

October 2021

# The Cathedral Connection

St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and Cultural Centre

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Original Letter from Cathedral Sketch Artist, image on Newsletter Cover

650 North Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, California, 90049



Kline  
Exploration  
Company

May 16, 1975

Very Reverend A. Chomiak  
ST. JOHN'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
10951 -107th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Very Reverend Chomiak:

On a cold Saturday last March, I parked on 107th Street opposite your lovely cathedral, and made the enclosed sketch (two copies enclosed). That evening, I observed your announcement in the Edmonton paper, showing the same view but taken from a northwest angle, and thought you might like a copy of my drawing.

Please feel free to use it in any way you wish. I am a geologist that sketches scenes in North America for my own amusement, and give out free prints to my friends and associates.

Very truly yours,

  
MORTIMER A. KLINE, JR.

## GREETINGS FROM THE CATHEDRAL DEAN

### Дорогі брати й сестри в Христі!

В цей час сердечно вітаю всіх Вас із надходячим початком Нового Церковного Року, і хочу вірити, що ви всі із охотою приступатимете до нової праці й діяльності при нашій Громаді. Я заохочую й прошу Вас регулярно вчашати до Церкви й активно включатись в Церковне Життя.

I sincerely greet each and every one of you with the coming of the New Church Year. Our programs and activities will soon be commencing. Let us view church attendance as a gift, rather than as an obligation and troublesome duty. We need to be mindful of the fact that living in a society of many temptations and countless mixed messages, we need the encouragement of one another to help us become and remain strong Christians. It is only by supporting one another that we are able to avoid distraction, remain focused, and order our priorities rightly. That is why St. Paul writes: "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together ... but let us encourage one another all the more." (Heb. 10:25)



Those of you, who cannot attend Church regularly, because of ill health, or some other valid reason, can still pray for the Church, its ministry, its needs and its people. At the same time, those of us who are not limited must take the Church to those who cannot attend. We must visit them regularly, bring them antidoron, and be God's presence in their lives. In this way we "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal.6:2)

Ще раз закликаю всіх Вас до відданого й активного життя в нашій Церкві!

In Christ's love,  
Father 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.

Valentine Lopatka	May
Kay Monchakowsky	June
Don Melnychuk	June
Romana Gauk	July
Paula Osachuk	August
John Belseck	September



Fr. Cornell was presented with an Icon by His Grace Bishop Illarion, on St. Cornelius the Centurion Day.

**Многая Літа!**

## **Church School Needs YOU!**



St. John's Church School is seeking 1 or 2 individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of the youth of our parish as a Church School Administrator. This role oversees the administration of the Church School program, including organizing and coordinating various events (Sv. Nikolai concert, First Confession, and annual picnic), outlining the annual calendar, and communicating with parents/teachers and the parish board.

In order to ensure that our Church School program will continue to grow and flourish this role **NEEDS** to be filled.

Please reach out to Susan Jereniuk ([sjereniuk@gmail.com](mailto:sjereniuk@gmail.com), 780-419-2276) if you are interested or if you have any questions. This program is integral in fulfilling the spiritual lives of our youngest members of St. John's Parish.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Слава Ісусу Христу!**

**Glory to Jesus Christ!**

I wish to express sincere greetings to each and every member of our Parish.

Our hope was that by now we would be returning to normal living.

After a brief relaxation of restrictions, we find ourselves now in a worse situation than at the start of the Pandemic.

I am now at nine months in my seventh year as President. This past year was most challenging. The support we received from many of our members made it possible to keep our office open. Together we were able to keep our Cathedral open by following all restrictions ordered by the Chief Medical Officer for the province. The Parish wishes to acknowledge Gerald Kruhlak and the group volunteering to manage the protocols so the even though we were limited we were able to conduct Liturgies. Thank you, Gerald, for managing the Covid-19 Protocols.



All parishioners who braved the risks, we thank you for cooperating to make us safe and stay healthy. Our hope is to return to normal as soon as possible, which may never be the same as prior to the pandemic.

