



St. John's Institute
ІНСТИТУТ СВ. ІВАНА



Spring 2017

update

St. John's Institute fosters well-being in our community through programs, services and outreach in the spirit of Ukrainian Orthodoxy.



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!

BLOOD OF OUR SOIL

"How can our land not be fertile, when so much blood, both Ukrainian and foreign, has continually seeped into it?" These words came from the journal of Kateryna Hnat Makuch, grandmother to Lianna Makuch, modern-day playwright, actress and artist. Together with director and husband, Patrick Lundeen, Lianna sets out to tell the story of her grandmother's emigration from Ukraine to Canada.

Having taken a BFA Acting degree only blocks from the Institute, and having attended the Institute for numerous reasons in the past, Lianna knew St. John's Institute as a place that supported Ukrainian art in all its many forms. She also knew that it was St. John's Institute to which she could turn, for help in bringing her grandmother's story to life.

As they were reminiscent of those of so many other immigrants, Lianna sought to draw parallels between the struggles faced by her grandmother during her journey to Canada, and the trials faced by Ukrainians today. The story was further made relevant by contemporary reality: presently, Ukraine faces Russian attempts to abolish its sovereignty and destroy its culture. This weighs heavily on the minds of her audience as Baba's story unfolds. And, for those fortunate enough to be of Ukrainian descent, the humorous anecdotes and quips related by the main character about her "Baba" (grandmother) are engagingly reminiscent of everyone's experiences with their Babas. The play spoke to its audience as a Ukrainian version of the quintessential immigrant experience we have all imagined, fraught with all the humour and heartache that the Ukrainian people had to endure, both in Ukraine, and throughout their journey to their new homeland.

As this newsletter is being printed, Lianna and Patrick are getting ready to travel to Ukraine to do more research and further develop the play. St. John's Institute is grateful for the opportunity to have presented this important piece, in association with their company, Pyretic Productions. Having provided them with rehearsal space to create and workshop *Blood of Our Soil*, storage for their props and set pieces, and catering for their opening night reception, SJI continues to be a source of support for artists like Lianna who can tell the story of Ukrainians in Canada. And, after 3 sold-out nights of its workshop premiere in Edmonton, we have no doubt that *Blood of Our Soil* will continue to be extremely well-received, wherever and whenever it is performed.



Photo: Marc Chalifoux

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Downtown
10221 109 Street
T: 780.423.1458
downtown@collegecopyshop.com

Southside
9864 63 Avenue
T: 780.438.2472
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ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN A Year of Giving and Receiving

Over the past year, by your prayers and financial support, St. John's Children (SJC) program has provided the day-to-day requirements of medicines, cleaning products, oatmeal and loose tea, school and art supplies, personal hygiene, clothing, footwear and Christmas and Pascha gifts for the children of Zmiiv Orphanage. Additionally, we coordinated and funded infrastructure projects at Zmiiv, including repairs to the water intake system delivery (in and outside the orphanage), painting the orphanage interior and outside play area equipment, repair of the heating system and some minor roof repairs.

SJC brought a second orphanage into our program, Zaluchchia, which houses 135 severely disabled orphans. For this orphanage, we provided extra-large incontinence pads (160), two for every bed-ridden orphan as well as bibs, crib sheets and over 100 metres of flannel fabric for swaddling blankets.

Our devoted, loved and valued supporters and donors have done amazing deeds for SJC this past year. The rural parishes of Bonnyville & District UOCC organized an oatmeal and tea drive, and two generous Calgary families treated the children of Zmiiv to a Circus Outing, McDonald's meal (highlight of the winter break) and another fun activity day at the orphanage during the Christmas break. St Herman's & St. Anthony's Parishes, CAMIS (Central Alberta Medical Imaging in Red Deer) have all been busily collecting gently used footwear and clothing, and the Sunday School children from St. Herman's collected and donated art and school supplies. Our partner, Dri-Line Baby Products, provided the incontinence pads at a very deep discount and donated bibs, diapers, and sheets as well. All-Star Sports donated tees and sweat pants for our kids. Elsie hand-made 160 colourful toques for our orphans and the visiting teens with the Children for Peace program.

Last spring SJC launched its website <http://stjohnschildren.com/> and we are offering a set of children's books for sale <http://stjohnschildren.com/shop/> as an additional fundraising revenue stream. Please contact St. John's Children SJC@stjohnsinstitute.com if you or someone you know may be interested in these beautiful children's books. We can also bring the books to share with interested people, during fellowship hour or at another parish event.

