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# ExpresSVI

Your latest news from 620 Spadina

July 3, 2021 - Issue #15

## President's update

*St. Vladimir Institute held its 2021 semi-annual general meeting of members on Sunday, June 13 at 2 p.m. The online event featured a variety of reports from board members as well as a brief tribute and a moment of silence for members who have passed away in recent years. Following is an excerpt from the address presented by Alla Shklar during the meeting.*



I would like to highlight the Institute's progress over the past year. It has been a challenge. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a reality for the past 16 months, yet, with solid governance from the board of directors, dedicated staff, general goodwill within, and your financial and moral generosity, we have managed to circumvent disaster and keep the lights on.

We developed a five-year strategic plan, redefining our goals, strengthening our financial situation, engaging in community relations, continuing cultural/educational programming, and moving forward with ambitious redevelopment plans.

COVID-19 forced SVI to quickly adapt to new rules. Our building was locked to the public; all indoor, in-person events were cancelled; and health and safety protocols with social distancing were immediately enacted. Only our executive director, administrator and residence chefs were physically present every day to oversee operations.

Our principal source of revenue (student residents) dropped from a full house of 46 residents to 18 residents. To offset financial losses, we were forced to lay off three employees, cut back on kitchen staff, initiate government assistance, and work with a skeleton staff.

This year, an investment committee was struck to instate policy and procedures that will ensure SVI's future financial stability.

I introduced bi-monthly virtual roundtable discussions with our in-house organizations to find common ground in our marketing strategies, and discussed with them the creation of a Ukraine Global Centre of Visual History and Education as a centralized virtual teaching and learning resource delivered through an integrated online platform, (a proposal submitted by our former board member Orest Sushko). The response thus far has been positive and our meeting will continue.

Despite the road blocks, we regrouped, reshuffled the board of directors, and with

trepidation and determination launched the first virtual Malanka in January 2021. With 133 ticket purchasers, the festive event raised \$16,000 with the help of our sponsors. That success translated into a six-month virtual cultural program initiated by our board members Halyna Perun, Adrienne Hordienko Hewryk and Maxym Tarnawsky, and volunteer Karen Yarmol-Franko.

The redevelopment committee worked steadily to prepare the business and master plan RFPs for consulting firms who will submit feasibility studies by year's end.

SVI has survived. Life is slowly returning to a "new normal." Applications to our student residence are trickling in; Ukrainian language classes are continuing; theatre and auditorium bookings are being penciled in.

I believe St. Vladimir Institute is at a crossroads. It can no longer rest on its past laurels. It must move forward, re-visualize itself, and seep back into the community's conscience. It must once again become the hub of innovation, academic discourse, artistic creativity, and preserve our Ukrainian heritage amidst the Canadian landscape. We are the only Ukrainian community building still standing in Toronto's downtown academic/cultural corridor.

As always, I am forever grateful to my executive committee: Tania Washchuk, Michael Kalimin and Mark Olynyk; to my present board of directors, our staff, volunteers, and particularly to our outgoing executive director, Sonia Holiad, who truly kept the ship afloat amidst the stormy COVID waters; and lastly to you, our dear members, for the patience, generosity and support that you have so willingly given us.

Diakuyu!

**Alla Shklar, President**

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## **SVI welcomes a new executive director**

The Board of Directors of St. Vladimir Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Daria Kowalyk as executive director effective July 5, 2021. Daria brings many years of experience in various roles within human resources, communications, and as an executive director for a not-for-profit organization. Most recently, Daria was executive director for Plast, Toronto Branch, where she was responsible for managing and leading the organization for the past six years.

Daria has extensive experience working with volunteers and managing relationships with many community organizations. She has held numerous board positions within the community, including president, St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Development Corp, and president, Plast, Toronto Branch. Daria holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto and holds the Certified Human Resource Leader designation. Please join us in welcoming Daria to her role. We are confident her many talents and her engaging and collaborative leadership style will help to grow our community and support the board, and that she will be a valuable addition to the SVI team.

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## SVI BINGO is coming back and we hope you'll join the team

Revenue from City of Toronto bingo operations has long been an important source of revenue in support of SVI cultural activities as well as our library. A small group of dedicated volunteers has represented us at our designated location, Delta Bingo & Gaming, St. Clair, in Toronto, led by long-time SVI member and past president Victor Krisel. We are most grateful.

Bingo locations are expected to reopen to the public in the fall. SVI board member Bill Strus has taken the lead in organizing bingo operations this season, and he is looking for the following:

- **EIGHT reliable people, 19-years of age or older, to volunteer for a two-hour shift at Delta**, 1799 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, just east of Keele St./Weston Rd. The shifts will be monthly, unless you are interested in more frequent shifts. Volunteers do not handle money and the tasks involved are light. A one-hour online training session is required.

**For information or to volunteer, please contact Bill Strus at [jwstrus@hotmail.com](mailto:jwstrus@hotmail.com).**

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### SVI Investment Advisory Committee presents its policy

Recently, the SVI Board of Directors approved an investment policy presented by the members of the Investment Advisory Committee: Roman Dubczak, Ivan Franko, Michael Kalimin (chair), and Bohdan Leshchyshen.

The investment policy governs the investment of SVI's endowment fund and scholarship fund. Its goal is to ensure that the assets of these funds, together with their earnings, are invested in a prudent manner so the funds will be sufficient to support the disbursement objectives of St Vladimir Institute.

The funds will be invested by independent investment advisors or managers and monitored by the Investment Advisory Committee. The committee will meet quarterly with the investment advisor or manager to review the assets, the net cash flow and performance of the funds, the current economic outlook and investment strategies, and to take any action necessary to ensure compliance with the policy. Annually, the advisor or manager will provide a summary of the total trading activity, and the committee will review the investment policy.

