



Winter and Mountains in CR 7, 10



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NOVÝ DOMOV



THE NEW HOMELAND

Pravda vítězí!

CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER www.masaryktown.ca

Beautiful Pustevny in Beskydy

Do you know Czech mountains?

Although the Czech Republic cannot boast of enormous mountains or ski runs tens of kilometres long, the Czech mountains nevertheless have much to offer in winter. Last year, the operators of mountain resorts invested approximately CZK 400 million into modernising their technical equipment; this year, large investments are expected to increase the quality of the services provided.

Krkonoše needs no introduction

Špindlerův mlýn is the Czech Republic's highest-quality and most-visited ski resort. Not surprisingly, therefore, it is also the venue of choice for many important sporting events. This year, the locals heeded a frequent suggestion of visitors and prepared to offer a three-hour ski pass. Skiers can also buy ski passes over the Internet for advantageous prices. The newest innovation can be seen in special state-of-the-art electronic entry gate signage at the entrance to the Hromovka and Svatý Petr – Pláň chairlifts. This provides current information on ski conditions. The Horní Malá Úpa – Pomezky resort can boast the completion of a fully automated artificial snowmaking system and the SKIMU House restaurant directly on the trail. The Čer-

ná hora resort acquired for the new season six vending machines for returning chip cards.

Šumava invites families to ski with children

Špičák, Šumava's most famous and largest ski resort, increased its ski area by one-quarter this year. Nevertheless, the prices of ski passes have not increased and a new service is offered such that, every Saturday, snow sport enthusiasts can use a regular bus line from Prague. The increased width of the pistes also allows for hosting international competitions. The Lipno ski resort has undergone extensive modernisation in recent years, and it now is mainly focused on families with children, beginners and school skiing courses. Youths up to 18 years of age can benefit from children's rates for ski passes here.

Klínovec is the pride of Krušné hory

A brand-new, covered, 4-seat, express chairlift has replaced the Pařezová button lift at Klínovec. The entry station has been moved down the hill, thus extending the ski run and making it the longest on Klínovec. The resort also includes a mini area

Canada must be Canada: We are not the North American version of Switzerland

by Michael Coren

It was mid-January, back in 1943, when Canadian troops arrived in North Africa.

They were to go on to fight the Nazis and Italians valiantly in the desert, and then move on to Europe, take care of an entire beach at the Normandy landings, and end the war with one of the most powerful navies in the world.

Canada established itself as a great military power.

And there is nothing pernicious or dark about being a military power. It is what a nation does with its military that defines a state as moral or immoral.

for beginners and families with kids, while the more advanced snowboarders can use a half-pipe.

The Bublava ski resort offers relaxed skiing, and mostly without waiting. There are wide trails at all levels of difficulty, a large range of time- and ride-based tickets, evening skiing, and a snow park with obstacles and jumps. The cross-border "Klingenthal – Bublava Skiregion" is being prepared at Bublava, thus joining the offer of skiing and related services on both sides of the state border.

Jizerské Mountains are dominated by Ještěd

The Ještěd peak is the gem of the Jizerské Mountains, with a view to Liberec and a broad panorama. The Ještěd ski resort is one of the most easily accessible. You can come to ski using the city of Liberec's public transport or by car via the Prague – Liberec motorway. This year, a new Skiline service has been introduced which allows each skier to calculate the number of kilometres and elevation skied, and the number of rides on a particular ski lift based upon the ticket's serial number. In cooperation with the Babylon Centre a popular combined ski and water park service is offered. For a very advantageous price you can buy a daily pass for the ski resort that is also a ticket to the water park. The ski resort is open from 8:30 a.m.

The pacifist idea is, frankly, bankrupt. It is one thing to turn the other cheek and forgive someone who wrongs us, but quite another to turn away when someone else is attacked.

We would, for example, surely admire someone for their peaceful nature, but condemn them if they walked past a rape or an assault and did nothing to intervene.

Canada is the former.

We have long taken the ethical high road, but intervened when others were attacked. German fascism threatened Europe rather than Toronto, Chinese communism invaded Korea and not Calgary.

