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Central and Eastern European Community Churches Will Memorialize Black Ribbon Day on August 23rd in Canada

By Markus Hess

Last fall, the Central and Eastern European Council (CEEC) approached Prime Minister Stephen Harper to declare Black Ribbon Day a national annual memorial day in Canada. The CEEC is comprised of the central congresses of Canada's Eastern and central European Community. In a letter to the Prime Minister signed by Milo Suchma (Pres. Czech and Slovak Association of Canada), Agnes Somorjai, President, (Hungarian Community of Canada) Avo Kittask, (President, Estonian Central Council), Andris Kesteris President, Latvian National Federation), Joana Kuras (President, Lithuanian Canadian community), Wladyslaw Lizon (President, Canadian Polish Congress), Helen Bucic (President, Slovak Canadian Association) relayed the importance of this day to Canada and its communities. As a result of the dedicated efforts of MP's Mr. Bob Rae and Mr. Boris Wrzesniewski the motion was carried with unanimous consent by all parties.

protest in 1986. In that year the Central and Eastern European Communities in Canada formed The Black Ribbon Day Committee which, with headquarter in Toronto, organized demonstrations in 56 cities on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

On this first official Canadian memorial day known as Black Ribbon Day, community churches in cities across Canada are opening their doors in the evening of Monday August 23, 2010 so that members of their community and the general public may drop by to place a flower with a black ribbon or light a candle to pay respects to personal memories and go home again.

Some churches will have an organ playing during the evening, whilst others plan to have a short prayer at a fixed time. For example, St Peters Evangelical Estonian Lutheran Church will open its doors from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with a prayer planned for 7:00pm. A table will be placed before the altar with a black ribbon for flowers to be placed by the public. A soloist is planned for sometime in the evening.

The salience of the evening is that a simple elegant avenue for remembrance is provided in the most appropriate place for the individual members of our communities.

Coinciding with the Church memorials is a conference co-sponsored by the University of Toronto's Munk Centre, the CEEC and the Black Ribbon Day Foundation. The conference has attracted leading historical political figures to discuss the theme, "History, Memory and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe".

On 23 August, 1939, the world was shocked when, suddenly, Russia and Germany signed a 'Non-aggression Pact'.

People would have been even more shocked if they had known at the time that, in addition, the two countries had made a number of a 'secret protocol' agreeing to 'spheres of influence' in Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Poland. It amounted to an agreement to invade and divide the countries of eastern Europe between them ... with Poland first on the list.

Britain and Russia

Stalin knew that Hitler's ultimate aim was to attack Russia. In 1939, he invited Lord Halifax, the British Foreign Secretary, to go to Russia to discuss an alliance against Germany. Britain refused. The British feared Russian Communism, and they believed that the Russian army was too weak to be of any use against Hitler.

A Shock to the System

In August 1939, with war in Poland looming, the British eventually sent a minor official called Reginald Ranfurly Plunckett-Ernlle-Erle-Drax. He travelled by slow boat, not by plane. He did not have authority to make any decisions, and had to refer every question back to London. The talks dragged on.

The Russians asked if they could send troops into Poland if Hitler invaded. The British refused. The talks broke down. Hitler and Russia

In August 1939, Hitler sent Ribbentrop, a senior Nazi, to Russia. He offered a Nazi-Soviet alliance - Russia and Germany would not go to war, but would divide Poland between them.

Stalin knew Hitler was lying, but he did not trust the British



Wide World Photo: Nazi foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop (left), Soviet leader Joseph Stalin (center), and Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov (right) at the signing of the nonaggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union, Moscow, Soviet Union, August 1939.

President to receive prime minister

President Václav Klaus is to receive the newly-appointed Prime Minister Petr Nečas at Prague Castle for a working lunch on Tuesday. Likely topics on the agenda are the appointment of a new Czech Ombudsman to replace Otakar Motejl, who died in May, and the priorities of the new government.

The three-party government coalition is currently preparing its policy program, to be presented to the lower house on August 10 when the government plans to ask the house for a vote of confidence. Mr Nečas was appointed to the office of prime minister two weeks ago.

