

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF UKRAINIAN HERITAGE

Ukrainian Pioneer Women

Perseverance

"She gets up between four and five in the morning and goes to bed at eleven at night. When she gets up she does the chores outside, feeds the cattle and milks the cows. She then prepares breakfast and washed the dishes, after which she follows the family to the field where she may hoe or drive a gang-plow, stook, etc. She comes in shortly before dinner, prepares it and cleans up, a matter of one and one half or two hours, then returns to the field until eight o'clock when she milks, after which she gets supper."

(Charles H. Young: The Ukrainian Canadians: A Study in Assimilation (Toronto, 1931), p.84

■ The Ukrainian pioneer woman stood shoulder to shoulder with her husband doing the "woman's share" (C. H. Young) clearing the land and homesteading. She bore her children, dutifully caring for their needs while comforting her family with unconditional love, courageous stamina and tenacious perseverance. Omitted but never forgotten were the moments of illness, death and mourning. Her simple home always welcomed a lost or hungry local with whom she shared what was available, even if it was simple *zatyрка* (dough made of flour and water), but fended off bears, wolves or

other predators.

To celebrate and commemorate the 125 anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada the impressive statue entitled "Perseverance" was unveiled in Dauphin, Manitoba on July 29, 2016.

The role of Master of Ceremonies was fulfilled by His Worship, Eric Irwin, Mayor of Dauphin.

The event commenced with the singing of "O Canada" by the Choir of Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, followed by Heritage Statue Committee Chair Rosann Wowchuk providing the historical background of the statue project and the provincial funding with Dauphin, The Winnipeg Foundation, Taras Shevchenko Foundation, major business and individual donors. Provincial greetings were read by Hon. Brad Michaleski, MLA (PC), Dauphin, Hon. Flor Marcelino, MLA (NDP), Leader of the Opposition spoke eloquently about Ukrainian historical contributions to Manitoba's cultural identity and greetings from the federal government were extended by Hon. Robert Sopuck, MP (Conservative), Dauphin-Russell-Neepawa.

The actual statue of a little girl helping her mother bake bread in an outdoor clay oven captured the visual symbolism of Manitoba's wheat based economy in her early history. The



Perseverance.

The Monument to Ukrainian Pioneer Women unveiled in Dauphin

(Photo from CKDM website)

artists Shirley and Don Begg of Studio West Bronze Factory, Cochrane, Alberta were acknowledged for the historical details.

Mrs. Mary Sichewski (Horod, Mb.) and Kristen Boychuk (Cowan, Mb.) jointly unveiled the impressive statue.

The official blessing of "Perseverance" was conducted by Rev. Fr. Oleg Bodnarski, Ukrainian Catholic Dean of Dauphin, Fr. Brent Kuzyk, Pastor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Dau-

phin and Fr. Mykhaylo Khomitsky, Ukrainian Catholic Pastor of Dauphin, Russell and district.

Many Winnipeggers and local dignitaries were in attendance for this auspicious event. Fellowship, photos and refreshments were served after the concluding and powerful rendition of Ukraine's National Anthem *Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina*.

—Luba Fedorkiw

Adriana Luhovy's Documentary "Second Chance" Premieres in Vancouver



Director, Adriana Luhovy, 2nd from the left, with orphan children and volunteers in Ukraine.

■ **MONTREAL:** The moving documentary film "Second Chance" by Montreal filmmaker Adriana Luhovy will have its Vancouver premiere on Sunday, **October 23**. The public screening is organized by the Ukrainian Studies Foundation of BC and the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada Lesia Ukrainka Branch, Vancouver.

The documentary tells the touching story of orphan children in Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadian youth volunteering to help make a difference in their lives. Volunteers from across Canada are chosen by Toronto's Help Us Help The Children (HUHTC) who organize specialized camp-programs in the Carpathian Mountains for orphans. University volunteer workers bring their background, skills and training gained over many years attending Ukrainian school and youth organizations in Canada.

"Second Chance", with its unique focus, was filmed on site, interviewing the many participants. It closely follows how orphan children slowly gain trust, bond with their counselors and push on with the challenges they face. The documentary interweaves the state of orphanages in Ukraine and raises concerns about the future of orphans once they are released.

"Second Chance" opens a discussion of Ukraine's social fabric, and the lack of concern for underprivileged elements of society, especially before the fall of USSR.

The film captures the impact of volunteerism, and its importance to a community's ongoing success.

The film is in English with Ukrainian heard throughout the film. Subtitles are used to keep the feel and authenticity of the language spoken between the Ukrainian-Canadian volunteers and the orphan children.

As Adriana states, "this was a difficult film to make emotionally, to hear the stories of unwanted children and the many obstacles they had to overcome in their personal lives. It took time to gain their confidence and trust to share their experiences. Hopefully, I captured their resilience and determination for a better tomorrow."

The documentary was made possible with the assistance of Sylvie Monette, The Ukrainian Studies Foundation of BC, The Shevchenko Foundation, Caisse Desjardins Ukrainienne de Montreal, UNF Montreal branch, MML Inc and others.

"Second Chance", is Adriana Luhovy's first documentary film release, initially having the working title "Children of Hope". She is a graduate of Communications Studies at Montreal's Concordia University, graduate of Vancouver Film School, having worked for New York's Advancing Human Rights. She has volunteered for many years in Ukraine, working closely with HUHTC and orphan children. She re-designed HUHTC website (see www.huhtc.org) with portions of her film aired on "Kontakt-TV" to help HUHTC's successful fundraising.

The film will be shown in Vancouver at Holy Trinity Auditorium, 154 East 10th Avenue. Admission, by donation with light refreshments being served.

For future showings of the documentary "Second Chance" please contact:

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Бо не гроші сила, сила то родина!

Це нагадування українським заробітчанами в Італії, які зрадили свої родини, Україну підтеранням старців, начебто, заради щастя своїх дітей. Повтікали від сумлінної, творчої, селянської праці! Який безлад совісті у 300-350 тисяч жінок!

Забивайти двері... закривайте брами...
Нема більше тата, нема більше мами...
Поки ми світами, гроші заробляли,
Без нас постаріли... без нас поховали...
А вони старенькі так нас виглядали...
А ми тут за гроші чужих доглядали...
Втратили себе й ми в наймах на чужині,
Погубились й діти ми чужі їм нині...
Гроші заробляли, в інститути пхали,
Може хтось і вчився... більшість же гуляли...
А ми добровільно в рабстві потерпали,
Щоб було їм добре... щоб горя не знали...
Тільки то не щастя коли діти ситі,
Коли мають гроші і добре одіті.
Щастя коли поряд, не в гульбі і п'янстві,
Краще, не доісти, чим в тім ситім хамстві.
Вертаймось до дому, там де наша хата...
Хтось ще ж має маму і ще має тата...
Будемо ми дома, й вернеться дитина...
Бо не гроші сила, сила то родина!

Лариса Ягула Семенен