We became involved because terror and evil have to be resisted. Similarly today, we support the forces of righteousness — the U.S., Israel, Britain, and so on — and give them all the backing we can against ideologies and people who would destroy freedom and democracy.

So why is it some Canadians want to emasculate our military, pretend we are not who we are, and create this revised, foolish history of the country as a North American Switzerland, sitting out conflicts no matter how obvious the necessity of intervention?

It is not because they want peace and pacifism; it is because they want neutrality and, ultimately, the triumph of our enemies. We saw this during the Cold War when, in the guise of peacefulness, various fellow travellers and leftist agitators actually wanted the Soviets to dominate.

Today we see something similar in the struggle against Islamofascism.

From special interest groups, to writers at the Toronto Star, to commentators on the CBC, we are drenched by waves of anti-American propaganda, explaining the war on terror is a

costly failure, and we should be the honest broker in all this and not take sides.

If only we understood Islam, we are told by patronizing dullards, all would become clear.

Well, I do understand Islam, and the Middle East, and unlike these extremists I also understand the U.S.

It's not about Canada taking sides, it's about Canada being Canada.

Just a few days before Christmas, I was given a handful of



spent bullets and some metal particles once packed into a bomb. They were from an attack on a church in Baghdad, where 58 people were murdered in an attack by a Muslim gang.

Not take sides?

Good God, of course we have to choose sides.

If we stand in the middle of the road, we will get run down, not by a car but by the massed tanks of oppressors, armed by Canadian writers and activists with an agenda red with blood and red in politics.

Source: <http://blogs.canoe.ca/lilley-spud/contributor-columns/column-coren-canada-a-warrior-nation>, January 14th, 2012

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LOCATION: DEŠTNÉ IN ORLICKÉ HORY

This race, which is unique in our country, will be held for the sixteenth time this year. Who would have thought that it would be possible to hold a dog sled race in the Czech Republic, which would even go on to become one of the most prestigious in Europe. And in fact it was and it did! Musher races are held every year in the last week of January. Competitors race along a very demanding route which is hundreds of kilometres in length, and which leads through the beautiful countryside of the Eagle Mountains on the Czech and Polish side. Thanks to the efficient organisation of the organisers, the event stands its ground in comparison with events held in the Alps.



History

A few years ago a group of dog sledding fans was looking for a region of the Czech Republic that would be suitable for organizing dog sled races. This region had to suit not only in the snow conditions, elevation, profile of the trail but also in the willingness of the local authorities to organize such a long distance race. They found an ideal suitable place for

the dog sled race in the Orlické Mountains (hory) and in February 1997 organized the experimental "zero" year (later called the "first" year).

One day before the actual start of the race two dogs of Pavel Kučera ran away from him and one of them, Siberian Husky called Šedivák, was shot down at a distant village by a local citizen. In spite of this accident the race started but since then it has always been dedicated to this sad fatal moment and forever named "*Šedivákův Long*".

As the time went there have been created two distance trails – 222km and 333km that lead mushers to the mountain ridges

same as to the charming Polish side of the mountains. The race is a four-day stage race on the ridges of the Orlické mountains, including one bivouac that traditionally takes place on the meadow behind an old farm house in the village Souvlavstí.

The race has always been taking place in the last week of January, which is typical with its freezing weather and plenty of snow. The race itself demands great effort of the organizers, volunteers and could not be organized without the huge help of the sponsors and the local authorities of the villages and the whole region. In the course of time there has been created from a small local race an internationally important event. When we describe the race we have to

use the adjectives such as the longest, the most difficult, the most famous and its name is more and more known among the mushers.

In 2004 it was honoured a nomination to the European championship FISTC that also took place in the same year. In the tenth year of the race took part 64 best mushers from Germany, Austria, Holland, Belgium, France, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. There also took part about 400 Nordic bred dogs – Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamutes, Greenland dogs, Alaskan Husky, European sled dogs and others. This race catches attention of many visitors of this region; mostly those who want to taste the beauty and the magic of the polar worlds, worlds of freezing weather and the faithful dog helpers. Pavel Kučera – the race manager

The dog sled

Since ancient times people living in the distant lands, where the winter is longer than other seasons, have been using the dog sled to the transport of people and the load. For their sled they were using any dogs no matter what race or beauty.

