

Village Voice ГОЛОС ЦЕЛЯ

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NEWSLETTER

The Enrichment Project *Time is not on our side!*

In order to promote the Village Enrichment Project, the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society has established a Village Enrichment Task Force.

The job of the Village Enrichment Task Force is to work with the Government of Alberta to develop a plan for the timely completion of the Village. This group is also making presentations to individuals and groups across Alberta, to inform stakeholders of the importance of giving this project immediate attention.

In 1982, the Government of Alberta prepared and approved the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village Historical Development Proposal, outlining the future development of the Village.

Two decades later, however, over 30 buildings are still missing from the site. For over ten years, *no new building acquisitions* have been made at the Village. These important buildings are vital to the accurate portrayal of life in rural Alberta at the turn of the last century.

The time to complete the Village is now! In recent years, many of the buildings identified as potential additions to the Village have disappeared, as a result of neglect, vandalism, or changing priorities of current owners.

As small family farms have given way to large corporate entities, time-honored houses, barns, granaries, and chicken coops are



no longer revered with nostalgia and a sense of history. Instead, they are destroyed as potential fire hazards or obstructions to expanded agricultural production.

We are also losing an even more important resource: the people who can recall and describe life in east central Alberta as it was in the early 20th century.

Even the youngest members of the generation that lived in this era are now in their seventies. Those who were adults during the 1920s are at least 90 years of age. If qualified researchers do not soon collect these stories they will be lost to us forever. If this happens, we will have no detailed descriptions to properly restore and interpret future buildings we acquire.

If we are to save this vital piece of Alberta's history, then we only have

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three more years to acquire the remaining buildings and to conduct interviews with the people who knew the buildings in the past! Last year it was four years; this year it is three.

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What Can You Do?

As individual citizens of Alberta and as a community, we need to let the Government of Alberta know that there is widespread support for completing the Village!

Please contact your Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) to inform them of the importance of completing the Village. As time passes, the buildings of East Central Alberta, and also the individuals who lived in them and know their history, are disappearing.

A good start is to write to your MLA, remembering these key points:

Buildings are quickly disappearing due to neglect, vandalism, and age.

Once these structures and the people who lived in them are gone, it will be too late.

The Village has identified and located actual buildings vital to portrayal of life in the 1900s, and some of these are available to move immediately.

The Province should invest in the Village today to ensure that the history of Alberta is preserved for future generations.

The Village is a valuable educational and cultural resource.

The Village documents and portrays the history of Albertans in the early 1900s.

An important second step is following up with a phone call about ten days later, to make sure the letter was received and will be answered. Ask to talk to your MLA and ask your MLA's position on completing the Vil-

lage.

There is no charge for the call, because dialing 310-0000 from anywhere in Alberta allows you to make a free call to any Government of Alberta phone number. From your cell phone, dial #310 (if you're Telus or Bell subscriber) or *310 (if you're a Rogers AT&T subscriber). This connects you to the free 310-0000 service. This service is absolutely free anywhere in Alberta – no long distance or air-time charges apply.



Finally, write and call the Premier's office. Writing and calling is important because the Premier uses letters and phone calls to back up public statements.

When Alberta's Legislative Assembly is sitting, the Friends Society monitors the Hansard (the record of proceedings) daily at

<http://www.assembly.ab.ca/pro/index.htm>, to see whether any

debate of interest to the Village has occurred.

Did you know...

In February, The Honourable Pat Nelson, Minister of Alberta Finance informed Albertans that Alberta's surplus for the 2002-2003 fiscal year has risen to nearly \$1.8 billion – over one billion dollars more than originally forecast!

Where will that windfall go? \$910 million has been earmarked for Alberta's new Capital Account. Although details are not yet available as to how the Government of Alberta will allocate the Capital Account, infrastructure spending will likely be spread over two or three years, and will include capital works projects.

Alberta Lumber Company Cement Shed Moved!

by David Koshman

Ukrainian Village site historian Radomir Bilash has been actively searching and negotiating for the acquisition of historic buildings for the site's Enrichment Project. He recently located the cement shed that once sat on the same property as our Alberta Lumber Company in Lamont. The building owner was willing to donate it to the Ukrainian Village.

