

ST. PETRO MOHYLA INSTITUTE



Celebrating 100 Years and Beyond

"A trip to Nostalgia now and then is good for the spirit."

—Dan Bartolovic

■ That observation aptly captures how those of us who attended the St. Petro Mohyla Institute 100th Anniversary Celebration from June 24th-26th felt at the end of a fabulous weekend. It was a fitting time to hold a reunion, at the 100th Anniversary of the Institute. Mohyla alumni came, eagerly anticipating a few days to wander down memory lane and to reconnect with old friends. And we were not to be disappointed as the reunion met all expectations!

Friday, June 24th

The weekend's events began with the 3rd annual St. Petro Mohyla golf tournament held this year at the Legends Golf Club in Warman. 44 golfers participated in the fun-filled Texas scramble. A delicious supper followed with several guests joining the golfers to help kick-off the reunion festivities.

Registration and a social was held at the Institute starting at 7:30 pm. It felt good for so many of us to be back "home" at 1240 Temperance Street. After receiving our registration bags which contained many goodies, including a lovely specially-designed wine goblet, we excitedly began to mingle, scanning the crowd for recognizable faces, sometimes having to rely on name tags for clues.

Many enjoyed a tour of the residence. As we wandered the hallways and peered into the rooms, old memories were rekindled and shared. It seemed that little had changed for us, except for the fact that we were now sporting more grey hair (or no hair), a few more pounds, but much more wisdom. What remained the same from several decades earlier was the raucous laughter and noisy chattering as we reminisced.

Back downstairs, the songbooks were distributed and an impromptu sing-along broke out which sounded surprisingly good, maybe even concert tour ready. A slideshow featuring residents from throughout the decades was thoroughly enjoyed in the TV lounge. The composite wall photos, many of which had to be painstakingly restored, were on display in what was once the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. These composites proved invaluable to help recall the many students who had stayed at Mohyla over the years.

Later in the evening several alumni brought out their instruments and entertained those present. A beautiful selection of appetizers which resembled a full buffet (Ukrainians never do anything involving food on a small scale) was enjoyed by all. Refreshments were also available throughout the evening. All of these components contributed to a superb start to the reunion.

Saturday, June 25th

A walking tour of the U of S campus was arranged for the morning, but the threatening rain clouds probably kept the numbers low and only a few hardy souls took advantage of this activity. Many used this time to make their own arrangements to meet friends for breakfast or brunch. This free time also gave committee members an opportunity to prepare for the evening's events and decorate the auditorium.

About 100 people signed up for the river boat cruise aboard the Prairie Lily. It was an ideal opportunity to visit and socialize while taking in the beautiful views along the South Saskatchewan River. Upon returning to shore, everyone quickly dispersed to get ready for the evening's festivities.

The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox auditorium was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and typical of most Ukrainians, people arrived early to take full advantage of the opportunity to mingle and socialize. Welcome shots at the door suitably helped kick off an evening of fun and merriment. Acting as Hospodars and Hospodynias were those former bursaks who resided at Mohyla in the 1940's. The reception line included: Mary & Nick Budzak, Stan & Anne Klopoushak, Miroslaw & Beatrice Ochitwa, Taras & Dorothy Koroll, Orest & Mary Mysak, Catherine Woloschuk and Anne Cholod.

A beautiful keepsake booklet which contained congratulatory messages from political leaders and various dignitaries, a history of St. Petro Mohyla and many interesting facts relating to Mohyla's role in establishing several organizations was provided for each attendee.

Emcee Gerald Luciuk got the excited crowd to take their seats so supper could be served. The Lastiwka choir led everyone in the singing of Otche Nash which was immediately followed by a blessing offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of Canada, Primate of the UOCC. A scrumptious meal catered by Touch of Ukraine from Saskatoon was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, the more formal portion of the evening began. Emcee Gerald Luciuk kept the audience entertained by providing interesting facts about Mohyla. He also acknowledged those who had served as Rector of the Institute. Lastiwka Choir, directed by Larry Klopoushak, offered five musical selections which certainly tugged at the heart strings of all present. Co-chairs Linda Kindrachuk and MaryAnn Trischuk took time to recognize each committee member for their contributions and to present a rose to each individual. This committee worked tirelessly in the months and weeks leading up to the reunion and throughout the entire weekend as well.

