

ExpressVI

Your latest news from 620 Spadina

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Happy birthday! 3 Днем народження!

Happy 100th birthday, Michael Shipowick!

On behalf of the board of directors, staff, and our members and supporters, I am deeply honoured and privileged to extend greetings and best wishes to Michael Shipowick on the occasion of his 100th birthday this week. To our knowledge, Mike is the first and, so far, only member of St. Vladimir Institute to reach this enviable anniversary.

The Shipowick family has been synonymous with SVI for more than 50 years. Mike sat on the board for many terms and was prominent in leading fundraising campaigns, the development of our current location at 620 Spadina Avenue in the 1960s and 1970s and, not least, his family's abundant financial generosity. His late wife, Irene, was for decades an active volunteer with SVI and with our in-house tenant, the Ukrainian Museum of

Canada, Ontario Branch. Their children, Wes, Taras and Donna, have followed Mike and Irene's example of service to the Institute over many, many years. SVI would not be the leading Ukrainian-Canadian community and academic centre in Toronto were it not for the extraordinary contributions of the Shipowick family.

Like tens of thousands of early Ukrainian pioneers to Canada in the early 20th century, Mike traces his roots to western Canada. The eldest of three sons to Roman and Annie Shipowick, Mike was born on July 31, 1920, in Borden, Saskatchewan, a farming community of 400 about 30 minutes northwest of Saskatoon.

This is how Mike described his early home conditions in Borden in the Shipowick family's unpublished memoir:

The first home we lived in belonged to my grandparents, Fred and Mary Andrushko. It was made of clay and logs. It was a two-room house – one room was a bedroom and the other room was a combined living room and kitchen. Both rooms had dirt floors and there was a wood stove in the middle. These early conditions were very similar to Irene's.

A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Mike worked many years for Ontario Hydro, Stelco and several private companies in the heating and refrigeration industry. In the mid-1970s he and Wes struck out on their own by establishing Celco Ltd., a firm specializing in refrigeration services.

Devoted family figure. Successful business person. Community builder. Mike Shipowick enjoys a remarkable legacy of values, hard work and friendship that are the envy of all of us who've had the pleasure of knowing him.

Again, Mike, the SVI "family" wishes you all the best on your extra-special 100th birthday and for many more to come. Mnohaya Lita!

Gregory Hamara
President and Chair of the Board

Photograph of Michael Shipowick by Marianna Zaparyniuk

COVID-19 takes a heavy toll on St. Vladimir Institute

St. Vladimir Institute has been many wonderful things to many people since it began its operations more than half a century ago. Today, it is the only Ukrainian cultural building in downtown Toronto.

The Institute has weathered many ups and downs, but it has met its match in COVID-19. With doors closed to the public since March, no revenue from rental facilities or cultural programming, and only a third of the usual revenue from summer residents, we had to lay off three staff members in June, reduce the work-week of a fourth, and cut all but the most urgent repairs to the building. Utilities and other unavoidable expenses still need to be covered. Our operating fund is depleted and we have been running a deficit since

May.

The endowment fund created for the Institute some 40 years ago has generated interest to fund major capital repairs and improvements over the past decade, but the principal from this fund cannot be used to cover operating costs.

We urgently need your help to help cover our costs until the damages and restrictions caused by COVID-19 begin to lessen and we can work towards being self-sufficient again.



How to donate

1) An **e-transfer** (electronic transfer) of funds directly from your financial institution to ours is the quickest and easiest way to donate, and no administrative fee is deducted from your donation. Please send to our general email address **svi@stvladimir.ca** and be sure to leave your full mailing address and email address in the "message/comment/note" box so we can send you a tax receipt and our sincere thanks. If there is no opportunity to include your contact details, please email them to us so we can send you an electronic charitable receipt.

2) A **cheque** is always welcome, payable to "St. Vladimir Institute." Please be sure your complete mailing address is included, along with your email address.

3) Make a secure donation by **credit card**. Simply call us at 416-923-3318 x.101 to give your details over the telephone. Your donation will be processed and the credit card details you provided will be destroyed immediately.

4) Donate on our website via **CanadaHelps** by clicking [here](#).

Thank you.

Visit our website @ www.stvladimir.ca

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