We are most grateful for the financial support we have received, making it possible to continue during these difficult times.

Our catering operation was just in the process of gearing up to a busy fall is now in an unsure state, dependent on the results of the latest restrictions. Special thanks to our volunteers, who we depend on for the success we accomplish.

Unfortunately, the pandemic will last a long time as I have met individuals who come to St. John's, who do not believe in being vaccinated. They claim that the deaths announced daily are from causes other than Covid-19. This makes everyone at risk from the Virus.

Turning to a brighter side of my message, we wish to congratulate His Grace Bishop Ilarion for being our Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. We pray that God may grant him health and bless him as he provides us with spiritual leadership. AXIOS!!!

Congratulations to our 100 birthday members! You can read their biographies in this issue.

Best wishes to Ken and Melvina Ozipko on their retirements from Cathedral duties as an Elder and assistant to the Elder. Also, congratulations to Ken and Melvina on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. МНОГАЯ ЛИТА - МНОГАЯ ЛИТА!!

Congratulations and best wishes to Alice Chumer on her retirement after 40 years as our Cathedral Choir Conductor. We have been privileged to enjoy the Cathedral Choir under her directorship. We sincerely thank you and will miss your service to our Parish.

I wish to express sincere thanks to Ed Thomson for being our Elder and assisting in the office. Personally, I enjoy delegating office work to him under "severe threats"! GOOD JOB.

It is a pleasure to be involved with our great Parish Council and the support I receive.

The spiritual leadership of Fr. Stephan and Fr. Cornell is heartwarming. We have with Bishop Ilarion, our clergy, and parish members a GREAT Cathedral

GOD BLESS all and stay safe and healthy.

Marshall Kachmar  
Parish President

*Note!!! I forgot to thank my wife June for all her support. Sorry June!!!*

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parish Family and supporters:

A brief update on our financial status over the summer months – Summer usually brings less offerings and donations with less church attendance, but this is normally offset by increased catering event revenue. Due to covid restrictions we were just able to commence some catering functions at the end of July (thank you volunteer help) which helped however with our fourth wave our functions have again been reduced making it difficult to attain our budget.

For the three summer months ending August we brought in revenue of approximately \$79000 versus expenses of \$117000 – this deficit was partially offset by the federal govt wage subsidy program funds of over \$26000 during this period leaving a deficit of roughly \$12000.

Unfortunately the wage subsidy program is coming to a close shortly so we will have a difficult last quarter of the year especially with the present pandemic issues affecting our revenue plans. Please keep your parish in mind to help support our operations however you can. As well, please complete your 2021 member pledges if you have not already done so – we do have many outstanding.

I encourage all our members and supporters to consider pre-paid offerings - whether by automatic bank withdrawal, etransfers, canadahelps program...doing so acknowledges the financial commitment one makes to the work and service of the parish.

Respectfully,

Orest Pohoreski  
Treasurer



**Please help us meet our financial obligation with a donation during this Thanksgiving season!**

**(780) 425-9692**  
**info@uocc-stjohn.ca**





## Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary To Couples Married in 1961

The St. John's Cathedral Parish Family would like to celebrate the following couples who are commemorating their 60th Wedding Anniversaries this year.

Ken & Melvina Ozipko

June & Marshall Kachmar

## Introducing our Cathedral's New Choir Conductor...!

Many have been waiting, wondering, and asking, "When?" "Who?" "What's taking so long?" Well, the wait and anticipation are over! Following an unprecedented, well-organized, and extensive search process (including, of course, navigating through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic), the search committee's recommendation was submitted, and the Parish Council made their decision. Following Lesia Chumer's exemplary and fruitful more than four decades capably conducting our beautiful choir – for which we are thankful beyond words – we are pleased to announce that OREST SOLTYKEVYCH has been chosen to take up the baton and conduct St. John Cathedral Choir!

