

The Brooklands

By 1914 more than 80 Ukrainian families had settled in the Brooklands district adjacent to the CPR yards at the north western periphery of the City some 6 km west of the North End. In January 1914, forty-five local Ukrainians, almost all of them natives of the village of Hovyliv velykyi, Terebovlia county, eastern Galicia, met in the home of DA Fedyk at 1935 Elgin Avenue. They established the **Taras Shevchenko Reading Club**, and elected as their chairman Gregory Juba (Hryhorii Dziuba), an enterprising and energetic labourer whose son Stephen Juba, born a year later, would become Winnipeg's first and only Ukrainian mayor in 1956. The Reading Club executive ordered books from Lviv, took out newspaper subscriptions, and purchased chairs and tables. On Thursday evenings, club members met at Fedyk's home for public readings; occasionally 'evenings of humour' (vechir smikhu) were held instead. By the spring of 1914 a drama circle that staged plays in the local public school auditorium and in halls and theatres in the North End had also been established. It became one of the most active amateur groups in the City's Ukrainian community, staging 97 plays and concerts between 1914 and 1920. Proceeds from performances were channelled into the Reading Club or donated to charitable institutions in the old country to aid flood and famine victims.

When members of the Reading Club expressed a desire to establish a Ukrainian Catholic parish, Father Zakharii Orun, temporary pastor of Ss Vladimir and Olga church, advised them to organize a Ukrainian Heritage School (*ridna shkola*) for their children instead and persuaded the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate to provide instruction until a permanent teacher could be found. Within months, Antin Malyniuk, a graduate of the Ruthenian Training School, who had returned to Winnipeg to complete the high school matriculation course, volunteered to teach free

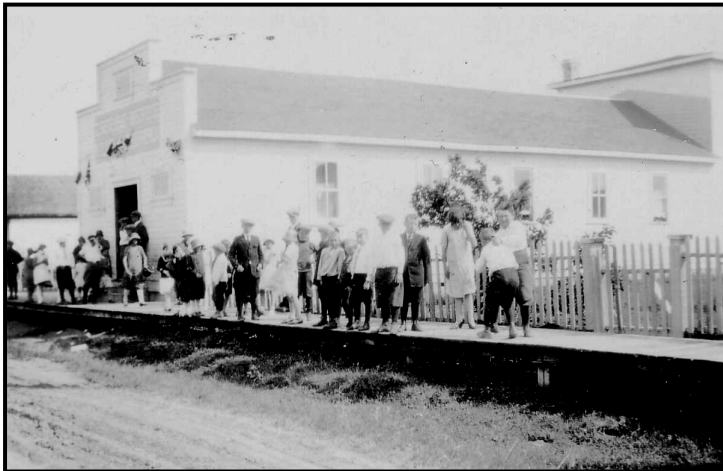


The Brooklands Ukrainian Heritage School 1920 (UCEC)

of charge. During the school's first year, 35 pupils, aged 6 to 13, attended classes at 1926 Bannatyne Avenue on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings and on Saturday afternoons.

Divided into three grades, the children were taught the Ukrainian language and singing; some history was taught in the highest grade. Parents were very pleased because their children learned to read and write Ukrainian. In the Public School, on the other hand, they spent the lower grades cutting out paper horses and many could not read or write English after several years of schooling because they did not understand the teachers. When Malyniuk left and it became necessary to pay teachers for their work, those members of the Reading Club who opposed the expenditure of money on the Heritage School, left the organization, and established a rival **Taras H. Shevchenko Association** that survived for more than a decade at 1888 Pacific Avenue. Fortunately, the disagreement and the split within the Reading Club did not have a negative impact on the school. By 1917-18, more than 60 children were attending classes, which were now held at 1922 Ross Avenue. Instruction was provided in Ukrainian language, history, and the Ukrainian Catholic rite. At least two school concerts were staged annually, picnics and outings were common, and public examinations and elaborate closing ceremonies were held at the end of the school year.

In 1916, as membership and school enrolment increased, the Reading Club purchased a building of its own at 1960 William Avenue. By 1921-2, when new programs including a music school, a children's mandolin orchestra, and a girls' guitar orchestra organized by Gregory Juba and taught by Yustyn Hnydyshyn, were added to the Reading Club's regular activities, it became apparent that a new building would have to be erected. Accordingly, the old building was demolished and



The Brooklands Taras Shevchenko Institute (UCEC)

a new \$5,000 building had been constructed on the same lot by 1923. To mark the transition, the Reading Club changed its name to the **Taras Shevchenko Institute in Brooklands, Manitoba**. Also in 1923, Stephen Krawchuk, a 21 year-old schoolteacher and an Institute member, was elected to the Brooklands town council; he would also serve as Mayor of the Brooklands and as an MLA from Winnipeg before his sudden and

unexpected death in 1943. Finally, in 1925, again on

Gregory Juba's initiative, the **Ivan Franko Mutual Aid Society** was established; by 1927 it had 135 members and an office in the Institute at 1960 William Avenue.

There were no Ukrainian churches in the Brooklands prior to 1930 when the **Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic parish** was organized on the initiative of Fathers Myron Krywucky (Kryvutsky) and John Holowka; a small church was erected for \$4,000 at 40 Ada Street and Logan Avenue in 1932.

--- Orest T. Martynowych

Books and articles

Anna Maria Kowcz-Baran, *Ukrainian Catholic Churches of Winnipeg Archeparchy* (Saskatoon, 1991).

M. Dziuba [Juba], "Chytalnia Prosvity im. Tarasa Shevchenka v Bruklendi, Man.," **Preriia** (Winnipeg, 1928).

Orest T. Martynowych, *Ukrainians in Canada: The Formative Years, 1891-1924* (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, University of Alberta, 1991).

Website

Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church Brooklands
<http://hgucbrooklands.weebly.com/church-history.html>