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# Looking for a home away from home while attending university or college?

Contact our friendly administrator, Andriy, for details at 416-923-3318 x100 or [svi@stvladimir.ca](mailto:svi@stvladimir.ca), or visit [www.stvladimir.ca/residence-life](http://www.stvladimir.ca/residence-life) for photos, pricing, and 360° views of our residence rooms.

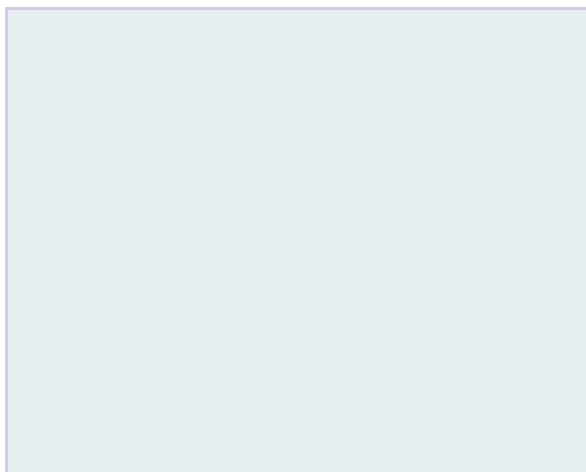
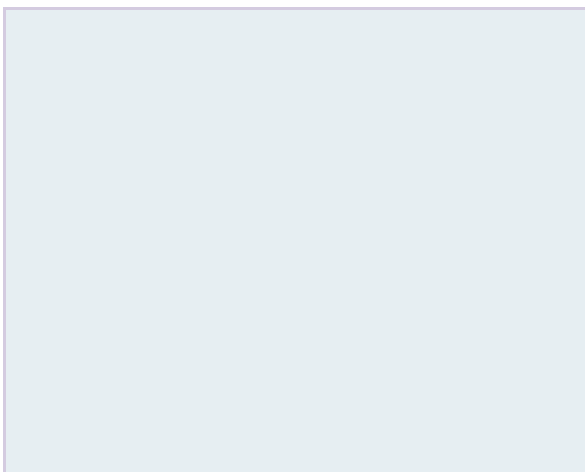


Full-time students of Ukrainian heritage  
living at SVI can apply for a variety of  
annual scholarships and bursaries.



**ST. VLADIMIR INSTITUTE**  
ІНСТИТУТ СВ. ВОЛОДИМИРА

620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, ON M5S 2H4 • 416.923.3318 • [svi@stvladimir.ca](mailto:svi@stvladimir.ca) • [www.stvladimir.ca](http://www.stvladimir.ca)





Щиро дякуємо учасникам, ведучим майстерень, доповідачам, добровольцям, донорам та Фундації СУС в Канаді за їхню підтримку і участь у наших культурних подіях за останні кілька місяців. Саме завдяки Вам ці події стали успішними. Ми робимо перерву до кінця літа, але незабаром оголосимо про наші нові проекти і програми. Якщо Вам сподобалися наші події, будь ласка станьте членом і/або зробіть пожертву. Із Вашою підтримкою, ми зможемо і надалі пропонувати безкоштовні події.

[www.stvladimir.ca](http://www.stvladimir.ca)

**Комітет з культурних програм**



Thank you to our participants, workshop leaders, speakers, volunteers, donors, and the SUS Foundation of Canada for making our cultural programming a great success these past few months. We are taking a short break for the summer, but we are excited to share what we are planning this fall. (Stay tuned!) If you enjoyed our events so far, please become a member and/or make a donation. With your support, we can continue providing free and accessible programming in the future.

For more information visit our website at [www.stvladimir.ca](http://www.stvladimir.ca).

**SVI Cultural Committee**



*Thank You*



**Інститут Св. Володимира щиро дякує своїм жертводавцям. Ваша фінансова підтримка та допомога дає можливість**

**Інституту далі продовжувати розвиток і знання про українську культурну, духовну та інтелектуальну спадщину.**

**St. Vladimir Institute is deeply grateful to each and every donor and sponsor of our organization. With your support, we can continue our commitment to fostering knowledge and appreciation of the Ukrainian spiritual, cultural, and intellectual heritage.**

**Please consider supporting SVI**

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 lost from

your donation. Please enter our general email address svi@stvladimir.ca when requested, and be sure to leave your full mailing address and email address in the "comment/note" box so we can send you a tax receipt and our sincere thanks.

2) A **cheque** is always welcome, payable to "St. Vladimir Institute." Please indicate it's for our fund-raising campaign and 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.**

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## Who's in the house at 620 Spadina?

In addition to housing a student residence, the Institute is proud to share its address with a host of other community organizations. Check out their good work by linking to their websites.

[Canada-Ukraine Foundation](#)

[Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies](#)

[Canadian Friends of Ukraine](#)

[Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation](#)

[Holodomor National Awareness Tour](#)

[Holodomor Research and Education Consortium](#)

[St. Vladimir Toastmasters Club](#)

[SUS Foundation of Canada](#)

[Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group](#)

[Ukrainian Art Song Project / Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association](#)

[Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre](#)

[Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Ontario Branch](#)

[Ukrainian Students Club \(University of Toronto\)](#)

**Visit our website @ [www.stvladimir.ca](http://www.stvladimir.ca)**

**You received this newsletter because you have had contact with SVI in the past. If you don't wish to receive further communications, please forward this email to [executivedirector@stvladimir.ca](mailto:executivedirector@stvladimir.ca) with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.**

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