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THE LAMONT LEADER

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Lamont County moves forward twinning with Ukrainian community

BY JOHN MATHER

After more than a year in the planning stages, mostly due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Lamont County is moving towards the finish line in twinning with a community in the Ukraine.

On Apr. 13, the Consul General of the Ukraine in Canada, Oleksandr Danylyenko, appeared before council to further discuss the twinning.

In giving a preamble, County FOCSS director Sara Rindero, explained to council the background of the project.

"Over a year ago you may remember several of us met with council to provide a presentation outlining the opportunity to twin with the Village of Nebyliv, Kalush, Ukraine."

"She said the project was stalled by the Covid pandemic but last fall the project started again under the guidance of Rindero and economic development officer Jim Newman.

"At today's meeting, I wanted to introduce you to the consul general who has been instrumental in helping us move forward and develop a memorandum of understanding for the twinning."

"It is my honour to be here in this cradle of Ukrainian settlement in Canada," he said. He said the Village of Nebyliv was located in the western part of the country near the Polish bor-

der.

"I've spoken to people in the Ukraine and the head of the council and they are working on the text of the memorandum of understanding between your two communities," he said. "They are excited to sign the memorandum."

He said while it was difficult to travel during the pandemic, he felt some of the village leaders could come to Lamont for the signing or possibly some of the councillors could go to the Ukraine.

"They could also send copies to each place and the signing could be done virtually," he said. "It is a great opportunity and it would be very symbolic to celebrate the signing during the celebrations of 130 years of Ukrainian settlement in this area later this year."

"I believe this memorandum is a good sign of co operation between the two countries and regions."

Reeve David Diduck said the council's grandparents were the ones who emigrated to this area from the Ukraine.

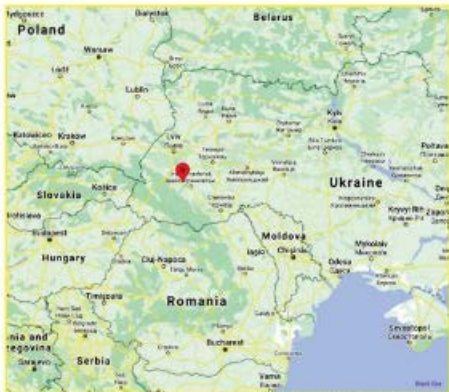
"I know when we discussed this more than a year ago the general consensus was to sign the memorandum," Rindero said the next step would be to bring forth a finalized copy of the memorandum and then set a date to do the signing of the document.

Danylyenko suggested it would be nice to sign the document around the Sept. 7 date which is the anniversary of the Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

He added the memorandum could be presented in both English and Ukrainian and then copies could be signed and retained by both communities in both official languages.

Economic Development officer Jim Newman said it was pretty exciting to move the project forward and the opportunities for Lamont County in the years to come.

"It's great for opportunities in



The flag shows the location in Ukraine of Nebyliv, Kalush. This is where the earliest Lamont settlers came from, and the location of the county's twin.

agriculture, education and economic development," he said. "This meeting is a benchmark for that and I'm very excited for Lamont County. It is something that's very important for this community."

Diduck added it was a great thing to help Ukrainian Canadians retain roots to their culture.

"We've been getting away from this and I think this will help bring our appreciation to our roots back."

The Nebyliv and Kalush area was chosen for twinning because in 1891 Ivan Pylypov left that area to come for free land in the prairies of Canada.

After investigating settlement possibilities in Manitoba and Alberta with Weyl Elieniak, a fellow villager, Pylypov returned to the Ukraine to

bring back both men's families and as many friends and relatives as could be persuaded to accompany them.

Although he was arrested and tried for sedition by the Austrian authorities, and prevented from making his way back to Canada until 1893, the publicity generated by his trial advertised Canada more effectively than he himself could have done. By 1894, a Ukrainian settlement had emerged in the vicinity of Star.



Consul General of Ukraine in Canada, Oleksandr Danylyenko points out on a map the area in Ukraine that Lamont County will twin with. The Consul General appeared before Lamont County Council Apr. 13, to confirm twinning with Nebyliv, Kalush, Ukraine would be beneficial to both communities.



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Lamont County, Canada - Nebyliv, Ukraine

ПОБРАТИМСТВО TWINNING CEREMONY

History made as Memorandum of Understanding signed

BY JOHN MATHER

"I have the pleasure of welcoming you to a major historic event."

With that, Radomir Bilash began the ceremony on Sept. 7 twinning Lamont County with the Village of Nebyliv, in the Perehinske Community Village in Ukraine.