We are pleased to say SJC is the successful recipient of a **\$10,000.00 matching grant** through the Community Initiatives Program (CIP-International, GOA). This matching grant means we need to raise \$10,000.00 in donations during 2017, so your continued support is extremely important this year.

If you, family or friends would like to help us achieve our 2017 goal, you may do so by mailing a cheque or money order payable to St John's Institute (Memo: St. John's Children Program, 11024 82 Ave NW, Edmonton AB, T6G 0T2) OR e-transfer to SJC@stjohnsinstitute.com. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations \$20.00 and over.



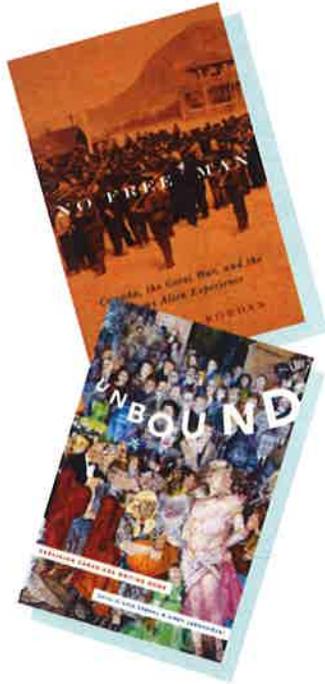
To all our beloved supporters, donors, and volunteers: Your generosity of heart and financial support this past year has enabled us to achieve much and we hope to continue this important Ministry for the orphans of Zmiiv and Zaluchchia. With thanks to Rhonda Hamans for her article.

Thank you, and may God reward and bless you abundantly!



BOOKS OF NOTE LAUNCHED AT SJI

Yes, SJI is the place to read all about it, and it's also the place to meet and greet the authors who wrote it!



Last fall, the Institute provided the venue and the post-launch nosh for two book launches in particular. The first, writer and critic, Jars Balan, calls a “postmodern mash-up of memories, critical reflections, creative ruminations and pointed questions that probe the boundaries of one’s own skin and sense of kin.” In this compilation, entitled **Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home**, renowned Ukrainian Canadian author (and SJI board member) Myrna Kostash explores what it means to be Ukrainian in contemporary Canada. Along with some of the best known Ukrainian Canadian writers in Canada, Kostash challenges the conventions of genre – memoir, fiction, poetry, biography, essay – and the boundaries that separate ethnic and authorial identities and fictional and non-fictional narratives.

Over the winter, SJI was graced with a visit by Dr. Bohdan Kordan, whose book provided a systematic and thoughtful account of Canadian government policy towards enemy aliens during the First World War. **No Free Man: Canada, the Great War and the Enemy Alien Experience** traces the evolution and consequences of Canadian government policy towards immigrants of enemy nationality. **No Free Man** is a nuanced work that acknowledges both the challenges faced by the Government of Canada as well as the experiences of internees and their families.

St. John's Institute was pleased to be in the company of the University of Toronto Press, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Edmonton branch), the Kule Ukrainian Folklore Centre and the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, in supporting the launches of **Unbound** and **No Free Man**.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



Several members of St. John's Institute's board were on hand at the annual Hetman Awards Banquet presented by the UCC Alberta Provincial Council in October, to receive an award as a founding community organization that contributed to the strength and prosperity of Alberta. Originally named the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Institute, St. John's Institute was honoured, together with the Bursa Institute named for Taras Shevchenko (Vegreville) under the category of Strength through Education. These were some of the first institutes that taught the Ukrainian language and other activities that promoted Ukrainian culture in Alberta. Vice-Chair, Natalia Toroshenko, Treasurer, Bill Skorobohach, Directors Gladys Marie Magega and Ivan Lypovyk, and Executive Director, Suzanna Brytan attended on behalf of the Institute. Suzanna and Natalia accepted the award on behalf of the board and membership.