It has been a long time since we have moved a building onto the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village site, so it was with great excitement that the construction work crew set out the morning of November 25, 2003. Arrangements had been made previously with Rusty's Equipment to meet us at the site as they specialize in moving sheds and small garages. The cement shed is exactly the size of building they handle as it measures a modest 16' by 14'. The building was located on acreage just north of the north entrance to Elk Island National Park (EINP) on highway 831 where it was moved some time ago to serve as a storage shed. We had been to the site a few days earlier to add some bracing to the building to ensure it survived the move intact and we had also contacted EINP to get their permission to move the building through the park as it is the most direct route with the best roads.

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Despite its weathered look and failing roof, the shed is fairly solid having been built to withstand the burden of being loaded with tons of cement bags. This beefed up substructure made lifting the building a fairly easy task and by 11:00 am the building was loaded and moving through



the park, arriving at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village well before noon. At the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village the building was unloaded, blocked up on wooden cribbing and the roof and walls were patched up to keep the weather out while it awaits the necessary funding to research and restore the shed and move it to its rightful place in the yard of the Alberta Lumber Company.



Cement Shed - waiting to be moved!



The loading process.



Cement Shed - ready to roll!

Did you know...

The Luzan Post Office, which used to stand next to Luzan Grocery, is currently located at the Shandro Museum in the area of Wasel, Alberta.

Annual General Meeting - 2003

by Susan Sava

On Sunday, March 23, 2003, the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society held its Annual General Meeting, at the remodeled barn (*Silska Domiwka*) at the Village Site. MLA Ray Danyluk was in attendance, the Honourable member for Lac La Biche – St. Paul.

Friends members who attended the AGM reviewed the business of the Society for the past year, including the financial statements for 2002. They were shown a very dynamic power-point presentation about the Village Enrichment Project. And, attendees elected officers for the 2003-2004 term.

The 2003-2004 officers are:
 Dr. Brian Cherwick – President,
 Anna Steblyk – Vice President
 Dale Mandrusiak – Treasurer
 Mae Adamyk – Secretary
 Andrew Antoniuk – Past President
 Cheryl King - Director
 Greg Hawryluk – Director
 Donna Koziak – Director
 Brian Hlus – Director
 Fred Pewarchuk – Director
 Peter Savaryn – Director
 Susan Sava – Director
 Dr. Mary Lobay – Lifetime Director



The Friends members who attended this event let the Friends Society and Alberta know that they deeply care about preserving and protecting Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian history and culture.

From Our Ancestors' Trunks - Feature Exhibit

From Our Ancestors' Trunks, an exhibit depicting Ukrainian Folk Dress from the National Ethnographic Museum of Lviv, Ukraine, was on display at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village from May 17 to October 13, 2003.

The 25 images presented were reproductions of the museum's collection of documents prepared by artist Zenoviy Kelsalo, recording the way people dressed in specific villages of Western Ukraine during the 19th and 20th centuries. Kelsalo, who will celebrate his 85th birthday next year is devoted to the preservation of Ukrainian folk culture. He uses watercolour and pencil to record typical villagers from Galicia that includes their daily, wedding and festive folk dress ensembles. This collection is considered a valuable record and resource for traditional Ukrainian culture research.

The exhibit was as a result of a long-standing relationship between the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village and the Museum of Ethnography and Applied Arts in Lviv, and is the first time that an exhibit exchange has occurred between Alberta and Ukraine.

Artifacts from the collections of Cultural Facilities and Historic Sites, Alberta Community Development, as well as the collections of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada Eparchial Museum and the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta compliment the exhibit.

The National Ethnographic Museum is one of the oldest and largest in Ukraine. It was established in 1874 and is home to over 100,000 artifacts, including the largest collection of Pysanky in the world.

Awards, Awards, Awards!

The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village (UCHV) was recognized once again by the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association for its highly successful “*Special On-Site Driving Tours for Mobility-Impaired Seniors*” program.

The award was presented to the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village at the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association’s Annual Conference held October 17, 2003, in Lethbridge.



“This program demonstrates Alberta’s commitment to ensure those with disabilities or impairments have access to opportunities which educate, entertain and tell the story of Alberta’s rich history,” said Gene Zwodzesky, Minister of Community Development. “It continues our province’s long-standing tradition of being an inclusive and caring place to live.”

The *Agency Citation Award* honours an organization that has rendered outstanding therapeutic recreation services. The Ukrainian Village was one of three agencies nominated for the award. The Village was previously recognized by the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association-Northern Chapter during Seniors Week for its service to mobility-impaired seniors.

Since 1997, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village has made the site accessible to seniors

with mobility difficulties by developing a special tour program that allows them to travel in their handi-vans to the historic side of the site. This unique program enables visitors to rekindle many memories from their past.

