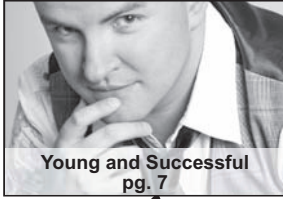


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# NOVÝ DOMOV



THE NEW HOMELAND

Pravda vítězí!



CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER [www.novydomov.com](http://www.novydomov.com)

## IT'S ALL ABOUT VISION...

by Ernie Zucker

It's all about vision when a country decides to spent \$64 billion of borrowed money to offset the undisciplined lending, which has destroyed the confidence of consumers and businesses around the world.

Referencing the 1929 depression when "anyone who had a nickel wouldn't spend it" our federal government has taken an opposing view by introducing this 64 billion spending initiative, embarking on a long-term program to provide employment in the sectors of automotive, building infrastructure, new and renovated housing, training, the environment, security, transport and alternative energy, and provide income tax relief and improved unemployment benefits.

These stimulus measures obviously present a positive vision, ensuring economic activity continues in the short term, with long-term benefits.

It also takes vision to take a long-term view of survival prospects for the Masaryk Memorial Institute (MMI) taking into account the demographic

future of this country. Barring a major upheaval, new arrivals of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada will not be sufficient in numbers to ensure that first generation immigrants will be able to support continued operations of MMI.

It also takes vision that now is the time to take steps to try and integrate some second- and third generations of our compatriots into activities that will make MMI more interesting to them. Here we come to what I call visions of the golden past. Recently, the Slovak community set up a small Slovak museum, why couldn't we? The Centennial College plans to establish a cultural centre at the historic Guild Inn site overlooking the Scarborough bluffs. The site is within a five-minute drive of MMI headquarters and we should have some input. A prominent group of citizens is promoting the creation of a 16,000-hectare Rouge Valley National Park, stretching from Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine in the immediate neighbourhood of our property. We could join with the "Friends of the Rouge"

to protect our local ecosystem and provide new opportunities for education about the environment, recreation and exposure to our culture. Toyota headquarters are nearby. The company supports the "Friends of the Rouge" when, every June, its staff and their families have a picnic in the park, and help to plant trees and wildflowers. Toyota also supports local groups and projects, and we might tap this resource.

So here you "young guys" is my vision for ensuring the long-range future of MMI. We should set up the Young Peoples Club of MMI (MMIYPC) with sports and cultural activities as its aim. Building tennis courts and a volleyball court could be on the agenda. Also winter sports and golf. Our Prague restaurant is a good venue for discotheques but meetings could be held downtown (at the Prague Deli, Bata Shoe Museum). Now it's up to you.



## Prague Airport suspends SkyEurope flights

Prague Airport will suspend flights of the Slovak low-cost airline SkyEurope as of Tuesday over unpaid bills, airport operator Letiste Praha spokeswoman Eva Krejci told CTK Monday (August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009).

The same measure was taken by Vienna Airport in mid-August. Reuters reports that the airline has filed for bankruptcy. "If the cash is delivered on Tuesday, our company is ready to resume its services immediately," Krejci said.

Later on Monday afternoon SkyEurope planes stopped taking off from Prague airport. According to information available to CTK, the company has problems with receiving fuel from suppliers.

The management of SkyEurope will most likely decide on its operation on Tuesday, the company Student Agency said.

According to information

from Bratislava's M.R. Stefanik airport website, SkyEurope also cancelled all of today's flights from Bratislava.

M.R. Stefanik airport said earlier on Monday it had no problems with payments from SkyEurope and was ready to provide its services to it. SkyEurope has not made a profit since it started operations in 2002. The firm has been struggling with debt and is currently under court protection from creditors. The court has appointed an administrator and given the green light to restructuring. A few weeks ago, the firm said it had found an investor but its investment is conditional on the restructuring process being completed successfully. SkyEurope shares are traded on the Vienna and Warsaw stock exchanges. Last year, SkyEurope was the second largest air carrier at Prague Airport.

Source: CTK, 1 September 2009

## Black Ribbon Day

Proposal for a Canadian Parliamentary Resolution to establish an annual day of remembrance on August 23rd, called Black Ribbon Day, to memorialize the victims of totalitarian Communist and Nazi regimes.

