

**FOLK
CAMP**
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**CONNECTING WITH TRADITION -
DISCOVERING OUR COMMON ROOTS**



FOLK CAMP

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR	1
LETTER FROM OUR PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR	3
FOLK SCHOOL	4
KOLIADA	5
MELANKA	6
MEMBERSHIP	7
PYSANKY	8
SUMMER CAMP	10
OTHER EVENTS	11
UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA	12
FINANCIAL REPORT	15
BOARD MEMBERS	16

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

A heartfelt hello to all of our community members, sponsors, and supporters of Folk Camp Canada as we close out our 2019-2020 financial year. The global health crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic drastically altered FCC's course from the Spring of 2020 to the present, and continues to limit our ability to provide programming through 2021. FCC's financial year end was September 2020, and normally we would have issued this report and held the AGM in November 2020, but due to the extenuating circumstances of the pandemic, the board was on a much needed hiatus for much of 2020, to be present for personal and family responsibilities.

To recap this past year, we had a regrettably low in-person member turnout at the 2019 AGM, but were excited for it to be the first live broadcast AGM as well, and we saw members join in virtually from across the country. We are hopeful that all of our members will be able to connect with us for our upcoming AGM, which will be completely virtual, due to the ongoing pandemic.

The Board spent the first quarter of the 2019-2020 term focusing on how to grow FCC into a sustainable organization that excels at delivering its mission. We quickly identified that a significant amount of work needed to be done creating and defining organizational structure, roles, and financial planning.

The Board met for a weekend long retreat in February of 2020 and began these deep discussions of identifying practical steps to build an organization which could sustainably deliver its core mission, and with the capacity to continue to grow and evolve. Board members explored together ideas about how to share folk traditions in inclusive and culturally respectful ways, how to ensure diversity and representation within the organization, and ways to put our guiding principles of inclusion into concrete action.

The priority tasks which the board identified at this time were: detailing the Organization's Structure, identifying Roles throughout all levels of the organization, and building a Business Plan to achieve a specific Programming Proposition.

One of the biggest challenges the Board identified at this time was a shortage of individuals within the organization to take on the vast scope of work that needed to be done, as well as the lack of a clear shared vision of the future FCC. The Board has lost members this term, and welcomes input from the membership at large as well as applicants to join the Board for the next term. All Board work is volunteer, and I would also like to take this time to thank each of the Board members for their service to the organization. Please reach out to us to discuss if you have a passion for FCC and feel you have the expertise and time to contribute to the organization at the Board level.

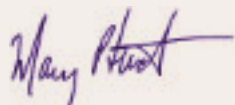
In spite of all of the challenges of 2020, FCC saw an incredible surge in support through Membership. Members responded generously to the new tiered membership program options, resulting in a record high number of members as well as record high financial support from membership for this term. The membership drive was short lived, as it soon became clear that we would not be able to offer programming for 2020 due to the pandemic, however member support graciously continued throughout the year, with individuals continuing to support the organization through purchasing memberships of various levels.

As we now know that 2021 will also be a year where we cannot offer programming due to the pandemic, we would like to thank all of our 2020 member supporters with the extension of their membership throughout the next year. If you purchased a 2020 membership it will now be valid until December 31, 2021. If you have not already purchased a membership but wish to be a part of the future of FCC please do so, and we will happily invite you to attend the AGM. For those who are able to offer FCC financial support this year we thank you in advance for your continued support through donations and membership.

On a positive note, throughout the last year, though we were unable to gather together in person in festivities, craft, song, and community, the spirit of the FCC community shone through and indeed helped many of us get through some very trying times. All across Canada and beyond, FCC members baked, gardened, sang, crafted and created. Folk traditions and practices learned at previous gatherings enabled us to continue connecting with each other and our ancestors, with the land, and with the communities around us, in the places we found ourselves sheltering in place.