Orest is well known by our cathedral community – he was born and raised in Edmonton. He and his wife, Lesia, have been members of our church community for over 30 years. In his youth, Orest was active in Plast and CYMK organizations and was an accompanist and singer in Dnipro and CYMK choirs. He completed Grade 9 piano and holds a Bachelor of Education in Secondary Music. Orest was a teacher and administrator in Edmonton Public Schools for 33 years. He has conducted several choirs in Edmonton – Edmonton CYMK Choir, Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton, Verkhovyna Choir, and the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Choir. He is a member and has served as president of the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta. Orest also sang with the Richard Easton Singers, the Da Camera Singers, and sings with Kapella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir, currently. Orest is also engaged in the local radio scene – he hosts a classical choral and vocal music programme, "Raising Voices," on CKUA Radio, which follows an earlier seat at the microphone at CJSR Radio, as host of the Ukrainian popular music programme, "Sounds Ukrainian."



There was such a strong field of candidates to consider! We are confident, however, that Orest is the right choice for today's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist congregation. We are certain Orest will be instrumental to moving the choir into a creative and melodious new era and shall play a key role in building upon a strong and existing choral foundation, encouraging and guiding new choristers to continue contributing to this essential element of our Orthodox worship, for the glory of God and the good estate of His Holy Church! Congratulations Orest! We look forward to seeing – and hearing – you in the choir loft very soon!

*Choir members, take note: the first rehearsal with Orest, as circumstances permit, is scheduled for later this month, on THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER!*

## Best Wishes For a Happy Retirement, Alice (Lesia) Chumer!

In October 2020, Alice (Lesia) Chumer retired as Conductor of St. John's Cathedral Choir after 44 years of service to the Ukrainian Orthodox community in Edmonton.

Choral music has been part of her life from a young age. During Lesia's early years in Boyle, her parents imparted their love of music by singing Ukrainian and English folksongs at home. In 1948, 7-year-old Lesia and her family moved from Boyle to Edmonton and became members of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral where her father and older sister, Diane, sang in the choir. When Lesia joined the choir at age 14 (there was no youth or CYMK choir), it was conducted by Professor Alexander Yewfymchuk. She continued singing in the choir throughout high school and also joined the Edmonton Opera Chorus. At the University of Alberta she earned a Bachelor of Education (Music major and Biology minor), sang in the University Mixed Chorus, and accompanied voice students on the piano. Later, she was a member of Merezhi Women's Ensemble for a number of years as well as Dnipro Choir where she is still a member. She also sang in the Perlyny Trio together with Olesia Talpash and Gloria Zaharia. To further enhance her performances with these ensembles, Lesia received many years of professional voice training and attended numerous conducting workshops.



After graduating from university, Lesia taught at Paul Kane High School in St. Albert. In 1965, Lesia married Nestor Chumer at St. John's Cathedral. Together they raised two children, daughter Sandra Dymianiw (John), and son David Chumer. Her working career during the family years included administrative duties at St. John's Institute, and later at the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan Community College (now MacEwan University).

When Roman Soltykewych became conductor of St. John's Cathedral Choir, Lesia sang mezzo-soprano but also began training as an Assistant Conductor. In November 1976 when Mr. Soltykewych passed away, Lesia took over as Conductor. While there was already a large collection of Ukrainian liturgical and folk music at the cathedral, Lesia continued to maintain and add to the music library over the years. Introducing new

music to enhance the choir's repertoire was always a motivation for Lesia. She was therefore thankful to have a music room built specifically for storing the growing music collection. Located in the church basement, it was officially opened in 1999.

