



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

May 2017

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April 25 2017 Meeting

Book Launch: A Canadian Hero: Cpl Filip Konowal, VC and the Battle of Hill 70

This event was a book launch by Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk of his recent book, *A Canadian Hero: Cpl Filip Konowal, VC and the Battle of Hill 70*. The life and career of Konowal is of special interest to the Ukrainian community in Ottawa because Konowal lived in Ottawa before and after his service during the First World War and his funeral was conducted from the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic parish in 1959.



Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk – April 2017 meeting

Prof. Luciuk has been researching the life of Konowal for many years and described various incidents relating to his career. He explained how he was involved in locating the Victoria Cross won by Konowal and preserved at the Canadian War Museum but went missing in 2004. It seems that the medal was stolen and later offered for sale by auction. Prof. Luciuk was able to arrange the return of this medal and restore it to the Canadian War Museum.

Prof. Luciuk briefly described the life of Konowal from his origins in Ukraine to his military exploits in France during the First World War. Konowal was seriously wounded in France and this affected his behaviour after he returned to Canada. Eventually he was able to secure employment as a Commissionaire on Parliament Hill.

Prof. Luciuk described his family life in Ottawa and also his contacts with the Ukrainian Canadian veterans from the Second World War. Various plaques and memorials have been erected in honour of Konowal both in Canada and in Ukraine. The latest project is the monument erected to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Hill 70 in France where Konowal won his Victoria Cross. A Konowal Walk is part of this monument and it will be officially opened on August 22, 2017.

Prof. Luciuk described memorial projects concerning Ukrainian Canadian veterans of the Second World War in England. He had several copies of his book and all were sold at the meeting. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period. This meeting was co-sponsored by the UGG-NCR and the Ottawa branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA).

Further information on Cpl Filip Konowal can be located at:

<http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/gal/vcg-gcv/bio/konowal-f-eng.asp>

Slavco Demchinsky, Author and Photographer

Slavco Demchinsky gave an interesting presentation at our March meeting on his research concerning Ukrainian cemeteries in western Canada. For further information on Slavco and his research on Ukrainian churches, see:

http://www.ukrainianchurchesofcanada.ca/general/about_author.html

Slavco has also written an article relating to his presentation, Lost Folk Art in Ukrainian-Canadian Cemeteries and it is located at

<http://www.ukrainianchurchesofcanada.ca/lost-folk-art.pdf>

UNF-OG Book Launch and Social - Thursday, May 25th

UNF-OG - "Meet The Authors"

Introducing Two Ukrainian-Themed Books

- Walter Kish – *'Here And There'*
Advocate and Spokesperson for The Ukrainian Community
- Chris McNaught- *"The Linnet"*
Ottawa Writer, Lecturer and Former Criminal Lawyer - writes historical fiction on corruption in Ukraine.

Thurs. May 25th, 2017- Everyone Welcome!
7:00 P.M. (Book Presentation & Social Hour
With Refreshments In The Lounge)
Re/Max Core Realty – 485 Industrial Avenue
(near The Trainyards)

For More Information Contact: Sonia Simchison
(613) 794-5135

Capital Ukrainian Festival

The Ukrainian Genealogical Group is planning to participate in the Festival on July 21-23, 2017 and provide an information table. To make our participation a success, it will be necessary to

have volunteers from our group to provide family history information to interested visitors.

Members who are available to participate even for a short time, are invited to contact Mike Dowhan, Myron Momryk or Jerry Fikis.– or email us at: uggncr1@gmail.com

Meetings

There will be no meetings during June, July and August. This will be an opportunity to continue our own research and writing in the area of Ukrainian family history. The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2017.

Members who wish to discuss their own problems regarding their research, can contact Myron, Mike and Jerry and an appointment may be arranged during the summer.

Community Events

June 1, Thursday, 7 pm

Concert Program by Orest Liutyj and Yuriy Vynnyczuk. "Na veselo pro serjozne i serjozne na veselo". Not suitable for children under 18, ADULTS ONLY. Tickets \$25 at the door.

Books by artists will be available for purchase. In the hall of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 952 Green Valley Cresc. For additional information: Bohdan at (613) 795-2214

June 3, Saturday, 7:30 pm

The Svitanok Ukrainian Dance Society (Ensemble and School) presents "The Wonder of Today" at the Centrepointe Studio Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Drive. Tickets go on sale May 8 and can be purchased at Centrepointe Theatre, Shenkman Arts Centre, on-line at <http://www.centrepointetheatres.com/> or by phone at 613-580-2700.

Website: <http://www.svitanok.ca/>.
Facebook - Svitanok Ukrainian Dance Society,
Twitter - @SvitanokOttawa