The only thing that was important was how the dog worked and how it coped with the bad weather. At that time there started to be the bets – whose dog will pull the heaviest load, whose dog sled is the fastest. There were lots of sport disciplines coming to our country. In the beginning of the 80's the first excited people started to hitch their dogs to the first prototypes of the sled. Not all tries were successful but there star-



ted to be more fans of this sport. People, or so called "mushers", managed to import the real Nordic race dogs from abroad – the Alaskan malamute and Siberian husky and started to compete with them. And that was the beginning of the sport that we call the dog sledding.

The Šedivákův Long race

takes place on the Czech side of the mountains in the area of towns Deštné v Orlických horách and Orlické Záhvoří that both belong to the state administration district Hradec Králové.

The organizers cooperate and keep in touch with the region authorities actively. Every year there comes Mr. Helmut Dohnálek – the first deputy district administrator of the Hradec Králové and Mr. Václav Vojtěch – the headmaster of the local school and the leader of the voluntary mountain rescue service to take part in the ceremonial beginning of the race. Another person that cooperates very much with the realization team is Mrs. Ing. Václava Domšová – the lady senator representing the voting region no. 48, whom you can meet actively cheering the mushers on the trail, same as at the closing ceremonial where she gives awards to the winners.

Are you interested? More: <http://www.sedivackuv-long.cz>, Organizer: Pavel Kučera, 384 51 Volary, pavel.kucera@web.de, photo Reuters, Peter Josek

As part of our Winter 2012 Schedule, we are showcasing several Czechoslovakian film productions.

Let me know if you have any questions. We hope to see you at TIFF Bell Lightbox! All the best, Vanessa
TIFF Bell Lightbox
350 King St. W. Toronto,
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The new home for TIFF is a beautiful, welcoming five-story com-

plex at the corner of King and John Streets in the heart of downtown Toronto.

A super-scaled Douglas Fir canopy stretches along the King Street facade, leading visitors to the main entrance and box office. The upper surfaces of the building are a series of glass panels against which the shadows of people moving within are cast, creating a cinematic dimension to the exterior. Inside, visitors gather in a three-storey public atrium, 5 public cinemas, 2 galleries, 3 learning studios, a centre for students and scholars, a bistro, a restaurant, and a lounge.

Designed by world-renowned architectural firm KPMB, this unique facility provides an essential meeting place for film professionals, educators and film lovers from around the globe.

The Daniels Corporation and the Reitman family – acclaimed filmmaker Ivan Reitman and his

sisters Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels – who together form the King and John Festival Corporation, have helped TIFF to realize

Czechoslovakian Film Events at TIFF Bell Lightbox Winter 2012

its dream of a building dedicated to film.

TIFF Bell Lightbox now provides a long-needed home for all of TIFF's existing programmes as well as new initiatives, community and industry events.

"I want every film lover to feel like TIFF Bell Lightbox is theirs." – Piers Handling, CEO and Director of TIFF

Czechoslovakian Film Events: I Killed Einstein, Gentlemen Oldřich Lipský, 1970

After a nuclear explosion renders all the world's women infer-tile (and bearded!), a bold band of scientists determines to travel

back in time to 1911 and assassinate Albert Einstein before he can concoct the theories that helped create the Bomb. This wild, cheerfully lowbrow Czech sci-fi comedy plays like Sleeper/ Bananas-era Woody Allen. Friday, January 20 at 9:00 PM

Ferat Vampire Juraj Herz, 1982

A doctor discovers that an auto company's new race car prototype is fuelled by the blood of its drivers in this bizarre sci-fi horror thriller laced with anti-corporate satire and devilish black humour. Friday, January 27 at 9:30 PM.

Who Wants to Kill Jessie?

Václav Vorlíček, 1966

A gorgeous comic-strip heroine is catapulted into the real world – along with the dastardly cartoon villains out to get her – in this hilarious, visually inventive postmodern comedy. Friday, February 3 at 9:00 PM.