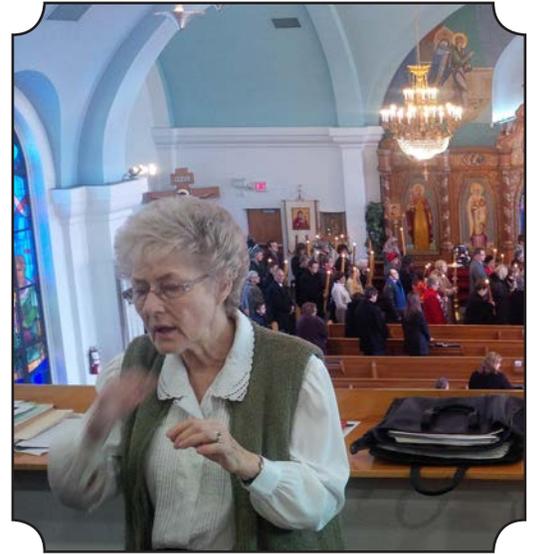
While participating in all the choir activities has been enjoyable for Lesia, some highlights include:

- Recording the Stetsenko liturgy
- Involving other Edmonton parish choirs to prepare for various concerts and large celebrations such as Millenium 1988 (Toronto & Hamilton) and Sobor 2000 (Winnipeg)
- Travelling around the province with the Millenium choir to small town churches in 1991
- Taking part in Sunday of Orthodoxy services held at various Orthodox churches
- Christmas carolling at the priests' and bishop's residences
- Attending choir workshops including with Maestro Wolodymyr Kolesnyk from Ukraine



UOCC Consistory Award  
presented by Metropolitan Yuriy

As the cathedral choir membership changed over the years, Lesia was always grateful to those who wanted to participate and her commitment to them never wavered. An interest in fostering Ukrainian choral music has been a source of great joy to Lesia. She encouraged the choir to reach past their comfort zone while learning new music. Lesia would even rewrite music parts to make it easier to read and learn. Lesia was also fortunate to have Gloria Zaharia, a talented choir member with her own music education background who became her Assistant Conductor. Gloria has been supportive in selecting music and conducting the choir as needed. Lesia also acknowledges the contributions of past and present choir executives. In addition, Lesia greatly appreciates the advice, support, patience and guidance of past and present clergy.



While Lesia will gladly continue to add her voice to the choir and its new director whenever possible, it is the end of an era in the history of the Cathedral. Her devotion to conducting the choir for 44 years is a remarkable achievement worth celebrating!



In Lesia's own words ...

***"I am thankful for singing in the choir and for the privilege of becoming conductor in 1976. There were and still are many dedicated members and wonderful voices who continue to sing our beautiful music. It has been my honor to serve St. John's Cathedral to ensure the preservation of our Ukrainian music."***



## HAPPY RETIREMENT KEN & MELVINA OZIPKO

St. John's Cathedral Parish wishes Ken and Melvina Ozipko a Happy retirement from church duties.

For some 20 years, Ken has served an Elder in the Cathedral. First he served with the late Stephen Newediuk until Stephen's retirement. The Parish is extremely grateful for the dedicated service given by both Ken and Melvina. We miss Melvina's artistic candle stand sand designs. We could always count on Ken's early arrival to prepare for Sunday Liturgies. Assisting for funerals and other special services, we could always depend on the Ozipkos. We miss you and wish you both the very best.

Mnohaya Lit!



Kenneth & Melvina were married at St. John's Cathedral. In July 2011, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an intimate gathering of relatives and friends at St. John's Cultural Centre.

They were blessed with two daughters Marnie and Natalie. Marnie is married to Dennis Parr and have four children Kass, Daria Natalia and Julian who reside in Ellisville a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. Their younger daughter Natalie is a "free spirit" and resides in Edmonton.

Marnie & Natalie developed a keen interest in music during their elementary years. This enabled Melvina to serve on the board with the Edmonton Public Schools String Players Association as well as with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. For several years, the Ozipko's enjoyed being a "home away from home" to orchestral students from as far away as Germany, Poland, France and many locations around Alberta.

Melvina joined Edmonton Public Schools (EPS) as a parent volunteer helping new Canadian students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. This soon led to a full-time career with the EPS in a variety of positions for over 20 years. After retiring from the EPS Centre for Education, she joined Ken on the volunteer team at St. John's Cultural Centre.

