

Press release: Fieldwork to Document Alberta's Rural Church Properties now underway

Edmonton... On June 4, fieldwork for the Documenting Church Properties in Rural Communities in Alberta officially kicked off at Stry, Alberta at the Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery.

In addition to the assistance of members of the local community, the kick-off for this project had an international appeal with three special guests from Ukraine participating in the cemetery fieldwork. Prof. Stepan Pavljuk and Dr. Roman Chmelyk, both of the Ukraine genealogical research office, participated in fieldwork as part of their study/ lecture tour in Canada to become better acquainted with archives and family history research in Alberta. The third special guest was Dr. Maryna Hrymych, whose husband His Excellency Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, was born in Stry, Ukraine and therefore feels a special connection to this Alberta community. A return trip is planned in the near future to document the remaining Ukrainian cemeteries in the community.

Over the next several months, fieldwork will expand to other rural community cemeteries in east central Alberta to help preserve an important component of Alberta's heritage. Fieldworkers will travel to rural church properties in east central Alberta to record and photograph cemetery tombstones and markers. The information and photographs collected through the project will be available on the internet to those persons seeking information about their family history and relatives.

As part of the "Documenting Church Properties in Rural Communities in Alberta," fieldworkers are especially interested to speak to parish representatives who are custodian for the parish's register and cemetery books. The Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project is working with its partner, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, to ensure that parishes are aware that the Provincial Archives of Alberta is a safe alternative for the safekeeping of an aging community's parish records.

For more information, please contact David Makowsky at the Alberta genealogical research office at (780) 431-2324. Written inquiries may be forwarded to the Alberta genealogical research office by e-mail, at AB-Ukraine.Genealogy@gov.ab.ca, or by mail:

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- Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada (UCBC)– Edmonton Eparchy
- Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association (USRA)– Edmonton Branch

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Members of the Stry community work with Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project partners to document and photograph the Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, June 4.