад, традиційне скло, смалти, розбитий сімейний посуд, дерев'яні писанки, тарілки та керамічні плитки, захоплює та інноваційне. Ці матеріали іноді змінюють оригінальний дизайн через їх культурне значення та естетичну якість. Панелі оживають протягом багатьох місяців—особливе явище. Те, що я не очікувала, і що стало найсолодшим аспектом цього проєкту, це всі люди, які прийшли допомогти скласти мозаїку. Спостерігаючи як ці руки кладуть шматочки на мозаїку, дуже впливає на мене. Деякі працюють сміливо. Інші боязко, полохливо. Руки тремтять, але з цими непевними руками творять красиве розміщення шматочків. Особисті та відверті розмови, які виникають, додають до мозаїки. Я краще познайомилася з багатьма людьми в церковній громаді й удруге пізнала людей, яких я знала з дитинства. Ці зв'язки з іншими парафіянами впливають на мозаїки. Я дуже рада, що маю можливість співпрацювати з цими особами. Разом ми побачимо, що нам принесуть наступні панелі."



### The following parishioners and community members volunteered more than 200 hours to complete the four "PAST" Mosaic Panels:

Andrea Kopylech  
Eileen Yewchuk  
Glenise Harvey  
Iris Ciona  
June Mielnichuk  
Myroslava Chomiak  
Oksana Tarawsky  
Petro Motyka  
Viktoria Trubenko

Dean Crame  
Elaine Harasymiw  
Helen Elkow  
Joanne Melnychuk  
Larysa Chomiak  
Nadia Sas  
Oryssia Lennie  
Stephanie Trubenko  
Willi Zwozdesky

Donna Kowalishin  
Elena Scharabun  
Irene Tarnawsky  
Julia Elashuk  
Lorna Stefaniuk  
Natalka Makaranko  
Petra Myroniuk  
Tatiana Martschenko

Ukrainian translation: Leona Bridges; Brochure design. Tatiana Martschenko

### UWAC also thanks the Cathedral Choir for the \$1,000 donation toward the completion of this Centennial project.

These four *Past* themed panels were installed in December 2019. Work on the four *Present* themed panels will be completed in December 2020. Parish members can contribute ideas for the next set of four panels: *Future*, by filling out the questionnaire available in the Cultural Centre Office or by phoning Julia Elashuk 780-456-6580 or Theo Harasymiw 780-718-1672.



November 2019



# ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

## Historical Overview

The genesis of St. Stephen's Cemetery began in 1967 with the creation of a Society called the Council of Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Churches of Edmonton. Rather than developing a cemetery that would serve the needs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Community, that Council struck a deal with Evergreen Memorial Gardens where a garden was reserved to serve the needs of our community on the condition that the Ukrainian Orthodox Community could not develop a cemetery within a 25 mile radius of Edmonton for a period of 25 years. In 1992, this restrictive covenant expired, and plans to develop a cemetery began.

In 1990, through an Act of the Canadian Parliament, the word "Greek" was removed from the official name of our church which is now called the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC). This led to a change in the name of the society created in 1967 to what is now the Council of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of Edmonton (CUOCE). Through the initiative of the CUOCE under the chairmanship of the late Very Reverend Meroslaw Kryschuk, an agreement was signed in 1994 by all five parishes whereby they became financially responsible for the development of a cemetery. Four years elapsed before the CUOCE was able to purchase the 80-acre site which is now St. Stephen's Cemetery. The purchase that was concluded in August 1998 was for \$200,000, of which \$190,000 was provided as a loan by St. John's Fraternal Society. As a point of interest, the City of Edmonton has assessed the cemetery for 2021 in the amount of \$3,350,000.

## Development at the Cemetery

In November 1999, a development permit was obtained from the City of Edmonton, following an appeal to the Sub-Division and Development Appeal Board. In February 2000, a plan was adopted by the CUOCE, setting July 1, 2001 as the time when the cemetery would be able to have its first interment. Work began on developing the cemetery in 2000 with the building of the first roads, planting of the grass, and transplanting several hundred spruce trees on three sides of the area being developed.

St. Stephen's Cemetery received six provincial CFEP grants starting in October 1999 for a total amount of \$750,000. These funds were critical in allowing for the 1.5 million dollars of development. In 1998 when the land was purchased, it was a field of canola. Now, forty-five acres have been developed, including three kilometers of gravelled roads, an administration building, a maintenance building, three focal points, and the transplanting of one thousand trees.

St. Stephen's Cemetery offers all services that are available at other cemeteries, some of which have been in operation for more than 100 years. As well, the cemetery is in the unique position of being able to incorporate new services as they become available or desired. For example, green burials are becoming more common, prompting the cemetery to begin developing an area for this purpose.



## ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY



Cremation has become the primary way of dealing with the deceased. Alberta statistics show that seventy-five percent of the more than twenty thousand deaths per year in Alberta result in cremation. Four columbaria have been installed providing 288 niches, just a start of the anticipated 50,000 niches. St. Stephen's Cemetery will cater to this societal trend, while still preserving the Orthodox sections for conventional burials.