Václav Klaus to appoint new director

President Václav Klaus is to appoint the new head of the Czech Statistical Office on Tuesday. The post will be taken up by Iva Ritschevová, who is currently the director of the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. She was recommended for the post by the former prime minister Jan Fischer. www.radio.cz/



Photo yidwithlid.blogspot.com

Redpath Toronto Waterfront Festival Presented GREAT LAKES UNITED TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE 2010

The American Sail Training Association (ASTA) has partnered with Great Lakes United to bring a fleet of international tall ships to the Great Lakes, the world's largest body of surface fresh water, as part of the Great Lakes United TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2010 race series.

Toronto was the first and only Canadian port of call for the tall ships race that attracted millions of tourists throughout the Great Lakes region. Official port appearances are also scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio, Bay City, Michigan, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Duluth, Minnesota and Chicago, Illinois. Two important initiatives sailed along with the tall ships: water conservation education and youth sail training. The Canada Day weekend June 30 – July 4, the Redpath Toronto Waterfront Festival presented the Great Lakes United TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® 2010. The third annual festival took place all along Toronto's waterfront from Yonge Street to Lower Spadina Avenue and featured ac-

tivities for families and people of all ages and interests, including ship deck tours, entertainment, the Green Village, a Parade of Sail and much more.

A featured highlight was the participation of HMS Bounty. HMS Bounty was built for the 1962 Marlon Brando film "Mutiny on the Bounty" by MGM Studios in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia to tell the story of the famous maritime mutiny that occurred in the South Pacific in 1789. Now owned and operated by the HMS Bounty Organization LLC, she makes Greenport, Long Island, New York her homeport. In an effort to return Bounty to the condition of her Hollywood film days, the famous ship completed an extensive renovation from 2006-2007. Bounty has become a star again to a new generation when she was recently featured in the blockbuster film "Pirates of the Caribbean - Dead Man's Chest."

Regrettably, Freedom Schooner Amistad's participation in the Great Lakes United Tall Ships Challenge has been withdrawn as

a result of severe damage to the ships rigging sustained during her recent return voyage from Cuba.

The festival is pleased to announce the addition of Appledore V, USA, a two-masted Schooner known for her Science Under Sail program. This ship is a lovely addition to our Green Village programming. "As producers of the Redpath Toronto Waterfront Festival, the Waterfront BIA is thrilled to be bringing an international fleet of tall ships to our city for Canada Day weekend this summer," says Kevin Currie, Board Chair of The Waterfront BIA.

"Over the course of the five-day festival, we have the opportunity to welcome over 800,000 visitors to Toronto's Waterfront as we play host to these historic ships and their international crews. Tall ship events, big or small, are renowned the world over for delivering both in the social context with sail training initiatives, and economic impact thanks to their broad public appeal."

"We hope to show visitors to the Czech pavilion that the Czech Republic is a very diverse country and that each of the 14 regions has something to offer even the most demanding tourists," stated Pavel Kosař, director of CzechTourism's Marketing and External Services Department. Jiří Vávra, the director of CzechTourism's foreign office in China, added that the goal of the Czech pavilion is "to show that the Czech Republic is more than just Prague and that the other regions are also worth visiting."

The interest of Chinese visitors has surpassed both the expectations of regional offices' individual representatives and CzechTourism's estimates. And that's no surprise. The Czech Republic Multimedia Hall stands out thanks to its tastings of regional specialties and dishes. Visitors get to try South Moravian wine, Radegast and Staropramen beers, as well as Stará myslivecká ("Old Huntsmen's" liqueur) and Pardubice gingerbread.

At the restaurant, they can taste, for example, Becherovka and Budějovický Budvar, both of which are ever present in China through distributors.

Data from the Czech Statistical Office shows that in terms of incoming tourism Chinese tourists represent a foreign clientele group with high growth dynamics.

Last year, some 62,000 Chinese tourists came to the Czech Republic. You are welcome also.

Photo Malá Strana
Source czechtourism.com



Representing another exciting step in the evolution of the Festival, Redpath Sugar has come aboard as title sponsor and thus it become the Redpath Toronto Waterfront Festival 2010.

