

Slovak Heritage Festival

“Slovak Heritage Festival”, presented by Slovak Canadian National Council (SCNC), has ended successfully. The SCNC is standing on the threshold of its 20th Anniversary which will be celebrated in June 2005 and held this exhibit “The Slovak Spirit – what they brought to Canada” and the Slovak Heritage Festival. The Festival’s purpose is to pay homage to those who came from Slovakia persevered overcoming many hardships, always keeping in mind their goal to provide a better life for themselves and for their children. This event had taken place on August 21st and 22nd, 2004 at Markham Museum which was transformed into a 19th century Slovak village featuring traditional costumes, music, dance, food, arts and crafts for this festival.

Twelve pioneer homes depicted customs and traditions of the Slovak Nation. **Cicmany House:** women dressed in Cicmany costumes and demonstrating spinning and weaving. **Church Square:** area for fellowship, merriment and joyous celebrations. **Bride’s Home:** wedding preparations and dowry display, demonstration of lace making, crocheting and embroidering. A skit of parental blessing was presented to show the Slovak traditional wedding ceremony. **Print Shop - Easter Traditions House:** Traditional Easter display and Easter basket of food and specialties, demonstration of Easter eggs painting. A skit about celebration of Easter was presented. **Souvenir Shop:** display of maps, flags, key chains and etc. **General Store:** display of costumes from different regions, dolls, accessories and bulk foods. **Railway Station:** reminded people where the forefathers settled in Canada. **Harness Shop, Harvest Traditions House, Blacksmith Shop, Christmas Traditions House:** display of Slovak style Christmas tree and traditional Christmas Eve food. Live traditional skit and singing of Christmas carols were presented. **Slovak School:** display of text books. **Mount Joy School House:** “The Slovak Spirit – What they brought to Canada” Exhibit, included the history of the Slovak Nation, history and activities of the Slovak Canadian National Council and Members, display of National costumes, wood carvings, tapestry, arts and crafts.

At the Festival Square, we could experience and enjoy the folk culture provided by dance groups, such as: Lipa from Montreal, Domovina from Windsor, Bratislava from Welland and Vychodna from Mississauga. We also had a chance to taste the Slovak traditional food at the Slovak Food Kitchen.

To commemorate this festival, the SCNC has donated a Linden “LIPA” tree to Markham Museum. It was planted at the North West corner of the Print Shop, the Easter Tradition House.

“Slovak Heritage Festival” was certainly an educational and enjoyable event. It creates a better understanding of Canada’s diverse cultural groups. It also developed public awareness of and appreciation for the contributions, culture and heritage of the Slovak Community in Markham and Canada.

斯洛伐克文化節

「斯洛伐克文化節」，由 Slovak Canadian National Council (SCNC) 舉辦，已於日前完滿結束。SCNC 為慶祝二〇〇五年六月成立二十週年，特別於今年舉辦兩個大型活動：「斯洛伐克精神—貢獻加國」展覽及「斯洛伐克文化節」。活動的目的是向那些來自斯洛伐克的先賢致敬，因為他們在加國的努力及戰勝重重的困難，終使家庭及孩子都能安居於加拿大。「斯洛伐克文化節」於二〇〇四年八月廿一日及廿二日在萬錦博物館舉行。主辦單位將博物館改建成十九世紀的斯洛伐克村莊，透過富有民族色彩的傳統服飾、音樂、舞蹈、美食、手工藝等等節目，使整個文化節充滿歡樂氣氛，令人留下深刻印象。

博物館內有十二間仿古建築物，展現了斯洛伐克的民族傳統及風俗習慣。例如：**Cicmany 屋**：婦女穿上 Cicmany 的服飾，並示範當時的紡織及編織技巧。**教堂廣場**：是歡聚、聯誼、參與慶典的地方。**新娘之家**：展出婚禮前和陪嫁所預備的物品，現場有編織及刺繡示範，也有短劇表演，內容是有關斯洛伐克的傳統婚禮及父母親給予一對新人祝福的情景。**印刷店--復活節傳統村屋**：展出復活節傳統食物及繪製復活節彩蛋示範，演出的短劇是有關慶祝復活節的傳統活動。**紀念品商店**：展出地圖、各式旗幟、鑰匙扣等等。**百貨商店**：展出不同地區的洋娃娃、雜貨及各類食品。**火車站**：使人記起先祖們定居於加拿大的交通工具。**鞞具商店、收割傳統農舍、鐵匠商店、聖誕傳統村屋**：展出斯洛伐克式聖誕樹和聖誕前夕的傳統食物，現場演出聖誕傳統短劇及詠唱聖誕詩歌。**斯洛伐克學校**：展出不同的學生課本。**喜樂山校舍**：展出「斯洛伐克精神—貢獻加國」為主題的展覽，包括斯洛伐克的歷史、SCNC 的歷史和活動，也展出全國服裝、木刻、掛毯及各類型的手工藝品等等，展品繁多，真的令人目不暇給。

在節日廣場的表演節目可說一浪接一浪，十分精彩！觀眾可以享受來自多個表演團體所提供的節目，如：來自滿地可的 Lipa，蘆莎的 Domovina，Welland 的 Bratislava 及密西沙加的 Vychodna 等等。除了多采多姿的表演節目之外，更可以在美食坊中品嚐斯洛伐克的傳統美食。

為了紀念這個與別不同的文化節，SCNC 特別向萬錦博物館捐贈一棵椴樹"LIPA"，並將它種植在「印刷店--復活節傳統村屋」的西北面以作紀念。

「斯洛伐克文化節」是一個寓教育於娛樂的活動，除了為社區帶來知識及歡樂之外，也為加國多元文化族裔提供彼此了解和溝通的機會，更讓社會大眾對斯洛伐克社區在加國的貢獻有了進一步的認識和讚賞。