



11 months until the millennium of the coronation of the first king of Poland



POLONIA NEWS



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HE CAME TO WINNIPEG

55 YEARS AGO AS A CARDINAL

Winnipeg - Dnia następnego 6.IX. w godzinach porannych opuszczamy Edmonton, udając się drogą lotniczą do Winnipegu. Jest to co do ilości trzecie środowisko polonijne w Kanadzie /po Toronto i Montrealu/, a historycznie pierwsze, najstarsze. Przyjęcie na lotnisku szczególnie liczne i serdeczne z racji week-endu. Po spotkaniu^z przedstawicielami prasy i telewizji ruszamy do prywatnej rezydencji Arcybiskupa Winnipegu kard. G. Flahiff, gdzie oczekuje także

40 YEARS AGO AS A POPE





POLISH CONCENTRATION CAMP IN WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

A scandalous publication in one of the most widely read dailies in central Canada. A Winnipeg Free Press journalist in Manitoba used the phrase "Polish concentration camps."

Michał Dembek, the President of the Canadian Polish Congress of British Columbia, came up with the term "Polish concentration camp" while reading an article about Tony McAleer, who lives in Vancouver and is associated with the Life After Hate organization.

The article by John Longhurst was published on November 15, 2023 in the Winnipeg Free Press, a daily that celebrated its 150th anniversary in Manitoba last year. Dembek immediately notified the Polish embassy in Ottawa. Ambassador Witold Dzielski reacted immediately and asked for a correction directly to the publisher of the daily, Paul Samyn.

The content of the article has been corrected, but "Polish concentration camp" has been replaced not with the "German concentration camp" expected by the Polish diaspora, but with "concentration camp in Poland".

The Polish ambassador to Canada repeated the request on Twitter for proper correction.

Polish organizations in Manitoba did not hide their outrage. President of the Association of Polish Veterans Branch No. 13 in Canada Paweł Pecold put the matter clearly:

Changing the wording from "Polish concentration camp" is not enough! Association of Polish Veterans in Canada demands a public apology in the press and on the Internet.

Corrections in the newspaper in the printed and online versions the Canadian Polish Congress of Manitoba was also waiting, who addressed the Winnipeg Free Press directly in an open letter posted on the congress' FB profile on November 16, 2023.

Both formulations do not reflect the historical truth - emphasizes the spokesperson of KPK Manitoba. - The creators of the concentration camps were Germans. It was the Germans who built extermination camps on the conquered Polish lands. It was the Germans who used people there for hard work. It was the Germans who ultimately burned people in crematorium ovens. It is Germany that bears full responsibility for the concentration camps and the victims who died or burned in them.

Finally, the newspaper's editorial staff introduced a correction in the online version of the article, setting a linguistic precedent by creating a new word figure that avoids identifying the Germans as those who bore full responsibility for the creation of the extermination camps: "former German-run concentration camp". In the printed version, Poles did not receive a correction or apology.



McAleer, a former Holocaust denier who spent 15 years in white supremacist and neo-Nazi movements in Canada, went to that **Polish concentration camp** in 2018 "to make amends and repair relationships... the visit was part of my healing work."

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Today McAleer, who lives in Vancouver, is involved with an organization called Life After Hate, serving as executive director

McAleer, a former Holocaust denier who spent 15 years in white supremacist and neo-Nazi movements in Canada, went to that **former German-run concentration camp** in what is now Poland in 2018 "to make amends and repair relationships... the visit was part of my healing work."



KPK MANITOBA OPEN LETTER TO WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



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Winnipeg Free Press
October 15, 2023

On Wednesday October 15th, 2023, the Winnipeg Free Press' website posted an news article „City high school to screen reformed Holocaust denier’s documentary on visit to Nazi death camp” by John Langhurst, in which the phrase "Polish camps" was used.

With the respect to the article, John Langhurst and the story of Tony McAleer told in it, the Canadian Polish Congress – MB district was deeply affected by the use of the phrase „Polish concentration camp”. This phrase in article was changed this afternoon (as we expect due to the reaction of the Polish ambassador in Canada and the media reaction of the Canadian Polish community) to „concentration camp in Poland”. Both phrases are harmful to Poland and Poles.

