

## UKRAINIAN MUSEUM OF CANADA TURNS 75

At first sight, Friday, September 23, 2011, was just another calm beautiful autumn evening on Spadina Crescent in Saskatoon – lush yellowing trees, swift flowing river and blue living skies. Yet, this evening stood out remarkably as the Ukrainian Museum of Canada celebrated a milestone 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Approximately 150 friends, including clergy, dignitaries, Museum members and volunteers joined to congratulate and celebrate the present; and, with spirits of our ancestors filling the air, the foresight of original founders and diligent work of the past 75 years was recognized.

The festivities began with everyone gathered in the foyer of the Museum. During the prayer service and blessing of the Museum, carried out by Very Reverend Taras Makowsky and Right Reverend Protopresbyter Victor Lakusta of Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, *Mnohaya Lita* and *Vichnaya Pam'yat* were sung. Three candle bearers honoured past, present and future supporters: Marie Kishchuk represented in honour of Founders, Sonia Mysak in honour of Volunteers and Board Members, and Olga Kaye in honour of Donors and Supporters.

Moving into the main gallery, aglow with table lanterns, tree lights and warm hearts, UMC Director and CEO Janet Prebushewsky Danyliuk welcomed guests and introduced the Master of Ceremonies Connie Senkiw, President of the Board of Directors. Greetings for the Anniversary were brought by His Worship Donald J Atchison, Mayor of Saskatoon; Andy Iwanchuk, Member of the Legislative Assembly Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Fairview Constituency; Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan; Zennia Yuzik, Past President, National Executive of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada and Stephen Senyk, President, Board of Directors St. Petro Mohyla Institute. In particular, Mayor Atchison warmly recognized the activity of our community by saying: "*You really are making the city of Saskatoon in the Province of Saskatchewan of the great nation of Canada truly a healthier, more vibrant place. A place of better understanding.*"

One of the many people who contributed to spreading the understanding of the UMC significance is Jennie Ortynsky. As Past Chair of the Museum Board, Jennie was presented Honourary Life Membership. Unable to attend the celebration, her granddaughter Stephanie accepted her baba's special recognition which was presented by Sonia Korpus, Vice-President, Board of Directors.

At the closing of the program, guests mingled with old and new friends, enjoyed wine, cheese, anniversary cake and music played by Matthew Gruza and Don Sawchuk.

The Ukrainian Museum of Canada was founded in Saskatoon in 1936 by the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada. The first gallery space, opened to the public in 1941, was at the St. Petro Mohyla Institute, at that time located at 401 Main Street. In 1965, the collection was relocated to Mohyla Institute's present-day building on Temperance Street. The collection soon outgrew that space and, in 1980, the new home of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada at 910 Spadina Crescent East was officially opened.

As Canada's first Ukrainian museum, serving as a center dedicated to the advancement of the knowledge of and the preservation of Ukrainian heritage in Canada, the commitment of **vision – heart – faith** remains unchanged.



*The Moleben.*



*Blessing of the Museum.*



*Guest speakers.*



*Honoured guests.*



*Our blessed icon.*



*The visionaries of 1926.*