The Institute continues to engage with, and provide a cultural home for, young Ukrainian university students today, in pursuit of its mandate of youth leadership development. Most recently, the U of A's Ukrainian Students Society held its annual **Paska, Pysanka and Pyrohy** workshop at SJI, with 30 students participating. And as registrations for next September's accommodation continue to arrive from the children of SJI alumni, we see that the Institute endures as an important place for our youth to live, learn, gather, pray, and celebrate.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

St. John's Institute was privileged to cater a special farewell party for an incredibly dedicated and inspiring lady named Lynn Groves-Hautmann, the CEO of a fellow social enterprise, Chrysalis, for some 8 years now. Introduced to Chrysalis, A Society for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities three years ago through our treasurer, Bill Skorobohach, St. John's Institute has supported the efforts of Chrysalis in numerous ways and has developed some project ideas that would leverage SJI's resources - its urban gardens, its kitchen talent, its classroom spaces, and its connections to those in the teaching profession - to create life skills training programs specifically geared for particular clients of Chrysalis and particular residents of SJI.



In addition, SJI will soon serve as a work placement for two Chrysalis clients, under the supervision of their Community Disability Services Practitioner, Shana Chondo. Part African and part Ukrainian, Shana is absolutely delighted to be bringing her clients to SJI. Given SJI's hospitable and accommodating environment, its value of culture, and its focus on feeding the whole person - body, mind, and soul - Shana believes this match between our organizations was destined to be. And by the time our next newsletter rolls off the presses, we expect to mark the occasion with a celebration of the many accomplishments and progress made in our relationship with Chrysalis, all inspired by the remarkable, groundbreaking legacy of the very special Lynn Groves-Hautmann.



ANNOUNCING OUR NEWEST ARRIVAL...
A brand new Nissan NV cargo van!

The most recent arrival to join the team delivering our near-daily catering contracts, our new cargo vehicle has the room we need to pack equipment, carts, and trays upon trays of carefully packaged hot and cold delicacies, on their way to our many catering clients. St. John's Institute was very fortunate to receive a gift of \$17,000 from our corporate sponsor, Nordic Mechanical, which we used to purchase our very own catering/cargo vehicle. We sincerely thank Rene Cloutier and Nordic for their generosity, and for helping us to make a professional impression on our clients when delivering catering services.



This spring, we will be adorning the van with our SJI logo and information about our catering and facility rental services. We look forward to increased growth in these areas of our operation, and hope that you already know we are always available to cater all sizes of events, from house parties, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and Christmas parties, to major city festivals. Talk to us and find out why we are now the caterer of choice for many local businesses and educational institutions, as well as the offices of the Hon. Premier Rachel Notley!





It was a MONSTER bash...

SVIATO 25 was a celebration like no other in Edmonton this decade. The weeks leading up to this gargantuan undertaking – Edmonton's tribute to the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's independence - were full of last minute meetings, logistics, and non-stop calls and texts. The projected attendance numbers bobbed around like a ship, adrift on a storm-battered ocean. We would be serving 1500 – no 2500 patrons. "No, more like 3000." "Actually, closer to 5000 now." "Just wait - it's looking like we might hit 10,000...." "Be prepared for anything!!!"



And in the end, all told, over 12,000 people came out to witness a major spectacle that could not have come together without all of our community players moving together in the same direction. With the experience of having operated public beer gardens in the past, SJI was pleased to step up as the key purveyor of food and alcoholic beverages that day. Though the morning and afternoon were overcast, the rain held off, allowing for some sun and even warmth to cheer patrons as they watched the mammoth stage show in Churchill Square. Special guest, Ukrainian superstar, Ruslana, had people screaming for more, while Executive Producer, Gene Zwozdesky got everyone onto their feet in a huge "kolomeyka" at the very end of the night. And SJI served incredible Ukrainian food and beverages until the very last minute...

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our pavilion sponsor, Krawford Construction Inc., and all of our volunteers who helped out that day and night, especially those from dance groups and choirs who came over after the show to lend a hand packing up, loading the trucks, and hoisting large equipment. Because of your volunteer efforts, we were able support the organizer of the event, UCC Edmonton, by donating back all of the proceeds from the beverage garden. We look forward to playing a major role in each of Edmonton's large Ukrainian events for the foreseeable future!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SJI needs you to join our team and join in the fun. If you can lend a hand, a heart, and some spirit to these upcoming events, SJI is looking for you! There are many different roles to fill, and no experience necessary. Mark your calendar with the following dates, and let us know when you are available. Event set-up, take-down, food server, cashier, and shuttle driver are only some of the positions we need to fill.