Greetings were delivered by several representatives of various organizations including His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy who focussed his remarks

on the namesake of the Institute, St. Petro Mohyla, and his profound impact. Dr. Tony Harras brought greetings on behalf of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada; Stephen Senyk, Board Chair of Mohyla Institute, spoke of taking a sentimental journey and thanked the reunion committee for their dedicated efforts.

His Worship Donald Atchison congratulated the Institute on its remarkable 100 year history and presented the Board with a special certificate, of which only 57 have been presented in Saskatoon's history, to recognize this outstanding achievement. He also commented on his personal connection to Mohyla during summer football camps, where he maintains the excellent food made him into a "well-rounded" fellow.

This was followed by a few words from Russ Pankiw on behalf of Prosvita of Regina and the presentation of a cheque for \$10,000 to Mohyla Institute.

Linda Kindrachuk then introduced the keynote speaker for the evening – Ken Krawetz who resided at Mohyla from 1969-1972. Krawetz, during his time as an MLA and Deputy Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, was also put in charge of what was referred to as "The Ukraine File". He was instrumental in maintaining strong educational and economic ties between Ukraine and Saskatchewan. Krawetz spoke of the significance and importance of St. Petro Mohyla Institute to decades of students and the strong attachment that many still have to the Institute. His personal anecdotes had many in the audience chuckling and his observations regarding the noteworthy contributions by so many Mohyla alumni filled us all with pride. He spoke of the "Mohyla connection" and how living there helped prepare us to be good citizens. But the more emotional parts of his speech were turned over to his wife, Gail, who talked about how special living at Mohyla was and how the personal connections made there are difficult to replicate in today's technological world.

Before closing prayers were offered, a former resident, Larry Machula, offered his reflections via video. Co-chairs Linda and MaryAnn cut the anniversary cake which was served for dessert. Photos of the different "decade groups" were taken shortly after.

Throughout the evening keys for

Baba and Dido's trunk were sold. Many individuals donated the wonderful items contained in each trunk. The lucky winners were Tanya Myall of Dido's trunk and Orest Kotelko of Baba's trunk.

The fellowship continued well into the evening with several alumni once again providing musical entertainment. A fantastic lunch was served later that evening, and the party wound down shortly after that.

Sunday, June 26th

A *Khram* was held at All Saints Church on Sunday and all reunion participants were invited to join the parishioners for their Feast Day. Divine Liturgy began at 9:30 am with His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, Very Reverend Archpriest Taras Udod, Very Reverend Archpriest Taras Makowsky and Very Reverend Archpriest Peter Wasylenko serving. Lastiwka Choir offered a most beautiful rendition of the Archpastoral Divine Liturgy by O. Koshetz.

A delicious lunch served by the parishioners followed the service along with a short program which was emceed by Zenon Zuzak. Guest speaker Dr. Robert Chayka gave a brief history of the All Saints Parish which had its beginnings at Mohyla Institute. Rod Antonichuk, president of the Cathedral parish, delivered greetings as did Evelyn Wojcichowsky, president of All Saints Church, and Steve Senyk, Mohyla Board Chair.

Final farewells were bid and email addresses exchanged as the reunion weekend came to a close.

The final tally saw over 230 people attend the reunion, and the committee is to be commended for accommodating so many last-minute registrants. Photographer Judy-Anne Chabun captured the entire weekend's events and special moments.

Thank you, committee members, for your dedication to this project. Without your hard work and commitment, the celebration of Mohyla's 100th anniversary and this reunion would not have come to fruition. The weekend provided us with not only an opportunity to revisit the "good old days" but also to create many new cherished memories and to celebrate Mohyla's 100th anniversary.

Prepared by

—Gail Krawetz



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