Both phrases do not reflect the historical truth. The creators of those concentration camps was Nazi Germany. Many of the concentration camps were located in German-occupied Poland. From a historical perspective, Poland was the first nation to be attacked by Germany.

The hero of John Longhurst's article rightly notes that “We need to find commonalities.” The most important commonalitie must be truth in history. Especially in a country like Canada, which has become the home of many cultures and ethnic groups. Truth is the foundation of community.

We expect the editor, to acknowledge both phrases that were used are historically incorrect in the printed and online version of the newspaper. With particular emphasis on the country responsible for the concentration camps – as the correct term is German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camps in German Nazi-occupied Poland.

Canadian Polish Congress – MB District



ISKRY SHINED IN THE CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

Iskry, our dynamic dance group, recently celebrated an extraordinary milestone - 55 years of lively dancing and cultural exuberance. The Centennial Concert Hall came alive with the Footsteps Through Poland concert, a testament to the enduring legacy we've built for over half a century.

This landmark event featured captivating performances, including our talented Junior group, showcasing not only their skills but also the continuation of Iskry's commitment to cultivating the next generation of dancers. Alumni, returning to the stage where their own journey began, added a nostalgic touch to the evening. Performers hit the stage over 20 times, delivering a dazzling display that showcased the joy and pride that have characterized our dance group since its inception.





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ISKRY SHINED IN THE CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL





105TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

The Polish community in Manitoba celebrated the 105th anniversary of Poland regaining independence! The solemn mass was celebrated by Tomasz Kościński OMI, parish priest of Holy Ghost Parish in Winnipeg, and the homily was delivered by Wojciech Stangiel OMI. The mass was attended by a large number of Polish diaspora, presidents and representatives of all Polish organizations associated with the KPK - Canadian Polish Congress Manitoba. Scouts from the Gdańsk Tribe and Cub Scouts from the Sunny Tribe Cub Scout Pack took part in the academy.





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95 YEARS OF SOKÓŁ SAINT BONIFACE

The Saint Boniface Falcon celebrated its 95th anniversary. The solemn mass was presided over by parish priest Walery Bykowski. During the celebrations, President Jan Bragin awarded bronze, silver and gold Sokoły. The artistic program was prepared and provided by the Admiral's Troupe.





POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL - IT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER!

November at Polish Saturday School was a busy month. It started with singing of the Polish National Anthem “Mazurek Dąbrowskiego” for the Polish Independence Day. Everyone gathered in the library for this event and students from classes 6-8 also prepared patriotic poems. Pani Sabina from Radio Polonia Winnipeg recorded everything so the listeners around the world could hear our students during Sunday’s broadcast.

On the same day we also had the “What’s the new logo?” guessing competition where all students were guessing the symbols in the middle of the logo. There were few students that were close and from this group we chose the winner! It was Halinka Kovach from Pani Ala’s class. Congratulations! Our new logo was designed by Daniel Wiebe – a student from the Adult Class. It will represent the school and build its identity for years to come.

On November 12th, Canadian Polish Congress organized a celebration of 105th Anniversary of Polish Independence. Some of the students from Polish Saturday School were part of that celebration through another Polish Organization – Scouts “Szczep Gdańsk” and “Gromada Zuchowa Słoneczne Plemię.” Students were reciting patriotic poems.

A week later at our School, we had a recitation contest where one student from each class presented their poem to everyone. It was a great opportunity to gain confidence as a public speaker. Each presenter received a Polish sticker for their participation, and everyone received a sweet treat. A big thank you to students and their families for their support with learning the poems.





POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL - IT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER!