We, the undersigned, as individual members and representatives of nearly 3.4 million Canadians of Eastern and Central European heritage, ask the Parliament and Senate of Canada to adopt a resolution to memorialize annually, on August 23rd, the victims of totalitarian Communism and Nazism and to condemn crimes against humanity committed by those regimes.

On August 23rd, 1939, Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany formally signed a surreptitious agreement, commonly known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact,

to eliminate the sovereignty of European nations caught between these two regimes. Consequently the Pact targeted the people of those nations and the various ethnic minorities within them, with systematic repression and annihilation.

Canadians' efforts and sacrifices in the last century and Canada's historical commitment to ensuring global human rights, freedom and liberty, permitted millions of post World War Two refugees to settle peacefully in Canada: allowing and encouraging them to become active partners in the process of building this great nation.

By actively supporting these sacred principles it helped advocate for The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and United Nations General Assembly Resolution 260 (III) A of 9 December

1948 on Genocide, Canada has demonstrated leadership in ensuring the global observance of human rights. By adopting a resolution to memorialize the millions of victims of totalitarian Communism and Nazism, Canada will again demonstrate leadership in supporting human rights so that such violations are not repeated.

The first Black Ribbon Day, an initiative of Canadian citizens and communities to commemorate and remember the victims of these regimes, was observed on August 23, 1986 on three continents. It has since been declared as a day of remembrance by many nations and has been adopted by legislators in the European Parliament and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

By adopting a resolution to annually observe Black Ribbon Day, Canada will recognize the hardships and sacrifices

## "10-day" Velvet Revolution

Historian Timothy Garton Ash said that in Poland the change from communism to capitalism took 10 years, in Hungary 10 months and in Czechoslovakia 10 days. November is the 20th anniversary of that "10-day" Velvet Revolution (Sametová revoluce) and opening Sept. 4 is "1989 Through the Eyes of Photographers," an exhibition organized by Czech Press Photo. It marks the anniversary

by bringing together the most memorable images from that period.

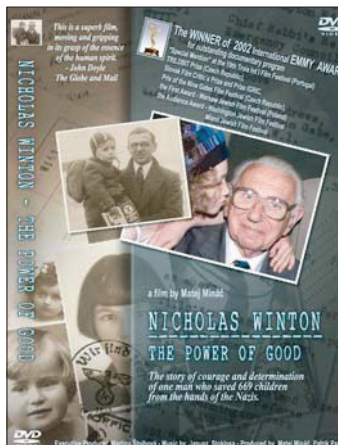
The exhibition contains 300 photographs by 20 prominent Czech photographers. The images document the revolution starting with the brutal suppression of a student demonstration Nov. 17, 1989, to the mass protests that incident sparked, and on to the resignation of the entire communist leadership just seven days later on Nov. 24.

Source: [www.praguepost.com](http://www.praguepost.com)

# Train in honour of Nicholas Winton

by Rosie Johnston

Sir Nicholas Winton has been referred to as the 'British Schindler'. In 1939, as Europe was descending into war, he organised safe passage for hundreds of Jewish children out of Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. All in all, Winton saved the lives of 669 children, finding them homes in the United Kingdom. On Tuesday, some of those he saved returned to Prague to take part in a train journey across Europe in his honour. I traveled with them on the first leg of the Winton Train's journey.



The sound of a steam engine and the cloying smell of engine oil made a one-off return to Prague's Main Station on Tuesday morning. On the departures board; a special train bound for London, England, carrying some of the 669 children saved from the Holocaust by the foresight and compassion of one British man, Sir Nicholas Winton. In 1939, Winton organised a number of 'kindertransports', ushering Czech and German Jewish children to safety in Britain before the outbreak of war.

One of the people that Nicholas Winton transported to safety was Hana Franklová. Inside the carriage which will be her home for the next four days, she remembers the original journey from Prague to London:

*"There were wooden benches when we first went on this train. It lasted two days only because we didn't stop in Germany, anywhere. It wasn't easy to go through Germany, because I remember that at one of the stations there were the Hitler Jugend with their drums, shouting at us, and we had to shut the windows."*

Eve Leadbeater is sharing a carriage with Hana Franklová, she was transported to London in July 1939:

*"I have only very, very vague memories, because I was only eight. And when I arrived in England I didn't see anybody else from Czechoslovakia for 50 years really, until we had the reunion of the kinder transports. So I had nobody to remind me of what happened. Plus, something like that you push to the back of your mind to get on with your life. So, to be honest, the memory of waving goodbye to my parents, I'm not sure if it is mine or if I got it from other people."*

Why did you decide to come on this recreation of the Winton kindertransports?