After retiring from Superior Propane, Kenneth began his volunteer career with The Dinosaur World Tour, which led him to become a volunteer for the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society and the University of Alberta Hospital's Festival of Trees. As an accomplished volunteer he was then asked to join the table-setters at St. John's Cultural Centre and shortly after, expanded his expertise by assisting with perohy making, cooking and helping with other catering duties.



For the past number of years Ken has assisted the senior elder at the Cathedral and is a member of St. John's Fraternal Society. Both Kenneth & Melvina are members of St. John's Institute and spend many hours volunteering at bingos and casinos for these organizations. Melvina has served on advisory committees with CYMK and recently was on St. John's Council as Membership Chair. For several years, Melvina has also greeted parish members on Sunday Divine Liturgy Services.

Each year Kenneth & Melvina look forward to spending several weeks with their grandchildren in St. Louis and await their return visits with anticipation.

It is obvious that Kenneth & Melvina enjoy the "volunteer family" at St. John's and they continue to dedicate their time to preserve the Ukrainian culture and their Orthodox faith.

# Многая Літа 100th Happy Birthday Ярослав Скрипник



Ярослав (Ярко) Скрипник народився 11 вересня 1921 р. у Станіславові (сьогодні Івано-Франківськ) Україна, в родині Степана Скрипника (пізніше Патріарха Мстислава) та Іванни Вітковицької.

Його дитинство пройшло у місті Рівне (Волинь) - тоді в Польській Республіці - де його батько був бізнесменом, громадським діячем і був обраний до польського Сейму. Там Ярко був активним членом українського Пласту.

З початком Другої світової війни як і багато інших з його покоління, Ярко вирушив у світ. Його одисея включала Краків, окупований німцями Київ, навчання у Граці (Австрія), табори для переселенців у Німеччині, праця у Франції, а в кінці приїхав до Вінніпегу у 1948 р. В Канаді він працював в Торонті, Оттаві, Форт Саскачевані та Реджайні, тоді остаточно оселився в Едмонтоні у 1969 р.

Ярко вивчав математику та хімію в Австрії. В Канаді, він спеціалізувався на виробництві цементу. В 1968 р. був обраний дійсним членом Хімічного інституту Канади. У 1986 р. Ярко пішов на пенсію як головний хімік компанії Genstar-Inland Cement. Він був членом багатьох технічних асоціацій та комітетів зі стандартів щодо цементу та бетону (Канадська асоціація стандартів, Портлендська цементна асоціація, Американський інститут нафти - Американські стандарти для випробування матеріалів). За внесок у встановлення норм та розвиток цементних технологій нагороджений грамотами та подяками.

Десять років (1981-1991) Ярко працював у керівництві Союзу Українців Самостійників Канади: голова СУС, виконавчий директор, голова ради Товариства Українських Самостійників. Він був віце-президентом Конгресу Українців Канади. Будучи головою статуткової комісії КУК, він зміцнив та адаптував її конституцію/підзаконні акти до сучасних умов. Він є активним членом Української Православної Церкви Канади.

Ярко був віце-президентом Світового Конгресу Вільних Українців (1988-1993) та членом оргкомітету Всесвітнього форуму українців у Києві (1992). З 1980 року є активним учасником Кооперативного кредитного руху Канади. Він був обраний до правління однієї з найбільших кредитних спілок Канади - Capital City Savings (1986-1996) та Централі кредитних спілок Альберти (1990-1996). Як представник цих організацій, був ініціатором спільного проекту Канадської кооперативної асоціації та Асоціації українських кредитних спілок Канади «Розвиток кредитних спілок в Україні», який організував повернення кооперативних кредитних спілок в Україну. Ярко вважає це одним зі своїх найважливіших внесків.

Ярко одружений понад 70 років зі Софією Скрипник, відомою організаторкою в Едмонтоні і західній Канаді мистецьких виставок. В нього є двоє дітей (Ксеня й Остап), четверо внуків і двоє правнуків.