Ikarie XB-1, Jindřich Polák

1963

The crew of a starship on a year-long exploratory mission in the Alpha Centauri system discovers that the greatest dangers



lie within in this engrossing adventure, arguably the high point of the space-opera tradition in Czech science fiction. Friday, March 30 at 9:30 PM.

For a complete listing of screening times and schedules, please visit: www.tiff.net

Report about the Status of Small Breweries in the Czech Lands Brewery U Bulovky (Richter Brewery) in Prague 8 - Liben

For ND Libor Vojacek

Dear readers, dear Canadian beer lovers,

It is an honour to be asked to write something interesting for our friends on the North-American continent. I do so with great pleasure. I feel an affinity toward your country and the USA where I spent three beautiful years (1993 – 95). I like both ice hockey and maple syrup... I also like your interesting history that changed your country from bickering former colonies to an amazing place to live. Greetings from the Czech Republic – a country of fattening, less than healthy cuisine, beautiful women and splendid beers! Now, let's talk about beer itself. As it is something that connects us Czechs and brings us together. Small breweries, microbreweries and family breweries have been enjoying a fantastic boom and bloom which has lasted for several years now. Hardly a week goes by without a new one coming on the scene! Hey, I am not here to support any one in particular or to make a hidden promotion, but if I am to bring you the spirit and atmosphere of a Czech microbrewery, we simply have to visit some of them! Right?

Have you ever been to some of Prague's microbreweries? Silly question, right? Sure you have. But how about the brewpub named U Bulovky (by the Bulovka Hospital)? No? Let's fix that. And do you occasionally like to try beers which are different from the common lager? If yes, then this pub is for you. Let me introduce this brewery in more detail. Well, let's head out to Prague's eighth district, the Bulovka Street, Number 17. The atmosphere of the working class district and the 1930s-50s spirit of this Prague suburb are mostly gone; also, this brewpub cannot, for sure, be classified as a "work-

some competitors. This is what all Czech microbreweries are all about: They are not designed to serve the same beer like the nearby pub, named for example „On the Little Corner“ (just an example, please!). In microbreweries very different rules are in force. You go there to enjoy, taste and relish beer. You go there for adventure. For real beer. For live beer, unfiltered, unpasteurized... like you don't find nowhere else. It is exactly the same in Canadian microbreweries. And you have plenty of them, mainly in British Columbia. Those winter Olympians who like beer, weren't short-changed in Vancouver! No way. All I wanna say is that you have to pay a bit more, you have to dig a bit deeper in your pocket for this extra experience, in order to get some extraordinary beer. Take me, I don't belong to the „upper crust of society“ but I am happy to pay few extra pennies, according to the British saying: I am not so rich so as to buy cheap goods. I like to sacrifice some money to get an extraordinary experience. Yes, just like this. Spend some, too! Support small brewing... You can't miss the restaurant at the brewery; it is located right where the Bulovka Street begins as it then slopes down.

How well do you know Prague? Not well? Let me explain the the way in plain terms. If you get on the electric tram No. 24 on Wenceslas Square in the city centre, it will take you there safely and without a problem. All you have to do is listen for the announcements of the stops. Get off at the „Good Beer Station“, i.e. the Bulovka stop. Maybe the close association of the brewery with the Bulovka Hospital is not a mere coincidence. The pub house could be said to serve as a pharmacy! Beer is real medicine when used

lem. Even bad luck in love! And just as a matter of interest: A few feet away from the brewery is the spot where the so called „Reich's protector“ (Nazi Germany) Reinhardt Heydrich was assassinated in 1942. The guy who according his title should have protected but did not. Just a bit for those who are beer lovers and historians in one. The memorial monument for those seven brave paratroopers was finally erected last May, 2009, on the spot of the actual incident. Another national debt was partly paid.