*"I actually hesitated, because I knew it would be painful in parts. But I just thought it would be a kind of neat end, and a kind of act of gratitude to my parents and to Nicholas Winton."*

You said that you had pushed some of these memories to the back of your mind. Does that mean that this morning coming back to Prague Main Station and boarding this train was particularly emotional?

*"It was pretty emotional, I think, yes. Because I was just thinking about my parents' sacrifice and my brother who didn't make it. He was due to come on September 1 and didn't make it."*

Waiting in London will be Nicholas Winton himself. What do you think of him and everything he has done?

*"I think he is an example to us all, and a wonderful man, and I just want to say thank you."*

The Winton Train leaves Prague 70 years after the Nazi invasion of Poland and the outbreak of WWII. The war brought an abrupt end to Winton's humanitarian efforts – the last and biggest transport of children from Prague to London on September 3, 1939, never left. It is thought that none of the 251 children who were set to be on board survived.

From March to September 1939 he managed to organize a total of eight trains going from Prague through Hitler's Germany, which took 669 children to Great Britain. The largest transport planned by Winton for 3 September 1939 did not take place. On 1 September 1939 World War II broke out.

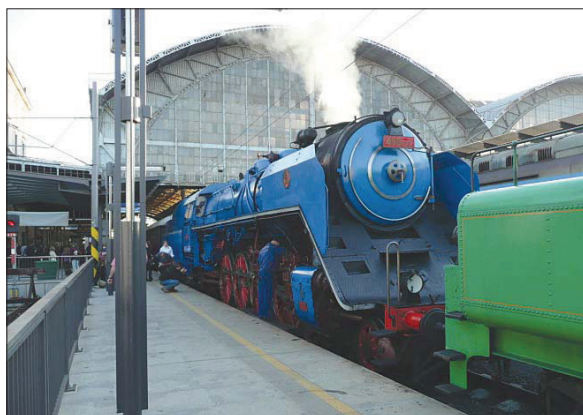
In early November 1938, under the first Vienna Award, which was a result of the Munich agreement, Czechoslovakia (and later Slovakia) — after it had failed to reach a compromise with Hungary and Poland — was forced by Germany and Italy to cede southern Slovakia (one third of Slovak territory) to Hungary, and Poland obtained small territorial cessions shortly after.

As a result, Bohemia and Moravia lost about 38 % of their combined area to Germany, with some 3.2 million German and 750,000 Czech inhabitants. Hungary, in turn, received 11,882 square kilometers in southern Slovakia and southern Ruthenia; according to a 1941 census, about 86.5 % of the population in this territory was Hungarian. Poland acquired the town of Český Těšín surrounding area (some 906 km<sup>2</sup>, some 250,000 inhabitants, mostly Poles) and two minor border areas in northern Slovakia, more precisely in the regions Spiš and Orava. (226 km<sup>2</sup>, 4,280 inhabitants, only 0.3% Poles). Soon after Munich, 115,000 Czechs and 30,000 Germans fled to the remaining rump of Czechoslovakia. According to the Institute for Refugee Assistance, the actual count of refugees on March 1, 1939 stood at almost 150,000.

The term Western betrayal (Czech: *zrada Západu*) was coined after the Munich conference (1938) when Czechoslovakia was forced to cede part of its area (Sudetenland) to Germany. Czech politicians

joined the newspapers in regularly using the term and it, along with the associated feelings, became a stereotype among Czech. The Czech terms *Mnichov* (Munich), *Mnichovská zrada* (Munich betrayal), *Mnichovský diktát* (Munich Dictate) and *zrada spojenců* (betrayal of the allies) were coined at the same time and have the same meaning. Winston Churchill himself said: "Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war".

