



# NEWSLETTER

July 2023

## 500 Days of Russia's Full-Scale War Against Ukraine

July 9, 2023, marked 500 days since the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. The war actually started in 2104, with the invasion of Donbass and Crimea but it was Feb 24, 2022, when the full-fledged impact of the Russian army was unleashed on the Ukrainian people. However, over the last 500 + days, the Ukrainian Nation and its People have shown a tremendous strength and resilience that has earned Ukraine global respect.

Over these last 500 days, Ukraine faced not only military aggression but also a humanitarian crisis. Cities like Donetsk and Luhansk became battlegrounds, with civilians caught in the crossfire, suffering from the loss of lives, displacement, and inadequate access to food, water, and medical aid. The conflict took a heavy toll on the Ukrainian people, with accusations

of war crimes and human rights abuses by Russian soldiers on the rise.

International condemnation and sanctions were imposed on Russia for its actions, but a lasting resolution was elusive as Russia refused to adhere to Ukraine's demands of a removal of all Russian soldiers from the borders of Ukraine including Donbass and Crimea.

However, amid the turmoil, the Ukrainian people displayed extraordinary courage and unity. Volunteers and civil society organizations worked tirelessly to provide aid and support to those affected by the conflict. From organizing makeshift shelters to assisting displaced families, they showed the world the strength of their collective spirit.

The war also led to profound geopolitical ramifications, shifting alliances, and strategic reassessments. It brought Ukraine closer to Western countries, seeking support and solidarity. The European Union, the United States and Canada provided financial assistance and military aid to strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities and promote democratic reforms.

As the war progressed, global attention towards Ukraine intensified. News outlets,

activists, and social media campaigns amplified the voices of those affected, drawing the world's attention to the human cost of the conflict.

Ukraine's resilience during those dark days is a testament to the power of unity and hope. As the nation rebuilds itself, it will continue to look towards a future where peace, prosperity, and stability reign, and where the memory of the 500 days of war serves as a catalyst for a peaceful world.

Locally our Society and the Ukrainian community in BC and Canada opened its arms to welcome the tens of thousands of displaced Ukrainians fleeing the war. Over the last 500 days our Society has raised almost \$30,000 to aid the humanitarian crisis abroad and in the lower mainland. In addition, we have supported English language classes for adults, Saturday school for children, income tax workshops, mental health workshops, cultural and social events for those who have arrived. Though the war is a horrendous tragedy, it has breathed a new life into our Society which we are looking to foster for years to come.

**Слава Україні - Glory to Ukraine**

### In this issue:

- *500 Days of Russia's War v Ukraine*
- *Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal*
- *Doors Open Richmond 2023*
- *Golf Tournament*
- *Ivan Franko Library Update*
- *Volunteer and Employee Appreciation*
- *Ukrainian Softball Team*
- *And much more!*

## Upcoming Events

### Friday Night Suppers

The next Friday Night Supper is Friday, September 15th from 4 – 6:30 p.m. Sit down or take out will be available for your enjoyment. No Friday Night Supper in August.

### Saturday Sales

We continue to have Saturday sales from 10:00 – 2:00 pm. The following items are available for purchase: perogies (potato with cheddar cheese, potato and cottage cheese and sauerkraut), cabbage rolls, borscht, and Ukrainian sausage (which is delicious on the barbecue). We also have blueberry perogies for a limited time.

### Golf Tournament

Mark Sunday, **September 10th, 2023** on your calendars as the date of our Society Golf Tournament at Country Meadows Golf Course.

## Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal Update

The Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) – Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) joint project was established almost a month before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, 2022 which enabled a swift delivery of humanitarian aid – both in Ukraine and to Ukrainians who have sought refuge in bordering countries.

Thanks to the generosity of many Canadians, change to: \$59 million has been raised of which \$36 million in the last eighteen months has

If you are interested in making a donation to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, check out the following websites:

- **Ukrainian Canadian Congress at [ucc.ca](http://ucc.ca)**
- **Canada Ukraine Foundation at: [cufoundation.ca](http://cufoundation.ca)**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
**DONATE**

**Donors are able to click on Help Ukraine Now OR Help Displaced Ukrainians in Canada OR the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program to make a donation. The need to provide humanitarian aid continues to be critical.**

been dispersed to Ukraine providing humanitarian assistance to the many millions needing help with food, emergency shelter, mental health support, first aid kits, ambulances, firefighting gear, generators etc.