APRIL

- Edmonton Migratory Bird Festival/Run Wild for Wildlife Sunday, April 23, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

MAY

- Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Festival Friday, May 12-14, 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

JULY

- Taste of Edmonton Thursday, July 20 – 29, 10:00 am – 11:00 pm

AUGUST

- Servus Heritage Festival (President's Reception) Thursday, August 3, time TBA (evening)
- Servus Heritage Festival, Ukrainian Pavilion Saturday, August 5 – 7, 10:00 am – 11:00pm
- Babas & Borshch Festival, Lamont County Saturday, August 26 – 27, times TBA

Do it for your resume, do it for your organization, do it to make new connections, or do it just to feel good; your help is valuable no matter the reason that you contribute. The more events we service, the more we are hired for. And the more events you volunteer for, the greater the chance that we can offer you casual paid hours, when those opportunities come up.

Call 780.439.2320 or email events@stjohnsinstitute.com to learn more, or to let us know your preference for events and shifts available. Go on line to www.stjohnsinstitute.com to find out more.





EDMONTON'S UKRAINIAN NUTCRACKER

"Write something that nobody else would write," Andrii pleaded, as he made the rounds, asking fellow dancers and choristers to autograph his souvenir t-shirt. He laughed when he read SJI's message: "Don't forget to return your keys!" As one of the principal dancers who came from Ukraine to Canada as a guest performer for Sulyma Productions' "Clara's Dream," Andrii was anxious not to forget anyone on his quest for autographs, lest he forget them completely upon his return home to Ukraine. And so, it was at this final gathering for the cast, crew and friends of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, the Viter Ukrainian Folk Choir, and the dancers of Ukraine's Virsky, that many tears were shed, amidst the many promises of a return for next year's performance.

A WORLD APART



Hosted by St. John's Institute, the cast party for Clara's Dream was attended by more than 100 people filling the dining hall, and staying well into the wee hours of the morning. Feasting on lovely hors d'oeuvres and beverages of all types, the Ukrainians and Canadians were as one large family, singing old renditions of traditional folk songs, and toasting one another with all manner of libations. It was certainly a treat to see and hear, with the Viter Ukrainian Folk Choir lifting the vocals to angelic heights.

It was SJI's pleasure to serve as the host for the party, as it had the previous year. Similarly, all of the guest performers from Ukraine resided at the Institute throughout the performance's Edmonton run, and SJI was also delighted to provide the backstage catering for nearly 100 people, for each of three shows at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium. Additionally, Chef Don Don Miranda outdid himself with a stellar spread of appetizers for Shumka's VIP sponsor reception, a gift to a fellow community organization. We thank Shumka and Sulyma Productions for involving SJI and look forward to supporting their future artistic creations in all of the ways that we can.





HATS OFF TO OUR CASINO VOLUNTEERS!

The board and staff of St. John's Institute take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked our casino this past September 25 and 26, helping us to raise much-needed funds for our operation. Yes, they were very long days and nights, but somehow, our crew seemed to have just the right type of spirit for the job. We worked hard, we had fun, and MOST of us stayed awake the entire time!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW; AN EYE TO THE FUTURE



On December 4, 2016, St. John's Institute welcomed a considerable number of members and guests (86) to its AGM and made great strides towards an active and progressive future. From this very impassioned group of community members came plenty of thoughtful and robust discussion, including a motion to revitalize Camp Bar-V-Nok through a newly formed organization called the Camp Bar-V-Nok Society. The new society will be supported through its inception phases, by the Council of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of Edmonton (CUOCE) to which SJI agreed to lease the camp property for an initial period of two years. The Institute looks forward to working in tandem with the new society to ensure the childrens' summer camp program operates smoothly this year.

And there was more cause to celebrate. With significant debt restructuring, a very firm grip on expenses, and major cutbacks having taken their intended effects, SJI was in a healthier, more secure financial position. Treasurer Bill Skorobohach cautioned that we must continue to exercise fiscal restraint and the smart application of risk, ensuring that each of our projects and programs be self-sustaining, in order not to erode the equity that we are slowly building in our properties.

As to future plans, Skorobohach reiterated that SJI must protect its primary investment by creating both a capital, and an operational, reserve. And as to its relevance in the community, he confirmed that SJI is *"anxious to deliver cultural and spiritual work that our community needs and wants. Our strategic plan calls for consultation with the parishes and organizations that will financially support us, to have input into the programming they would like to see, and we look forward to that input."*



HOW WELL DO YOU HANDLE YOUR DOUGH?

Remember the “good old days” when SJI would shut down for the summer, lay off all the staff, and take a couple of months off?