Source: <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/119813> and Wikipedia, Photo CTK



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Tom's Recipes

## DEVILISH CHICKEN & CORN ON THE COB

### Ingredients:

3 1/2	Pound	whole chicken, cut up
6	Tablespoon	butter, melted
2	Tablespoon	cider vinegar
1	Teaspoon	fresh thyme, chopped
1/2	Teaspoon	sea salt
1/4	Teaspoon	thai pepper, minced
4	Ears	corn on the cob, husked
1/4	Cup	dry breadcrumbs

### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
- In medium bowl, stir together melted butter, mustard, vinegar, thyme, salt and pepper.
- Brush corn and chicken thoroughly with butter mixture.
- Arrange chicken in one layer in a baking dish.
- Sprinkle chicken with breadcrumbs.
- Set corn in another baking dish; cover with aluminum foil.
- Bake chicken and corn for one hour; serve hot



Serves: 4

## GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD WITH SEASONAL FRUIT

### Ingredients:

1	Pound	skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
1/2	Cup	pecans
1/3	Cup	red wine vinegar
1/2	Cup	white sugar
1	Cup	vegetable oil
1/2		onion, minced
1	Teaspoon	ground mustard
1	Teaspoon	salt
1/4	Teaspoon	ground white pepper
2	Heads	Bibb lettuce - rinsed, dried and torn
1	Cup	sliced fresh strawberries

### Instructions:

Preheat the grill for high heat. Lightly oil the grill grate. Grill chicken 8 minutes on each side, or until juices run clear. Remove from heat, cool, and slice. Meanwhile, place pecans in a dry skillet over medium-high heat. Cook pecans until fragrant, stirring frequently, about 8 minutes. Remove from heat, and set aside.

In a blender, combine the red wine vinegar, sugar, vegetable oil, onion, mustard, salt, and pepper. Process until smooth.

Per Serving: 6

Arrange lettuce on serving plates. Top with grilled chicken slices, strawberries, and pecans. Drizzle with the dressing to serve. 26 calories; 47 g protein; 23.5 g carbohydrate; 38 g fat; 17 g saturated fat



## Why Cut Up Your Own Chicken?

- Whole chickens cost much less per pound.
- Precut meat is often poorly trimmed and you get less meat per pound.

The picture on the left shows a whole chicken cut in 10 pieces. a. Legs, b. thighs, c. wings, d. part of back portion. e. tail end of back portion. f. breasts, and c. wings.





We are beginning a new series about young people who become successful thanks to their hard work and abilities. You may be interested to know how they reached their position and what they had to do in order to succeed.

If you know some talented and accomplished people among your friends, we would like you to get us in touch with them so we can share their stories with our readers. Today you'll read about a musician from Edmonton, who was born in Prague and currently lives in Vancouver.

[www.martinmayer.com](http://www.martinmayer.com) :

**"He sold out his first show, had his debut CD nominated for an industry award, and toured one of the largest countries in the world... that and he was only twenty-two. Such is the career thus far for Canadian pianist & composer Martin Mayer. This ambitious young artist has spent the past five years taking the industry by storm, and moving up on the international stage. But make no mistake about it, Mayer is no stranger to the business.**

The release of Mayer's new disc "this is who I am" garnered heavy airplay by radio stations in major European countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Russia and went so far as Australia. The young composer's fresh blend of contemporary instrumental with smooth jazz, pop, rock and world flavours flavours caught the attention of online radio station Smoothjazz.com, who hired Mayer as composer and producer for their jingles and musical transitions.

"This is who I am" landed Mayer his second nomination at the Western Canadian Music Alliance Awards for yet another "Outstanding Instrumental Music" album, and came in second place at the 3rd annual Independent Music Awards in New York.

Expanding his music into a deeper realm of writing, the young composer took 2006 and 2007 to focus on writing new music. For a feature vocal piece, he teamed up with one of Italy's most original prominent soul singers, Ronnie Jones, to pen the lyrics for the power ballad "Nuvole." The song will be released on Mayer's new album to be released in 2009 by his record company 90Ten Music.

Born in 1980, the son of a famous singer and a prominent journalist

Hobbies: swimming, camping, skiing, boating, traveling,

Education: Grade 9 Piano along with Grade 3 History and Harmony from the Royal Conservatory of Music - Toronto; Piano Performance Degree and Composition & Arranging Degree from Grant MacEwan Centre for the Arts - Edmonton

Profession: Pianist, Composer and Producer

**Martin, how do you feel**

**about music?**

Music has always been a great passion in my life. It allows me express emotions and stories with my audiences in such a way that builds bridges between our cultures, as music has no political boundaries or language barriers to overcome. It's a universal language that speaks deep from the heart and that's the kind of music that audiences respond to best.