May the beauty and wisdom of folk practices continue to enrich our lives and may we continue to find ways to build this wonderful nourishing community and organization.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ptucha". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mary Ptucha
CHAIR
FOLK CAMP CANADA

LETTER FROM OUR PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

Well, friends, 2020 was quite a year! We started the year by planning workshops, coordinating performances, throwing crowded new year's parties and dreaming of growth and expansion, then suddenly, like the rest of the world, had to pause all our programming and regroup to face an unknown future. When the seriousness of the Covid19 virus became evident, and subsequent lockdowns began in March, it coincided with the start of our annual "pysanka tour," our widest reaching annual programming campaign. As has been the case for all of us, adapting to the shock and drastic changes of the situation has brought many challenges. Furthermore, it came at a time when we already faced a lot of uncertainty as an organization as to our vision forward and our capacity to continue growing. Needless to say, the challenges this year for Folk Camp have been significant.

In the spring, our board of directors met monthly to assess the situation and discuss our response. We communicated with our members and followers through social media, and sent out a survey to gauge the needs and interests of the community, given the impossibility of in-person gathering. Ultimately, weighing this input together with the need to care for our own family and community challenges, we decided not to pursue offering on-line programming. We have all had many personal challenges this year, and have wrestled with the possibility of trying to keep up with programming and how that lines up with the core values and mission of FCC. Since the summer, we have officially been on a programming hiatus, and plan to convene again in the late spring to assess our organization's future.

Regards,



Bozena Hrycyna,

PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

FOLK CAMP CANADA

*We must eradicate from the soul
All fear and terror of what comes toward us out of the future.
We must acquire serenity
In all feelings and sensations about the future.
We must look forward with absolute equanimity
To everything that may come.
And we must think that whatever comes
Is given to us by a world directive full of wisdom.
It is part of what we must learn in this Age;
Namely, to live out of pure trust.
Trust in the ever present help
Of the spiritual world.
Truly nothing else will do
If our courage is not to fail us.
Let us develop our will.
And let us seek the awakening within ourselves
Every morning and every evening. – Rudolf Steiner*

FOLK SCHOOL



FALL POLKA! with Korinya band
at St. Vladimir Institute Traditional
Ukrainian Dance Workshop & Social



PAJAKI Polish Chandeliers
with Paula Hartman



DIDUKHY Sacred Ancestor Sheaf
with Oksana Hawrylak



VESNIANKY Spring Songs
Community Singing - coordinated
by Mary Ptucha led by Iryna Lozynska



PETRYKIVKA Ukrainian Folk
Painting with Oksana Pikush

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID

- Spring Songs
with Marichka Marczyk
- "Travlenky" Etched Eggs
with Cassandra Wysochanska
- Pysanka Tour 2020
across Ontario and Montreal

UKRAINIAN FOLK PSALMS
with Iryna Voloshyna Toronto & Ottawa

KOLIADKY Ukrainian Carols
with Marichka Marczyk

KOLIADA

We had a wonderful koliada season that started with regular rehearsals of our open community choir “Kosa Koliadnyky” (Kosa Carolers) led by community member Tamar Ilana, a professional singer who has sung with our carolers for many years. Tamar and Bozena coordinated rehearsals and performances throughout December and January. The group performed at museums, folk clubs, holiday gatherings, and house to house on Ukrainian Christmas Eve & Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar (Jan 6/7, 2020). The group raised over \$9,000 for Folk Camp! Our best year yet!

Our group of Kosa Koliadnyky included 17 singers and 3 goats!



Organizing Team: Tamar Ilana: musical director. Bozena Hrycyna: director/coordinator.

Special thanks to our singers: Alina Kuzma, Andrea Kuzmich, her son Luca, Iryna Lozynska, Nadia Kowalyk, Tetiana, Carlos Garate, Bozena Hrycyna, Marta Iwanek, Mario Morello, Judith Cohen, Tamar Ilana, Rok, Stephen O'Brien, Matti Palonen, Stacey Yerofeyeva, Oriane Edwards

The crew participated in paid gigs at the Aga Khan, Scarborough Museum, David Pecault Square, and Another Bloody Folk Club, and FCC earned 10% of the total intake for organizing.

