

Here's how it all began. June 20, 2009. Driving for hours, past trees and rocks and lakes and rivers until we got there. Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Canada.

We went there to clean Baba and Dido's house. They needed to move into the city. But my sister and I knew what our job was. Clean the attic. We got there, ate "varenyky" (pierogies) and ran up the stairs to that hot, dusty place. Then we worked.

We found sacks of clothes, mountains of books, old jars filled with nails and marbles, a "didukh" (sheath of wheat) and then we found it. A long, tattered box with old Ukrainian writing tied with twine. I knew this was something.

Inside we found an old goalie stick with the name Terry S, dozens of little grains of wheat spilled on the bottom, a black round large plate with a small hole in the middle and a signature "LUBA", an old, heavy kozhukh" (sheepskin vest) and a worn, crumbling photo of a family from a bygone era.

"She looks like you!", I said to Danya, of a girl in the middle of the photo. My ten year old sister's mouth dropped.

What was going on here? Who was this girl that looked like Danya? Why was this *goalie stick* stuck in a box with a *kozhukh*? And why is this box in Baba and Dido's attic? We knew one thing. We ran to Baba to tell us the story.

"I kept this box for many years, to tell our family story. The girl in the old photo is my grandmother who came to Canada in 1911. Danya looks like her. That older man is my great-grandfather. This is what my family looked like when they came to Canada from Galicia in Ukraine. He wore a kozhukh—a vest made of embroidered sheepskin when he came to Quebec City. A famous photographer, William Topley, took this picture. His job was to tell a story through pictures about what immigrants looked like coming to Canada.

The seeds are kernels of Galician wheat that came to be known as Red Fife. In Canada, it became the basis for Marquis bread wheat that you and I eat.

Life was hard, but very special and fun at times. The goalie stick belongs to my first cousin Terry Sawchuk. We played together in Winnipeg. He became the NHL's best hockey goalie in the world and won the Stanley Cup. The album you saw was signed by LUBA, my cousin's daughter from Montreal, who became one of Canada's best singers. She wrote a song about her father."

As we left for Edmonton, we asked Baba & Dido what they were going to do with their treasure box. They replied, "You must take it home. It's your responsibility to hold onto these treasures for your children and grandchildren."

Danya and I looked at each other and embraced our bit of family history. I couldn't help wonder, thought, "What will my story be?"

BACK TO THE FUTURE: The Ukrainian Canadian Immigrant Experience ©



ПОКРОВА 2009 POKROVA

Children's Ukrainian Arts Camp

Діточий табір українських мистецтв

JULY 20-24, 2009

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

VERNISSAGE & CONCERT

Програма / Programme:

BACK TO THE FUTURE / ПОВОРОТ У МИНУЛЕ

The *Ukrainian Canadian Immigrant Experience*

Еміграційні історії українських канадців

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Подяка / Acknowledgements

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2009 Camp Director: Dr. Mirosława Bilaniuk

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ПРОГРАМА 2009 PROGRAMME:

BACK TO THE FUTURE:

THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

2:00 p.m. ВИСТАВКА* & ПЕРЕКУСКА/Vernissage Exhibition Reception

2:30 p.m. Програма КОНЦЕРТ / Concert Programme

Увертюра - Живий образ /Tableau Vivant—Overture

Гоп-штуп, Канада / Hop-shtoop, Canada—Dance

Ой, дай дуна */ Oй daj dunaj—Song

Пшениця / The Wheat—Dance

Кожух ** / A Sheepskin Coat—Song

Хок-чук / Hock-Chuck—Dance

Дума для Канади ***/Epic Song for Canada—Song

*** WORLD PREMIERE ***

Фінал - Коломийка /Kolomeyka—Finale

ПОДЯКИ & ЗАКІНЧЕННЯ / Acknowledgements

* EXHIBITION CURATOR CHRYSIA CHUDCZAK.

** "OY DAJ DYNAJ", TRADITIONAL, WITH VERSES WRITTEN BY THE CHILDREN OF POKROVA 2009.

***"TOY STARIY KOZHUKH", WORDS WRITTEN BY ANNA ZWOZDESKY (EDMONTON), MUSIC AND ARRANGEMENT, SONS EUGENE & WILL ZWOZDESKY. ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY LARISSA GALADZA.

**** POKROVA CAMP'S 2009 "UKRAINIANS-IN-CANADA EPIC FOLKSONG REMAKE/REMIX" -- WORLD PREMIERE, WITH THANKS FOR MUSIC AND LYRICS TO WOODIE GUTHRIE, JIMMIE DAVIS AND CHARLES MITCHELL, AND WITH GRATITUDE FOR ADAPTATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS TO THE ARCHPRIEST ROMAN GALADZA AND THE UKRAINIANS OF WESTERN CANADA.

POKROVA CHILDREN'S UKRAINIAN ARTS CAMP:

Since 2004, the Pokrova Children's Ukrainian Arts Camp has offered a unique cultural bilingual (Ukrainian/English) learning experience in Ottawa for children aged 6-12 years. Creating & interpreting Ukrainian art and culture are the cornerstones of the Pokrova experience, using a project-based teaching and learning environment. Visual & performance artists create a stimulating environment which children have fun & learn about culture. A vernissage art exhibition & concert is held on the final camp day showcasing the accomplishments of the children. The camp is a featured activity of the Pokrova Ukrainian Arts Network—a registered Canadian charity.

POKROVA CAMP GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS DONATIONS. A TAX RECEIPT IS AVAILABLE.