St. Andrew's Eve



Last Saturday at Polish Saturday School was magical thanks to the Ladies from Polish Canadian Women's Federation Branch #7. They prepared many stations with Fortune-tellers and students from our School had lots of fun. The most popular station was predicting the future with the Shoe Race. You had to remove both shoes and move one in front of the other until you went to the line. Depending on if you crossed the line completely or halfway your wish would come true or not. Some of the other stations were: melting wax through a keyhole, picking a card with names on the back, cups with items underneath, colourful gems that predict the future depending on which colour you choose, and many more! Thank you Polish Canadian Women's Federation Branch #7 for organizing this unforgettable event and teaching our students about Polish Traditions. Each student received a small gift for participating in "Andrzejki".

We also decorated ornaments and made decorations for our upcoming Christmas Concert on December 16th. Ornaments made by students at Polish Saturday School will be available for sale during the event. It was also our monthly Pizza Day, so together with our Guests from Polish Canadian Women's Federation Branch #7 we enjoyed some pizza.

Another wonderful month at Polish Saturday School full of laughter, learning, and memories.

Aldona Stein, Principal of Polish Saturday School Winnipeg by St. Andrew Bobola Church



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CHRISTMAS CONCERT OF THE POLISH DANCE SCHOOL SOKÓŁ

On December 3, 2023, the Sokół Polish Dance School celebrated its annual Christmas Concert. The hall was filled to the brim, with a beautiful performance in which 78 of our dancers took part! The concert was titled "Treasures of the Heart" and showed that our traditions and time spent together are more important than physical Christmas gifts. Each dance performance represented a letter of the phrase "Merry Christmas." At the end of the concert, we were visited by Saint. Santa Claus to give gifts to each child!





ISKRY. SINGING CAROLS:)

The dance school once again invited the Iskra band to take part in the 'Santa Claus' concert, which took place on November 26. Our "Highlander" dance added liveliness to the children's concert. It was nice to share time with the young dancers and everyone gathered. One of the traditions of the Iskra band is carol singing.





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NEWS FROM THE PARISH OF THE HOLY GHOST

Autumn meeting of the youth group. Having fun together, watching a movie together, discussing "Who am I to God?" At the end, common adoration of the Blessed Sacrament...



**Christmas wafer meeting
in the parish of the Holy Ghost:**





FROM THE SCOUT'S CAMP

Santa visited Szczep Gdańsk in Winnipeg! The meeting with Santa Claus was combined with a family Christmas Eve and singing carols together! Cub Scouts and scouts also sang carols at the Polish Manor.





WOMAN ELECTED THE PRESIDENT OF SOKÓŁ ST BONIFACE!

Christmas meeting at Sokole Saint Boniface. Gifts for children and singing carols with the priest!



Aleksandra Quartel became the president of Sokół Saint Boniface!

She was nominated by the outgoing president, Jan Bragin:

“It's the best choice! - said former president Bragin - History is being made in the footsteps of our ancestors, because for the first time in the almost hundred-year history of our organization, it will be headed by a woman!

Violetta Arnaud (with the function of general director) and Krzysztof Chmurzyński became the vice-presidents of Sokół, and Barbara Pawlak became the financial secretary (with the function of Treasurer).





A BUSY YEAR OF THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION

The year 2023 was a very active and busy for the Polis Canadian Women Branch #7 in Winnipeg. Immediately after our "Oplatek" meeting in January, we started working on organizing the celebration of International Women's Day. This event was titled "Pretty in Pink". It was lunch in the hospitable setting of Sokół St. Boniface, where we invited women not only to celebrate, but also to raise funds for the fight against breast cancer. During the event, there was a competition for the most beautiful pink hats, as well as games and activities aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness about breast cancer. There was also an artistic part performed by men who recited poetry about women and sang songs for us. We managed to raise and donate \$1,300 to the Manitoba Breast Cancer Foundation.