Bilash is a noted Ukrainian historian and acted as the MC for the ceremony, speaking in both English and Ukrainian during the celebration which was live-streamed back to the Ukraine village.

"An acknowledgment of a bond that has existed for 130 years, a bond between the Village of Nebyliv and Lamont County, in particular the area around Star.

"We are doing this in the true sense of bonding, using technology and sharing it with the people of Nebyliv... where it all started."

After blessings from His Grace, Bishop David Motiuk from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, and the Very Reverend Archpriest, Cornell Zubritsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; Motiuk gave a brief overview on the importance of the event.

"As we mark the 130 anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, I bring greetings from the Edmonton Eparchy," he said.

"Lamont County is the Cradle of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada and it was from the Village of Nebyliv that Wasyli Eleniak and Ivan Pylpov set out and became the first government documented Ukrainian settlers in Canada.

"Little did these first immigrants know that by the 20th Century thousands would follow them, so much so that by 1914 when World War One cut off immigration, some 170,000 Ukrainians had emigrated to Canada."

Most, he added, settled in Western Canada in the Beaver Lake, Star, Lamont and Mundare areas.

"Their sacrifices and hard work in the new country brought about a better future for Canada," Motiuk added, "and all its people. Rewards which we continue to reap today. We must applaud their efforts."

Consul General of the Ukraine in Edmonton Danyleiko Oleksandr worked on making the twinning happen for the past year.

"I'm really proud to be the Consul General here and represent our country in this process," he said.

"We have a very important and symbolic day. One hundred and thirty years ago today, Wasyli Eleniak and Ivan Pylpov embarked on a very historic journey.

"They found their new home here in Alberta. They helped other Ukrainians who came later, begin their lives in a very difficult environment.

"Despite their difficulties, they started to establish a Ukrainian community here in Canada, building churches and bringing the Ukraine culture and traditions here."

For more than a century Ukrainians have assisted the development of this country and their achievements are widely recognized, he added.

"This memorandum recognizes the important role that they played. This will re-establish all the old ties between our countries and our peoples."

Lamont County Reeve David Diduck then spoke on the importance of the twinning event.

"Lamont County and its residents will forever be grateful to Wasyli Eleniak and Ivan Pylpov for the voyage they made to the Dominion of Canada. They embarked on this voyage in search of a better life for the families, neighbours, friends and future

generations based on a promise of free land as advertised by the Dominion of Canada.

"Each and every one of us of Ukrainian heritage owe these two men a great debt of gratitude for the life and opportunity we enjoy today."

Pylpov returned to Ukraine after he had first arrived in Canada, and began to spread the word about the opportunities that existed in the west, Diduck added. That led to the initial immigration of Ukrainian peoples to Western Canada and they settled in the Star area.

Lamont County declared itself the Cradle of Ukrainian Settlement in 2018," he added.

The Memorandum of Understanding will ensure historical connections continue to grow between the two communities.

Agriculture, arts and culture, education and other areas can all benefit from the memorandum, he added.

In front of a smaller crowd of about 40 guests, letters of greeting were read from Premier Jason Kenney and Health Minister Tyler Shandro.

Fort Saskatchewan Vegreville MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, also spoke at the event, informing the gathering of her family ties to the Ukrainian community.

No Federal politicians were at the twinning event because of the ongoing Federal election.

Additional greetings and words of encouragement were provided by Deron Bilous, the MLA from Beverley Clareview; Olesia Lucia

Andryjowycz, Vice President of the National Ukrainian Canadian Council; Orysiya Boychuk, President of the Alberta Provincial Council of the



Lamont County Reeve David Diduck signs a Memorandum of Understanding between Lamont County and the Perehinske Community Village Council in the Ukraine, Sept. 7. Signed on Ukraine Canadian Heritage Day, the signing also commemorated 130 years of Ukrainian Settlement in the Lamont County area. Joining in the signing from Lamont were Consul General of the Ukraine in Edmonton, Danyleiko Oleksandr, left, and Lamont Councillors Wayne Woldarski, Neil Wolts and Roy Anaka (in the back row).

Ukrainian Canadian Council, Kevin Baron, President of the Ukrainian Pioneer Association of Alberta; and Gordon Gordy, Vice President of the Taras Shevchenko Foundation.

In addition, greetings were provided by Steven Eleniak a direct descendant of Wasyli Eleniak, and the great, great, great grandson of Ivan Pylpov.

The chairman of the Perehinske Village Council, Iryna Lyuklyan also offered greetings from the Village Council Chambers in the Ukraine by live stream.