In addition, the Canada Ukraine Foundation has also fundraised to support Displaced Ukrainians in Canada. Canadians are able to donate to help those arriving to Canada on the Canada-Ukraine Authorization For Emergency Travel (CUAET). Often many are arriving with very little, going to food banks, needing

*Continued on page 2...*



# Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

## Update (continued from page 1)

temporary shelter etc.

As of July 1, 2023, Canada has received 1,100,403 applications, 799,804 have been approved and 166, 849 have arrived in Canada. July 15th, 2023 was the last day Ukrainians could apply for the special visa. CUAET visa holders have until March 31, 2024 to enter Canada.

The third project that the Canada Ukraine Foundation has developed is the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program, a humanitarian surgical aid initiative that provides life-changing care to patients affected by the war.

The surgical teams are volunteer medical professionals from across Canada, including trauma and reconstructive surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses that have performed hundreds of surgeries since 2014.

The surgical team has participated in a total of 10 missions since 2014. Since Russia’s full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, the team have shifted their missions to Poland travelling there in September and November of 2022 and again this past April of 2023.

## Doors Open Richmond 2023

For almost 100 years, our Society has been welcoming the Richmond community to our hall. On June 3rd, we extended our welcome and opened our doors again as part of “Doors Open Richmond 2023” - an event that welcomes the community to visit places of interest throughout the city.

This year, the Ivan Franko Community Center invited the Richmond community to our hall to learn about our deep and rich Ukrainian Culture. A small but dedicated group of members coordinated and planned the event on behalf of the Society with historical, cultural, current event, and interactive displays.

Over 25 volunteers assisted in setting up and manning the displays inside while three of our younger members, dressed in full Ukrainian Costume, waved, danced and welcomed the community to our facility.

Even though the number of visitors was not quite as expected, those that came raved about our displays and commented that ours was one of the most energetic and interesting centers open. It has given the Society the drive to be a part of the event again in 2024.

**Thank you to all the volunteers for their time and dedication!**



### UCSIF Board of Directors 2023-24

We welcome our new Board of Directors:

- President – Vera Adams
- Vice-President – Eugene Lupynis
- Treasurer – Peter Chyrski
- Secretary – Sue North
- Volunteer Director – Fran Zukewich
- Maintenance – Peter Mitchell
- Cultural Director – Tasha Zukewich
- Member at Large – Bill Humenny
- Member at Large – Nadia Wakefield

## Golf Tournament 2023

For over 25 years our Society has been hosting an Annual Ukrainian Community Golf Tournament for members and friends. The tournament is for all golfers, young and somewhat old, regardless of ability. The emphasis is on everyone having a good time.

The tournament is a Texas Scramble format, enabling all players of varying skills to play and enjoy the game. After the tournament we will proceed to our hall at the Ivan Franko Centre for a Ukrainian dinner and where prizes will be distributed. We do appreciate donations so that we can continue to offer prizes to all players.

A BIG thank you to George Brandak for the many, many years of organizing the golf tournament. We are so grateful for all George's hard work and efforts to make this such a wonderful annual event for our members.

**When:** Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>—first tee off times beginning at 10:00 am.

**Where:** Country Meadows Golf Course—Richmond

**Cost:** \$75 per golfer (includes golf and dinner - cash bar available). **Must be paid and received by August 31st to secure your spot in the tournament.** We accept cash or cheque made payable to the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko (UCSIF). Please send your cheque for your foursome to our centre at 5311 Francis Road, Richmond, B.C. V7C 1K2.

**For more information about this event please contact Tasha Zukewich at 778-317-8247 or via email at [tashazukewich1@gmail.com](mailto:tashazukewich1@gmail.com)**

## Memberships Payments for 2023

**All members are reminded that their membership fees for 2023 are now due if you have not already paid them.** Please complete and return the membership form that has been mailed to you OR emailed to you with this newsletter and include your membership dues as outlined in the application form. We appreciate continued support from our members with keeping their membership up-to-date.