Not anymore! Lest anyone still think that summer is our “down-time” at St. John’s Institute, we’d like to let you know that summer is ALSO festival season at SJI! During the few short weeks between June and September, when the sun is shining in Alberta, the Institute is serving up more *pyrohy*, *holubtsi* and *kovbasa* than you can shake a stick at!

We take this opportunity to thank our precious volunteers for their help setting up, tearing down, serving food, serving drinks, and making patrons feel welcome, at all of the events we worked. It was especially gratifying that so many of the organizations that benefit from SJI’s rental facilities and catering, lent a volunteer or two when help was needed. These events are the equivalent of fundraisers for the Institute, so each time you help us out, you contribute to our dollars for programming needs. And we need you back again this year, for even more fun!



Taste of Edmonton



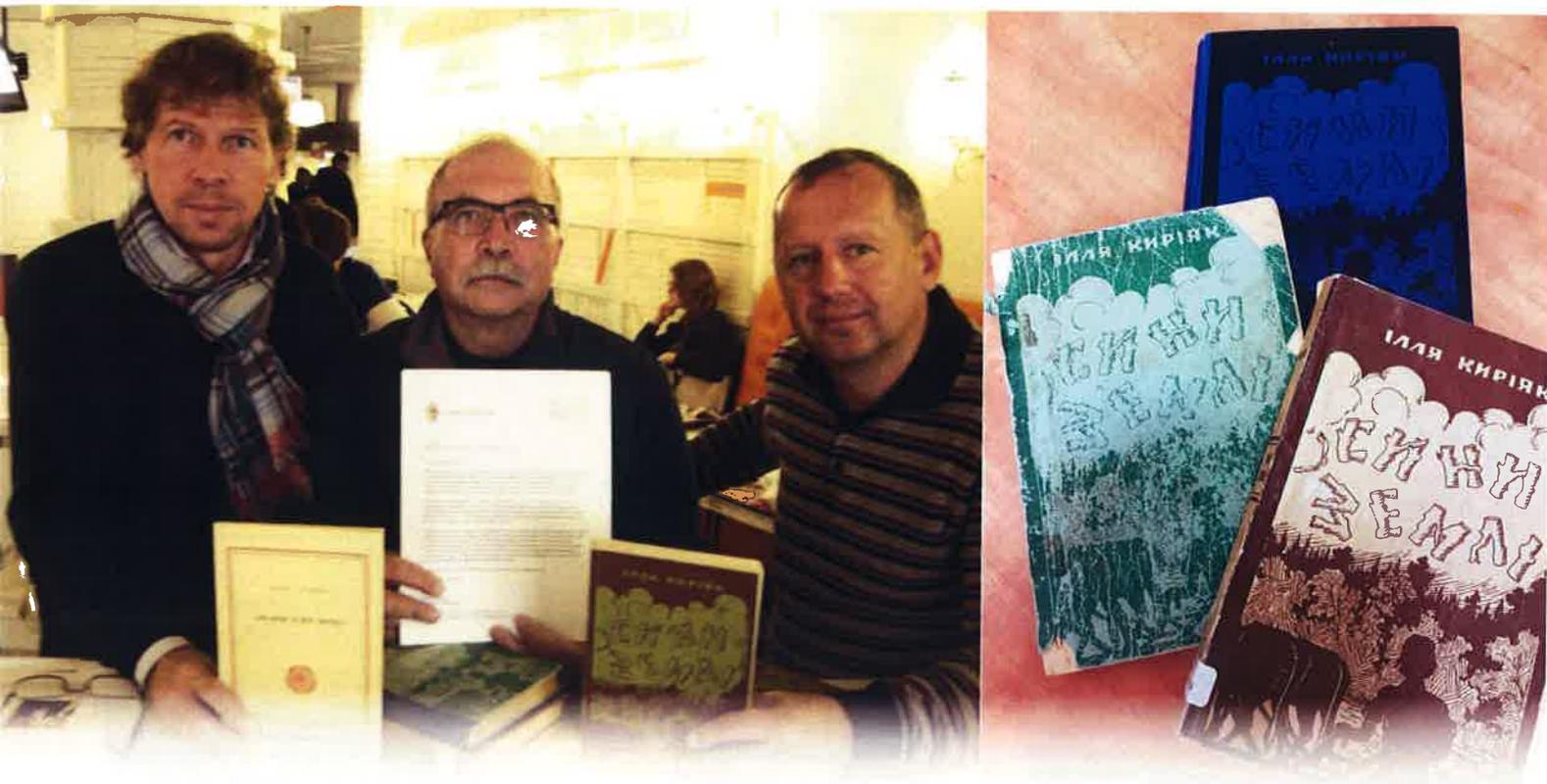
Babas & Borshch

BaconFest

Sviato 25



SONS OF THE SOIL – СИНИ ЗЕМЛІ



In the latter half of August 2016, SJI was pleased to facilitate the publishing of a reprint of Ilia Kiriak's epic trilogy about the Ukrainian pioneer experience. Earlier last year, Dr. Oleksandr Sagan, President of the Kyiv Holy Theophany Stauropegial Fellowship had toured Canada as a guest of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League (TYC National), and had received the books as a gift from then-President, Emil Yereniuk on its behalf. Dr. Sagan was so taken by the trilogy that he asked for the publishing rights to the materials, so that he could reprint and distribute them to the general public in Ukraine.