See more on: <http://www.czech.cz/ceske-listy/z-domova/odhaleni-pamatniku-parasutistum-z-operace-antropoid?i=4>

But now it is time to go inside

Upon entering the double door you find yourself in what appears to be a cosy, stylish pub house with dark wood panelling. On the opposite side is a long bar counter, on the right there are two beautiful copper boiling kettles. The restaurant can accommodate 80 people comfortably, 100 less comfortably. It is, after all, a true family enterprise. Mrs. Richter can be found regularly behind the bar counter, Mr. František Richter, brewer and owner in one person, can be found wherever he is needed the most at the moment. He has lived in Hamburg, Germany for years and after the reign of the „Red Plague“ (read Communist Party) ended in his homeland in 1989, he decided to return. His more than 20 years of living in Germany have left an indelible imprint on the names, origin and tastes of his beers. And there already were over 125 types of beers made in the brewery. Each with its own recipe. Nevertheless, the stable of regular beers which are always in stock at any time, consists of only four: Richter Lager (light beer 12.3% extract, 0% alc.), Richter Helles (Munich type lager – 13.0% extract, 5.1% alc.), Richter Export (Dortmund type lager beer 13.0% extract, 5.2% alc.), Richter Pražský Hefe-Weissbier (top fermented beer 12.8% extract, 4.9% alc.). If you happened to be in the brewpub in August, surely you tasted the cherry beer (12-13% extr.) which is brewed once a year during the cherry season. The average price of one beer is about 28 CZK (1,10 EUR) per half litre, plus or minus... well more likely plus (laugh). But if you consider that for only a few pennies less you can get filtered and dead beer in any nearby restaurant like the imaginary one mentioned at the beginning, you realize that the value, price vs. quality, is excellent. And it is strongly to the benefit of quality. During holidays the portfolio of

beers is expanded to few special beers named Specials.

I was lucky to be in the Richter Brewery for my report early January of 2007, so I just caught the right moment for Special 16 (extract) with cinnamon flavour. Not bad at all; anyway I love cinnamon in any shape! This gave my Christmas a very dignified ending.

A very beautiful epilogue

In my opinion, writing about the taste, uniqueness and exceptionality of all unfiltered beers made in small breweries is a bit



like carrying coal to Newcastle, right? And I don't really wanna do that. Mainly those beers are very good beers, deliciously touching your palate and gums... and this beer is no exception. Nice, long-lasting head, smell and fullness are what make this beer outstanding. Everything is well balanced. It is worth it to come here and sit down. And taste all beers available step by step.

Start with a lighter one! So the next one will be even better for you. Did you get hungry? No problem. I recommend the brewery goulash with interesting Carlsbad dumplings for 95 CZK (about 3,60 EUR). Would you like to have some nice memories and perhaps a nice souvenir? Buy an original brewery 1.50 litre bottle and ask them to fill it up for you. Or take one or two brand new local beer coasters as keepsakes. Ask for their own „beer-ice cream“ made from malt, hop, cream and sugar. It is available year round and it is said to be the first Czech beer ice-cream. What a pity that I did not try it during my visit there. It just did not cross my mind.

The brewery was opened in the spring of 2004, and it was proclaimed as a „Microbrewery of the year“ already in 2005 by Sdružení pratel piva which in translation means Association of the Friends of Beer. It is a volunteer association working for the sake of the beers (www.pratel-piva.cz). Something like a beer watchdog. I am sure you get the

point. Surely that tells us something about the Richter Brewery, doesn't it? To learn more, I'm inviting you behind the scenes. Behind the boiling kettles you can find doors leading to fermenting cellars. Here you can see three open fermenting tubs. It is a small, cosy and very clean room. It almost shines from cleanliness and order. This room is followed by the lager cellar with a couple of tanks. Again, it is spic and span.

Mr. Richter is telling us his story and it is clear we are not the first (or the last) visitors to the brewery. Though, he says that he is a bit tired of being the „castellan“ (castle guide). Up there in the building where the brewery is situated there are three guest rooms. Ten permanent employees will take good care of you.

The Richter Brewery a.k.a the Brewery by Bulovka Hos-

pital (Pivovar U Bulovky) is a small brewery, so our story will be small and short this time. You know, sometimes less means more!

What can I say in closing?

