



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ДІТЯЧА ОСЕЛЯ  
«ЗЕЛЕНИЙ ГАЙ»  
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH CAMP  
«GREEN GROVE» (On Wakaw Lake)  
Box 9657, Saskatoon SK S7K 7G5  
[www.greengrovecamp.ca](http://www.greengrovecamp.ca)

## President's Report 2022

After the closure of camp for two years, Green Gove Camp finally re-opened!

This year, we welcomed 67 campers and had a waiting list of 17! Staff orientation started 2 days prior to camp and registration day commenced on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We were so excited to have the extremely talented Jordan Welbourne (Director), Mykaela Helmke (Assistant Director), Zach Kotelko, Yuliya Ivashyna, Michael Clay, Anya Shyian, Zane Normand, Stephanya Maruschak-Love, Taisa Rudy, Anasastasia Schmatova as such talented staff! We were also blessed to have several junior volunteers help the camp and in turn, gain some valuable training. Svitlana Trokhymchuk, Olha Aronova and Carrie Kalenka conjured up very appetizing and nutritious food for the children and staff. We had a tremendous amount of support from our Ukrainian community through food donations!

Each day started with singing of the Canadian and Ukrainian anthems, morning exercises, church service. After breakfast, the campers would partake in different levels of Ukrainian language, religion, crafts then after lunch, sports, swimming, canteen, singing, and dancing after supper. Mrs. Natalie Maruschak continued her much loved tradition of kolachi making alongside her talented daughters, Nadia and Patricia. We were also very grateful for Bill Noble who came to lead bread making in the peech oven. We also welcomed indigenous artist, Ruth Cuthand and Ukrainian speaker Dr. Joan Bursa who hosted a discussion on the historic cooperation between indigenous peoples and Ukrainian farmers in Saskatchewan.

The concert was the final product of all the camper's and staff's hard work and what a beautiful concert! A call out for costumes by Larisa Kotelko was so successful that each camper was able to showcase a beautiful Ukrainian costume for the final concert! The staff and campers should be proud of their hard work! The memories made this summer will last a lifetime.

As we had several campers from Ukraine with little to no knowledge of English we were so fortunate to have very knowledgeable staff to communicate with these campers. Green Grove campers from Ukraine were also very fortunate to have their registration fees paid for from CUF and Shevchenko Foundation. We did our best to make these students feel welcome and secure at camp. We received some media attention too! Global TV and radio held two interviews and can be viewed on our Facebook page and on the Global network. We discussed the importance of summer camp and the history of Green Grove camp in Canada.

One thing we were able to experiment with for the first time was holding teen camp directly after youth camp. By having the camps in tandem, we were able to save and share resources such as food, staff, cleanup, etc. As this proved to be a success, we will continue this in the future.

Father Taras Makowsky and Father Peter Wasylenko were able to fill the clergy positions this summer for youth camp and provide excellent mentorship and guidance in the Orthodox faith. Unfortunately, we were unable to have any clergy volunteer for the Teen camp.

Teen camp was directed by Berit Johnson, a long time GG camper and counselor. She brought so much talent to teen camp this summer! The counselors were Zach Kotelko and Yuliya Ivashyna with Sviatoslav (Simon) Trokhymchuk as junior counselor. Several guest speakers including Laurianne Gabruch (poetry and singing), Judy\_Ann Chabun( Trypillian painting), Marnie Howlett (Ukrainian borderland ethnicities), Natalia Pachenuik (Petrykivka), Valya and Masha Matyushenko (Ukrainian dance) and Andrian Antosh (kozak/hutsul hammers/woodburning).

Close to 20 teens joined us this summer which is by far the largest teen group we have ever had! We were only able to have the teen camp run for 5 days but will be able to run at least 7 days next year.

This year we received an invoice from the RM of Hoodoo for \$5000 for property tax assessment. After consultation to several experts, attending meetings, researching, we were able to successfully challenge the assessment and have it waived. Patricia Yuzik had found a land titles document which stated that Green Grove camp is exempt from paying property taxes. Special thank you to Mike Kotelko, Larisa Kotelko and Kirk Urick for all the meetings they attended and perseverance in resolving this. The next application to waive the fee will be due in 2024.

Over ten years of fundraising, the camp was able to go ahead with and complete the construction of a much-needed new washroom facility led by Robert Rudy, Michael Kotelko and Kirk Urick. We thank you for your hard work and dedication to this project! The Board of Directors and particularly, the fundraising committee led by Andrew Kasowski and Patrusia Rudy, worked very hard to complete the facility and raise funds for this project!

It was wonderful to see so many of you supporting the camp at our events, including the New Year's "seeding"/carolling, camp final concert, our Raffle event, Fall Dinner fundraiser, and the Yarmarok Christmas fair!

The camp would not be successful without all the volunteer hours and financial help we get from our Ukrainian Orthodox community, parishes, levies and grants. Thank you to the continued support from Schevchenko Foundation, UCC and SUS. Thank you to Tanya Maximiuk for auditing our financials. Thank-you to all, who contributed towards another successful youth camp session! Without each and everyone of you this would not be possible! We look forward to another incredible year.

**Lesia Kotelko Lange, President**