Members of the Perehinske Community Village Council, which includes the Village of Nebyliv in Ukraine simultaneously signed the Memorandum of Understanding twinning agreement with Lamont County, Sept. 7. The event was live-streamed between both communities with the assistance of the Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta.

Lamont County, Canada - Nebyliv, Ukraine

ПОБРАТИМСТВО

TWINNING CEREMONY



Anniversary of
Ukrainian
Immigration
to Canada

130TH

1891 September 7
7 вересня 2021

130-ліття
української
еміграції
до Канади

Please join us online on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 8:30 am

to witness this momentous, historic event by logging on to:

<https://fb.me/e/j2a5CLq5i>

To commemorate the bravery, sacrifice, and contribution that Ukrainians have made in Canada, Lamont County has embarked on a twinning initiative with the Village of Nebyliv, the Village from which early settlers came, triggering the first of five waves of Ukrainian immigration.

To officially mark this momentous event, Lamont County is hosting a virtual signing ceremony with Ukrainian officials on the morning of September 7th, 2021. The Perehinske Community Village Council, which includes the Village of Nebyliv, and Lamont County, the core of the Edna-Star colony, are signing a Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation, on the 130th anniversary of the arrival of

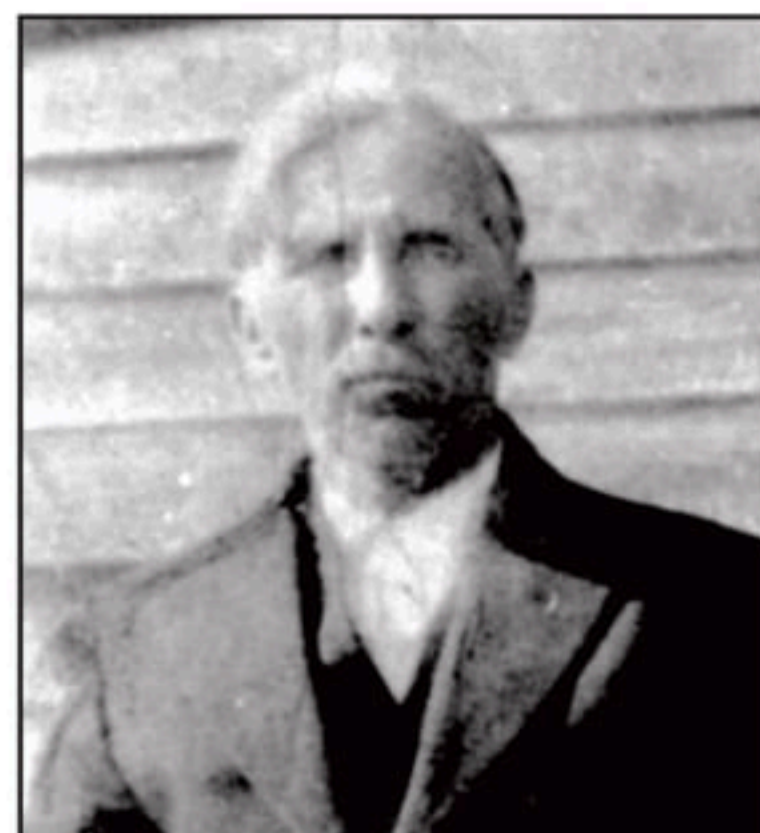
Wasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypow.

In acknowledgement of its role in the origin of the Ukrainian-Canadian com-



Ivan Pylypow (left) and Wasyl Eleniak, in photos taken as older men.

munity, Lamont County in Alberta declared itself to be the "Cradle of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada" in



2018.

On September 7, 1891, two fellow villagers from Nebyliv in present-day Western Ukraine, Ivan Pylypow and Wasyl Eleniak, disembarked from the SS Oregon at Quebec City. They travelled westward to investigate the possibility of acquiring the "Free Lands" being offered by the Dominion of Canada to potential settlers. Pylypow and Eleniak's findings led to the beginning of a mass migration of Ukrainians to Canada.

For further information on this exciting and historic initiative, please contact Sara Rindero at 780-895-2233 ext. 217 or sara.r@lamontcounty.ca between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm (mountain daylight time).

The trip that made Lamont County the Cradle of the Ukrainian community in Canada



by Radomir Bilash, courtesy of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council

On September 7, 1891, two fellow villagers from Galicia, Vasyl Ilyniak (later spelled Eleniak) and Iwan Pylypow disembarked from the SS Oregon at Quebec City. They had come to investigate the "Free Lands" that they had heard about in Canada.