Having at one time worked at St. John's Institute, author Ilia Kiriak had granted the Ukrainian language publishing rights to the Institute, and so it was from St. John's Institute that Professor Sagan needed to obtain these rights. Emil was kind enough to facilitate the delivery of the paperwork necessary to accomplish this, and we are now very pleased that the Kyiv Holy Theophany Stauropegial Fellowship can share such an iconic publication with the Ukrainian people. Our thanks to Emil Yereniuk for his help in ensuring the smooth transition of the documents and books, as well as for the set of original hard- and softcover books given to St. John's Institute.



St. John's Institute
ІНСТИТУТ СВ. ІВАНА

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11024-82 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6G 0T2
T: 780.439.2320
TF: 1.800.439.2320
F: 780.439.0989

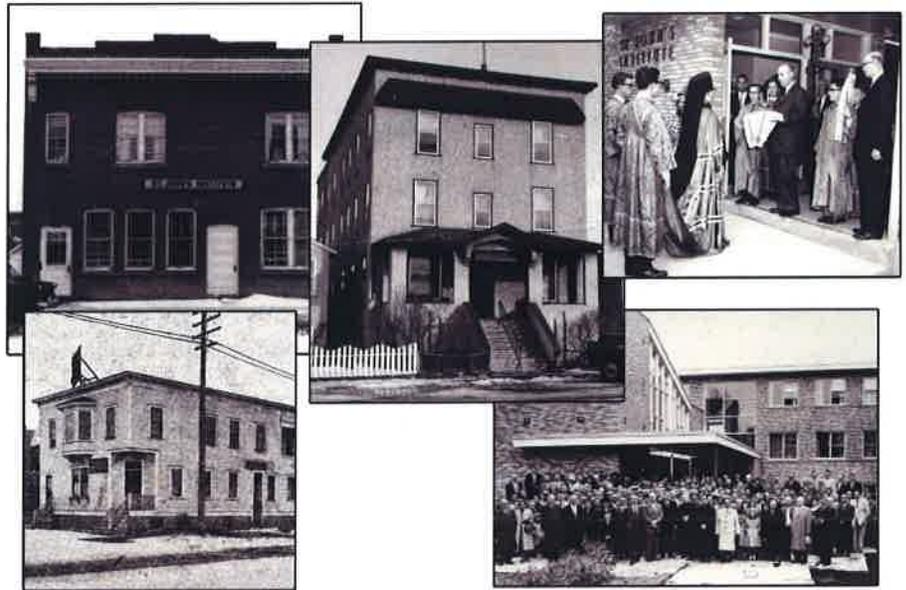
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After Hours: 780.932.6765

Emergencies only: 780.964.2320

YOU ONLY TURN 100, ONCE.



Calling all alumni!

In 2018, St. John's Institute will celebrate its 100th anniversary. We are looking for individuals who would like to take part in organizing the activities that will commemorate this amazing milestone. Did you ever live at the Institute? Did you ever take part in Osvita? Did you ever attend Camp BarVNok? Would you like to be a part of SJI's 100th anniversary celebrations?

We need your help to get in touch with people you remember from "the good old days," whether those days were decades ago, or as recent as a few years ago. St. John's Institute has a long and proud history, and there are good reasons to celebrate.

Please get in touch with Suzanna through our office at 780.439.2320 or suzannab@stjohnsinstitute.com
We would be delighted to hear from you!