The group went fundraising for Folk Camp on Jan 6 and 7 and to St. Vladimir Institute on Jan 17 (for their Malanka). They also sang at The Windle House Epiphany dinner.



FOLK *Melanka*

Our annual old calendar New Years bash did not take place as planned. The cost of holding the event had increased markedly from previous years, undermining our fundraising potential for the event. In addition, unusually low ticket sales were a concern. Bearing these factors in mind, after much deliberation we decided to cancel the event, as it was uncertain whether it would break even, let alone raise funds.

Many of those involved in the volunteer event crew couldn't imagine not gathering as a community for this much beloved annual tradition, and so we explored alternatives. Folk Camp community members came forward to offer use of their home to host a more informal event. In true Folk Camp spirit, many people came together to learn to make traditional Ukrainian holiday dishes the evening before, and the event itself was an extraordinary "generous evening" (Schedriy vechir) with donations of delicious food, lively folk music, and performances by community carolers and mummers. Many more people attended than anticipated. Admission was by freewill donation, and many gave generously and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the work put in to keep the Melanka customs alive. \$1,245 was collected at the end of the night for FCC.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all of the generous individuals who joined FCC as members in 2020! With the newly conceived tiered membership options, FCC expanded our membership to 34 members, and generated a record high of financial support from membership, raising over \$1,700.

A special thanks to our Firekeeper Members, who have truly kept the FCC hearth fire burning this year: Angela Lytle, Carlos Garate, Marichka Galadza, Rok Capuder, Jen Fedun, Mary Ptucha, Chrystyna Kells, Michael Perozak, Jonathan Longcore, Julie Gil, and Sophia Podrozny.

Our sincere gratitude as well for community members who generously supported FCC through donations this year!

In appreciation and acknowledgement of members' support during the ongoing pandemic, all 2020 memberships will be extended to December 31, 2021. That said, FCC humbly welcomes 2021 donations from anyone who is able to provide financial support again this year to support the sustainability of our vision in these challenging times.



PYSANKY



Pysanky workshops, which began as part of Kosa Kolektiv's activities, have become a staple in Folk Camp's spring offerings and have become our biggest marketing and outreach campaign, as well as a significant fundraiser. FCC workshop leaders across southern Ontario delight in sharing this ancient Ukrainian tradition with many new people and there is always a lot of interest in the craft itself, and subsequently in what Folk Camp offers. Participants often become exposed to the work of Folk Camp for the first time, and we have gained new members and new campers this way. In addition, all proceeds from supplies sold during the tour go directly to FCC. This year, we also received a \$500 sponsorship from the Ukrainian Credit Union.

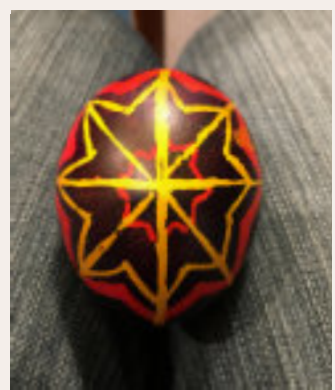
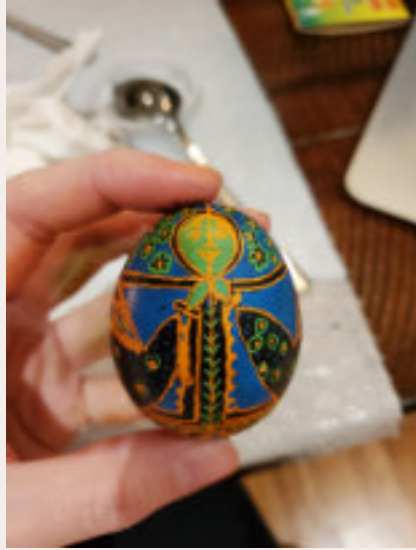
We had just planned our widest reaching "Pysanka Tour" to date, when the first Ontario lockdown began. All in person workshops were cancelled.

More than ever we felt we needed to continue sharing this craft, so we hosted online workshops for the first time, and began to sell supplies online through the Folk Shop.