Wishing all our Members  
and Volunteers a healthy  
and safe summer!



## Ivan Franko Library

Ivan Franko Library is a welcoming place for enjoying excellent books on Ukrainian themes and topics, special activities for Ukrainians displaced by Russia's invasion and war on Ukraine, exciting Ukrainian themed workshops and, in general, a perfect venue for members to meet and socialize.

Our library is open for book exchange on Saturdays between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. As English Language classes are in session at this time, please phone ahead if you have a particular interest or request.

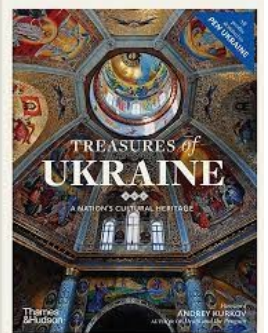


### Exciting new acquisition: *Treasures of Ukraine: A Nation's Cultural Heritage* is

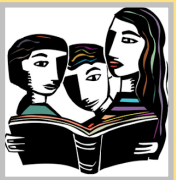
a celebration of Ukraine's rich cultural heritage bringing to light the country's most important works of art and architectural monuments from prehistory to the present.

*Treasures of Ukraine* chronicles the arts and heritage of Ukraine at a time when the country's people, culture, landmarks, and artworks are facing destruction and devastation.

Created in partnership with a group of renowned artists, curators, and critics, this record of architectural monuments and artworks reaches from prehistory to the present day.



### Ivan Franko Book Club



Our next  
meeting is in  
September.

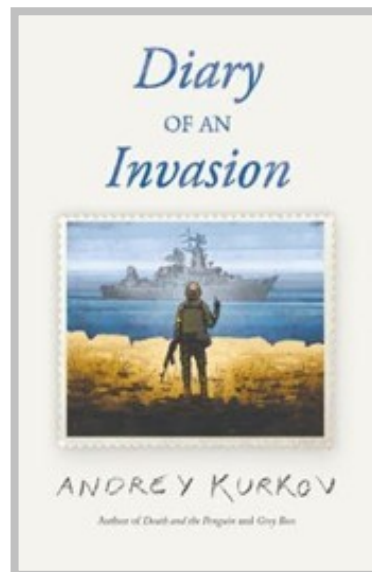
For information about our  
Library and Book Club  
contact Theresa at  
[books@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:books@ivanfranko.ca) or  
call our Society at  
604-274-4119 to leave a  
message.

The Ivan Franko Book  
Club meets 4 times a  
year to discuss excellent  
books and  
view films on Ukrainian  
themes and topics.  
New members are  
welcome.

Our current selection is *Diary of an Invasion: Eyewitness to Russia's War on Ukraine*, which we will discuss at our meeting in September.

This collection of Andrey Kurkov's writings and broadcasts from Kyiv on Russia's invasion, is a remarkable record of a brilliant writer at the forefront of a twenty-first-century war. Kurkov describes the minute details of the war and how it has altered the lives of every Ukrainian.

Andrey Kurkov has lived in Kyiv and in the remote countryside of Ukraine throughout the Russian invasion. He has become an important voice for his people. Kurkov tries to see every video and every posted message, and he spends the sleepless nights of continuous bombardment of his city delivering the truth about this invasion to the world.



Several members of our book club were fortunate to attend a presentation by Andrey Kurkov at a recent Vancouver Writers Festival. His quiet demeanour, deep love for Ukraine and its people, his knowledge and understanding of Ukrainian

history and its relationship with Russia, sprinkled with a satirical sense of humour held us spellbound. By his own admission, Kurkov is a "pathological optimist". We left the presentation a little wiser and more confident that Ukraine will prevail!

Our book club has enjoyed the following books written by Andrey Kurkov: *Death and the Penguin*, *The Good Angel of Death*, *The Gardener of Ochakov*, *The Milkman in the Night* and *Grey Bees*. These and the following books written by Kurkov are in our library: *Penguin Lost*, *The President's Last Love*, and *Ukraine Diaries: Dispatches from Kyiv*.

