

# From the Spiritual Advisor's Desk

## ◇ З Пера Духовного Дорадника

Fr. Peter Galadza, Ph.D.

◇ о. д-р Петро Галадза

### Our *Deeply* Cultural Gift to Canada on Her 150th

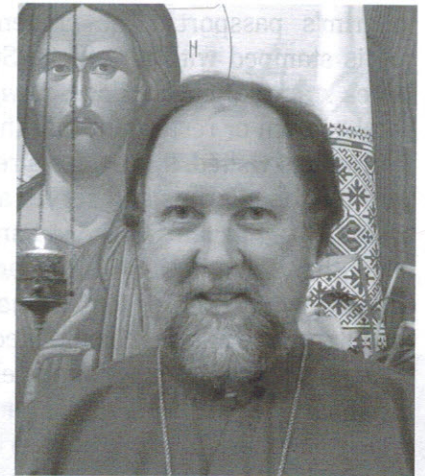
### ◇ Наш *глибокої* культури дар Канаді з нагоди її 150-ліття

So what gifts will our community present to Canada on her 150th? Many of us are old enough to remember a time when Canada was not “multicultural.” The late Senator Paul Yuzyk helped change that. He is rightly hailed as the Father of Canadian Multiculturalism. And he understood where the deep roots of every culture lie.

The word “culture” usually evokes thoughts of music, dance and other art forms. And rightly so. However, the word is related to “cultus” which is the Latin

form for “worship” or “religious practice.” In that connection, “cultivation” originally meant an ongoing process of formation, a formation grounded in a focus on what is *ultimately* important. You commit yourself to forming the best within yourself and your community – and the best, of course, is God.

Having lived in Ottawa off and on for almost 25 years, I have gotten to know the legacy of Senator Yuzyk in unique ways. I'll never forget the time when a parishioner at our beautiful



Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Ottawa told me: “In the 1980s there were all sorts of debates about where to build the Shrine. People were divided. Some wanted it in one part of town, others in another. Senator Yuzyk then took the committee to the amazing location overlooking the Rideau Canal where the Shrine now stands and said: ‘This is where we must build.’ He simply insisted: ‘No other site will do.’” Every Canadian – or tourist to Canada – travelling up that scenic root, marvels at the splendour of the shining domes that dominate the view across from Carleton University. The gold, pear-shaped cupolas proclaim: “Look upwards! Christ is the source of the beauty and harmony you see around you.”

Senator Yuzyk’s two academic dissertations were on the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches respectively. He was also key in building a wonderful church in Florida, used by both Catholics *and* Orthodox. I think, then, that I can say with some assurance that, while Yuzyk would have been overjoyed to see the proliferation of our usual Ukrainian cultural organizations and ensembles, today he would



St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Ottawa

no doubt be compelled to ask, “So what are we doing to connect with the tradition that actually created Ukrainian culture? Where is the legacy of Saint Volodymyr the Great and Yaroslav the Wise? The universal genius of Ukrainian culture lies with that heritage – and not only with the *kozaky* or modern figures?”

Fortunately, Senator Yuzyk also understood that a legacy lives on in people, and that buildings – as crucial as they are – are only symbols of that life. With their commitment to our Church and community, Senator Yuzyk’s three daughters (pictured here) have helped the Shrine become a living structure. One finds them not only at innumerable parish and community events, but also at liturgical services that many of our parishes don’t even bother to celebrate. Whether it’s Saturday



Senator Yuzyk’s daughters: Evangeline, Vicki, and Vera. PHOTO BY ROSTYK MAKUSHAK

night vespers or Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, one frequently sees them there – praying in that gorgeous church that their father insisted be built in a gorgeous location.

As we celebrate Canada’s 150th, let’s celebrate the deep

and lasting culture found in the *cultus* of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church. Anniversaries are, after all, temporal. And so their significance ultimately lies in how they point to Eternity and the Lord of all time, space – and deep culture.

## Famous Canadians of Ukrainian Descent: Ed Burtynsky

For the 150th Anniversary of Confederation, UCWLC Toronto Eparchy 1st Vice-President and Cultural Committee Chair Vera KostECKI suggested researching famous Canadians of Ukrainian descent. One choice was easy!

Photographer Ed Burtynsky’s mother is a member of our parish, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, in St. Catharines, ON. His parents arrived in Canada in 1951 when Ed was four, and his father worked at General Motors. When Ed was 11, his father purchased a darkroom from a widow and, with his father, learned to print black-and-white photographs. With his older sister, they eventually started a business taking portraits. Today, Ed’s photographs are in 50 museums around the world.

Ed seeks to portray the visible outcomes of a globalized economy and humankind’s impact on environments around the world. He has achieved global recognition with his large-scale photographs and project-based monographs, such as *Quarries*, *Oil*, and *Water*, all of which have resulted in popular touring exhibitions and, in the case of *Water*, a feature-length documentary film entitled *Watermark*. However, while Burtynsky’s global standing is without question, no comprehensive retrospective of his career existed until now.

With an introduction by editor and curator William A. Ewing and essay by Joshua Schuster, *Edward Burtynsky: Essential Elements* provides an entirely new way of seeing Burtynsky’s career. It’s an overview

of Burtynsky’s work across four decades, including 140 photographs of both iconic and previously unpublished images. The book conceives of Burtynsky’s vast work as five free-flowing sections that provide a sense of both his visual language and his exploration of the dilemmas at the heart of our globalized world.

At our church, we were fortunate to spend a fascinating evening with Ed Burtynsky, after he received the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts. He donated all his prize money to support other photographers seeking to publish photo books.

Now that’s *definitely* Ukrainian!  
Marta Skaab, Corresponding Secretary,  
Sts. Cyril and Methodius Branch,  
St. Catharines, ON