Ярко, який служив у канадській армії і став громадянином Канади при першій нагоді, є гордим канадцем і вважає, що Канада - найкраща країна на землі.

# Многогая Ліма 100th Happy Birthday Yaroslav Skrypnyk



Yaroslav (Yarko) Skrypnyk was born on September 11, 1921 in Stanislaviv (now the city of Ivano-Frankivsk), Ukraine to parents Stepan Skrypnyk (later Patriarch Mstyslav) and Ivanna Vitkovytska.

His childhood was spent in the city of Rivne (Volyn) - then part of the Polish Republic - where his father was a businessman, community activist and was elected to the Polish parliament as a representative of a Ukrainian party. There Yarko was an active member of Plast, an association with which he has maintained to this day.

With the beginning of the Second World War - during which he loses mother - like many others of his generation Yarko set out on his adventurous odyssey through Europe, which included Krakow, German occupied Kyiv,

studies in Graz (Austria), DP camps in Germany, work in France before coming to join his father in Winnipeg in 1947. In Canada he worked in Toronto, Ottawa, Fort Saskatchewan and Regina before settling in Edmonton from 1969.

Yarko studied mathematics and chemistry in Poland and Austria. He received training in Canada, specializing in cement production. On April 10, 1968, he was elected a Full Member of The Chemical Institute of Canada. In 1986 he retired as chief chemist at Genstar-Inland Cement. He sat on many technical associations and standards committees for cement and concrete (Canadian Standards Association, The Portland Cement Association, The American Petroleum Institute, American Standards for Testing Materials). He has been awarded diplomas and letters of thanks for his contribution to the establishment of norms and the development of cement technology.

For ten years (1981-1991) Yarko worked in the leadership of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada: chairman of the SUS, executive director, chairman of the regional board of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association. He was a Vice President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. As chairman of the UCC's statutory commission, he consolidated and adapted its constitution/bylaws to modern conditions. He has been an active member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada wherever he has resided.

Yarko was a vice-president of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (1988-1993) and a member of the organizing committee for the World Forum of Ukrainians in Kyiv (1992). Since 1980 he has been an active member of the Cooperative Credit Movement of Canada. He was elected to the board of one of Canada's largest credit unions, Capital City Savings (1986-1996) and Alberta's Credit Union Central (1990-1996). As a representative of these organizations, he was the initiator of the joint Canadian Cooperative Association and Association of Ukrainian Credit Unions of Canada CIDA project "Credit Union Development in Ukraine", which organised the return of cooperative credit unions to Ukraine. Yarko considers it one of his most important contributions.

Yarko is married to Sofia Skrypnyk, a well-known organiser of art shows in Edmonton. He was blessed with three children, their spouses, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Yarko, who served in the Canadian Army and became a Canadian citizen as soon as he could, is a proud Canadian and believes Canada is the greatest country on earth.

# Многая Літа 100th Happy Birthday

## Katherine Hobden (nee Faryna)



Kay Hobden was born in Edmonton, Alberta on October 7, 1921. Her father, Harry (Hryhorij) Faryna, worked on the railroad, so the family moved from Edmonton to Smoky Lake, Islay, Northern Valley, Lindberg and Elk Point.

Kay finished high school in Elk Point and attended Normal School in Edmonton, staying at M. Hrushevskij Institute. She taught school at Willow Range and then in Willingdon, AB, where she joined the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada in 1945.

She married her late husband, David Hobden, a war veteran, in a ceremony at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in 1949.

Kay and Dave raised two children, David Jr. and Sonia. Kay also had a career as a teacher, office manager, bookkeeper and marketing researcher.

A devoted parishioner of the Cathedral, Kay has been active in the life of the Church, serving as secretary, catering chairperson and committee member of numerous committees, including bazaar, bake sale, raffle and bingo committees. Along with the late Vera Jereniuk and with Eileen Yewchuk, she prepared hundreds of jars of beet relish with horseradish for the Easter Bake Sale.