## Volunteer and Employee Appreciation – Thank You

The Ivan Franko Society is dependent on our terrific volunteers who are very dedicated to spend their time in our kitchen, hall, and library. We depend on volunteers to ensure that our Society functions well, both culturally and financially. **A big thank you** to all our volunteers who generously contribute their time to help make verenyky (perogies), holubtsi (cabbage rolls), borsch and assist with various other tasks throughout the year. We're very grateful and appreciative of everything they do to help. We couldn't do it without our volunteers.

And.... we are also very appreciative of all that our employees do at our Society. Their contributions are key to the operations of our Society. Thank you.





# Ukraine ‘honoured guests’ at Canada Cup



The Ukrainian Softball Team arrived on July 7th to the warm welcome from the Canada Cup Committee and other participating teams. Team Ukraine was amongst 110 teams from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Israel, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Great Britain, Greece, and Italy.

On the first Sunday of the tournament, as Team Ukraine arrived at Softball City fields, the game being played on Diamond #1 came to a stop. The two teams playing, noticed the team walking by wearing their Ukrainian uniforms and the players and spectators in the stands gave them a lengthy standing ovation. As Team Ukraine approached Diamond #2, another stoppage in play to stand and show their respect. Canada Cup Chair, Greg Timm said, “It was all completely impromptu. It was right from the heart.” Ukraine Coach, Vasyl Kysilis added: “It was unreal. It was like a movie.” An incredible emotional moment for both team Ukraine and all those present at Softball City.

As the week continued, Team Ukraine were honoured guests everywhere they went, They were able to be welcomed by the Ukrainian and the softball community thanks to the \$60,000 raised

from the GoFundMe campaign spearheaded by Canada Cup. Our Society donated \$500 to help Team Ukraine realize their dreams.

They were sent home with equipment and money for their program. They accomplished what they set out to accomplish: to give the players a chance to experience tournament play at an international softball event.

Team Ukraine played 6 games in round robin and managed to win two of their games against Prairie Renegades and Snohomish Shock. Also, this was a much needed break from the war for both players and coaches. Overall, the 11 days was an incredible experience for the team. They hope to be back next year!

Our Society supported the team on Team Ukraine Day where many Board members and volunteers attended their afternoon game and reception. It was heartwarming to be part of this special day and cheer the team on.

## Language Classes Update

We were very pleased to provide language classes at our Society this past year. **A BIG thank you** to all those involved for providing instruction on a weekly basis. We are grateful to the following for their time and dedication:

**From the English classes:** Susan Shackles, Karen Holden, Yaryna Shulyak, Victoria Gavrilova and Karyna Kravchenko. We also want to extend a thank you to Theresa Herchak for welcoming teachers and students to our Library and overseeing the two classes every Saturday.

**From the Ukrainian classes for kids:** Svitlana Maksymenko.

**From the Ukrainian classes for adults:** Alla Dudka.



**Beginners English language classes for newly arrived Displaced Ukrainians** will continue in September on Saturdays.

**For information about the English language class, Ivan Franko Library, our Book and Film clubs** contact Theresa at [books@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:books@ivanfranko.ca) or call our Society at 604 274-4119 to leave a message.

**Ukrainian Classes for Kids** - will continue in September on Saturdays at our hall. Please contact Svitlana Maksymenko at: [iana1903150@gmail.com](mailto:iana1903150@gmail.com) for more information.

**Beginner Ukrainian Classes for Adults** - will also continue in September. These classes

take place via zoom for an hour and a half once per week. Please contact us at: [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) for more information.

## NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS SEPTEMBER 15th.

This newsletter is produced by the Ukrainian Community Centre of Ivan Franko, 5311 Francis Road Richmond, B.C. V7C 1K2  
Office: 604-274-4119 || Website: [www.ivanfranko.ca](http://www.ivanfranko.ca) || General info: [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) || Rental Inquiries: [rental@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:rental@ivanfranko.ca)  
Book Club and Lending Library: [books@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:books@ivanfranko.ca)