

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
FRIENDS OF THE UKRAINIAN VILLAGE SOCIETY

It is my pleasure to submit for the first time a report to your annual meeting and to report that this has been a year of beginnings, fraught sometimes with frenzied activity, yet making progress toward some of the objectives we had set.

Our accomplishments this year were made possible through the support of your Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors, who join with me in thanking Andrew Turzansky, Sandra Thomson, and the advisors from the government and the community in putting all the loose ends together. As we were the frontrunners of several "Friends" organizations throughout the province, much of our work was in a sense an exploration into questions such as "Will this work?" and if so, "How?".

Our first responsibility was to appoint Daria Markevych as a Chief Operating Officer. Whose terms of reference included the supervision of several programs such as: the gift shop, food kiosk, the performing arts group, the woodworker and later in the year, the farmer. With the exception of some difficulties and necessary changes, as well as occasional crises, I am pleased to report that the programs went rather well.

To begin a new society much has to be done; and there was a good deal of pressure to have work completed in a required time period. A logo was designed, as well as a brochure. The brochure was used at various events during the summer, where we attempted to recruit other Friends. At present, there are some 125 members from all across Alberta as well as various parts of Canada. In the middle of September, a barbeque and dance were organized for the "Friends" and some 60 people gathered to enjoy themselves in the 1920's setting of the New Kiew Hall.

There is no doubt that finances are always a major problem with a young society such as ours. We are very fortunate to have received generous support from the government and to have been recognized by Revenue Canada as a charitable non-profit organization. All donations are income tax deductible. We also received a casino license and will be eligible for a draw in 1987. These were both made possible with the help of Lubko Markevych. The Friends started a fundraising campaign with letters of request going out to members only. Unfortunately, the letters were late and became part of the Christmas mail. The response was not too encouraging. We did however receive \$1200.00 and income tax receipts are being mailed to the donors. We are looking forward to a major fundraising drive in the spring and hopefully will be able to have our first project, a hotel, in 1986.

We also applied for assistance from the PEP program. We were not successful but we have been assured by Mr. John Batiuk that we will be among the first to be recognized for the STEP program.

Publicity is of course very necessary for a young and growing organization. We had an article and an announcement of our annual meeting in the Ukrainian News and some of the local papers. We realize that much more has to be done before we are well known throughout East-Central Alberta. We have been assured cooperation by some of our Edmonton media and we will be taking every opportunity to use means we can publicize ourselves and our work.

As your president I had the great pleasure of meeting with the Friends of Fort McMurray who were very interested in organizing their society with ours as an example. I have also had communication with the Friends of Elk Island. One of the great highlights of the Year for me was to act as hospodory with my husband at the Vegreville Pysanka Festival. Another enjoyable duty was appearing on CFRN TV with Eleanor Clark on a discussion of the traditions of the Ukrainian Christmas Eve.

We have had a busy year, but it is only a beginning. With the Capital Works Program completed in 1989, the enrichment program will need much community support and involvement. We need to plan special events that will make this Village the focal point of functional museums in Alberta. With careful planning and the enthusiasm and cooperation of the Friends and the government we can indeed make the Village the finest in North America.

Thank you again for all the help that you have given me, and for making whatever effort has been expended seem very worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lobay
President