"This festival provided a tremendous opportunity to showcase Toronto's spectacular Waterfront which is one of the city's best locations to live, work, and play," said Jonathan Bamberger, President of Redpath Sugar. "For over 150 years, Redpath has been bringing raw sugar into Canada by ship. We are very proud to sponsor this celebration of Canada's history, Toronto's Waterfront and the glorious tall ships."

In addition to supporting youth sail-training and historical preservation of tall ships, ASTA has partnered with Great Lakes United to generate awareness of the importance of water conservation. "This is a race to save the Great Lakes," said Derek Stack, Executive Director of Great Lakes United.

"These waters are a part of our culture and our lives, but our wasteful water use squanders hundreds of millions of dollars every year and degrades the

health of these vital waters. There is no better way to understand what we can achieve together for the Great Lakes than with Lake Ontario at your feet and a tall ship at your back."

As part of that effort, Great Lakes United is hosting a Green Village where visitors can take part in workshops, games and other activities to understand the role of the lakes in their daily lives. From demonstrations on how people can lower their water use, to how to make healthy, local, food choices, the Great Lakes Green Village is focused on providing a positive, accessible message of water and environmental protection.

All weekend long Toronto's Waterfront was well prepared to be a fine host. There were drinking water stations, refreshment stands and restaurants – which were filled to capacity. Those who came down here this weekend were glad they did – because they got to enjoy a beautiful spectacle and a beautiful, peaceful place for relaxation, fun and education. By -bh- Source www.towaterfrontfest.com/press.asp Photo Věra Kohoutová



Czech regions are being presented at EXPO 2010

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A 10-day presentation of the Czech Tourist Authority – CzechTourism and the 14 regions of the Czech Republic is taking place at the EXPO 2010 international exhibition in Shanghai starting 12 July. The opening ceremony was held on 13 July at the Czech

pavilion in the Multimedia Hall. The general commissioner of Czech participation at EXPO 2010, Pavel Stehlik, the director of CzechTourism's Marketing and External Services Department, Pavel Kosař, and the director of CzechTourism's foreign office in China, Jiří Vávra, took part in the ribbon cutting.



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... was born in Prague in 1946. In formerly communist country of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic he studied economy and foreign trade and worked for one of the foreign trade Corporation PZO KOVO. While his career was promising with great expectations he missed the most important part of human life – freedom. Freedom of speech, individual decision, movement and choice. Living now in Canada he published two interesting books and that is the main reason we decided to interview him.

The young generation, especially those born already in the democratic system, may not fully understand the terms of "freedom of speech, movement and decision" or how it reflects in lives of ordinary people.

It is hard to blame the young generation as certain things has to be experienced in order to be fully understood. Young people often think they are invincible and do not much care about the past. The danger here is that some of them may be swayed by the leftist propaganda only discover the real truth when it is too late.

Finishing your studies you held a very promising position. Was not your decision to emigrate a bit premature?

Not at all. It was based on political as well as economic reasons. I did not want to live under the regime that sponsors and covers up political murders, limits one's basic freedoms, rewards incompetence for those toeing official party line and encourages its citizens to spy on each other. Regarding the economy I was convinced the regime will not be able to sustain it forever considering the incompetence in the higher positions. I did believe the regime will fall during my lifetime and as such if I was to start from the scratch better do in one's early twenties than in an old age.

What type of atmosphere were in the offices of the foreign trade. Did you feel threatened in any way?

Not at all. I was treated as a young promising prospect.

Was there anything that bothered you at work?

Basically two things. One was to see the academics from the research institute who wanted to show, and maybe to have it patented, their latest invention in the West and yet these people had to beg and be at mercy of only a high school graduate. I found this to be quite demeaning. Second one was the see in practice the incompetence being rewarded. Just one small example: The head of PZO Kovo took an extended trip through Asia. It was mostly for pleasure, yet to have the entire trip paid by the corporation he mixed it with a little bit of business. In Singapore he managed to sell two special dentist chairs (already delivered there, but not being up to par) to the local barbershop. For this transaction he received a special bonus of 30 000 Czech crowns.