### Development Plans

**S**tantec, an international engineering firm, was engaged to prepare all the plans for developing the cemetery. This included the development of a master plan for the total eighty-acre site. Gardens have been identified and all the roads necessary to serve the gardens have been drawn in. Architectural drawings were prepared for the administration and maintenance buildings, and the three focal points.



The administration building was designed to reflect a Ukrainian style structure and the furniture was chosen to be attractive, functional, durable, and in colours to suit the serenity of a cemetery.



The Ukrainian Orthodox Focal Point, located in the Garden of Resurrection, was situated on the highest point of land to give it the prominence associated with ownership by the Ukrainian Orthodox Community. Additionally, elms were planted on each side of the road leading up to the Cross and are already creating an archway. Another focal point was constructed in the Garden of Tranquility that includes the construction of the first four columbaria. A field of honour has been established where veterans and their spouses will be laid to rest.





## ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

A horticultural plan of trees and shrubs was prepared, including a wide variety of trees that would be planted on site, such as spruce, Brandon elms, linden, burr oak, green ash, amur maple, columnar aspen, flowering crab apple, and Schubert trees. Members of our community have donated willows that will be a source of pussywillow shoots that all Orthodox members look forward to receiving on Palm Sunday. No spruce trees are planted within a garden to avoid the problem in other cemeteries where the spruce trees become very large and oppressive, and the roots end up dislodging monuments.

The two buildings and three focal points have been constructed to the highest standard.



### The First Burials

The first burial occurred May 1, 2001 when Helen Marianych was laid to rest, followed by Walter Tkach who was interred four weeks later, on May 28. Although Mrs. Marianych was the first interment, Walter Tkach purchased the first two graves. Walter was the treasurer of the CUOCE at the time of his purchase, so he was supporting the project of which he had been such an integral part. On the other hand, the Marianych family made a conscious decision to support the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by purchasing a grave at St. Stephen's Cemetery, and for their mother to be a pioneer in being the very first interment.

### Demand for Cemetery Services

To date approximately five hundred interment spaces have been purchased, 350 conventional burial graves and 150 cremation spaces. A family has constructed an 18 crypt family mausoleum, with two of the crypts already utilized. Being a new cemetery with a lot of spaces, families have taken the opportunity to purchase family groupings with as many as twelve graves

being purchased together. This addresses a very important human desire to be together even after passing.

Families have installed a variety of very attractive monuments, including flat, pillow, and upright. Families that come to the cemetery for the first time comment on the serenity and beauty of the cemetery and very often purchase spaces. Prices for services are very competitive, with savings in the hundreds and some cases, thousands of dollars.

### Developments Enhancing the Prospects for St. Stephen's Cemetery

An area structure plan for the 9,000-acre Horsehills sub-division was approved by City Council in 2014. This plan envisions a population of 72,000 residents, with St. Stephen's Cemetery becoming the neighbourhood cemetery. The plan includes single family and multi-residential housing, business and commercial areas, and a town centre just two kilometers south of the cemetery that would include an LRT station.

Although there was optimism in 2014 that there would be new housing in the Horsehills area by 2016, the downturn in the economy stalled development, with only some road building and movement of power lines having been completed in preparation for developing the area. However, when the economy improves, development will begin, and there will be increased activity at St. Stephen's Cemetery. With the completion of the northeast leg of the Anthony Henday, access to the cemetery from all quadrants of the city is very convenient.

With land values increasing to a point where it would be impossible for a non-profit, voluntary organization such as the CUOCE to attempt such a project, cemetery space will become in short supply. When the 80-acre site was purchased in 1998, it was zoned agriculture and was purchased for \$2,500 per acre. Currently the City of Edmonton values farmland within the city borders in excess of \$100,000 per acre. In recognition of the pending shortage of cemetery space, the City of Edmonton is already taking steps to increase its cemetery holdings in the next ten years. With what has been accomplished at St. Stephen's Cemetery, it is well-positioned to take advantage of the inevitable demand for cemetery space.

## ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

### Events at St. Stephen's Cemetery

Each year, there are two formal events that are celebrated: 1) blessing of graves (*Provody*), and 2) Remembrance Day.



Blessing of graves, when upwards of one hundred and fifty people gather to memorialize their loved ones, occurs around the beginning of June when the grass has started to turn green and the weather is warm. Priests from all of our parishes participate, starting with a service at the cross before spreading out to the individual graves where the families participate in the blessing of the graves of their loved ones.



Where a new monument had just been installed the monument is also blessed. Some families take the opportunity to participate in a family gathering where they enjoy a meal and refreshments.



Remembrance Day is another event that is celebrated at St. Stephen's Cemetery. The organization called *No Stone Left Alone* arranges a ceremony, inviting a representative of the military and a class of students from one of the schools to participate in the ceremony. As well, families of the veterans are invited to attend. Following the ceremony at the cross which concludes by the placement of a wreath, the students place a poppy on the monument of every veteran.