In addition, costumed role players from the UCHV come onto the bus and tell stories that depict early life at the Village, in addition to displaying and discussing artifacts from the era, their meaning and importance to early Ukrainian settlers. The program is further enhanced through the provision of a Ukrainian-theme meal and entertainment.

By giving the Village this award, the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association recognizes the important therapeutic recreation service the Village provides and how it enhances the quality of life for participants while providing the experience of Alberta’s rich Ukrainian history and culture that would otherwise be inaccessible.

The on-site driving tours, offered every Wednesday during the months of July and August, are always filled to capacity.



Did you know...

The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village was a five-bloom winner at the recent 2003 Provincial Communities in Bloom Awards held in Calmar, September 13, 2003. The Village won the award in the category of “landscaped areas and urban forest, for recreating original landscapes and outstanding first person role playing.” This is the second year that the Ukrainian Village has



generated a five-bloom win. Also, the Village was the first historic site in Canada to

participate in this program!

Focus on the Village

In this issue of our Newsletter, we are highlighting a building found in the Rural Community known as Luzan Grocery. Visitors most often notice the candy behind the counter and try to strike a deal to comfort their sweet tooth. This is not always an easy negotiation! Let's go for a visit!



Luzan Grocery
Built 1926
Restored to 1929

Rural community stores saved local farmers a long trip to town by providing simple everyday requirements such as sugar, tea, coffee, canned goods, and work clothes. Luzan Grocery is typical of country grocery stores built throughout east central Alberta in the 1900-1930 era. The store was owned and operated by retired farmer Alexander Bockanesky in the rural community of Luzan, Alberta. It also served as a local recreation centre where men would gather to discuss topics of the day and play games of cards or horseshoes.

Крамниця з околиці Лужани
Збудована 1926 року
Рестарована до вигляду 1929 року

Такі крамниці давали можливість місцевим фермерам обходитись без довгих поїздок до містечка. В них можна було купити такі необхідні речі, як цукор, чай, каву, консерви, та робочий одяг. Крамниця з околиці Лужани є типовою сільською крамницею, що будувалися всхідно-центральної Альберті в 1900-1930-их роках. Її власником був Олександр Боханецький який колись фермерував в Лужанах. Цей будинок також служив розваговим центром, де збиралися чоловіки, щоб обговорити події дня і пограти в карти або кидання підкови.

Historic Children's Program—New & Improved!

In 2003, the Historic Children's Program, operated by the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, underwent some changes. After many successful years, the program needed to re-focus and refresh its approach. As always, summer staff were hired and underwent a training process for all historic interpreters, including Ukrainian 327, a two-week University of Alberta credit course, with site historian Mr. Radomir Bilash. This was followed by one week on-site training program at the Village. As in previous years, four guides were hired for the Historic Children's Program. The difference, however, was that these guides would review research material under the direction of Mr. Radomir Bilash in order to acquire additional information as to how a young person lived at the turn of the last century.

Many documents were reviewed in the weeks leading up to the program. Areas of concentration included school activities, farm life, and community hall activities from the turn of the last century. This review yielded many previously unknown activities, games, school lessons and resources. As a result, the program

can now offer a greater variety of activities, so even returning participants can experience something new! This on-going research process will ensure the continued success of the program.

The key to this program is to give the participants a unique and interactive experience not found anywhere else. In this age of computers, satellites, and instant information, the Historic Children's Program offers a one-week real-life experience. For a number, this is often their visit to a farm. The program is the Friend's way of bringing history to life and keeping history alive for many years to come!

To register a child between the ages of 6 & 12 for the summer of 2004, please contact the Friend's Society at (780)662-3640.



Did you know....

The overall goal of the Friend's Historic Children's Program is to persuade parents of six to twelve year olds that the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village offers Alberta's most unique and special fun-filled learning program because of the accessibility to historic themed activities in a kid-friendly environment!

Declaration Issued on Protecting “Historic Places”



On March 21, 2003, Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers responsible for Culture and Heritage participated in a conference on culture and heritage in Ottawa, Ontario. The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister, Alberta Community Development, was in attendance.

The Ministers issued a declaration on “Protecting Historic Places” and discussed the importance of Canada’s historic places and new initiatives that will recognize the value of historic places in Canada and encourage their conservation.

