



# Ukrainian Genealogy Group

## National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

March 2025

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### **February UGG-NCR Webinar**

*Ukrainian Canadian History and Canada's Foreign Policy (1896-1991) by Thomas M. Prymak PhD*

Thomas M. Prymak PhD is a Senior Research Fellow with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies in the Departments of History and Political Science at the University of Toronto. He was born and grew up in Winnipeg. Dr. Prymak is the award-winning author of several books and numerous articles and reviews on Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian historical, political and cultural history. This presentation will be a chapter in his forthcoming book with the same title in 2026.



*Our February speaker Thomas M. Prymak PhD*

The webinar was a slide presentation with maps, photos and pages from Ukrainian newspapers. The main discussion was the general outline of Ukrainian history in Canada during the 20th century. Dr. Prymak focused on how the Ukrainian Canadian population influenced the foreign policy of the Canadian federal government relating to Europe and especially the Soviet Union and its treatment of the "Ukrainian Question".

Dr. Prymak began his presentation by mentioning his grandfather who came to Canada with the first wave of Galician and Ruthenian immigration to Canada. He provided a brief summary of the first settlement of Ukrainians in the 'poplar belt' from Winnipeg to Edmonton that later became a series of ridings that became important during Canadian elections.

Dr. Prymak also mentioned political events in Ukraine during and after the First World War and how the struggle for an independent Ukraine became a main political preoccupation of Ukrainians in Canada. Relations with Poland was also a main political issue of the second wave of Ukrainian immigration during the interwar period and influenced Ukrainian community politics.

The third wave arrived after the Second World War and settled mainly in the industrial centres of eastern Canada. The Cold War years after 1945 were marked by several important events in the Ukrainian community; prime minister Louis Saint Laurent and the arrival of the Displaced Persons from Europe, Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker's speech at the United Nations in 1960, EXPO 67, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's visit to the Soviet Union and Ukraine in 1971 and then his announcement of the policy of multiculturalism.

The presentation concluded with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the recognition of the independence of Ukraine in 1991 by Canada as the first western country. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer segment.

## **Online Ukrainian Resources**

Those of you interested in Ukrainian History and current events are invited to explore the following online Ukrainian Resources:

### **[Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine](#)**

The Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine is the most comprehensive work in the English language on Ukraine, its history, people, geography, economy, and cultural heritage. This site was created and is updated/maintained by a team of scholars and editors from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) (University of Alberta/University of Toronto). Hundreds of specialists from around the world have contributed and continue to contribute to the Encyclopedia.

The Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine is a work in progress. Many new entries need to be added, and many of the existing entries need to be expanded and updated in order to reflect the many changes that have occurred and continue to occur in Ukraine and Eastern Europe and in order to incorporate previously inaccessible information.

The most recent addition to this Encyclopedia is an article on “[The Expressive Culture Of Traditional Ukrainian Folklore](#)”. New articles are added on a regular basis.

### **[UkeTube](#)**

UkeTube is a volunteer channel that produces original Ukrainian content. Includes music videos, interviews, scholarly presentations, & documents. A handful of excerpts/mashups from other sources, etc. are included.

Topics covered by these videos are as diverse as Ukrainian History, Music, Culture, Religion, Current Events, Politics, and the War in Ukraine. Prominent speakers include Paul Robert Magocsi, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, and last month's UGG speaker Dr. Thomas Prymak.

## **Community Events**

*Saturday, April 5 @ 10:00 am to 2:00pm*

### **Ukrainian Easter Bazaar**

Easter breads (Paska & Babka)  
Ukrainian Food to Take out  
Bake Table  
Kovbasa & Honey  
Pysanky & Supplies  
Gifts and Ukrainian Embroidery  
Ukrainian Vintage Items

Where: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 952 Green Valley Cres.

Sponsored by the UCWLC.

*Saturday, April 12 @ 10:00 am to 2:00pm*

### **Ukrainian Easter Market**

Homemade Ukrainian food to go –  
varenyky (pyrohy) cabbage rolls borshch  
homemade sausages homemade smoked  
sugar maple bacon traditional Easter  
breads baked goods Ukrainian Easter eggs  
and other Ukrainian goods.

Where: Ukrainian Banquet and Convention Hall, Byron Avenue  
1000 Byron Avenue, Ottawa, Canada