We organized 4 online workshops with Needlework (Hamilton) and Watson & Lou (Peterbororough) and sold more than \$2,200 worth of supplies through Folk Shop.

See photos of pysanky made by our lovely participants on page 9.







SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp had been set to take place Aug 23-30, 2020. A full program of new enriching workshops had been planned, marketing materials prepared, and the website updated to prepare for registration opening in March. Bozena Hrycyna, programming director, was especially excited by new offerings, including a more extensive children's program with Steve Leckman of the Coyote Programs outdoor school in Montreal, and an archaic ceramics class with husband and wife team from Kurl & Kul Arts. In addition, we were all looking forward to welcoming back many new parents with tots in our community.

Nobody could have anticipated this pandemic would be so far reaching and last so long... We were hopeful at first, but eventually had no option but to cancel Summer Camp, and all fall programming.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

KOSA/FCC STUDIO

It was the end of an era this summer, as Kosa Kolektiv lost its studio space of 8 years, which served as a homebase for the community that gave birth to Folk Camp.

St. Nicholas Church had graciously provided the community a space in their former school building for an office, storage, meetings and workshops for the past 8 years and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the Church for supporting us with all our endeavours.



CO-PRESENTING GEORGIAN MUSIC WITH URGNT

URGNT (urgent.ca) is a Toronto-based online venue created by Lemon Bucket Orkestra's Mark and Marichka Marczyk during the 2020 pandemic to offer live musical streaming of musical concerts. As part of URGNT's global music effort, FCC co-presented the Georgian Music Night "Ori Shalva" on May 8, 2020. Ori Shalva (otherwise known as the Makharashvili family) is led by FCC member and camp workshop leader Andrea Kuzmich whose focus is to keep the tradition of Georgian polyphonic singing alive.



WATCH VIDEO AT WWW.URGNT.CA

UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA:

Folk Camp had quite had a busy fall and winter with workshops and many events. After events went on hiatus during lockdown, we created a community survey to gain insight into the needs and desires of the community. While we ultimately decided to cancel further events and take a hiatus from all activities due to the situation, we gleaned interesting insights and input from the survey that will help inform future actions. The community survey was sent out to Folk Camp community members via newsletter in May 2020, as well as published on social media. The survey received 74 unique responses to the following 9 questions:

-
1. What are you looking for? What can FC offer you right now?
 2. What forms of communication/social media do you use?
 3. Are you interested in participating in virtual workshops?
 4. For virtual sessions, check all that apply (list of ideas)
 5. Would you consider donating funds to subsidize the costs of workshops?
 6. Given that we are not able to attend Folk Camp in August, would you be interested in virtual programming on those days?
 7. Would you be willing to pay to participate in a Virtual Summer Camp?
 8. If it becomes a possibility to gather later in the year, would you be interested?
 9. Do you have any specific thoughts or ideas to share with us at this time?

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

Over half the members that responded were interested in interactive workshops, demonstrations, inspiration, lectures, webinars, activity ideas and local and international artist spotlights.

POLLED WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TOWARDS WORKSHOPS

60%

Below are percentages of people interested in workshop topics:

KNOWLEDGE SHARING FROM FOLK CULTURES

78%

EMBROIDERY

63%

GARDENING / FORAGING
(ADD: FERMENTATION)

54%

COOKING / PRESERVING

51%

INSIDE THE STUDIO MAKERS
(SPOTLIGHTS ON ARTISANS)

51%

PAINTING /DRAWING

45%

SINGING

44%

STORYTELLING

36%

WEAVING

36%

Other ideas suggested: mythology,
tune exchanges, breadmaking...

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

The survey also gave us the opportunity to hear generally from our members.

Here are some selected comments received in the survey:

Continue on this path - it will be very successful no doubt! I would like to be able to help at some point in the future as a volunteer for your board. I just need to get through the adjustments of the covid transitions on business and then I hope to have more time.