The Richter Brewery is a well run brewery with beers which are worth a try. If you are here in Prague, it is short and comfortable trip from downtown. Prague is not just the Charles Bridge and the Astronomical Clock on the Old Town Square. Just like Toronto is not only the CN Tower or the Maple Leafs hockey team with its legend Johny Bower. Canada is not only Niagara Falls. Prague is also and mainly BEER! So, let's cultivate it. Let's cultivate our tastes and appetites. Don't drink everything that has glimmer and signs of beer foam. Don't buy cheap beer in supermarkets, made by anonymous breweries. Be proud! Act like a citizen of a nation (Czech) which really understands what beer is all about. This loves beer and knows what is suitable to be drunk. Three beers drunk in the Richter Brewery may be more than equal to three 20-bottle crates of commercial beer. Believe me.

I have my own proven experiences. I was sitting in the Richter Brewery a couple of times. Visit the official website of the brewery at www.pivovarbulovky.cz. Unfortunately it's only in Czech but maybe you can get the information that you need. Also, watch for my next story (probably) written for you.



ers' "pub. Never mind.

But we should be more than happy that this brewpub is located here and that such brewpubs exist. Big breweries should have

in moderation and with common sense. And believe me, you can't get such good medicine far and wide! The medicine, of that I am sure, can heal almost any prob-

Unique Training Program (6)

Reports from Ukraine

For ND Kazuhiro Kobayashi

Changing time

A huge, typical communistic concrete building at Kamenne namestie in Bratislava 'Hotel Kyiev' stands out exclusively. The hotel was closed down by



the end of October 2011. The hotel once gave me eerie impression after walking through the organized old town in Bratislava for the first time. Since the establishment in 1972, it has been a part of the face and common accommodation for visitors to Bratislava. The hotel with 40-year history now sees a temporary shutdown for renovation of both interior and exterior, led by British company, the owner of the hotel. As if the event symbolizes the change of time in Slovakia and other former communist countries, many changes and deeply-rooted, unchangeable things can be observed here in the origin of the hotel name, Kiev.

Three weeks in Kiev, Ukraine

It has been over three weeks since I arrived in Kiev. The temperature dropped as low as -15°C. I have been working on volunteer activities at a NGO and for others whom I can be of any help for. There I mainly teach English and brainstorm with other workers to change the organizational structure. From the place where I live in Borispol, it takes one and a half hours on commute by

Kiev International Airport is located. As all the VIPs pass the highway to reach the centre of Kiev, the highway was built so nicely. Another odd thing is a heliport under construction near the Dnieper River. The construction is to be done by the latter March this year and the president Viktor Yanukovich will commute by helicopter. His consideration for the people made it possible not to cause troubles during citizens' rush hour by closing all the traffic for him on the name of democracy. This is a country such a thing could be normally done; it proves how much structural reform the nation needs.

For the last few years

In the end of the last year, the president Viktor Yanukovich changed the bank holiday on November 22nd. The original date was anniversary for the Orange Revolution in 2004 when he missed his presidency. Tymoshenko trials and all the other political news are available on TV and the internet; however, these absurd facts such as 'democratic' heliport or the abolishment of Orange Revolution anniversary holiday are hardly available in news reports. While the president is trying to commute by helicopter (the helicopter itself costs \$17 million and heliport for \$7.5 million) aiming to ease the traffic jam because of him, many people use public transport to move around Kiev. A ride on subway costs only 2 grivnas (25 CA cents). Still in 2008 people complained the increase so much when the fare was increased from 50 kopek (0.5 grivnas, or 6 CA cent) that municipal government decreased the price to 1.7 grivnas for a while. This example shows how the considerate president and the parlia-

ment which approved the budget are far away from the majority people in the country. Ukraine is ranked at 134th in 2010 on the Corruption Perceptions Index, a research conducted by Transparency International (Czech Republic was at 53rd and Slovakia

