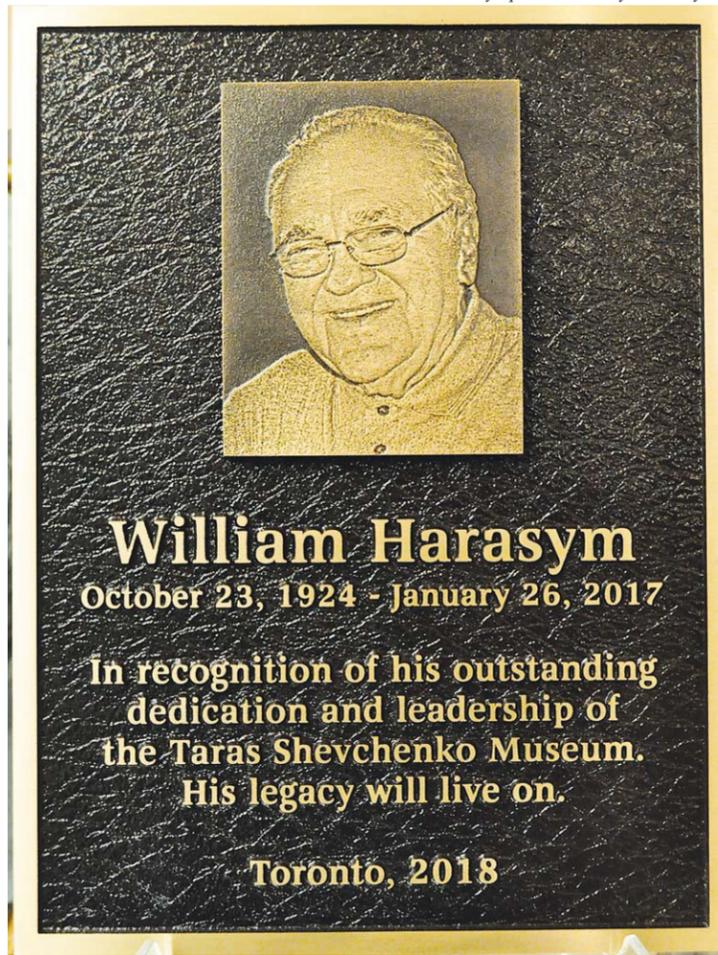


# Shevchenko Museum Unveils Plaque

— Story photos: Jerry Harasym



On Sunday, February 4, the Taras Shevchenko Museum held a plaque unveiling in honour of William (Bill) Harasym, a dedicated Board member and long-time volunteer, who passed away on January 26, 2017.

Wilfred Szczesny, as Master of Ceremonies, began the ceremony with his opening remarks of welcome and a statement about the significance of the event as an expression of the esteem in which Bill Harasym and his contribution were held.

Wilfred then introduced Andrii Veselovskyi, Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto, who spoke highly of Bill as a dignified and gentle man. Mr. Veselovskyi recounted his discussions with Bill over the years, reflecting fondly on their mutual admiration of Taras Shevchenko.

Wilfred continued his role of MC by sharing historical facts about the Museum, and Bill's involvement with it when it was originally situated on the Oakville property in

Palermo. The monument of Taras Shevchenko was erected on this land and unveiled on July 1, 1951, and the Museum was officially opened on July 1, 1952.

Wilfred concluded these remarks by emphasizing the significance that Bill had had as a Board member before the Museum was opened at its present location.

Bob Seychuk, National President of the AUUC, continued the proceedings by offering greetings from the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, and expressed praise for Bill's contribution to both the Museum and the organization. Bob drew particular attention to Bill's dedication and passion as Chair of the Lands Development Committee, and concluded by expressing what an honour he felt to be present at the unveiling.

Kathy Schubert, National Treasurer of the AUUC, fol-

lowed by presenting a gift of \$500.00 to the Museum in recognition of Bill's tremendous driving force behind the success of the cultural institution.

