



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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913 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E3

Website: [www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org](http://www.UkrainianGenealogyGroup-NCR.org)

eMail: [uggncr1@gmail.com](mailto:uggncr1@gmail.com)

Contact: Myron Momryk (613) 731-1870

Editor: Mike Dowhan (613) 521-3449

### **November 27, 2012 Meeting**

Prof. Dominique Arel, who holds the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, gave an interesting summary and analysis of the Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine held on October 28, 2012.

Prof. Arel began by giving a brief outline of the previous elections. He stated that the present regime of President Viktor Yanukovich had more or less dismantled the political achievements of the previous regime. He noted that not all the election results were official and confirmed. Prof. Arel focused on three main points:

(1) The existence of two Ukraines, east and west; eastern Ukraine has become the stronghold of the Party of Regions and has a long history of contacts with Russia and Russian language and culture. Western Ukraine, part of the Soviet Union since the Second World War until 1991, has been oriented prior to the war towards western Europe and is more sympathetic to the modern European Union. These are profound cultural and political differences and are reflected in the recent elections.

(2) Prof. Arel also mentioned the various legal and judicial events relating to the arrest, sentencing and imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko. He commented on some of the political maneuvering of the government through the use of the judicial and electoral systems. There were other instances of alleged fraud and corruption and this has had an impact on public opinion and the attitude of the population towards politicians and the government.

(3) The next point dealt with the rise of the Svoboda Party that was able to attain a significant percentage of the popular vote (35-40%) in western Ukraine and about 37 members of parliament. This election was also noted by the appearance of other new political parties such as Udar led by Vitali Klitschko. Prof. Arel expressed concern that some of the leadership of the Svoboda Party had made political comments in the past that may be interpreted as extremist and politically incorrect. The rise of this party may be explained as part of the recent trend among electorates in other European countries to provide more support to right-wing parties.

The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the audience. Among those present at this meeting were Bohdan Tomiuk and Mike Kostiuk who were Election Observers in Ukraine. This meeting was a joint event with the Ottawa Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association.



*Prof. Dominique Arel at our November meeting*

## **Release of a new version of the Census of the Northwest Provinces, 1906 database**

This information, posted by the Library and Archives Canada on January 8, 2013, will be of interest to members whose ancestors arrived in Canada as part of the first wave of Ukrainian immigration.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is pleased to announce the release of a new version of the Census of the Northwest Provinces, 1906 database. In 1906, the Canadian government called for a special census of the Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, and the two newly created provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta) in order to track the high rates of population growth in Western Canada.

Previously, users could search only by geographical information such as province, district and sub-district. It is now possible to also search by nominal information such as name, given name (s) and age for an individual.

## **Internet Resources of Interest**

### *Persons Sentenced To Death In Canada, 1867-1976:*

This finding aid may be of interest to our members. It includes many Ukrainian/ Ruthenian/ Galician/ Polish/ Russian names of individuals convicted of murder. All of these files are open.

<http://data2.archives.ca/pdf/pdf001/p000001052.pdf>

### *Information about Volyn*

This information was sent by a German-origin librarian from the Library and Archives Canada. Her parents were born in Volyn in Poland/Ukraine. This information is in Polish and seems to be full of information on Volyn.

<http://wolyn.ovh.org/>  
<http://wolyn.ovh.org/opisy/opisy.htm>

## *National Historical Library of Ukraine*

The National Historical Library of Ukraine has begun the process of digitizing local history and rare books in its collection. The first stage has seen the digitization of some 120 books, half of which are already available on the library's website. Ukraine has had a challenged history when it comes to preserving its past.

<http://www.nbu.gov.ua/> (in Ukrainian)

### *[One] Free FHL Lookup Requests*

This site (and it has a facebook page as well) offers help with FHL (Family History Library) access with one free request. Subsequent requests are \$10.

<http://rootsonomyblog.blogspot.ca/2012/09/free-fhl-lookup-requests.html>

## **Winnipeg Cemetery Records**

Those members who had relatives who were parishioners of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral Sts. Vladimir and Olga, Winnipeg, may be interested in this data base:

<http://www.vladimiroлга.ca/all-saints-cemetery/search-burial-records/>

If any members are aware of other databases with information on Ukrainians in Canada, please contact the editors.

## **Community Events**

*January 26, Saturday*

Annual "Malanka" New Year's Party, cocktails 6 pm, dinner 7 pm. Featuring Ron Cahute and Burya from Toronto. Carollers, dancers, door prizes, mega Cossack basket raffle. Adults \$80, seniors and students \$65, children 9-13 \$40, children 8 and under \$20, zabava only \$25. Cash bar featuring "Lvivske 1715" and "Zirkova" vodka. Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Hall, 1000 Byron Ave.

For tickets and table reservations contact Michael Reshitnyk at (preferred) [mj.reshitnyk@gmail.com](mailto:mj.reshitnyk@gmail.com) or 613 277-4664 (leave message). Tickets also available at Buduchnist, 911A Carling Avenue.