They will undertake activities that will encourage preservation of historic places through an historic places initiative. They will apply where appropriate to their jurisdictions, standards and guidelines for the conservation of historic places, create partnerships with the private sector and municipalities to help promote and protect historic sites, and foster greater participation by Canadians in the conservation of historic places.

The Ministers also decided to take measures to highlight the important role played by historic places in Canadian society. They will also be working to negotiate bilateral agreements with the federal government on the initiative.

The next Federal/Provincial/Territorial Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Heritage will be held in Nova Scotia in 2004.

Did you know?

In the 2003 federal budget, the Government of Canada announced a contribution program of \$10 million a year to provide a financial incentive to the private sector to preserve historic places.

Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies Project Receives Federal Funding

On March 22, 2003, in Edmonton, the Government of Canada announced a \$300,000 in funding to the Society of Friends of the Ukrainian Folklore Centre, at the University of Alberta, to help finance their Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies project.

The goal of the Local Culture and Diversity project is to contribute to Canadians’ understanding of diversity and the growth of local community life in Canada. The project will document everyday life, ethnic identity and regional variation among people of Ukrainian, French, German, and English heritage on the prairies prior to 1939. Part of this project may focus on east central Alberta, which is the region portrayed at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

The Department of Canadian Heritage provides financial assistance through its Multiculturalism program. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 2003 federal budget.

More Friends Are Always Welcome!

One of the goals of the Friends Society is always to increase membership. This year we've increased membership to 500. Let's double that over the course of the winter months! The number of members is an important statistic when reporting to the Government, especially when applying for funding and grants. It's the best way of showing our Government that this site is important to Albertans! It also provides us with an important contact base when we are looking for volunteers to help us prepare pyrohy, cart kovbasas, tear off tickets, direct traffic, sign up for our golf tournaments, and help out in many, many other ways.

Membership in the Friends Society is one of Alberta's greatest values. For an individual membership of \$15, or a family membership of \$30, you get unlimited admission to the Ukrainian Village. This means you can visit the Village as many times as you like each season, to experience the ever-changing site. You get advance notice of special events and activities at the Village. You get this great newsletter! Friends Society members also get 50% off the price of admission to all other Provincial Historic sites. This includes the Provincial Museum of Alberta, the Reynolds Museum in Wetaskawin, the Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller, and many more (18 in total).

To renew your membership or to buy a new membership for neighbors, coworkers, your boss, your dentist, and your close personal friends, please contact Slavko Nohas, Executive Director, Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, c/o 8820-112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2P8.

**2003 Music Festival Raffle Winners:
Kenneth Eliuk, Iris Penonzek, Heather Christink, Ray Wirsta, Val Dunbar
CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS!**

That's What Friends Are For!

As a registered charity, the Friends are involved in a number of activities solely for the enhancement of the Visitors' experience when they visit the site.

The Friends Society directly manages a great number of the services that visitors to the Village experience, including the gift shop, food kiosk, special events food service, interpretive staff, wagon drivers and assistants, wardrobe and costuming, admission gate, Historic Children's Program and Junior Interpretive Program.

The Friends are a vital part of many special events at the Village, most notably the annual Friends Music Festival, which was held this year on Sunday, August 24, 2003.

The Friends have also taken a more active role in helping to complete the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village site, beginning with the restoration of Hilliard Hotel and the establishment of the Village Enrichment Task Force. Our most visible project, in recent years, has been the restoration and development of a historic dairy barn into the *Silska Domiwka*. This is a space for food service facilities, special displays, and public events.



Celebrate the final day of the Ukrainian Christmas season and one of the most important holidays of the Eastern Rite.

Feast of Jordan

Monday January 19, 2004

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Featuring

Church services

Ice cross water blessing

Ukrainian Entertainment

Sleigh rides



Did you know...

Jordan, or Feast of the River Jordan, is the final celebration of the winter holiday cycle. Officially known as Blahoiavlennia or Epiphany, it is one of the twelve holiest feast days of the Church calendar. Among the folk, the feast became to be known also as Jordan or Vodokhryshchi, which means blessing of water. This is because the central activity of the day was the solemn outdoor blessing of water, usually at a river or well. A cross, made from blocks of ice, is usually erected. After the blessing, everyone drinks some of the holy water and takes some home to keep for the whole year.

The eve before Epiphany is called the "second Holy Eve" or sometimes Shchedryi Vechir (Generous Eve), and is celebrated with a ritual meal that includes kutia (boiled wheat with honey and poppy seeds).

Following the feast of the Epiphany, priests would visit the homes of their parishioners and bless them with holy water.