Kay's children attended Sunday School, Ukrainian School, Ukrainian Dancing and CYMK and she supported all of these committees. For 23 years, she was treasurer of the UWAC St. John's Branch and a valued advisor to the Executive.

Other interests have been Keep Fit classes, curling (Kay curled for over 60 years, giving it up at age 92), bridge, knitting, crochet (she has created toques, mitts and scarves for Project Ukraine) and reading. Kay is still an avid patron of the Edmonton Public Library. She has been a member of the St. John's Seniors' Club and the Southeast Edmonton Seniors' Association.

Kay is pictured blowing out the candles on her 2020 cake. Her iPad is lying at her right as she is a real fan of social media, Facebook in particular. What a gal!

On October 2, Kay is planning a 100th Birthday Party at St. John's Cultural Centre. Многая літа!

Leona Bridges, Niece on behalf of the Faryna Family





## A WONDERFUL BENEVOLENT GESTURE

Iris Zwozdesky-Ciona      Julia Elaszuk

St. John's Cathedral branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC) held two successful Easter baking bees thanks to the help of St. John's cook, Maxine Zakordonski. As per federal and provincial regulations, COVID protocols were strictly adhered to, and our skilled volunteers cheerfully followed suit! Once the pasky and babky were packaged, the baked items were delivered to elderly parishioners, compliments of UWAC. The remaining items were sold through the church office.



In total, UWAC gifted 30 pasky and 30 babky which were accompanied by an Easter greeting card "Christ is Risen" – "Indeed He has Risen". This benevolent gesture was extremely well received by the parishioners (as exemplified in some of their handwritten thank you notes below) especially during this difficult time of the pandemic where many of them are unable to leave their dwellings, and unable to make their own Easter bread.

The executive would like to acknowledge and thank the following participants for assisting in the making and or delivering of the pasky and babky: Julia Elaszuk, Iris Zwozdesky-Ciona, Myroslava Chomiak, Donna Kowalishin, Elaine Harasymiw, Iris Olinek, Tanya Bidulka, Larysa Chomiak,

Lorna Stefaniuk, Nadia Opyr, Oryssia Lennie, Pauline Mudry, Shirley Jackson, Rick Aussant, William Glass, Shirley Borys, Ed Thomson, MaryAnn Baziuk and Sonia Candler. Without-a-doubt, this was a very gratifying event that warmed the hearts of everyone involved. Once again, many thanks and God's blessings to all who assisted!

*"It was greatly appreciated especially since I haven't been able to do any baking because I am quite crippled with arthritis."*

*"I am not able to come to church, and the gift was such a comfort."*

*"Thank you so much for a surprise gift of Babka and Paska and pussy willows. I asked IGA if they could make a babka and paska for me for Orthodox Easter. They said we only get the mixture for Easter and Christmas and were not available at this time. Anyway, Easter is saved and I am able to bless a Paska and Babka."*

*"Thank you for offering my sister a paska for Easter. She loved volunteering at the hall and did so as long as her health allowed. Unfortunately, she is facing many health challenges and we are praying that she be safe and well cared for. Blessed paska to you all!"*

*"Thank you very much for the Paska and Babka. What a lovely surprise. They made my Easter alone brunch most enjoyable."*



Blessing of Paschal Baskets during Pandemic



Communion protocol during Covid-19 restrictions

## *Our Legacy: The Past, The Present and the Future*

### UWAC, St. John's Cathedral Branch Mosaic Project- Update

#### Invitation to participate in the creation of "The Future"

The **Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada – St. John's Cathedral Branch** has contracted a local renowned artist, Theo Harasymiw, to envision and guide the **creation of twelve 4 by 8 foot mosaic panels in three phases**. The first and second phases: "**The Past and The Present**" have been completed and we are **embarking on the last phase: "The Future"**.

