



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

views from the pews

How it all began . . .

October 14, 2018

HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN'S PLUS 50 CLUB by Ed Tysowski

On February 27, 1996 a group of St. Stephen's parishioners got together to form the first Plus 50 Club. The members were Joe and Adeline Sudeyko, Peter and Sophie Stan, Ed and Lorraine Samoil, Walter and Sally Gardzilewich, Phil and Frances Moleski, Larry and Lesia Sachkiw, Verna and Wilbert Herchak, Olga Rurka, Michaeline Luzney, Cecile Chychrun, Elsie Shyba, and Donald Kohuch. They got together and played cards. From that humble beginning the club grew and became a social and fundraising Club. On January 10, 1997 the first perogy dinner was held and a profit of \$294.65 was realized. The first year six perogy dinners were held. The crowds grew bigger and the profits were better.

Organizing and putting on the dinners required a tremendous amount of time and work. In time as members became older, the organizing and the preparation was not as easy as it used to be, especially for those who coordinated the various committees. So for a few years only two dinners a year were held. When many of the coordinators decided to retire from their respective committees, and no one stepped up to take their place, that was the end of the perogy dinners.

During the time of the perogy dinners, more than \$250,000 was donated to the Parish. Could you believe that all those perogies and holubtsi could generate such huge funds? Believe it, and that was not all. The Club also made donations to the Youth Cultural Club, Echoes of Ukraine, bought fridges and freezers and helped support a family for a few years.

To counter all that work, members did have fun times and went on many excursions, such as the Devonian Gardens, Alberta Legislature and Provincial Museum, a Hutterite Colony, Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, Big Rock Brewery, Remington Carriage Museum, train trip from Stettler to Big Valley, Rose Bud Theatre, Passion Play at Drumheller, and Buffets at Stage West, which is still an annual event.

In recent years, due to the demographic change in the membership, the focus of the Club changed to that of being a social club. Although fundraising is no longer a priority, many members do help at work bees of other Parish groups.



The Clubs meets on the last Tuesday of every month, except December, July and August. Cards games begin at 11:00 am. The luncheon is at noon followed by a short meeting. Often there are speakers or videos which are of general interest to seniors. Members enjoy the friendships and share many laughs. Meetings are advertised in the Church Bulletin.

Club information

President	Ed Tysowski
Vice President	Russell Cherwak
Secretary	Trudy Nybogie
Treasurer	Ambrose Comchi
Social Committee	Ann Lozinski, Ted Josephs, Russell Cherwak
Liturgy & Get Well cards	Adeline Sudeyko
Parish Council Representative	Ambrose Comchi

This is your invitation to come and join us.



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- ❖ Please continue to share your memories as they are important to our parish family.
 - ❖ Contact me: Laurie Kindrachuk Email: publicrelations@protomartyr.ca CELL: 403-614-5581