In the summer time we started working on preparing a gala and an exhibition of our organization's activities for the upcoming 60th anniversary of Branch #7 in Winnipeg, which was scheduled for October 14. There was a lot of work, as decorations and materials had to be prepared for the exhibition. We were very encouraged by the fact that tickets for our gala were sold out two months before the planned date of the event. The gala for our 60th anniversary was planned in the form of a Wedding Feast, inspired by Boryna's wedding, described in Władysław Reymonta The Peasants:

Our member Wioletta Los took care of the special decoration of the hall in the Holy Ghost Church. The focal point was a hand painted beautiful folk cottage, against the background of which the Iskry Dance Ensemble showcased their performance entitled Boryna's Wedding. Folk and cut-out motifs were present throughout the room, giving our event a truly special atmosphere. We asked guests to bring donations of non-perishable food to Manitoba Harvest as a wedding gift. Thanks to the generosity of our participants, we managed to collect over 90 kg of food for Manitoba Harvest. Guests could also see an exhibition showing sixty years of our activities and accomplishments.

Distinguished members of Branch #7 received gold, silver and bronze medals from the president of the National Polish Canadian Woman's Federation, Katarzyna Grandiwlewska, who came to our event from Hamilton. We were touched that members and presidents of all Polish organizations, dance groups and clergy in Winnipeg were present at our celebration. There were also representatives of the KPK along with president, Jolanta Gronowska. We were honored by the presence of Vice-Consul of the Republic of Poland from Toronto, Michal Pszczółkowski. The traditional feast food was prepared for us by the Knights of Columbus, and DJ Kolt kept everybody on the dance floor.



A BUSY YEAR OF THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION



Since the promotion of the Polish language and culture is very close to our hearts, we donated a check in the amount of \$5,000 (a significant part of the income from the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Federation) to the Polish Language Fund at the University of Manitoba. At the invitation of the Polish Saturday School, on November 25, members of the Federation organized St. Andrew's Day for children - a magical afternoon full of fortune telling and games. There was traditional wax pouring and fortune telling with shoes.

This event was intended to introduce children to Polish traditions that are not well known in Canada and our mission was achieved. The year 2023 is coming to an end, therefore the Federation of Polish Women in Canada, Branch #7, would like to send wishes to the entire Polish community for a wonderful Christmas spent among their loved ones, with the glow of the Christmas tree and the sound of Christmas carols. May this next year, 2024, bring us all peace, prosperity, and fulfillment of all dreams.





YEAR 2023 AT POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL

New year at Polish Saturday School began in January with a Hawaiian Social organized by the Parent Committee to raise money for the school. Thanks to the generous donations from the sponsors and our parents' hard work and dedication – this event was extremely successful. And a lot of fun too! Special thanks to Sokol Winnipeg for donating the space for us.

On Saturday May 27th at St. Andrew Bobola Parish we had a celebratory mass for the end of the school year 2022/2023. After the mass, everyone went to Sokol St. Boniface for the academy, where students presented poems about summer holidays as well as special poems for the grandparents. Thank you to Father Walery and Sokol St. Boniface for your ongoing support to the school. Another attraction on that day was a festivity prepared for all the kids for Children's Day with bouncy castles, face painting, balloons, and a food truck. Thank you to KPK Manitoba for organizing this annual event. In June our students enjoyed a fun day at the Aquatic Centre in Steinbach.

September 9th was the first Saturday for the new 2023/2024 school year. We started with singing the Polish Anthem with all students, teachers, and families. Parents were invited inside for coffee and sweet treats. It was a great opportunity to see the classrooms and talk to the teachers. Thank you Holy Ghost School for renting the space to our School.

In October, Polish Saturday School hosted an annual Parent Meeting where new committee members were selected. Mrs. Marta Bhopalsingh is the new chair for the Parent Committee, Mrs. Justyna Orlow – vice chair, Mrs. Aneta Carroll – secretary, and Mrs. Ania Niezgodna – treasurer. Congratulations!





YEAR 2023 AT POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL

This year, there is also a new principal of the Polish Saturday School - Mrs. Aldona Stein and a new president of the school – Mrs. Ania Wiebe. Ms. Kasia M’Pinda is the school’s treasurer. After over 40 years, Mrs. Barbara Torka (former principal of the school) and Mr. Jozef Kukielka (former president) passed on their responsibilities to the next generation of the School. We thank them for all those years and congratulate the new school representatives!