When did you start thinking about emigration?

arrived to Prague. The invasion only made it easier. Because of my earlier decision to leave and due to the fact I first learned about incoming invasion on June 2nd 1968, from the secret communist meeting held in Bratislava., the year 1968 did not hold much of an excitement for me.

Originally the invasion was to take place in October since Soviet leadership wanted to prevent the Congress of the Czech communist party, to be held in November, at any cost as the new leader of the Czech party intended to use this congress to get rid of all pro-Soviet hardliners. However, after early August 1968 negotiations with the Soviet leaders the Czech leader in his naive thinking decided to move the Congress to September. Thanks to this decision the invasion came two months earlier. (By the way – all these facts can be historically and easily verified.) That is why I was one of very few people in the country whom the invasion did not take by surprise.

Why did you choose Canada?

First of all I did not want to stay in Europe since communist influence could reach there into many corners. Secondly it was Canada's reputation in the world. It was not a totally strange country to me since my work included trade with Canada. I also knew about Canada from people who visited here and one of the best description came from a family friend who returned from Montreal Expo 67. Contrary to our neighbors down south Canadians are welcomed and respected all around the globe.

What was your first impression of the country?

I choose to come to the western Canada. It has less population than the eastern part and I saw number of opportunities the West had to offer. To tell the truth my first impression can be compared to a culture shock. Sometimes

western Canada is portrayed as bunch of rednecks with strong Christian beliefs and at the time of my arrival it wasn't far from the truth. Everything was closed on Sundays, all the cinemas and bars, there were no sporting events taking place, you were not supposed to do housework such as laundry etc. Fortunately it did not take long for all this change. The huge influx of people coming here to seek high paying job helped to change all that. Right there we got up to part with the rest of the country, be it sports, culture or entertainment.

Did you try to find job in your own or similar profession?

I gave it a try right at the beginning unfortunately I would have to start in a junior position and

from former members during our meetings and later I've verified their stories by visiting the archives of the worlds biggest press agencies. The story in the book is an adventure of a young man who unknowingly becomes involved with the vigilante organization without realizing the danger he might be in.

The second book titled "Imperfect Immortality" is based on an ancient Eastern religion of reincarnation. It is about a man who lives through constant cycle of death and rebirth. It takes place in the present time as the man searches for the answers to his predicament. Should anyone be interested the books can be ordered online directly from the publisher (The query ISBN 1-4241-7467-8, Imperfect Immortality ISBN 1-60813-730-9) or by calling the publisher (PublishAmerica in Maryland) at 1-301-695-1707. They can also be found on Internet bookstores such as Amazon.com

Are you planning to publish your other works?

Presently I am finishing two other books, and will try to get them published. While publishing the last two was done at no cost to me I found out there are some typographical mistakes in them and that's why I did not bother with too much of advertising or promotions. Yet, so far from all the people who had a chance to read them I only received positive

comments. However, this time around I will try to find and engage the services of a literary agent to get my next books published. As you know the major publishing firms never deal with authors directly.

Today you are retired. How do you spend your free time?

Except for writing I have many other hobbies. My physical activities are a bit limited, so is my wife's. She had a major brain operation to stop the bleeding while back. She also had an open heart surgery and up to now she is on disability. That was my main reason for an early retirement not knowing at that time I will have an open heart surgery four years later. Yet for five years after retiring I was still working on various committees for my former employer and also the union where among other I prepared their annual reviews and wrote a column for the monthly newsletters. I also keep busy corresponding with many people around the world.

Are you in contact with your

homeland?

I still have part of my family as well as old friends there. Presently the contact is mostly through e-mail or Skype.

Present situation in your homeland is compared by any to pre-February 1948 days. Do you think the Communist party could win May elections? (It was written before elections 2010)

Absolutely not, however there are too many political parties in the country that may be splitting the vote and at the end KSCM may play the role of "kingmaker" Personally I believe the worries about communists coming to power are pointless. Even if they did the times are totally different than decades ago. There is no longer any big sponsor coming to the rescue and while Russia might welcome seeing the country rejecting the West it will be not much of a help without getting properly paid for it.