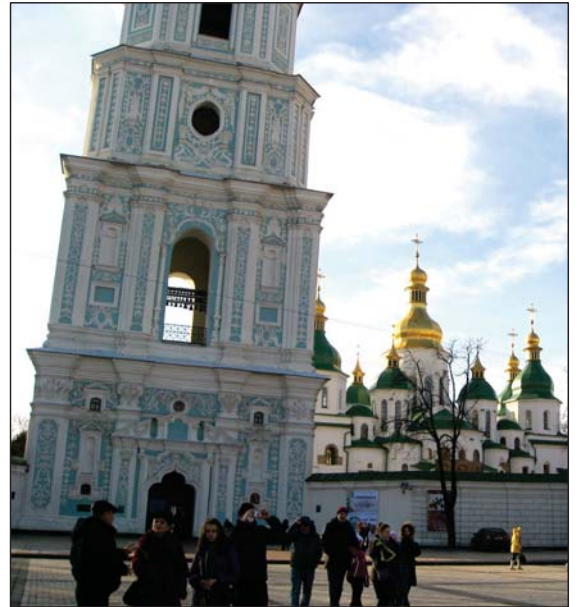
A mystery of currency

59th in the same year). The helicopter issue is mere a tip of the iceberg in this country.

In Ukraine when I withdrew cash from an ATM, the monitor showed "which currency would you like to withdraw cash 'Ukrainian grivna' or 'United States dollar'?" I was confused as I had never seen alternative currency available at ATMs in any other country. As well as the political mistrust, people do not have full trust in their banknotes here. The figure above is GDP growth and the inflation rate in Ukraine for the last decade. During the economic crisis starting in 2008, it is visible Ukraine experienced -14% of economic contraction and nearly 25% of inflation. The official exchange rate to U.S. dollar suddenly dropped to 8 grivna/dollar from about 5 grivna/dollar within days. A number of people who had house, car and other loan in U.S. dollar got affected by the change and many went into bankruptcy as a result. The depreciated currency hiked the price of imported goods. The result was 39% drop of import in volume in 2009 compared to the previous year, according to World Trade Organization. Can you imagine a life where nearly a half of imported goods disappears from the market? That is the situation of Ukraine two years ago.

Preparation for Euro 2012

This year the soccer championship Euro 2012 will be co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine. The preparation has been done at high gear in Kiev, too. New stadium, renovation of the airport, major traffic routes, public restrooms etc...I could see the high expectation of people and governmental side. Wherever I meet people, many show interest in speaking or learning English. Before the London Olympic, Ukraine will host the biggest sports event in its history. Chernobyl, poisoned president, Tymoshenko in prison etc...not many news have given positive impressions about the country and big, hopeful news for the prosperity of the country between European Union and Russia is needed. Euro 2012 will be the milestone in many aspects. Even though most readers of Novy Domov in Canada would not follow soccer in Europe, it might give us a sort of example to see the world's change through the games in this year when elections and political tricks among major countries are due to happen one after another. Personally I wish they will achieve the purpose of co-hosting with Poland and Ukraine...*Story continues.*



Do you know Czech mountains?

➤ from pg. 7 to 4:00 p.m. and the water park from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The largest ski resort of the Jižské Mountains is Tanvaldský Špičák, which offers 6 kilometres of ski runs of all difficulty levels and with artificial snowmaking along its entire course. Tanvaldský Špičák II is ideal for training young skiers. It is an enclosed area with a magic carpet, children's ski lift and many attractions.

The Beskyds have their own unique charm

You can enjoy good skiing even in Wallachia. One of the most popular resorts is Řeka, not far from Třinec. The operators of the Skialpin Pustevny resort have newly introduced ski buses for this season, transporting skiers directly to the main piste. Also new are tickets for senior skiers over 65 years of age, which sell for the same price as for a children's ski pass. On Monday, 2 January, the Razula ski resort in Velké Karlovice kicked off its "Ski and Swim" bonus package, whereby skiers will obtain a free one-hour pass for the thermal pools of the Horal Wellness hotel. You can thus conclude a day spent at the slope by bathing in salt water heated to 36°C.