**When did you decide to become a professional musician?**

After the first national commercial I scored for the CBC in 1996, I knew this was something I wanted to do professionally. It was the taste of that kind of success at an early age that propelled me forward and made me crave more success in my career moving forward.

**How long have you been doing music?**

I started studying piano when I was 11, and playing/composing professionally when I was 16. So for about 18 years now, if we're counting my studies, 13 if we're only counting composing.

**Which instrument did you start to play - piano, violin...?**

I studied classical piano through the Royal Conservatory of Music when my parents bought me my first piano when I was 11. I then studied jazz and popular piano, composition, and recording at Grant MacEwan Centre of the Arts in Edmonton.

**Do you think that you are successful thanks to the talent you inherited or because of your hard work and dedication?**

You can work hard until you are red in the face, but without musical talent, there is only so much you can do. While playing piano is something that can be learned, composing music isn't. It's a definitely a talent. One of my favorite sayings has been 'Talent alone is not enough; hard work and determination are key to succeed.' It's a motto I adopted in college and have it printed and posted at my desk, my piano and my studio. Helps to remind me that nothing comes that easy.

**Are you just composing melodies or do you also write lyrics?**

I've never been too good with words and music. My instrumental music allows the listener/audience to have their own interpretation of the song's 'story,' whereas when you're dealing with lyrics, you're already 'telling' someone what

it is. I think a listener's own interpretation allows them to enjoy the instrumental a bit more.

**What do you think about your father's career as a musician? Is there something that you as a professional musician admire about him?**

That's a difficult question to answer, obviously, because he's my dad. I've always thought his voice had a very timeless sound to it, and you could hear when he sang that he sang it from the heart.

**Have you ever felt that people are taking you as the son of a well-known singer or that they like just like your musical talent?**

In Canada, USA and Asia, my dad is not well known so my music is judged solely on its own merit. In the Czech Republic though, I'm sure there are some that would question whether

Tesh and Richard Clayderman.

**How do you form a music band?**

It's always important to pick great players who enjoy performing because they want to play music, not because they want to be rich and famous. I've had some great band members and the ones who stay with me are the ones who are geniuses at what they do, and can breathe life into my music in ways other musicians can't.

**Where have you played abroad?**

So far, my international performances have taken me to China, Taiwan and Czech Republic.

**Where do you think it is more difficult to perform - in Europe or in North America?**

I think performing in North America is harder, only because my music seems to be more popular in Europe and Asia. There is a certain appreciation for it there that doesn't seem to come back with me. But to be truthful, my music isn't exactly Top 40 hit radio material, so that makes a difference too. I think it's why artists like Richard Clayderman have always been more famous in Europe and Asia than here.

**You are about to travel to China and Taiwan for a concert tour. Did you choose these countries or did you get an invitations from there?**

The invitations came from them; I did not seek them out. But my music is much more popular there and in Europe, than it is here.

I toured China in 2001 and 16 of its cities on invitations from a concert agency there. In 2003, I was invited by the Canadian Government to perform in Taiwan for a festival promoting Canadian music, cuisine and wine. I had kept in touch with both agencies in these countries and was subsequently invited back from them.

**These two countries are both Chinese. Do you see any difference between them?**

There are political differences between the two countries, and the culture and people are a little different, too. Just as Canadians and Americans are both Caucasians, we have small differences between us in our culture and our people.

**How long will the tour be and how many concerts are you going to play?**

The tour starts October 1st, with two shows daily there until October 14th. Then I fly to China for 7 to 10 concerts and visits to music conservatories, flying back



to Canada at the end of October.

**What do you think is your biggest success?**

I think my biggest success so far is having been invited numerous times to perform in Asia; the first time very much so because I was a literal unknown there.

My proudest accomplishment was re-recording my dad's biggest hit "Malý přítel z města N" as a duet with our good friend Karel Černoch.

I've also had the privilege of being hired by the Alberta government to write the soundtrack for their 15-part documentary on the Alberta Order of Excellence. But I think you only wanted one when I gave you three (laughs).

**What are your expectations of your career's future?**

Being able to share my music with more audiences around the world, both in concert and through my music albums.

**What world you like to accomplish as a professional musician?**

I'd like to record a concert as a television special with the Beijing Orchestra at the Great Wall of China, or with the Prague Symphony on the Charles Bridge. Ideally, I'd also be interested in having my music in films and television shows.