November at Polish Saturday School was very busy. We started off with singing the Polish National Anthem and reciting patriotic poems for the 105th Anniversary of the Polish Independence Day for the Radio Polonia Winnipeg. Thank you to Pani Sabina and Pan Irek Lemans for their ongoing support for the school. Also in November, our new logo was designed. Thank you to Daniel Wiebe, an adult class student for creating the logo. We also had a recitation contest where a student from each class presented the poem to the school. Polish Canadian Women’s Federation Branch #7 – Winnipeg prepared an amazing day full of games and fortune telling activities for St. Andrew’s Day at the end of November. Thank you so much for creating this magical day for our students!

We invite you to join our school community - learn Polish and meet new friends! Every last Saturday of the month we have Pizza Day and library. For more information, please email the School: psswpg@gmail.com

Justyna Orlow – vice principal of Polish Saturday School by St. Andrew Bobola Parish





INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOKÓŁ CHOIR

When did these New Year's concerts start?

It's been many, many years. In fact, this is me of the year personally I don't remember, but there would be no Sokół Choir without it carol concert. I think that's how we started 25 years ago. And we continue. Our concerts have never been paid. We do not sell tickets. Admission is free, but you can pay whatever you want on a tray, this is an individual matter and for every support we are very thankful. To tell the truth it is the sponsors who actually sustain our choir. If not sponsors, if it weren't for our Polish businesses, there would be no choir.



What is the idea behind the concert?

What is this concert for? This concert is to tell the audience that singing carols is our Polish tradition. In the repertoire there are over 500 Polish Christmas carols in Polish. There is no Pole, who wouldn't know at least one Christmas carol. We always went from house to house to sing carols, we went to church, there were concerts in Poland. Here, we want to keep this tradition and pass it on to the next generations.

Is a carol concert an event with the largest Polish audience?

The Christmas carol concert attracts the most people and is highly anticipated by many people, not only Poles.

Who comes from outside the Polish community?

Last year, but also this year there were Ukrainians, Czechs and even Jews. We must spread the beauty of our traditions not only to Poles, but also to other nationalities.

The Christmas carol concert is associated with two personalities: Mr. Tadeusz Biernacki and Bernadeta Gabriel.

Because, you know, I've been working in this choir for so many years that I know what needs to be done, what needs to be done and what needs to be done right. Tadeusz and I also work very well together and somehow we have it all coordinated from A to Z.





LET'S SERVE POLAND WHEREVER WE ARE

When on February 6, 2022, as a newly elected congress, we expressed in a letter to our Ukrainian friends the hope that Ukraine would remain free and safe, the world was in a completely different place than it is today.

Assuring them of our prayers then, we sensed that **freedom was fragile and peace was in times of trial**. The time for this test has come. Today, when Ukraine is immersed in the heat of war, we understand, feel and see what common action means, what the power of unity means, what it means when one can count on the other... We understand, feel and see what strength it means.

This unity, common action, mutual trust are the foundation on which a new reality is being built today. **This unity, common action and mutual trust is needed in all areas of social life**. Also among the Polish diaspora in Canada, also here among the Polish diaspora in Manitoba.

Today, anyone who does not work for unity destroys, anyone who does not unite, divides, and anyone who sees through the prism of their own name excludes themselves from the community. **Being Polish is a commitment to the heritage of our ancestors and our homeland, being Polish is a challenge that we must take up for future generations and for Poland**.

Today Poland is free and safe. Just yesterday, Ukraine was like this. **Let the experiences of recent months be an indication to us that our own egoism, the desire to stand out and gain a position at any cost should not obscure what is most important, serving Poland, wherever we are...**

IT WILL HAPPEN SOON

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL/MAY

*March 10 - sleigh ride organized by the St Andrew Bobola Parish and Sokół St Boniface
4.00 p.m.*

April 20 - spring party at Sokol Saint Boniface

May 12 - concert on the occasion of Mother's Day of the Sokół Choir in the Church of the Holy Ghost - 12.30

website:	kpkmanitoba.ca
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**Wydawcą Wiadomości Polonijnych jest
Kongres Polonii Kanadyjskiej Okręgu Manitoba**