The Orlické Mountains keep up with their offer

Beautiful ski resorts also can be found in the Orlické Mountains. The Čenkovice resort is part of the Buková hora Ski Region, which is the largest ski resort of the Pardubice region and bears the "Czech TOP Resort" golden mark of quality. On offer are ski runs of easy and intermediate difficulty with total length of 4,000 metres. Eight lifts with total capacity of 4,400 persons per hour ensure smooth operation and skiing without long waits. The range of services also includes night skiing and a snow park for snowboard enthusiasts. The Řičky ski resort on the south-east slope of Zakletý Hill is the best

resort in the Orlické Mountains and one of the top ones in the entire Czech Republic, thanks to its elevation, state-of-the-art ski lift, as well as diverse and advantageously oriented pistes of varying length. Although it opened just last year, the Červená Voda ski resort already has become highly popular among skiers. It offers the longest piste in the Orlické Mountains and a heated 4-seat chairlift with a protective shield so you no longer need to freeze on your way to the top. An innovation this year is radar allowing you to measure the speed at which you skim down the hill.

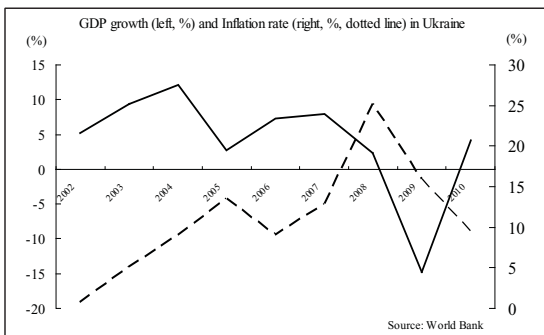
One of the most modern winter resorts can be found in Jeseníky

The cutting-edge Kouty nad Desnou ski resort is the largest downhill skiing resort in Moravia. It can boast the first 6-seat chairlift in the Czech Republic. Two of the four runs are more than 2 kilometres long and uniquely are more than 50 meters wide. The package of services on offer is complemented by a sunny terrace with Alpine-style buffet near the top station and several restaurants at the bottom.

The Bohemian-Moravian Highlands are cross-country paradise

While the Czech Republic has more than 200 ski resorts large and small with over 450 kilometres of maintained ski runs, you can also find more than 3000 kilometres of maintained cross-country trails. If you follow these into the countryside, you can absolutely rely upon the detailed trail-marking that is unmatched anywhere in the world. The Highlands with all their secluded and beautiful expanses comprise a cross-country paradise. You can also take along your cross-country skis to the peaks of all the Czech mountains already mentioned. There even are several inviting bobsleigh, toboggan and sled tracks.

Most winter resorts provide information on the comprehensive portal www.holidayinfo.cz.



walking, taking a bus and subway to reach the office in the middle of downtown. Sometimes I get a ride of the NGO worker. On the way from Borispol to Kiev, the car runs on the oddly modern eight-lane highway as in Canada. Borispol is a city where

ment which approved the budget are far away from the majority people in the country. Ukraine is ranked at 134th in 2010 on the Corruption Perceptions Index, a research conducted by Transparency International (Czech Republic was at 53rd and Slovakia

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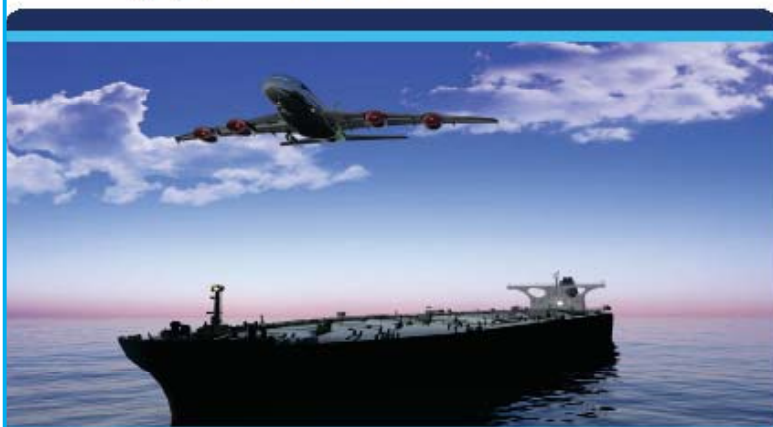
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