No country in this time of globalization can stand on its own. Besides most of the traditional country industry was either dismantled or is in poor shape. Most of the industry is also own by foreigners be it auto industry, breweries and so on. Besides the former communist's big shots now own the huge chunk of the economy. Trying to nationalize all, like in 1948, would be an economic suicide and every politician in the country, including the communists, is aware of this fact.

What would be your advice to those new emigrants who do not know where to start.

Tree basic things. The main priority is to learn the language in order to be able to communicate. Secondly, try to stay within your profession. Once you start working outside of it for some time it will be extremely hard, if not impossible to get back and thirdly – do not be afraid, do not be unreasonably proud or ashamed to ask for help when needed.

Czech and Slovak community is not the biggest in Canada but certainly has a good reputation abroad. Do you agree with this assessment?

Absolutely. It was this community that made sure people in our homeland were not forgotten. It was this community that achieved the recall of Czechoslovak ambassador from Canada since he once belong to the communist elite. It was this community that convinced democratic government in Prague to include Ronald Reagan when the awards to anti-communist fighters were given. And it is this community that works closely with Canadian Foreign Affairs when it comes to protect interests of all Czech and Slovak people be it in Canada or abroad.

Country of your life choice was Canada. Do you feel it was a right choice? What did Canada give you? I have no regrets. What Canada gave me can be summarized by a single word – freedom.

(The interview could be done thanks to Radka Mayer.)



Visit to Prague Castle

The Prague Castle, an ancient symbol of the Czech lands, is the most significant Czech monument and one of the most important cultural institutions in the Czech Republic.

The Prague Castle was most likely founded in around 880 by Prince Bořivoj of the Premyslid Dynasty (Přemyslovci). According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Prague Castle is the largest coherent castle complex in the world, with an area of almost 70,000 m². A UNESCO World Heritage site, it consists of a large-scale composition of palaces and ecclesiastical

buildings of various architectural styles, from Roman-style buildings from the 10th century through Gothic modifications in the 14th century. The famous Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik was responsible for extensive renovations in the time of the First Republic (1918-1938). Since the Velvet Revolution, the Prague Castle has undergone significant and ongoing repairs and reconstructions.

When is the Castle open?

The Prague Castle is open daily: 5.00 - 24.00 in summer season (April 1 - October 31) 6.00 - 23.00 in winter season (November 1 - March 31). Historical monuments are open daily except 24.12. 9.00 - 18.00 in summer season (April 1 - October 31) 9.00 - 16.00 in winter season (November 1 - March 31) Ceremony by the Castle gates takes place every hour.



At noon it also includes a fanfare and the flag ceremony in the First Courtyard.

Is it possible to visit the state rooms?

Rooms used by the Office of the President of the Czech Republic are open two days a year. The first Saturday after May 8 and the first Saturday after October 28 as a rule.

When are the Gardens open?

The gardens are freely accessible in the summer tourist season. (April 1 - October 31)

Are there barrier-free entrances?

Historical monuments and exhibition halls except towers (Daliborka Tower, White Tower, Powder Tower, Cathedral Southern Tower) and defence corridor in the Golden Lane offer barrier-free entrances.

When visiting Prague Castle you can use the service of Information Centres of Prague Castle in the second and the third courtyards. They provide tours through Prague Castle guided by professional guides of Prague Castle Administration. Guided tours in foreign languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian.

Source Czech Tourism

FEMALE MP'S STRIKE SEXY POSES AS CALENDAR GIRLS 2011

They're cute, they're sexy – and they're politicians.

A new 2011 calendar from the Czech Republic party Public Affairs is raising eyebrows around the globe because it features female members of the political party in sexy poses often showing a little skin. The woman posed because they say they wanted to show that there are women in politics, and they can still continue to be woman.

Some of the shots are funny, like that of MP Lenka Andrysova, 26, whose March photo shows her brushing her teeth while climbing on the bathroom counter.

Then there is the sexy Marketa Reedova, 42, who was the party's candidate for mayor of Prague. She lounges on two leather chairs showing off her long legs, a coffee and a copy of *Rolling Stone* on the table beside her. Another shot shows her sitting on a window ledge painting her toenails.