**What do you feel to your home town in heart of Europe?**

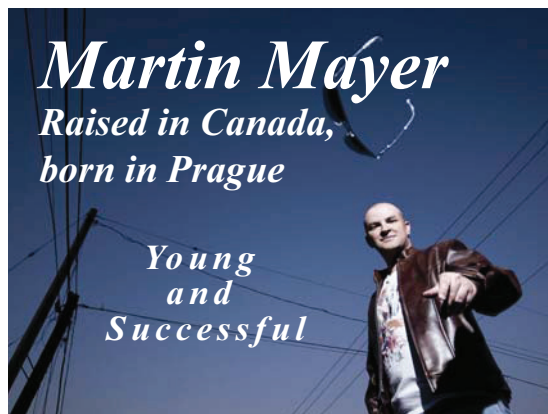
I think Prague is an architecturally stunning city... every single time I've gone to visit, I feel like I'm standing in the middle of a movie set. It's too bad though that people my age there seem have little appreciation for where they live.

**What are your plans after you come back from the tour in late October?**

Well, I have a new album coming out at the end of the year called "Alone." It's a solo piano disc that I've been working on for a while, and it will be released on my website and Apple's iTunes Store by early 2010. From there, we're working on another tour in Asia, as well as plans to go back and play in Prague. At some point I plan to take a vacation too! (laughs).

**Thank you for the interview. We wish you the best of luck in your career. For more information on Martin Mayer, to buy his music or become a fan of his on Facebook, please visit [www.martinmayer.com](http://www.martinmayer.com).**

*Questions asked by Věra Kohoutová*



# The culture of our land: Architecture 4

by Ernie Zucker

## Stately homes

During, and particularly after the 30-year war (1618-1648), the country experienced a building boom that lasted well into the 19th century. It can pride itself on a wealth of well-preserved feudal seats - a dense network of castles and manors, some open to visitors (mainly from May to September). At first, baroque building activities coincided with ongoing war activities. Architects became fortification engineers. The nobility did not pay any special attention to the appearance of their homes, what mattered was their strength and security. Later on, when danger receded, new chateaus and manors were built, meeting a baroque nobleman's requirements (often including chapels, ballrooms or theaters). The Wallenstein (Valdštejnský) palace in Prague's Malá strana is a single building of colossal dimensions, containing within it five courtyards, extensive gardens and the famous sala terrena. It is the oldest example of baroque secular architecture in the city. The facade combines elements of the renaissance style with northern baroque details (dormer windows). In the left-hand part of the building is a

large ornate hall, occupying two floors, with an adjoining chapel and private rooms once occupied by Albrecht of Valdštejn. The fresco in the ceremonial hall depicts Albrecht of Valdštejn as the god Mars on a war chariot. Another noteworthy structure, this time in the Prague castle area, is the Czernin (Černín) palace another example of early baroque architecture. It is a four-winged building with one transverse wing, enclosing two courts. From 1669-1692 it was the home of Humprecht Černín of Chudence. It houses the Czech foreign ministry and is the place of Jan Masaryk's contentious suicide.

In the early 18th century Jan Bernhard Fischer von Erlach was working in Prague. For the viceroy of Naples, Jan Václav Count Gallas, he built

Fischer von Erlach designed a contemporary baroque residence for the Althan counts - Vranov nad Dyjí. It is one of Moravia's most impressive chateaus, being sited on a shelf of the steep mountainside above the river's gorge. The three-wing building features the great oval saloon (the hall of the ancestors). Its large cupola, as well as much of the wall areas between oval and rectangular windows, as are the coupled Corinthian pilasters and sculptured niches, painted in bright reddish colour or yellow.

There is a spacious chapel adjoining. Recently reconstructed adjoining stables now house historical exhibits. The architects of the many chateaus built for the aristocracy and rich merchants, have to a great extent affected the face of the Czech countryside, co-determining the

Wallenstein (Valdštejnský) palace in Prague



## Black Ribbon...

⇒ from page 5

of the forebears of millions of Canadians and honour those whose efforts and sacrifices furthered the principles of liberty and equality that are the cornerstones of the Canada we know today.