Following the ceremony, all participants gather in the administration building to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, where the military representative provides answers posed by the students and guests. It is truly an uplifting event. Our thanks go to the *No Stone Left Alone* organization that has started this exceptional Remembrance Day Ceremony.





# ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

## Future Plans

Future plans include a chapel and social centre. As well, inquiries have been made about the development of a funeral home and crematorium on site. This would provide all the services that are part and parcel of the funeral process and would eliminate the need for any funeral processions.

Although St. Stephen's Cemetery does not have the paved roads or the more mature landscaping of other cemeteries, over time, it will provide all the niceties available at the older cemeteries. It will also boast two wetland areas that currently provide a home for a variety of birds and animals.

## Conclusion

**St.** Stephen's Cemetery is the largest project that the Edmonton Ukrainian Orthodox Community has ever undertaken. Ultimate proceeds will support the Ukrainian Orthodox Community in Edmonton. The potential gross income at today's prices is **\$330,000,000** and this number will only increase over time. The resulting net revenue will contribute to the financial well-being of our parishes and will provide our Bishop and the Western Eparchy with the opportunity of doing missionary work to not only assist our church in maintaining its strength, but also to grow it.

Purchasing graves at St. Michael's Cemetery or Rosehill supports the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Purchasing graves at Evergreen Memorial Gardens or Westlawn supports a huge for profit conglomerate. Purchasing graves at city cemeteries supports the City of Edmonton. However, purchasing graves at St. Stephen's Cemetery supports the Ukrainian Orthodox Community.



So why not purchase your final resting place at St. Stephen's Cemetery? Remember, it is ours! We invite you to come and visit this beautiful, serene site, and view the progress that has been made.

## For More Information

George Zaharia  
General Manager  
St. Stephen's Cemetery  
20303 Meridian Street NE  
Edmonton, AB T5Y 6E6

Telephone: 780-377-0277  
Email: [info@ststephenscemetery.ca](mailto:info@ststephenscemetery.ca)  
Website: <http://www.StStephensCemetery.ca>

Take an *aerial video tour* of the cemetery.

Text and pictures provided by George Zaharia  
Design and production by [Steppingstones.ca](http://Steppingstones.ca)





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Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### CONSISTORY BOARD MOTION:

WHEREAS the Covid 19 Pandemic caused the XXIV<sup>th</sup> regular General Council ("Sobor") scheduled for July 2020 to be postponed;

AND WHEREAS the XXIV<sup>th</sup> regular Sobor rescheduled to July 2021 is slated to be held in an entirely virtual format, in light of ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic constraints, including an emerging new wave of the pandemic in parts of Canada that continues to limit the ability of our full membership to convene together to prepare for the 2021 Sobor;

AND WHEREAS the virtual format presents numerous logistical challenges including, but not limited to, dealing with four time zones, limited or no access to the Sobor by many rural members due to internet limitations, limiting the pool of Sobor delegates overall to those members with computer resources, and lack of assurance that full compliance with our By-Laws in matters such as the participation of guests and voting will be achievable;

AND WHEREAS, due to the time zone constraints and the fatigue factor for those who will be able to participate virtually, the working hours of Sobor are necessarily limited, significantly reducing the amount of business which can be reasonably and meaningfully conducted within the times allotted;

AND WHEREAS there have been 31 resolutions proposed to date to be considered by Sobor not including resolutions of greeting and acknowledgement of which there may be another 10 to 12;

AND WHEREAS it is impractical to deal with all of these resolutions at a virtual Sobor given the logistical constraints and that the need for a (subsequent) special Sobor has been discussed for some time by the Sobor Planning Committee;

AND WHEREAS the By-Laws, Policy & Procedures and Resolutions Committee ("Resolutions Committee") has recommended that the majority of these resolutions be

deferred to a special Sobor to be held in 2022 for the purpose of, among other things, completing the work of the regular Sobor;

AND WHEREAS such a deferral requires the consent of the movers and seconders of the resolutions proposed to be deferred;

AND WHEREAS the circumstances prompting the deferral of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> regular Sobor in 2020 continue to exist at the current time and it would be more fruitful, efficient and productive to address the proposed resolutions, many of which are complex and interrelated, at a single Sobor in person in 2022;

NOW THEREFORE **BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. The Consistory Board hereby confirms that the XXIV<sup>th</sup> regular Sobor of the UOCC should be deferred further and formally requests that His Eminence Metropolitan YURIJ immediately call the Sobor to be held in 2022 at a time and place determined by the Consistory Board not later than July 10, 2022; and that
2. The Office of the Consistory give notice of this motion to all parishes of the UOCC as soon as practicable.

Moved by **Walter Pylypchuk**, Chair, By-Laws, Policy & Procedures and Resolutions Committee, seconded by **Stephania Luciuk**.

**CARRIED, Blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan YURIJ**

Ratified pursuant to s. 11.12 of the UOCC Bylaws and blessed for implementation by His Eminence Metropolitan YURIJ this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021

  
His Eminence Metropolitan YURIJ