The two travelled together as far as Winnipeg, where they came into contact with others from Galicia, but of German origin. From them, they were directed to some of the Galician German settlements in the outlying areas, where they could learn for themselves what "homesteading" was all about. In a short time, they had gotten jobs working for the German homesteaders.

At the end of September, Pylypow and Ilyniak went westward to investigate other regions of Western Canada, to see where it would be best to take up land of their own. They made it as far as Calgary. The land they were shown had no trees, so they returned to Manitoba and continued working for the German farmers at Gretna.

By the end of November, Pylypow



Provisioning for the journey.

had decided to return to Nebyliv to retrieve his family and return to Canada to live. He left Gretna at the beginning of December, and was back in Nebyliv by January 12th, 1892. People came from afar to hear his stories about the land called Canada and its free lands. Eventually 12 families decided to go with him, and plans were made to leave in May. However, Pylypow was arrested in May, purportedly for improprieties in

arranging passage for the other twelve families/householders. The case carried on for several months.

In the meantime, seven householders of the group - Mykhailo Romaniuk, Anton Paish, Dmytro Viznowych, Mykhailo Ilyniak, Vasyl Yatchew, Nykola Tychkowsky, and Iosyp Paish - left for Canada with their families. They arrived in Quebec City in June and made their way to Winnipeg, where they decided

to remain for a while. The main reason for the stop was to allow the men to earn some money, but Mrs. Yatchew was to give birth soon as well and could travel no further. In a short time, though, five of the men left their families behind and made their way to the area north of Edmonton and registered homesteads near a police post about 2 miles east of present-day Fort Saskatchewan.

Then, three of them, Mykhailo Romaniuk, Mykhailo Ilyniak and Dmytro Viznowych, returned to their families in Winnipeg, since they felt they did not have enough resources to stay and develop their homesteads. The other two, Anton Paish and Nykola Tychkowsky, spent the winter at Scotford near the German colony at Bruderheim, nine miles to the east. Paish built a sod house, and

Tichkowsky lived with him until more Nebyliv settlers arrived in the spring. The men who went back to Winnipeg soon reconsidered their choice of land east of Fort Saskatchewan, cancelled their entries, found temporary employment in Winnipeg, and then settled on homesteads in Manitoba.

In the meantime, Iwan Pylypow had spent the fall and winter of 1892 earning money to return with his family to Canada. In the spring of 1893, they and the Stefan Chichak family arrived in Beaver Creek and settled with their fellow villagers from Nebyliv - Paish and Tychkowsky. By the end of the year, Vasyl Ilyniak returned to Nebyliv to retrieve his family and bring them to Canada. When they did so, they chose to join their friends who were homesteading in Southern Manitoba. After several faltering steps, the determination of the two trailblazers Ivan Pylypow and Vasyl Ilyniak and those who followed them was about to take root.

The news was now circulating throughout Nebyliv and beyond: "Go to Canada! Some of our people are already there, near a place called Edmonton, at Edna post office."



A snap-shot of fellow travellers.



A young couple from Nebyliv, from around the time Pylypow and Ilyniak were preparing to come to Canada.

200,000,000 acres of free land

160 акрів - 130 моргів австр.
 * ВІЛЬНОЇ ЗЕМЛІ *
 200 МІЛЬОНІВ АКРІВ ПІД УПРАВУ В ЗАХІДНІЙ КАНАДІ
 ДЛЯ КОЖДОГО ОСЕЛЕНЦЯ

An advertisement, announcing that 160 acres of *free land* could be acquired by each settler. Two hundred million acres were available in Western Canada.



Waiting for the train to find "free lands" in Western Canada



At a rest stop on the way to Western Canada. Looking at what had never been seen or heard before in Canada.

What is the Lamont-Nebyliv Twinning Agreement?

On September 7, 2021, Canada's Ukrainian Canadian community will be embarking on a two year celebration of the 130th anniversary of its immigration and settlement.

7 вересня 2021 року. Українська канадська громада Канади розпочне дворічне святкування 130-ї річниці імміграції та поселення.

On September 7, 1891, two fellow villagers from Nebyliv in present-day Western Ukraine, Ivan Pylypow and Wasyl Eleniak, disembarked from the SS Oregon at Quebec City. They travelled westward to investigate the possibility of acquiring the "Free Lands" being offered by the Dominion of Canada to potential settlers. Pylypow and Eleniak's positive findings led to the beginning of a mass migration of Ukrainians to Canada.