- Julie Ann Gil

You're amazing, thank you for everything you all do!!! - Oriane Edwards

I only recently learned about Folk Camp so I am still new, would love introductory topics to be covered as well. Thank you! Very grateful for the content you provide. - Robin Fiera

You guys are wonderful! Keep up the great work! Sending lots of love from Ohio! - Ala Holowatyj

Just to thank you, guys, your work is truly appreciated, important and ♥ loved by all my family! - Anna Margulis

I appreciate all you do to preserve culture! An idea from a week June conference that got cancelled, they are running 2h every Wednesday for a month. People find zooming for a week every day too much - if you are home, home life interferes. I'd also be happy (free of charge to the Folk Camp) to run a Korovai baking and decoration making course (could tie in Paska and Kolach at the same time) (that could be 2 sessions- one for the bread, one for the decorations) or a pysanky course, or Ukrainian dancing course for you, in evenings. Daytime may work if I know well in advance. Stay well! - Cathy Paroschy Harris

FINANCIAL REPORT

(UNAUDITED)

OCT. 1, 2019 TO SEP. 30, 2020

REVENUE	\$22,801.30
GRANT/SPONSORSHIP	\$1,000
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	\$12,030.80
MEMBERSHIP	\$1,501.25
FOLK SCHOOL	\$5,116.13
FOLK SHOP	\$2,344.46
FOLK CAMP	\$567.73
EVENTS/OTHER	\$240.93

EXPENSES	\$23,349.91
HONOURARIUM	\$6,134
WAGES	\$8,830
ONLINE SALES FEES	\$266.35
FOOD/BEVERAGE	\$5,555.45
VENUE RENTAL	\$125
WORKSHOP MATERIALS	\$672.54
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	\$77.97
MERCHANDISE	\$124.93
TRANSPORT/TRAVEL	\$200
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$847.50
ONLINE PRESENCE	\$516.17

2020 BOARD MEMBERS

MARY PTUCHA - Chair

MARICHKA GALADZA - Vice Chair

ANGELA LYTLE - Secretary

ADA DAHLI - Treasurer

BOZENA HRYCYNA - Programming Director

STEPHANIE TURENKO - Marketing / Communications Director

KSENIA KHAN - Resigned

STAFF: OKSANA HAWRYLAK

2021 BOARD MEMBERS:

MARY PTUCHA

BOZENA HRYCYNA

STEPHANIE TURENKO

OKSANA HAWRYLAK

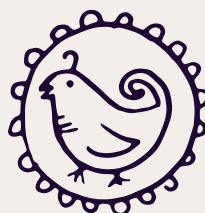
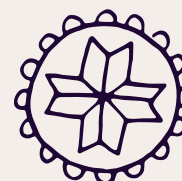
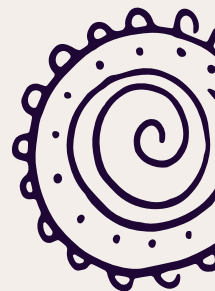
CONNECT:

WEBSITE: FOLKCAMP.CA

FACEBOOK: [@FOLKCAMP](https://www.facebook.com/FOLKCAMP)

INSTAGRAM: [@FOLKCAMP](https://www.instagram.com/FOLKCAMP)

EMAIL: INFO@FOLKCAMP.CA



IN MEMORY OF SOPHIA PODROZNY

It is with great sadness that we share the news that a beloved folk camp community member passed away this past year. Sophia Podrozny was a Folk Camp volunteer, and an active member of our community since 2016.

Many of you may remember her beautiful laugh, gentle spirit, calm and capable work ethic and love of learning, sharing, song and dance.

Before Sophia passed, she shared some words with us.

I want to take a moment to thank you for creating such a soul-satisfying place. I miss the folk camp community so much.... I wish you all the strength, support and resources you need to keep the dream of folk camp vital and growing. It is a very important place/ time that we all need to be whole humans. Thank you so much for your vision. Wherever there are people joyfully singing and dancing, my spirit will be there.

Sophia we love you, and we carry you in our hearts as we continue to realize the vision you so beautifully saw, understood and carried with you in all you did.