Wladyslaw Lizon, - President ,Canadian Polish Congress, Avo Kittask - President, Estonian Central Council in Canada, Agnes Somorjai - President ,Canadian Hungarian Heritage Association, Andris Kesteris - President, Latvian National Federation in Canada, Joana Kuras - President, Lithuanian Community of Canada, Paul Grod - President Ukrainian Canadian Congress

**Milos Suchma - President, Czech and Slovak Association of Canada:**

On behalf of the Czech and Slovak Association of Canada, I strongly support the proposal for a Canadian Parliamentary Resolution to establish an annual day of remembrance on August 23rd, called Black Ribbon Day, to commemorate the victims of totalitarian Communist and Nazi regimes.

On August 23rd, 1939, Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany formally signed an agreement, known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and nearly 30 years later, on August 21, 1968, the Soviet Army entered Czechoslovakia and occupied this country for next 34 years.

the Clam-Gallas palace in the Old Town. Its impressive portals, with two giants and sculpted reliefs by Matyáš Braun, rank highly among the city's baroque artwork. Braun also worked on the impressive sandstone balustrades of the palace's staircase, with vases and candelabra leading to the second floor, nowadays often the venue of classical concerts. The Kinsky palace on Old Town's Square was designed Kilián Ignác Dienzenhofer for owner Jan Arnošt Count Golz. In 1843 it was the birth place of Bertha Suttner-Kinsky, a renowned pacifist, and the first recipient of the Nobel peace prize (1905). It housed the German high school at the turn of the 19th century where Franz Kafka studied. His father Heinrich had a store in the building. It is now a part of the Czech National Gallery, serving as its flagship exhibition space.

The high baroque style accentuated the urbanizing elements of the landscape, as documented by the complex of Kuks chateau and spa, developed by Count F.A. Sporck, and by the extensive Lichtenstein development within the area around Lednice and Valtice in Southern Moravia. Built on the site of a former castle, a defense stronghold in thirty year war,

future appearance of towns and villages.

## Urban development

Recovering from the ravages of war, the 1620s Battle of the White Mountain and the 1648 incursion of the Swedish army that managed to help itself to many of the art treasures accumulated by Rudolph II and other booty, took the country to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The gradual revival of the country's economic well-being was reflected in the appearance of villages and towns, until then basically medieval. With its number of window treatments and ostentatious wall decorations, burghers houses began to resemble their masters' palaces.

Although Prague houses served as the baroque style to be emulated, in Moravia, particularly in Brno, Olomouc and Kroměříž and others the new style assumed a specific, distinctive form created by regional workshops.

The grandiose baroque fortification systems survived to this day in fragments only. Only two of them, the notorious Terezín and Josefov, were founded at the end of this long architectural era. To visitors today, they produce an impression of barack-like uniformity. *Continued*



## Masaryk Memorial Institute

**Masaryk Memorial Institute (MMI)** is a charitable organization founded by immigrants from former Czechoslovakia. Its goal is not only to preserve these immigrants' heritage by hosting Czech and Slovak educational and cultural events, but also to share the beauty of these two countries and their peoples with all Canadians. Named in honor of T. G. Masaryk, the founder of Czechoslovakia in 1918, and father of modern Czech and Slovak society, the charity continues to be true to his vision of improving lives of everyone through assistance, education, cooperation and tolerance. Information and contacts can be found at [www.masaryktown.org](http://www.masaryktown.org)

Masarykův ústav je charitativní organizace, kterou založili imigranti z bývalého Československa. Jejím posláním je nejen udržovat české a slovenské tradice, ale také obohatit kanadskou společnost o informace o krásách a historii české a slovenské země. Organizace je pojmenována po prof. Tomáši Garrigouvi Masarykovi, prvním prezidentovi samostatného Československa, které vzniklo v roce 1918. MMI zůstává věrný jeho odkazu a nadále se věnuje aktivitám, které obohacují život lidí v naší nové domovině, a propaguje vzájemnou pomoc, vzdělání, spolupráci a toleranci. Informace: [www.masaryktown.org](http://www.masaryktown.org)

MMI is a registered Canadian charity (Charitable Business Reg. Number 119582781RR0001) [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

We depend on financial support from foundations, corporations and individuals to deliver our cultural and charitable activities. We gratefully appreciate financial contributions from our donors and various event sponsors. Every dollar of support that we receive goes towards helping to educate, organize events, or finance special charitable funds. Please be generous in your support.

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