#### **Project Objectives**

1. Celebrate and honor the **100th Anniversary** of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Edmonton, Alberta in 2023. The goal is to complete the three phases for the Cathedral's centenary.
2. **Enhance and beautify** the Cathedral's Cultural Centre which is used by the Parish, other Ukrainian organizations in Alberta and the greater community for religious, recreational, educational, administrative and social events.
3. Create a **permanent visual tribute and legacy** to acknowledge the founders, recognize members' past and present achievements, and project into the future. It will leave a lasting impression of our roots, our journey in Canada and inspire future generations to take pride in their heritage.
4. **Build community spirit, pride** and ownership by engaging UWAC and St. John's Cathedral parish members, and general community in visioning and volunteering to assemble this artistic display

#### **Project participation.**

Theo has set aside **Tuesdays for volunteer participation**- please call her to let her know you are interested.

Other times may be arranged in discussion with Theo.

Covid restriction protocols including wearing masks will be in place.

Call artist, Theodora Harasymiw, directly at: 780-718-1672



Photos of this input session taken prior to return to COVID restrictions.



# ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY



## Where is the Cemetery Located?

**St.** Stephen's Cemetery is located in northeast Edmonton, abutting Manning Drive at Meridian Street. With the completion of the northeast leg of the Anthony Henday, access to the cemetery from all quadrants of the city is very convenient. Time of travel from the southwest quadrant would be in the order of 35 minutes while time of travel from the northeast quadrant would be as little as 10 minutes.

## Who does the Cemetery Serve?

St. Stephen's is a public cemetery, serving the needs of all nationalities and faiths. A field of honour has been established where veterans and their spouses will be laid to rest.



## What Services does the Cemetery Provide?

St. Stephen's Cemetery offers all services that are available at other cemeteries, with the exception of a public mausoleum. As well, the cemetery is in the unique position of being able to incorporate new services as they become available or desired. The following services are available, or are being planned:

- Conventional casket burials available.
- Cremation inurnment is available in-ground, in columbaria niches, and in a nature trail.
- Field of Honour available.
- Area for family mausoleums available.
- Family columbaria available.
- A green burial garden is being developed.
- Mausoleum space would be available upon demand.
- A scattering garden will be developed.



# ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

## How was the Cemetery Planned?

Stantec, 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.



A horticultural plan was prepared, that included a wide variety of trees such as spruce, Brandon elms, linden, burr oak, green ash, amur maple, columnar aspen, flowering crab apple, and Schubert trees. No spruce trees are planted within the gardens to avoid the problem where the spruce trees become very large and oppressive, and the roots end up dislodging monuments.



## Are Family Groupings Possible?

Being a new cemetery with a lot of space, families have taken the opportunity to purchase family spaces with as many as twelve graves being purchased in a group. This addresses a very important human desire to be together even after passing.



## What Types of Monuments are Permitted?

Families have installed a variety of very attractive monuments, including flat, pillow, and upright.



## Are There Developments That Will Enhance St. Stephen's Cemetery?

An area structure plan for the 9,000-acre Horsehills subdivision was approved by City Council in 2014, envisioning 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 km south of the cemetery that would include an LRT station.

## What Ceremonies are Conducted at the Cemetery?

St. Stephen's Cemetery is very proud to be included by the No Stone Left Alone organization that celebrates Remembrance Day at the Cemetery. The organization arranges the ceremony, inviting a representative of the military and a class of students from one of the schools to participate in the ceremony. Families of the veterans are invited to attend. The ceremony at the cross is concluded by the placement of a wreath, followed by the students placing a poppy on the monument of every veteran.



# ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

## What are the 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.

St. Stephen's Cemetery will be developed to include all features available at established cemeteries. It also boasts two wetland areas that currently provide a sanctuary for a variety of birds and animals.

## Conclusion

Families that come to the cemetery for the first time comment on its serenity and beauty. We invite you to come and visit the cemetery and take advantage of the many services, the extensive choices of location, and the very competitive prices.



## For More Information

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Take an *aerial video tour* of the cemetery.

Text and pictures provided by George Zaharia

Design and production by *Steppingstones.ca*