"We want to draw attention on the fact that we have women in politics," Andrysova told the U. K.'s Telegraph newspaper.

Reedova agreed, telling newspaper, "Woman's political influence is growing. Why not show we are women who aren't

afraid to be sexy?"

In a blog post on April 29, Reedova also defends the calendar from its critics. "I agree the brave calendar shoot without proper reason loses its meaning," she wrote.

She noted one reason for doing the calendar was to raise money for the charity Foundation Archa Chantal, a group that helps improve the lives of children in hospital.

But she said perhaps the more important reason was to show that women in politics can be sexy.

"Being a woman politician in my opinion does not mean that you lose your femininity," she said, noting one political commentator, Bohumil Dolezel, was wrong in his interpretation of the calendar.

"The calendar is definitely not, as you say, shot in *Playboy* style," she said. "We will buy you a copy of *Playboy* and send it to you so you know what the magazine really looks like."

Source The Toronto Sun, Friday, July 16, 2010

Probably the ladies don't know, that morality (from the Latin *moralities* "manner, character, proper behavior") is a sense of behavioral conduct that differentiates intentions, decisions, and actions between those that are good (or right) and bad (or wrong). A **moral code** is a system of morality (for example, according to a particular philosophy, religion, culture, etc.) and a **moral** is any one practice or teaching within a moral code. **Immorality** is the active opposition to morality, while **amoral** is a passive indifference toward morality. Who knows...
Photo: ThDr. Katerina Klasnova is sitting member of Parliament of CR.

By - vk -



Why do I like Edmonton?

My dear friends,

I love Edmonton! I really do! The people, the sense of community, everything about it I love...except for one thing... the weather!

Snow in May is crazy! I think I have developed chionophobia... a fear of snow! When I am out showing properties in this crazy weather and my hands are sticking

anyone in Canada, I didn't have many options! So I called and called, and yes, some people told me straight what they think about my idea... but at the end I got what I was aiming for. I got the best answers from people in Edmonton.

Then, by coincidence I met someone who was in exactly same situation, looking to move from Vancouver. We hit it off very quickly and I explained to her



to the metal key box, I wonder what I am doing living here! But then I remember the people and I know why once again. But let me tell you how I ended up choosing Edmonton as my home...

When we first moved to Canada we lived in Vancouver for a couple of years; beautiful city, but it did not work for us. The house prices, unemployment rates and crime statistics did not fit our dream of raising our kids in Canada. We decided that despite my growing real estate business we would move somewhere else, so I spent days on Statistics Canada website comparing all the cities in Canada based on demographics, economic outlook, housing prices, crime rates, growth trends etc. I should have taken my Canadian Citizenship test again at that time because I knew all there is to know about Canada.

After arriving at a short list of potential cities to make our new home I did something unusual... I started calling random people from the White Pages all around

the country asking them two simple questions: What do you like about your city? What don't you like?

I know, it is an unusual approach but after exhausting the internet for information I felt a need to speak with real people and since I didn't know

what I had been doing to find the best city. The next thing we knew, we were on a plane heading to Edmonton!

We drove around the city, checking out different neighborhoods, going to different places just to ask people questions and see if they smile, and we even just sat on the bench in West Edmonton Mall people-watching. After two days, we were delirious with happiness and had both decided that Edmonton was the city for us! A week or two later, we flew back to Edmonton with a goal to purchase two homes in 72 hours. Prior to that, I studied all the neighborhoods and statistics yet again and prepared a list of homes we wanted to see. We rented a car and periodically switched driving and navigating among us. We were so tired and yet so excited that we could not even fall asleep! After all, it was 11:15 pm in the summer and looking outside of our window, it wasn't pitch black! And since we both originated from Slovakia, we have never experienced that before. We succeeded in buying two homes on that crazy trip, moved to Edmonton shortly thereafter and we have never looked back!

I love living in Edmonton. The people are what makes this wonderful city what it is today. It is also true that until you experience the winter here, you only have part of the truth, but I still love my city, I truly do. And because of the whole community of the people here, I would not change a single thing.

It is even worth the chionophobia! Love, Mira Wannous (Thanks to Radka Mayerova we can read these article.)