Andrew Gregorovich, President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, proceeded to speak highly of the contribution that Bill had made to the welfare and success of the Museum's present Bloor Street location, citing in particular, his dedicated service in conducting informative and insightful tours for almost 20 years.

In his introduction of the next speaker, Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Wilfred gave full credit to Bill for the idea of hiring a full-time director/curator as a means of improving the quality of the Museum.

In her tribute to Bill, Lyudmyla expressed the highest respect for him as a wise advisor and a self-taught authority on Taras Shevchenko's fascinating life and works. She also praised him for his ability to share with the public while guiding tours, a multitude of stories of the thousands of early Ukrainian pioneers who immigrated to Canada in search of a better life.

Before the next presentation, Wilfred explained the significance and history of consultants on the Lands Development Committee in dealing with the Oakville property. He made specific reference to the partnership between Bill and planning consultant Grant Morris.

On taking the microphone, Mr. Morris, in recounting the 12 to 14 years in which he had worked with Bill, referred to him as his mentor. He was inspired by what he had learned from Bill about Shevchenko, and by the impact that the bard has had on the Ukrainian community. This knowledge became his driving force and focus in this particular consulting role.

In the years of Grant's advocacy for the committee to wait for the value of the land to rise before decisions were made, it was Bill who kept



Jerry Dobrowolsky prepared a photo display with many depictions of Bill Harasym's activity with the Museum.

everyone together in support of this plan.

Grant concluded his tribute by presenting a generous gift of \$2000.00 to the Museum on behalf of the Grant Morris Foundation.

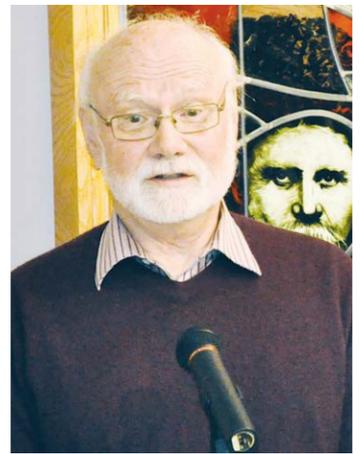
The final speaker of the ceremony was Bill's son, Terry Harasym. In his homage to his father, Terry spoke of the tireless work that his dad had done for both the Museum and the AUUC over many years. It was only because of health issues that Bill reluctantly withdrew from his active involvement with the Museum. Terry concluded his talk by praising the choice of the photo of Bill that was used on the plaque, since it was a snapshot of a very happy moment shared between Bill and his wife, Marie.

The actual unveiling was accomplished by Lyudmyla Pogoryelova and Andrew Gregorovich, who removed the covering *rushnyk* to an enthusiastic sound of applause as the image was revealed.

To quote a paragraph from the brochure dedicated to the event, the atmosphere among the socializing guests following the ceremony reflected the following respectful sentiment:

"Bill's memory will live on in the life of this Museum to which he dedicated his passion, enthusiasm, experience and knowledge. And he will always live on in our hearts."

— Bernardine Dobrowolsky



AUUC National President Bob Seychuk recalled Bill Harasym's role in the AUUC and in the leadership of the Museum.



Andrew Gregorovich, President of the Shevchenko Museum Board, remarked on Bill Harasym's dedication, and the variety of services he provided



Bill Harasym's son Terry was the final speaker for at the unveiling ceremony.



Andrii Veselovskyi, Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto.



Shevchenko Museum Curator Lyudmyla Pogoryelova spoke of the role of Bill Harasym in the life of the Museum, and his contribution to its development.



Grant Morris spoke about Bill Harasym's contribution to the work of the Lands Development Committee. Mr Morris presented a cheque in support of the project.



AUUC National Treasurer Kathy Schubert presented an AUUC cheque in support of the project.

## Plaque Unveiled

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowsky



On February 4, the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation unveiled a plaque honouring Bill Harasym. Museum President Andrew G. Pogorovich and Museum Curator Lyudmyla Pogoryelova were among the speakers at the event, and removed the *rushnyk* which covered the plaque. A report, with pictures appears on page 7.

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