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THE NEWS REVIEW

18-1st Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1J4 Thursday, May 1, 2008 - Volume 11, Number 10

Holodomor survivor makes Yorkton stop



LOCAL STUDENTS Isaac Pasloski (left) and Natalie Ortynski helped make a visit to the city by Holodomor survivor Stefan Horlatsch – who brought with him the International Holodomor Remembrance Flame seen above – a success.

– International flame remembers Ukrainian tragedy

By SHANNON DEVEAU
N-R Writer

Enroute from Australia, it will stop in 33 different countries and on Monday evening Yorkton became a part of the journey of remembrance.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the famine-genocide in Ukraine known as Holodomor, or death by starvation. More than seven million people perished as a result of Holodomor and to ensure the world never forgets the tragedy, survivor, 87-year-old Stefan Horlatsch – who now resides in Toronto – is travelling across Canada carrying an International Holodomor Remembrance Flame. Yorkton was among his stop overs.

"In November of 2007, Ukrainians around the world launched a year-long commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor," spoke Merle Maximiuk, President of the Yorkton Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), organizer of the event Monday.

"In the early 30s, in the very heart of the region



Stefan Horlatsch

known as Europe's breadbasket, millions of lives were suddenly eradicated by starvation... one of the most brutal forms of torture and death."

The unforgettable part of it all, reminds Maximiuk, is the famine was not due to weather conditions or insects destroying crops, but rather "it was orchestrated by the government of the time."

"They shipped the grain and the harvest away from the Ukrainian and starved them."

"We hope that this program will be an awareness

for each and every one of us as we know there is famine in the world today," adds Maximiuk.

"This is one way of totally destroying a nation of people and we cannot allow this to continue."

There is little known about the Ukrainian famine-genocide and little taught in today's schools says the local UCC branch president.

"I'm sure there are many people in the world that are unaware that this atrocity occurred."

It is the hope of organizers of the remembrance events that a greater awareness be created.

"Seventy-five years ago this crime was covered up by the Soviet government... 75 years ago this crime was ignored by the international community..." spoke local student Natalie Ortynski Monday evening.

"It is hoped that the Canadian event will keep the flame alive and ensure that the story of the Holodomor is passed on from culture to culture, from generation to generation and from survivors, to the youth."

Highways focus of Yellowhead conference

By JEN ANTONY
N-R Writer

"It's an interesting conference because it brings together our community leaders," Randy Goulden says of the Yellowhead Highway Association's annual conference held this past weekend.

"There's mayors and councillors and Reeves from across the four prairie provinces and they get together to discuss how they can work together. We all know when we work together a great deal is accomplished."

Thrilled with the speakers the conference brought in, Goulden believes the level of speakers should promote a great

deal of dialogue among the members as to how they should better the highway systems and economic development along the Yellowhead highway. Keynote speaker Brant Randles, president of the Louis Dreyfus Canola crushing plant agrees with the importance Goulden places on developing the highways.

"What's interesting about it is as the discussions get tabled, they're thinking about it more pragmatically and it's more of an economic order," says Randles. "I think if I was a delegate I would encourage the association to become more focused on economic development and becoming a real driver for growth in western Canada

and use that as a platform to encourage industry to locate here."

Tanks and vessels are on the

Quick fact:

The Yellowhead Highway Association was established in 1947 to develop the Yellowhead Corridor.

site of the future Louis Dreyfus plant as construction is expected to get underway this week. With plans to build a rail system capable of handling 190

cars, storage, processing and cleaning facilities, Randles says the plant is expected to be up and running late in the first quarter of 2009 or early in the second quarter.

Creating 50 new jobs with 3-400 thousand man hours, increasing the demand for Sask's natural resources and canola producers in the area benefitting from the competition as the prices go up, Randles says the Saskatchewan advantage for the rising canola crushing industry is the land resource.

"The production capability for canola specifically, the good agronomic practices of the farmers in western Canada, the tax

rates in Saskatchewan are very favorable compared to the neighboring provinces; it's one percent lower than Alberta and many percent lower than Manitoba so that's a big advantage for the province; their continued interest to invest in infrastructure and for Yorkton, it's the connectivity to transportation.

"It's all the highways leading into the city; north, south, east or west, dual rail access, rate infrastructure in terms for water, the electricity and gas and it's in the heart of the canola region."

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