

Ukrainian museum has reason to celebrate

Institution marks 75 years

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Saskatoon Express

The Ukrainian Museum of Canada is celebrating 75 years in the community.

Located on Spadina Crescent, the facility showcases a variety of artifacts that celebrate and chronicle Ukrainian culture and history.

Janet Prebushewsky Danyliuk, who has served as the museum's director and CEO for 10 years, said the facility is a symbol "for the community of our existence and our survival."

"What we're starting to see a lot of is younger families coming in with a grandparent and sort of exploring it, sometimes for the first time for all generations," she said.

"Sometimes we have some pretty moving moments around here. You'll get somebody that will recognize an embroidery pattern that their mother made."

In addition to displaying a variety of artifacts, including textiles and Easter eggs, the museum houses between 20,000 to 30,000 pieces in its basement and also displays the work of renowned artist William Kurelek.

The Ukrainian Museum of Canada moved to its current building in 1979. Prior to that, it was located in St. Petro Mohyla Institute, which is currently located on Temperance Street and is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year, said Prebushewsky Danyliuk.

She said the Spadina Crescent building was built specifically for the museum.

"It was one of the first buildings built in Canada as an ethnic museum."

Prebushewsky Danyliuk said the museum first began as a dream of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada.

"At that time in the '20s and '30s, people were losing their culture and abandoning it for North American lifestyles and clothing and everything else," she said.

"So this group of women had the desire to save those tangible things, (such as) embroideries, and it started out very small. They actually called it their 'suitcase collection' for a while, because they travelled around small towns collecting things in the suitcase, and they had dreams of a museum.

"It formally began in 1936. Mohyla Institute at one time was on Main Street, and then moved to the facility it's in later, so we were with them sort of in the basement at a lower level for those years. It was a big undertaking for the community to raise the funds, and it was largely private donations and volunteerism that built this place."

Prebushewsky Danyliuk said the museum continues to rely on private fundraising, as well as its "nominal" admission fee and revenue from its gift shop.

"We are launching a capital campaign this year to try and help provide for the future, and ensure the building and the programming itself is sustained," she said.

Prebushewsky Danyliuk, who recently returned from a trip to Ukraine, said the museum's collection is "amazing." She noted that in Saskatoon, 10 to 15 per cent of the population has Ukrainian roots.

"The museum is not just a place to hold artifacts and art and things, but it's really become a meeting place and sort of a hub of the cultural community," she said.



Janet Prebushewsky Danyliuk, director and CEO of The Ukrainian Museum of Canada, said the museum's collection is "amazing."

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada will host a wine and cheese reception on Sept. 23 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the main gallery. The event will also feature musical entertainment. Tickets are \$20. For more information about the Ukrainian Museum of Canada and its

anniversary event, visit www.umc.sk.ca or call 244-3800.

The Ukrainian Museum of Canada is also encouraging people to join the 95th anniversary celebrations of Mohyla Institute on Sept. 24. Call 653-1944 or visit www.mohyla.ca for more information.