7 вересня 1891 року. Двоє односельчан з Небилева (в сучасному Західній Україні), Іван Пилипів та Василь Ілїняк, висадились із корабля "СС Орегон" у місті Квебек. Вони вирушили на захід, щоб дослідити можливість придбання Вільних земель, що пропонувалися Домініоном Канади потенційним поселенцям. Позитивні висновки Пилипова та Ілїняка призвели до початку масової міграції українців до Канади.

In the spring of 1892, the first group of settlers from the Nebyliv district arrived in Canada. They were followed by hundreds of others from the Austro Hungarian crownlands of Galicia and Bukovyna (presently part of Western Ukraine), until the outbreak of World War I. The first settlers took up lands near the country post office of Edna (later renamed Star), in what became the Province of Alberta. Eventually, the

Edna-Star colony grew to be the oldest and largest homogeneous settlement of Ukrainians beyond Ukraine.

Навесні 1892 р. Перша група поселенців з Небиловаприбула до Канади. За ними слідували сотні інших з австроугорських коронних земель Галичини та Буковини (нині частина Західної України), аж до початку Першої світової війни. Перші поселенці зайняли землі біля пошти Една (згодом перейменованого у Стар), в території, що стало провінцією Альберта. Врешті-решт колонія Една-Стар стала найстарішим та найбільшим однорідним поселенням українців за межами України.

In acknowledgement of its role in the origin of the Ukrainian-Canadian community, the County of Lamont in Alberta declared itself to be the "Cradle of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada" in 2018.

На знак визнання своєї ролі у походженні українсько-канадської громади, муніципалітет Ламонт в Альберті оголосило себе колыскою українського поселення в Канаді у 2018 році.

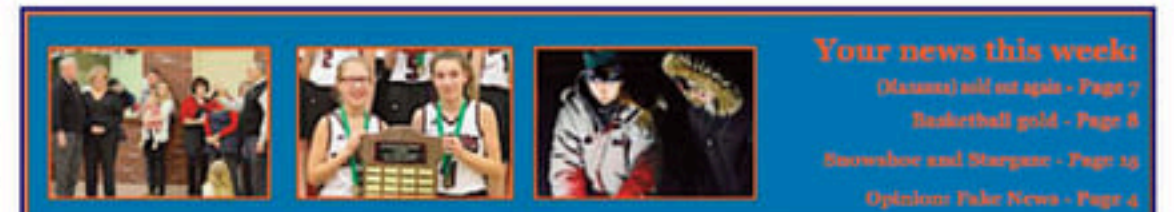
In acknowledgment of the common bond that they hold as the source and cradle of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, the Perehinske Community Village Council, which includes the village of Nebyliv, and the County of Lamont, the core of the Edna-Star colony, are signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation, on the 130th anniversary of the arrival of Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypow.

На знак визнання спільних зв'язків, які вони вважають джерелом та колыскою українського поселення в Канаді, Перегінське селищна рада, до складу якого

входить село Небилів, та муніципалітет Ламонт, ядро колонії Една-Стар, підписують Меморандум про взаєморозуміння та співпрацю до 130-ї річниці прибуття Василя Ілїняка та Івана Пилипова.

While immigration of people of Ukrainian descent to Canada has been sometimes limited by political strife, over the past 130 years, the Ukrainian-Canadian community continues to enrich this country, whether as Governor General, Premiers, politicians, notable sports figures, professionals in all walks of life, to the regular working citizen.

Хоча імміграція людей українського походження до Канади іноді був стриманий політичними обставинами, протягом останніх 130 років українсько-канадська громада продовжує збагачувати цю країну, чи то генерал-губернаторами, прем'єрами провінції, політиками, відомими спортивними діячами, професіоналами всіх сфер життя, або звичайними працюючими громадянами.



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It's official: Lamont County is "The Cradle of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada"



LAMONT COUNTY PRESENTS \$15,000 CHEQUE
Lamont County presented a \$15,000 cheque to the Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project lead Radoslaw Blasz (third left) at the Jan. 9 county meeting. Blasz's organization just completed research into the first 135 Ukrainian settlers to Lamont County. (L to R) Division 3 Councillor David Debus, Deputy Reeve and Division 5 Councillor Dan Wanas, MLA Jessica Littlewood, Reeve and Division 2 Councillor Wayne Waldman, Manager of Economic Development Jim Newman, Blasz, Division 4 Councillor Roy Anika, and Division 5 Councillor Neil Woods. See story on Page 2.



A monument in the village of Nebyliv, dedicated to Ivan Pylypow and Vasyl Eleniak, erected in 1991 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the emigration of the first Ukrainians to Canada.



This souvenir special section brought to you compliments:

