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June 26, 2015

Ukraine's Dual Life



See story on page 5

Some residents of the Azov Sea port city of Mariupol train for a possible Russian invasion on May 24, while women sunbathe on the beach. Some Ukrainian soldiers are angry about the unequal sacrifices being made in society to defend Ukraine. Russia's war against Ukraine is in its 16th month with no end in sight. See story on page 5. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Inside:

News → 2, 3, 11

Opinion → 4

Business → 6 – 11 | Lifestyle → 12 – 14

Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds → 15

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A woman walks along the main street in Nikishino in eastern Ukraine, on March 15. "I'm 65 and everything I have I'm holding," she said. (UNHCR/A.McConnel)

UN refugee head confronts Ukraine's atypical challenge

BY ALLISON QUINN
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Jean-Noel Wetterwald, the interim head of Ukraine operations for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, gave up a quiet retirement in the Swiss mountains to tackle Ukraine's growing refugee crisis.

"For 33 years I have been asking myself, 'Why am I doing this?' And for 33 years, the world has never been in such bad shape as it is now ... In terms of resources, we are competing

with emergencies in Iraq, in Syria," Wetterwald said. "But I have never been so happy to work with these people, although there is a great sense of responsibility," he said.

Ukraine's situation is atypical in every sense of the word, he said, with Russia's war not officially recognized and, for Ukraine, a struggling economy and a new government trying to make big changes.

"There are so many challenges: economic, political, humanitarian. This is why Ukraine can benefit from the

assistance and the help of the UN. And I hope that we will be able to bring that assistance... We have to make sure that such assistance reinforces the capacity of the state to respond. This is one thing we should not substitute, but reinforce," he said.

Ukraine's more than 2 million refugees, including those who have fled to Russia, are mostly under the radar of the rest of the world. Their plight does not match the traditional perception of refugees.

"There is a crisis, but to the out-

side world it's not very visible. Why? Because many of these internally displaced people have been received by host communities, because the local association and civil society have done a fantastic job in receiving them. So, we say 1.3 million IDPs, people say, "Where? Where are they? Show us this crisis," Wetterwald said. "I don't like this term – IDPs because it tends to make people visualize refugee camps, and here that is not the case."

Another reason is their geographic distribution: more than 75 → 3

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UN says needs of Ukraine's uprooted by war are growing

→2 percent of IDPs resettled in the five eastern oblasts of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhya and Dnipropetrovsk.

Wetterwald worked in Colombia, where he was responsible for assisting 6 million internally displaced persons.

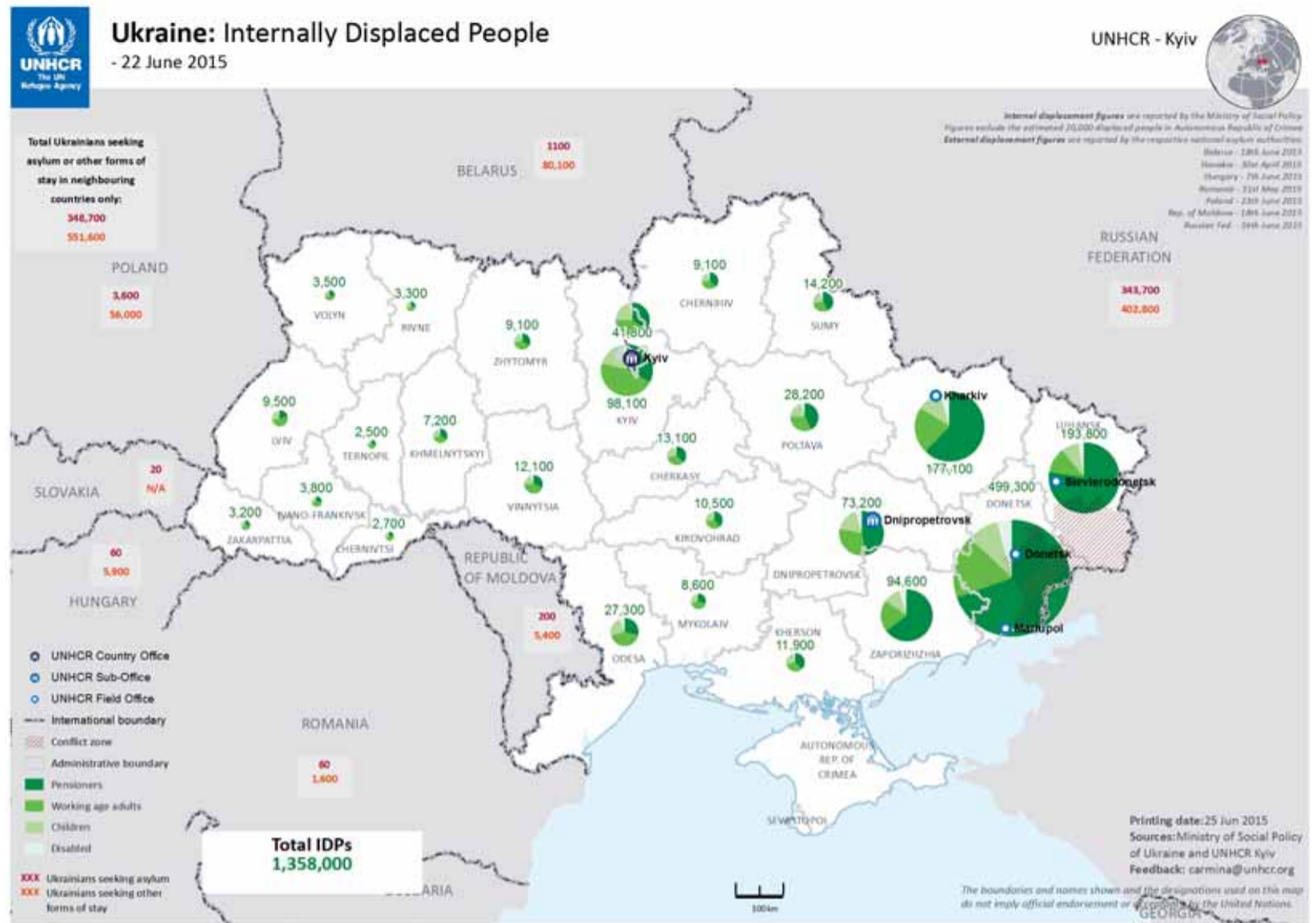
"I thought that maybe I could bring my skills. I have a vision of what we need to do for IDPs and part of the problem is that too often, we apply 'recipes' which do not work. I don't have to apply the Colombian recipe in Ukraine, but there are some ingredients that will be helpful," he said.

One of the biggest problems facing displaced Ukrainians is discrimination in their new communities.

"When you are in a job market that is already in crisis and you have new arrivals, then you exacerbate such problems. And this is why it's so important for the international community to understand Ukraine's pressing humanitarian needs in the occupied territories and the bordering areas, and that the rest of the country has absorbed many IDPs from these areas. We have to think about longer term programs that do not fall into the humanitarian category, but focus on how you can assist the communities taking in these refugees," he said. "I have visited villages recently where you have one local person for every four IDPs. Can you imagine what that means for the community? In terms of schooling?"

Wetterwald said he sees his mission as being a voice of reason amid the insanity of the situation. It is important for the UN agency to simply be present and show people in the war-torn east that they have not been forgotten, as well as offer humanitarian goods and shelter materials, he said.

"I am always moved when I meet these people. You feel such a huge responsibility on your shoulders,



A map showing the latest statistics for Ukraine's more than 1.3 million internally displaced people. About 75 percent of them are located in the five eastern oblasts of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhya, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv. (United Nations High Commission for Refugees)

because the mere fact of meeting with someone from the international community – we are raising expectations by doing this. But this is really the motivating factor, to meet with these people and realize something must be done for them," he said.

The refugee agency has offices in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Severodonetsk, Mariupol and Luhansk.

The team expanded to meet the crisis, climbing to about 110 staff members across the nation, compared to 25 before. It also includes several displaced Ukrainians who want to help, Wetterwald said.

Much of the team's work relies on "bridging gaps," he said – providing people information they need to decide where to live.

Describing a recent visit with refugees in Severodonetsk, Wetterwald recalled a group of women who "came

to me and asked about microcredit programs. They were just lacking the necessary information, and so I gave it to them, and then they were able to make a decision on leaving and get involved in microcredit programs."

The work is apolitical because there are "victims on both sides" of the war.

"The international community is here to make sure that people have a choice. If people want to leave, we need to ensure that they can, that there is somewhere for them to go," he said.

He commented on the UN and the Ukrainian government's work, saying both could do better and that it was "a work in progress."

One of the UNHCR's concerns is the potential for a full blockade of Russian-occupied territories by Ukraine. The UN has "voiced its concerns," he said. "Freedom of movement is a basic freedom. Elderly

people who are under shelling – we should give them the chance to leave if they want to leave. So from a humanitarian angle, the blockade is a very problematic measure. It might result in a greater wave of IDPs. Are we ready to receive them? I don't know. We are working on contingency plans, but this might be an unintended consequence," he said.

The needs are great and growing.

"We humanitarians have to ask ourselves why we are doing this work while the conflict is continuing. In the Ukrainian context, we have to make sure that as a fleeting dream, reconciliation is not forgotten ... We keep this hope alive. It's a candle with a very fragile flame, and I just hope the flame will not go out," he said.

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Jean-Noel Wetterwald (unhcr.or.th)

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Editorials

Putin no peacemaker

The West must stop treating Russian President Vladimir Putin as a peacemaker to the war he instigated and continues to stoke in eastern Ukraine.

NATO, at a June 25 summit of defense ministers in Brussels, boasted of large-scale military exercises and adaptations it is making in Europe because of Putin's aggression.

"The new playbook is to respond to the new security situation in Europe, including the situation posed by Russia's own behavior," U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told reporters ahead of the summit. "It's not like it was in the old days. We are looking at a NATO response that is much more mobile [and] much more agile."

That level of action stops short of arming Ukraine to defend itself from losing more land to Russian-separatist forces. The West still fears "provoking" Russia and thinks it would escalate the war that has killed more than 6,500 since mid-April 2014. In fact, arming Ukraine would be an equalizer and deter Russia.

Recent NATO exercises and increase in troop deployments have already prompted Putin to announce the deployment of an additional 40 intercontinental ballistic missiles to his country's arsenal.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the envoys of Germany, France and Ukraine met in Paris on June 23 to talk about the dead Minsk peace agreement. Representing the enemy – which attacks civilians and Ukrainian military positions, with almost daily casualties – Russia's Lavrov had the nerve to blame Ukraine. Instead of being scolded by his French and German counterparts, Lavrov was treated as an equal.

Putin and his loyalists are not trying for peace. They killed thousands, destroyed billions of dollars of infrastructure and homes and expelled two million people from their homes. That's why Ukraine needs weapons and equipment to match this cancerous aggression that is spreading in the Donbas.

Shared sacrifice

The issue in Aloyna Zhuk's front-page story "Ukraine's Dual Life" isn't about whether it's OK for people to relieve their stress by going out in restaurants, dancing or even to the sea to forget about troubles.

The issue is that Ukraine is at war and too many in this nation of 45 million people want to forget that Russia's invasion exists or that Ukraine lost 5 percent of its territory to Crimea last year and is in danger of losing more. More than 16 months into the war, alarmingly, Russia remains Ukraine's leading trade partner – with \$3.4 billion from January through April of this year. While trade is lower, it needs to go lower still until peace is here.

The war is not going well and yet too many Ukrainians are part of the fiction that this is an anti-terrorist operation that someone else should fight and fund. Wishing won't make this conflict go away. It will lead to defeat.

Certainly, the West, by its insistence on treating Russian President Vladimir Putin as someone to do business with, and by its clinging to the Minsk II peace agreements that Russia ignores, is contributing to the problem. The sanctions and defense improvements undertaken now by NATO and the West should have happened more than a year ago and should be stronger today. Even Ukraine's strong allies aren't doing enough. Canada, for instance, spends only 1 percent of its gross domestic product on defense – far short of the 2 percent needed from a NATO member.

We agree with U.S. Sen. John McCain, who dropped by on June 20, to remind the world that the United States and European powers should be living up to its commitments of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum to guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity. The West should also be aiding Ukraine more generously and arming Ukraine as well.

But Ukrainians shouldn't wait. While they've collectively raised millions of dollars to help soldiers, more is needed -- not just pocket change out of paychecks. People are getting killed and losing their homes while too many in the nation blissfully ignore the slaughter.

Certainly, the government can do more. Parliament has no business going into summer recess while the nation is at war. "There is no time for holiday," Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Groysman said, amid the recent slow pace of reform.

Corruption remains rampant. The legal system remains broken. Ukraine's Defense Ministry needs improvement and oversight. The people must demand accountability from their leaders on this score, including better and more transparent reporting of how the war money is getting spent. But Ukraine's political leaders and their \$25 billion state budget are not enough. More people, from oligarchs to office managers, need to do and give what they can – a continued war tax is needed, but one in which 100 percent transparency is assured before collected.

"Life is unfair," as World War II hero and assassinated U.S. President John F. Kennedy famously said in 1962. It certainly isn't, especially during war, but we can strive to make it fairer by shouldering more of the burden for the soldiers at the frontlines and their families waiting nervously at home.

NEWS ITEM: In a Wall Street Journal op-ed published on June 10, President Petro Poroshenko wrote that 2,702 former President Viktor Yanukovich officials were convicted of corruption during the year of his presidency. However, his office failed to provide the Kyiv Post or anybody else with the list of the officials.



NEWS ITEM: Anton Chernushenko, head judge of the Kyiv Court of Appeal, said that the Hr 30,000 in cash that the investigators found when searching his office on suspicion of wrongdoing, was meant for grocery shopping. He also claimed that the \$6,500 in cash on his desk was for dental work.



NEWS ITEM: In an interview to BBC Newsnight that aired on June 22, Ukraine's former President Viktor Yanukovich denied owning the Mezhyhirya residence near Kyiv, where he used to live. When the journalist mentioned the estate's zoo, Yanukovich said that the animals "were just living there," igniting the journalist's teasing remark that he was just living on the site of someone's private zoo.



NEWS ITEM: Ukraine's former President Viktor Yanukovich gave his opponents a reason to laugh when he spoke passionately of the ostriches that lived in his former residence during an interview with BBC Newsnight. "I was just supporting the ostriches, what's wrong with that?" he said. Yanukovich repeated previous statements that his overthrow was illegal and that he wanted to return to Ukraine.

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War sacrifices not shared evenly throughout nation

BY ALYONA ZHUK
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While young, carefree revelers take selfies on the dance floor of a Kyiv beach club, a funeral procession is taking place in another part of the city for a soldier killed in Russia's war against Ukraine.

For more than a year, Ukraine has been living a dual life – a peaceful one in which civilians go about their normal lives, or try to, and another mired in an ever-bloodier war that has killed more than 6,500 people and uprooted more than two million from their homes, according to the United Nations.

Many who have risked their lives to fight are having trouble readjusting to civilian life, where they face bureaucracy, indifference and unemployment.

"Society doesn't feel that there is a war going on," says Artem, an Azov Regiment soldier on temporary leave. He requested anonymity for safety reasons since he is planning to return to the Donbas war front. "There is no atmosphere of war."

He told the Kyiv Post that a fellow soldier went to Kyiv on leave and took pictures of a peaceful life – people walking around and sitting in cafés, seemingly unconcerned about the suffering and sacrifice of the troops.

When he came back to the war front, he showed the pictures to other soldiers and said: "Look, they don't care."

Such stories, especially when soldiers face discrimination just for being soldiers, make them angry, Artem says.

He once was banned from entering a college in Ivano-Frankivsk when he showed his military documents. There is a popular prejudice that soldiers "are insane, they bring grenades, and they need treatment," he says "The gulf is brewing between society and those who are on the front line."

According to Artem, who left his home in Luhansk last spring to join the volunteer battalion, every person should be in the fight to defend their homeland.

"If you are a man, why aren't you at war?" he asks. "Some of them even manage to post online their pictures on the beach, or while they grill shish kebab... Everyone knows how you live, everything is fine, but there are people dying for you to live like that. Maybe



A National Guardsman watches as beachgoers stand on the shore of the Azov Sea in the coastal city of Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast on May 28. (Volodymyr Petrov)

just to show respect you could be more modest."

Others feel the same way.

Volodymyr Shumeyko from Ukraine's Donbas Battalion is irritated by men who "are dancing here dressed to the nines." Shumeyko was seriously wounded last summer during the fierce battle now known as the Massacre of Ilovaik, and is still recovering. But he plans to go back to war as soon as he can.

"This is my land, my home, I have to defend it," he told the Kyiv Post. "If you don't fight, do something, support the army, but don't tell people in social media that you are a hero."

Sociologist Iryna Bekeshkina, head of the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, a Kyiv-based policy center, said that society has gotten used to the war and understands that it will go on for some time.

"Let's remember World War II. Have you seen the pictures from occupied Paris? We can't say that Parisians were happy that their city was occupied (by Nazis), but the majority continued living their lives," Bekeshkina told the Kyiv Post. "We can see that from the photos - restaurants were working, concerts were held, etc."

Dmytro Neyman from the Dnipro 1 Battalion said more Ukrainians need to see what's happening in the combat zone. Neyman, who went to the front as a partisan last spring and later joined the Dnipro 1 Battalion, told the Kyiv Post he is also annoyed by those who continue to be oblivious to the nation's war.

"Sometimes I want to break into one of those nightclubs, to send them all to the front line – for a short period of time, just to show what's there," he said. "They shouldn't be indifferent about this situation. If they don't want to end up there, they have to start doing something in the rear. There are many things to do to change this country."

Iryna Turchak, a volunteer in the Povernys Zhyvym Foundation (Return Alive), knows many angry and disillusioned soldiers.

"These are two different worlds, here and there," she said.

Turchak thinks that people are ready to welcome their heroes, to help and support them, but said "the state isn't ready."

The first problem returning soldiers encounter is getting an official certificate of military service, a prerequisite for social benefits. A person needs to visit numerous state agencies and collect a pile of documents.

And soldiers often aren't told where to go, Turchak says.

"Imagine if he lost his leg or his arm, it's inhumane to make him go from office to office," she says. "This paper-

work is so exhausting. Many of them just give up. 'I don't need it,' they say, 'I will earn everything on my own.'"

Unfortunately, many don't.

When war veterans come home, they often find that their vacated job has been filled by someone else, Turchak says. When employers, pressed by financial problems, need to reduce staff, they decide to choose a soldier, who is far away anyway.

"And then they decide to go back to war," she adds.

Others make the readjustment to civilian life.

Leonid Ostaltsev from Kyiv is one of them. After spending about four months in the combat zone, he established a local veterans association to provide former soldiers with psychological assistance, information and just lend a hand.

He says that only about 15 percent of his fellow soldiers were "sound of mind, understanding that they were in a war, that their head might be hammered

with all the explosions and shelling, and who didn't drink. The rest were those who just learned how to behave with the guns. They come back and need to do something. What can they do? Drink and shoot. I am worried that we will get many new found criminals."

He said many soldiers think men who avoid the war are all jerks. But he tries to persuade them that peace – including dancing and the summer pleasures of barbecue – is what everyone is fighting for and not something by which someone should be alienated.

But it would help if more would join the fight, one way or the other.

"We fight there for peace here. I see children going to kindergartens, I see entrepreneurs that work, people making money, growing, living, new people being born," Ostaltsev says. "Me, personally, I stand for that."

Kyiv Post staff writer Alyona Zhuk can be reached at zhuk@kyivpost.com.



Many soldiers feel lost after they come back from the war, facing bureaucracy, indifference and unemployment. The picture was taken on Sept. 15, 2014, when approximately 150 soldiers of the volunteer Azov Battalion arrived in Kyiv from the combat zone. (Volodymyr Petrov)

John F. Kennedy: 'Life is unfair'

Editor's Note: War brings out life's disparities. Most men never are sent to fight. Others buy their way out. Some get safe assignments. Some are killed or maimed in combat. Some return as heroes. U.S. President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) conveyed the sentiment during a March 21, 1962, press conference in speaking about America's involvement in the Vietnam War. The remarks came 20 months before his assassination.

"There is always inequity in life. Some men are killed in a war, and some men are wounded, and some men never leave the country, and some men are stationed in the Antarctic, and some are stationed in San Francisco. It's very hard in military or in personal life to assure complete equality. Life is unfair."





World in Ukraine

Editor's Note: World in Ukraine takes a look at Ukraine's bilateral relations with different nations. To sponsor this news feature, please contact the Kyiv Post's sales team at advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788.

In partnership with Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce

Canadian generosity eases Ukraine's multiple crises

+BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2014, the well-organized Canadian-Ukrainian community was perhaps the best positioned to help in time of need.

Through umbrella organizations like the Ukrainian World Congress, representing more than 20 million Ukrainians, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Canada-Ukraine Foundation, they mobilized their vast networks and reached into their deep pockets.

The Canadian government entrusted them to ensure the distribution of millions of dollars of non-lethal aid like night vision goggles, sleeping bags, boots, uniforms and other equipment. Separate diaspora groups pitched in as well. The Canada-Ukraine Foundation alone spent \$615,000 in 2014 while completing 15 Ukraine-related projects. It plans to spend an additional \$495,000 this year.

Canadian-inspired projects included dispatching surgeons to perform operations, first on gunshot victims from the EuroMaidan Revolution, and later soldiers wounded at the war front. Rehabilitation programs were implemented for widows and mothers of sons who died in the combat zone. Soldiers were given and trained to use NATO-standard life-saving first aid kits. A psychophysical rehabilitation center was set up for soldiers. Schools started being rebuilt in Donbas and drones supplied to the military.

Following are several projects spearheaded by Canadian groups:

Canadian-Ukrainian surgeon Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn on May 16 in Kyiv conducts a post-surgery assessment of a patient who suffered a head injury near Horlivka in Donetsk Oblast. The medical help is part of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation's Rainbow Surgical Medical Mission project. (Adriana Luhovy)



Patriot Defense

Winnipeg native Marko Suprun and his wife Dr. Ulana Suprun, a trained radiologist, started to supply soldiers in late May 2014 with improved first aid kits after they realized that many deaths on the front were preventable. To date, they've distributed more than 15,700 IFACs. More importantly, foreign and local instructors have trained more than 18,000 soldiers, in addition to 2,384 officer cadets in tactical medicine and combat lifesaver training. The group has since received \$2.2 million in assistance and in-kind contributions,

including \$1 million from an anonymous Kyiv business that purchased the medical kit components for distribution. They've also indirectly distributed IFACs and trained servicemen through a Canadian government initiative. Patriot Defense is affiliated with UWC, which covers office rental costs – Ulana Suprun heads the group's humanitarian initiatives – their team of instructors has focused on training servicemen heading for the combat zone: border guards, armed forces, interior ministry, civilians, volunteer battalions, and the State Security Service, better

known as the SBU.

The fact that the SBU has requested and paid for trainings and receives the kits for its special forces is the highest recognition the group has received, Marko Suprun said.

"Soldiers are our treasure. They're an investment, the time and money put into them, you should protect that investment with medical care to save lives," he said.

Marko Suprun added that the group is pushing for the Defense Ministry to raise medical standards and put them on equal footing with combat training.

"Education will win this war: Knowing how to shoot straight is as important as stopping a critical bleed," he said.

That emphasis on training has involved the use of amputee war veterans. Better than using manikins, the veterans eagerly participate in simulations knowing that they can prevent the loss of more lives and limbs.

"Our research shows that one-third of all amputees lost a limb due to an infection because they weren't (immediately) given antibiotics or would close wounds without cleaning them first," he said.

They currently have instructors in the field this week training servicemen in Sloviansk, Svitlovodsk and Zhytomyr, averaging 200-400 personnel weekly. Also, with a \$60,000 Australian grant, Patriot Defense has trained Kyiv's new police patrols and has plans to train new patrol units in Lviv and Odesa.

Guardian Angels

Toronto-based League of Canadian Ukrainian Women opened a center for the psychophysical rehabilitation of soldiers at the Irpin Military Hospital near Kyiv in April. The project, called Guardian Angels, is introducing new approaches, such as the interactive rehabilitation and exercise system that the group acquired.

"The project is also exploring innovative approaches to psychological therapies for returning Ukrainian servicemen, modeled on outpatient programs for veterans carried out by North American non-government organizations," said Canadian Kalyna Kardash, the project coordina- → 10

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Trade and investment between Canada and Ukraine

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Canada Day on July 1 will celebrate progress between two nations

BY BRIAN BONNER
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If any country knows Ukraine's story well, it's Canada – home to 1.2 million people of Ukrainian descent, as well as many others – Jews, Mennonites, Russians and Poles – who trace their ancestry either to Ukraine or the neighborhood.

If any ambassador knows Ukraine's story well, it's Roman Waschuk, on the job since October in representing the North American country of 35 million people. Waschuk, 53, was born to Ukrainians who fled after World War II as teenagers and settled in Canada. He grew up speaking Ukrainian (as well as French and English) and also served in the Canadian Embassy during Ukraine's wild and flamboyantly corrupt early independence years from 1994-1998.

So no introductions are usually needed when it comes to Canadians and Ukrainians, at least not to the degree required in Ukraine's relationships with many other nations.

With Ukrainian emigration to Canada starting 125 years ago, the Ukrainian influence is "woven into the fabric" of Canadian society, Waschuk said. More than 13 percent of Saskatchewan province, in particular, is of Ukrainian descent. "Canada integrates people into our political system early on through citizenship," the ambassador said.

His parents are examples of that successful integration. His father became an electrical engineer who designed the electrical lighting system for Expo 67, the world's fair held in Montreal. "It's an example of how somebody who in one sense is 'off the boat' as a displaced person and 17 years later is part of a big national project," Waschuk said. "It's part of an inclusive society."

Waschuk's "hyphenated" background as a Ukrainian-Canadian, linguistic skills and passion for both nations have made him stand out as one of the most active members of the Western diplomatic corps.

"It allows for a more direct form of communication," said Waschuk of his multilingualism. He also learned German and Serbian, serving as ambassador to Serbia before coming to Ukraine.

"Being able to talk to people and trying to get in their heads – to figure out what they're really saying – is one of the keys to diplomacy," Waschuk said. "Equally important is what you say. Ukraine is fortunate to have a very dedicated and active international, especially Western diplomatic community, that is working its collective behinds off to both understand and assist Ukraine."

Despite a solid bilateral relationship, there's no question it could be much



Canadian Ambassador Roman Waschuk, speaking with the Kyiv Post at the nation's embassy in Kyiv, was born to Ukrainian parents who emigrated to Canada after World War II. (Volodymyr Petrov)

better – at least in terms of trade and investment.

Many Canadians came during the early 1990s and lost money, due to Ukraine's corruption, creating "a lot of disappointment," Waschuk said. "There may have been some people motivated more by emotion than sheer cold calculation and were taken advantage of by unscrupulous partners and officials."

Also, while cultural and climatic similarities exist, the nations are far apart geographically.

All these factors have combined in these unimpressive statistics: Annual trade between the nations sits at less than \$300 million and cumulative Canadian investment in Ukraine, since 1991, stands at just \$72 million.

The nations are trying to reassure investors with a foreign investment protection agreement, contingent on Ukraine adhering to rule of law, and a bilateral free trade agreement that is under negotiation. "Ukraine is developing the tools that will reassure foreign investors," Waschuk said.

The ambassador is also "encouraging Ukraine to note the fact that 97 percent of the Canadian population aren't of Ukrainian background. They offer huge opportunities and great interest as well in what they can offer Ukraine."

Canada's bilateral assistance to Ukraine has reached nearly \$600 million, most of which is in the form of low-interest loans, but also \$50 million in direct aid "focused on training and empowering Ukrainians." Various private philanthropic initiatives boost the gift total by an estimated \$10 million per year.

Canada is helping to fund Ukraine's 100 legal aid centers, which ensure that poor people are represented in court. "It's remarkable good news and not such a prominent news story, but half of acquittals were achieved by free legal aid criminal lawyers, and representation will be extended to civil and administrative courts," Waschuk said.

Canada also helped start Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau, and has a Canadian working there, and assisted in starting Kyiv's pilot police force.

"We're trying to take a comprehensive approach," he said. "I think it's a work in progress."

Canada has gotten insults from Russia for its strong defense of Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has denigrated Canada as subservient to America and derided its military capabilities. While it amounts to diplomatic trash-talking, the truth is that Canada's defense spending is only 1 percent of its gross domestic product, short of the 2 percent asked of NATO members. Canada's Minister of Defense Jason Kenney will be in Kyiv this weekend in a timely visit.

The Kremlin criticism is "yet another example of Russian bullying," Waschuk said. "Canada makes no excuses for its strong and principled stance in support of Ukraine."

Canada has been providing non-lethal military aid to Ukraine, and is helping train small military units. U.S. policy in opposition of sending lethal aid to Ukraine is often expressed by the sentiment that "there is no military solution" to the situation. To that, Waschuk said: "I wish President Putin was also convinced of the truth of that statement."

Ukraine is now "holding its own" against Russian-separatist forces at the war front, a stalemate that has given Ukraine time to tackle other problems and "move on some of the fundamentals, not all of them at the same pace," he said.

Canada Day is restarting after a three-year pause. In the past, the format was mainly an informal barbecue among members of the 1,500-member Canadian community. This year's invitation-only reception will take place 6 p.m. on July 1 at the open-air atrium of the Toronto Kyiv center, an 83,000 square foot, mixed-used hotel and office center on Velyka Vasylykivska.

"Canada has been doing a whole lot for the last year to support the new Ukraine," Waschuk said. "It's been a very difficult period, but also one full of promise. So it's time to celebrate that."

Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner can be reached at bribonner@gmail.com

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BUSINESS ADVISER

ROSTYSLAV KISIL: HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE TO UKRAINE – THANKS TO OR DESPITE TIME AND SPACE



ROSTYSLAV
KISIL

President, MEEEST
GROUP

People the world over cannot resist a challenge. My personal challenges are space and time. I am not referring to physical or geographical distances: humanity has learned to overcome the obstacles of distance with ships, bikes, cars, aircraft and even spacecraft.

The space I am referring to is the environment at a person's birth. Once born in their environment, most people have no time to grasp its nature and transcend it in search of new achievements. Those who do and achieve success are called geniuses or leaders in their field.

At first glance, it would seem that time as a philosophical concept, cannot be mastered by people. However, time can be used to our advantage to overcome both present and future challenges.

I am heading the MEEEST GROUP, and space and time have become my partners. They have taught me to transform obstacles into opportunities for growth, and I want to share my experiences.

The roots for launching our MEEEST GROUP lie in 1988, the year when a Soviet-era engineer from West Ukraine came to visit his uncle in Canada. This visit turned my world upside down: I saw incredible opportunities and managed to seize them. I successfully launched a reliable system for sending packages overseas and a system for money transfers. At that time, the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada and the US was striving to help their fellow countrymen in the Ukraine.

Motivated by the natural human desire to get closer to one another and take care of family, we overcame the obstacles of distance by building bridges between the continents.

What is more, our 25-year experience is helping us to overcome the relentlessness of time, since any money earned has been invested in Ukraine. After foundation of JV ROSAN in 1992, we started our expansion into the motherland. The list of our businesses is amazing: ROSAN International Postal Services, Trade House Meest Express National Postal/Logistics, Meest-Tour Tourism Travel Agency, ROSAN-IT Unique Software Developer.

Today, MEEEST GROUP has offices all over the world. Meest Express alone processes up to a half million packages every month and has more than 3,500 employees and 1,500 trucks to deliver packages to almost 30,000 locations in Ukraine. We are the top player in the direct delivery market in Ukraine, including delivery of packages from overseas.

MEEEST GROUP is also a school for training professionals. We have trained a generation of top-notch managers, and have given them opportunities for growth. Just have a look at the geography in which they operate, which covers Ukraine and Canada, USA, Australia, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal. Our employees are experts in a variety of fields, ranging from export/import and postal operations up to logistics support for cross-border online sales. Such market players as Rozetka, ModnaKasta, LaModa, Stylepit, OTTO, BonPrix, METRO count on us to deliver product orders to their clients.

Thus, the cornerstone principle of MEEEST GROUP continues to work well, because the key to success lies in the people themselves. You will undoubtedly have noticed that I have switched from "I" to "We" in this presentation.

We understand not only Canadians of Ukrainian origin but also the people living in Ukraine itself. We advise those interested in entering the Ukrainian market: first, you have to find reliable partner(s) in Ukraine to minimize your risks.

Further, you should monitor customers' opinions continuously. The customers are the initial links in the chain of our success. The criticisms and advice given by students, seniors, computer programmers, housewives are priceless. Unlike billionaires, they are not telling you what other people need, but telling you what they want and which things they are willing to pay for. They are becoming the real co-creators of MEEEST GROUP.

Concurrently, we should promote transparency in our relations with partners. Being open to innovative ideas, combined with balanced decision-making and maintaining commitments are also of great value.

All people have questions and needs. Ukrainians are no exception. A specific economic situation is not an obstacle, but a space for maneuvering and new opportunities. Ukrainians will overcome problems and return to a stable growth. Simply being active in such markets is a dream of typical foreign investors, online store managers, or product manufacturers, who are looking for a country of educated people, who know how to work.

We are not quitting development of our network of postal terminals jointly with financial institutions of Ukraine. Our mini branch offices are being opened in locations that are most convenient to consumers. Sending or receiving packages from relatives is becoming routine for Ukrainians. They can reliably track their packages online and pay the couriers with the bank cards.

Even a downturn or flat growth in one industry can be offset by a breakthrough in another.

MEEEST GROUP does not forget to support those who may stumble when climbing the ladder of life. Specifically, the corporation is involved in The Bridge of Hope Charity Foundation, and it cooperates with the Sisters Servants to benefit orphans and the poor. Meest Express delivers all packages for orphan children free of charge. MEEEST works with the Ukrainian diaspora maintaining the continuity of their cultural ties with Ukraine. The corporation supports Ukrainian sports teams, including the 'Halychanka' ladies' handball club, the 'Karpaty' soccer team, Ukrainian Olympic champions, and individual athletes.

It is thus that a group of people overcomes time and space to help others, through the connection of a bridge named MEEEST GROUP. As you take your first steps on this bridge to Ukraine, you will soon realize that it is a reliable gateway to success.

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Canadian minister: Ukraine can seize new opportunities

BY ILYA TIMTCHENKO
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Canada is keen to provide more backing for Ukraine as Russia goes into self-isolation.

"Russia is isolating itself economically, Ukraine is opening itself economically," Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander told the Kyiv Post in a recent interview.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's war and violations of international law are "bad for business in the region," Alexander said. "But it's an opportunity for Ukraine actually."

But Ukraine will only attract investments if the country shows progress in changing its reputation as a corrupt, post-Soviet place to do business.

Canada's more than \$680 million in aid, including low-interest loans, are targeted to economic stabilization, democracy, human rights, humanitarian assistance and security. Alexander believes Ukraine is "truly committed to a level of economic reform we haven't seen in Ukraine," the minister said.

By contrast, Canada appears headed for a frosty relationship with Russia as long as the Kremlin continues its aggression.

"This is unacceptable behavior, it violates the fundamental principles under which we've all been living since 1945 – the viability of borders, national sovereignty, self-determination – and to see it violated on this scale by a permanent member of the United Nations



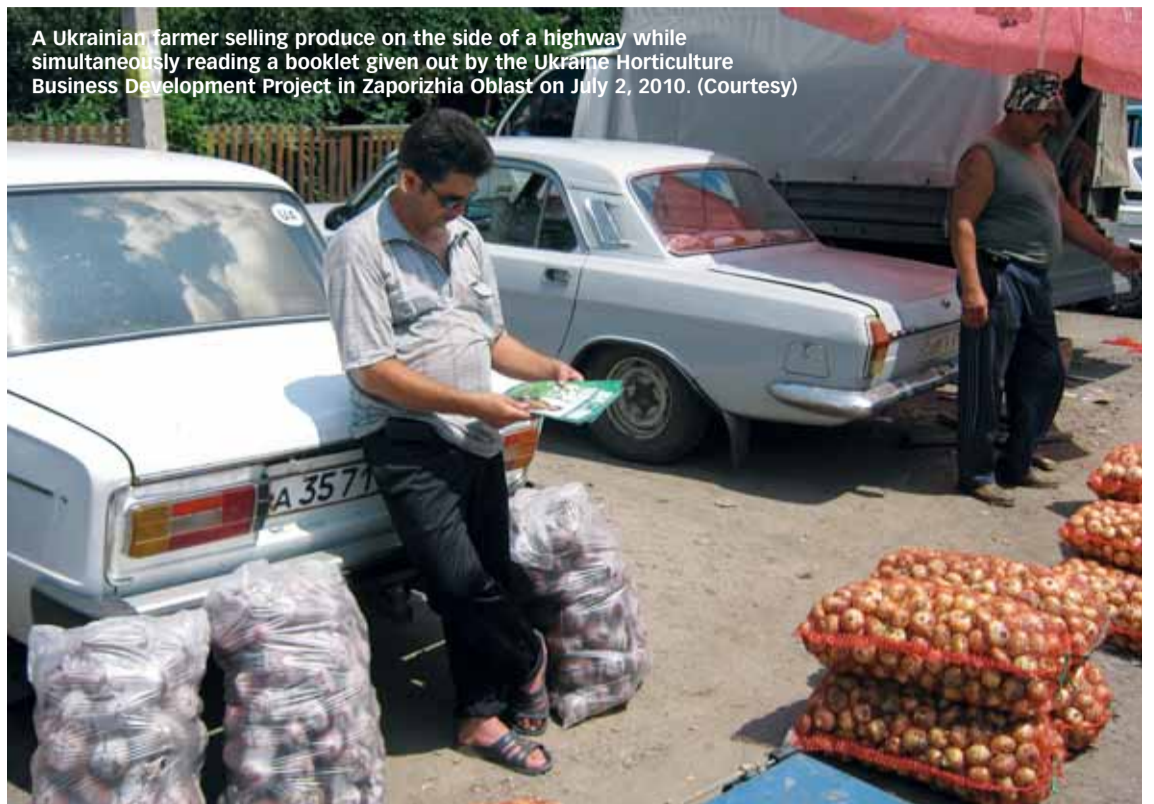
Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander speaking at the International Support for Ukraine Conference in Kyiv on April 28. (UNIAN)

Security Council, is deeply discouraging," Alexander said.

So far, Canada has the longest sanctions list against Russia, with a total of 207 entities and individuals targeted. Canada is willing to provide Ukraine with more military assistance, aside from the body armour and other supplies that it has already provided. Canada will send about 200 soldiers to Ukraine for military training until March of next year.

"We share the same goal, which is defending this country, defending its sovereignty and helping Ukraine's very brave forces to do that," the minister said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Ilya Timtchenko can be reached at timtchenko@kyivpost.com



Canadian expertise, equipment needed in agricultural sector

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Although Ukraine's agricultural industry is popular among international investors, Canada is only responsible for less than \$25 million of last year's trade turnover in the sector with Ukraine. But Canada can still fill a major gap with its vast agriculture expertise and farming machinery.

Although overall trade turnover between the two countries fell in 2014, to \$264 million, agriculture could drive a rebound.

"Agriculture is a priority for us," Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander told the Kyiv Post in April, seeing a strong connection between Ukraine's and Canada's farming industries.

Some companies are already strengthening this bond.

Ag Growth International, a

Canadian grain-machinery company, is one of Canada's most prominent exporters to Ukraine, making its first sale in the country in 2009. The company sells storage equipment for up to 300 metric tons of grain. Although 2014 was a tough year for the company in Ukraine, growth has been good in the last six years. Its customers range from local farmers who buy individual pieces of grain-storage equipment to multinational investors building grain storage terminals at Ukraine's outdated seaports.

"In 2016 we should equal our best year in Ukraine," Shane Knutson, vice president of international sales at Ag Growth International, said.

Nevertheless, business is becoming more difficult for smaller farmers. In particular, finding hard currency to purchase machinery from abroad is a constant problem. Another issue is the lack of proper know-how. For example, some buy expensive equipment that they don't know how to use properly, said Victoria Umin, Ag Growth International's regional director in Ukraine.

"It's difficult to find people with the skill set to understand how to use this equipment," Knutson added.

Because of lack of storage, most farmers need to sell their produce immediately. In Canada, 85-90 percent of grain can be stored on a farm for up to eight months with modern storage.

"If they can store grain on the farm, it allows them to control their destiny when they sell the grain," Knutson said. This helps farmers save money since the produce does not have to be sold during peak seasons when prices are lowest.

Canada has also been teaching Ukrainian farmers. The Canadian Embassy has dairy and grain projects underway in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv oblasts with plans to expand.

For Ukraine's southern oblasts, in collaboration with the Mennonite Economic Development Associates, the embassy launched a fruit-and-vegetable project for seven years that will enable 25,000-30,000 producers to access markets. "It's basically creating the infrastructure... to allow Ukraine to sell

its agricultural products more quickly, more effectively into the European and global markets," Canadian Ambassador Roman Waschuk said.

The Ukraine Horticulture Development Project is MEDA's second project in Ukraine following its first five-year initiative in 2008. Canada's Department of Foreign Aid is providing 19.7 million Canadian dollars in addition to MEDA's 2.5 million Canadian dollars to work on Ukraine's horticulture sector.

MEDA's country manager for Ukraine Stephen Wright says that the industry is disorganized. "There's a lot of good work that could be done," Wright said. The Ukrainian horticulture sector is almost the same size as the grain sector.

Most horticulture growers work on small plots that are often half a hectare large. They then sell their produce on highways or at markets, which is "incredibly ineffective," Wright said. Standardizing the produce and its packaging and connecting farmers to sell together, rather than separately, should be some of the goals, he said.

MEDA's first project shows the difference between selling a 500-kilogram batch of tomatoes and selling a five-ton batch of tomatoes to a trader. The difference in price was more than 20 percent, Wright said.

The problem stems from a lack of trust within communities. "You can have a group of people in the same village growing the same produce, and they don't talk to each other because they view each other a little bit with skepticism," Wright said. Instead, growers should look at the benefits of working together in cooperatives.

But there is progress. Wright said that Canadian investors, despite many doubts, are considering the agricultural sector. "That interest is really up," he said.

Ukraine's potential is impossible to ignore. "Brazil and Ukraine are the two spots in the world that everybody in our industry talks about," Ag Growth International's Knutson said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Ilya Timtchenko can be reached at timtchenko@kyivpost.com.

How to emigrate from Ukraine to Canada

Canada accepts 280,000 new immigrants a year through three paths – employment, family and refugees.

Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Waschuk said that Canada is shifting its focus to its Express Entry program, which is skills-based immigration. "Canada is always looking for qualified workers from Ukraine or any other country in the world," Waschuk said.

Under this program, Canadian employers review applications submitted for immigration and pick the winners, who are then eligible for visas and permanent residency, Waschuk said.

Waschuk said that Canada is not looking to drop its visa requirement for Ukrainian visitors anytime soon, but like the United States, has lengthened the duration of multiple entry tourist visas to 10 years.

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Canadian businesses look at energy, real estate, logistics and aerospace

BY OLENA GORDIENKO
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The cultural and emotional ties between Ukraine and Canada, home to 1.2 million people who trace their roots to Ukraine, are stronger than business ones. Cumulative Canadian investment in Ukraine stands at \$72.4 million, a small part of Ukraine's \$49 billion total from foreign sources. The partial cause is corruption and slow pace of reforms.

"We would like to see faster changes, but at least we see some positive trends," said Zenon Potichny, board director of Shelton Petroleum oil and gas company, and president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce.

There are some bright spots, among them, large companies like Canadian Tire retail chain are hiring outsourcing help from Ukraine, especially information technology services.

If the two nations sign a bilateral free-trade agreement under negotiation, the economic ties should intensify.

Here are some of the promising industries:

Energy

Energy, including oil and gas, are among the most interesting sectors for bilateral cooperation, Potichny says. Canada is the fifth largest oil and gas producer in the world.

Canadian-Swedish Shelton Petroleum has already invested nearly \$8 million in Ukraine since 2001. Its Lelyaki field in Chernihiv Oblast, developed with state-owned Ukrnafta, brought in only \$1-\$1.5 million in 2014, half the usual revenue, because of the drop in oil prices, while extraction taxes rose from 39 to 45 percent in Ukraine. One of their two offshore wells near Russian-occupied Crimea is now on hold.

Potichny says that when these taxes are lowered and the central bank removes hard currency restrictions, particularly on paying dividends abroad, Shelton will look for new opportunities to expand.

Canada's Iskander Energy, an oil and gas exploration and development company, had to stop operations in May 2014 when fighting intensified in the Donbas, where all three of the company's licensed sites were located.

"Everything that we invested, \$15 million, this is the money that at this point I don't know if we will ever recover," company president Jaroslav Kinach says. "Our strategy now is to protect what we have and wait until



Employees of Meest Express, a Canadian-owned parcel delivery service, sort packages at a terminal in Kyiv on June 24. (Volodymyr Petrov)

the war is settled, until at least some certainty is established in eastern Ukraine, because our shareholders are not prepared to invest any money into Ukraine at this point of time."

Metals & mining

Shareholders of Black Iron, a Canadian iron ore exploration company with operations in Kryvyi Rih Oblast, are also not yet prepared. Although far enough geographically from the war, the company has been struggling with legal and bureaucratic issues for the last three years, many involving its attempt to purchase 2,600 hectares from the state.

If the purchase goes through and the project happens, it would create 2,000 direct jobs and up to 8,000 indirect jobs over the next 20 years, the company's president and CEO Matt Simpson says. With \$68 million invested to date, the company has not started mining operations. This would require an additional \$1.1 billion.

"We don't want to spend a lot more money on the project until we know that (the current) government is genuine and willing to help us resolve those issues," Simpson says. "Ukraine's new government needs to focus on ensuring that existing foreign investors in

Ukraine are successful to help restart the economy by attracting further foreign investment."

Real estate/hotel-office

Other Canadian businesses in Ukraine are more firmly rooted.

Although 2014 was tough for Toronto-Kiev, a mixed-use real estate complex, the development is doing better than the market average, says Yuriy Kryvosheya, president of the Canadian-Ukrainian joint venture.

Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Waschuk called the complex, which will host the Canada Day celebration on July 1, a "visible symbol of the very real presence of Canadian investment... in Ukraine."

Waschuk estimates the investment at more than \$50 million. It comprises 83,000 square meters and includes a Holiday Inn hotel, offices, restaurants, stores and underground parking. A 30 percent growth in occupancy in 2014 was largely attributed to the low base rate of 2013, as the property was only commissioned in 2012, Kryvosheya says.

Logistics

The Canadian logistics company Meest Express, part of the Meest Group, managed five-percent growth in 2014 despite the loss of branches in the east and Crimea and the hryvnia's devaluation. Meest was created in 1989 to transport aid and commercial cargo from the diaspora in Canada and the U.S. to Ukraine. Meest Group plans to invest an additional \$3 million in chain development, marketing and information technology in 2015. It has already invested some \$30 million to date and employs about 3,000 people.

Meest, like other companies, is "waiting for talks about fighting corruption to start being implemented," according to deputy CEO for commerce and marketing Oleg Kalenskyi.

Outsourcing

Promotion, a group of outsourcing companies in Ukraine, provides up to 70 percent revenue for its parent, KSV Consulting group founded in Toronto in 1998.

management services, warehouse functions for big international and local companies in Ukraine, involving a total of some 8,000 outsourced employees. Mondelez (formerly Kraft Foods), Samsung, Kyivstar, Procter & Gamble are among Promotion's clients.

KSV President Kyrilo Kryvoruchko says the company accounts for 40 percent of the staff outsource market in Ukraine. Neither Crimea nor eastern Ukraine accounted for a significant part of the firm's operations which allowed them to boost revenue by 15 percent to \$50 mln in 2014, year over year.

MIB Healthcare Solutions provides matchmaking between Canadian projects, investors, and Ukrainian resources and startups in IT, healthcare consulting, project management and more. They fetch fees of up to 8 percent for money raised or invested funds, or receive 5-10 percent share stakes in startups for which they raise funds.

Aerospace

Waschuk noted promising bilateral contacts in aerospace, "which relate to the need of major Ukrainian producers to find new propulsion, avionics and other partners," for which Canadians are well-equipped. A thriving aerospace community in Montreal, in particular, is now seeking new opportunities in Ukraine.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olena Gordienko can be reached at gordienko@kyivpost.com



Yuriy Kryvosheya, president of the 83,000 square-meter Toronto-Kiev real estate complex, stands near the entrance to the Holiday Inn hotel, which is part of the development, on June 25. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Ukrainian-Canadians move to help nation with many needs

→ **6** tor, on the group's website.

The project also is aiming to establish physical medicine and rehabilitation departments at Ukraine's leading universities in tandem with the Ukrainian government.

Canadian Lisa Shymko is the honorary chair of the Guardian Angels project and president of LUCW, and Bohdan Cherniawski is project coordinator and a health care consultant.

Launched in December in Toronto, the project raised more than \$125,000 in its first month of fundraising.

Canada-Ukraine Foundation

The group's projects are too numerous to name. One notable project is the Operation Rainbow Surgical Medical Mission, inspired by Canadian surgeon Oleh Anonyshyn and coordinator Krystina Waler.

Using money raised at a fundraiser attended by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, famous hockey player Wayne Gretzky and Ottawa Senators hockey team owner Eugene Melnyk, the group has sent two specialized teams of Canadian surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses to work with their Ukrainian colleagues and perform reconstructive surgery on EuroMaidan and war victims.

Following a needs assessment a team conducted in April 2014, 37 reconstructive procedures were performed on 30 patients costing

\$125,000 in November, according to Waler. Another team came back in May and performed 53 procedures on 29 patients for a total of 116 operating hours. They left behind \$50,000 worth of implants and received \$130,000 worth of equipment from Canadian medical equipment company Stryker.

Based on their last visit, 12 patients have signed up for the group's next medical mission taking place in October, Waler told the Kyiv Post by phone.

Families are thankful for the medical missions conducted at the Central Military Hospital.

One patient whose jaw was sewed shut told the team that what he wanted the most was for women to find him attractive, according to Waler.

"There are huge physical things with which we could help...we help bring the jaw back to life and help him chew - but we also provide mental, emotional support," she said.

New Generation / Help us Help the Children

Using funds provided by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, the groups have held rehabilitation programs for displaced Crimean Tartar children, as well as children whose parent died or was wounded during the EuroMaidan protests.

A summer camp was held on July 18-Aug. 4 in the Carpathian Mountains

for 350 children at a cost of \$25,000.

Ukraine-registered New Generation, and its sister organization in Canada, Help Us Help the Children, was founded by Toronto native Ruslana Wrzesnewskij in 1993. Its original mission was to help orphaned children in Ukraine by providing basic needs, teaching life skills and holding winter and summer camps to foster socialization. They also run a six-year university scholarship program for orphaned children and currently have 48 students in the program.

After the EuroMaidan Revolution, their mandate changed to help victims stemming from the violence of the protests and of Russia's war in the east, according to Anka Wrzesnewskij, program coordinator for NG and Ruslana's daughter. They still hold summer camps for them, having hosted 415 kids last summer, and plans to take in 475 in August.

NG has held seven 10-day sessions with groups of 30 families in the Carpathian Mountains targeting widows and mothers of sons who died in battle, including their children for rehabilitation, Anka Wrzesnewskij said. Another 30 families will head to Vorokhta in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast this fall. Each session costs about \$25,000.

They are given their own living space in small houses because many live in dormitories or houses with



An instructor helps a women make pottery at a 10-day rehabilitation camp in the Carpathian Mountains for war widows and mothers whose sons died in the east Ukraine combat zone financed by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. in May. (Adriana Luhovy)

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no running water. Workshops include breathing exercises, nature walks, art therapy, and physical education for kids. They take private therapy sessions with Ukrainian psychologists and also have family circles sessions.

Some eastern families come with preconceived notions of western Ukrainians being rabid nationalists, Anka said. "The first three days are usually tense, then they relax after they see they're all (with western Ukrainian families) under the same circumstances," she said.

It's a healthy environment that gives them an aspect of grievance because where they come from, people have forgotten about their losses, she added.

A six-month follow-up program ensues, with volunteers conducting interviews with the families. Children aged 10 years or older then often get invited to attend the groups' regular summer camp. Canada Ukraine Foundation president Victor Hetmanczuk also conducts feedback interviews. The camp's participants also keep in touch through a special Facebook page created on their behalf.

The project is credited for saving the life of a mother in Volyn Oblast who lost a son in the combat zone. She was in the cellar of her apartment building getting ready to kill herself with pills and vodka when the group called to invite her to the rehabilitation camp.

"She said it was a miracle because the cellar never had a cell phone connection so she was shocked to have received the call," Anka said.

Ukrainian Catholic University

This private university in Lviv has many donors, including philanthropist Canadians like James Temerty, and many others who help raise funds and advise the educational institute. Canadian lawyer Daniel Bilak of the

CMS Cameron McKenna law firm in Kyiv is one of them.

As a member of the university's governing body in the senate, the Toronto native also sits on the board of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. He is at the early stages of setting up a physical and occupational rehabilitation program at the university's new campus.

Ukraine recently passed legislation to recognize physical rehabilitation as a profession, so he wants to establish a master's program to train physical and occupational therapists. The center would service civilians and military personnel.

"It would be compliant with NATO standards and provide ambulatory care, outpatient wouldn't be the primary care," Bilak said.

Part of this plan is to change attitudes and how the government treats people requiring rehabilitation as "invalids and expects them to sit at home instead of turning them into functioning members of society to lead full and productive lives and make contributions to society," he said.

This is where occupational therapy would benefit patients, but Ukrainian cities still have problems with ramps and wheelchair access, "the idea is start and change the word 'invalid' to something else in a different manner," added Bilak, who has also advised the minister of justice, prime minister and Presidential Administration, and most recently the former governor of Donetsk Oblast, Serhiy Taruta.

Horizon Capital / Lenna Koszarny

London, Ontario native Lenna Koszarny wears many hats. She is the CEO of Kyiv-based private equity fund Horizon Capital, chairs the advisory council of UCC in Ukraine and sits on the board of UWC.

Through UWC, she helped → **11**

Ukraine's IT Edge

Editor's Note: This article is part of the Kyiv Post IT Fellowship project, sponsored by AVentures Capital, Ciklum, FISON and SoftServe. Content is independent of the financial donors. The newspaper is grateful to the sponsors for supporting Ukraine's free press and making specialized coverage of innovation and technology possible through this fellowship.

Ukraine customers happy about fast new 3G service

BY BOZHENA SHEREMETA
SHEREMETA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukrainian subscribers to the country's three main mobile operators – Kyivstar, MTS and life:) – have taken advantage of speedier 3G coverage in Kyiv and hundreds of other cities since May. All of Ukraine will have 3G coverage by autumn 2016.

MTS said 180,000 subscribers have upgraded to the 3G data plan, but Kyivstar and life:) refused to supply numbers. But judging from MTS figure alone, Ukrainians seem to be willing to pay higher tariffs for the rapid mobile Internet that liberates them from Wi-Fi dependency.

One Kyivstar customer said that "life got so much better with 3G in Kyiv." The switch to 1.5 GB of Internet 3G traffic costs him Hr 95.

Customers report being able to use Google Chrome, Google Maps, Skype and other mobile applications on smartphones without having to wait 10 minutes before the data fully loads.

3G coverage, however, doesn't exist in the Kyiv metro yet.

Kyivstar has launched 3G coverage in Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and other cities with tariffs varying from Hr 55 to Hr 150 for 0.5 GB to 2.5 GB of Internet data. When a customer uses up the allotted gigabytes, he can still use the regular mobile Internet, but at a slower speed.

Dmitry Chaplinsky, a software developer from Kyiv, uses 3G provided by MTS and pays Hr 90 a month for 2 GB. He uses Skype and Viber outdoors, though he complains he can't hear people on line very well. "The speed is not very fast, but it is already progress compared to EDGE network," he says, referring to earlier coverage capability.

MTS Ukraine currently has the largest 3G coverage in Ukraine, supplying over 900 cities. It offers two tariff plans that provide 2.5 GB of 3G Internet data traffic for Hr 70 or Hr 90 a month. For unlimited data traffic, MTS offers the Ultra VIP 3G for Hr 949 a month.



Kyivans browse the Internet on their smartphones at a centrally located restaurant in Kyiv on June 25. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Roman Dzigovskiy, the head of public relations at the Lviv mobile game development company Nravo,

uses 3G provided by life:). He uses a tariff plan that gives him 2 GB at Hr 95 a month. A 10-minute-long Skype

call costs Dzigovskiy about 50 MB of data traffic. But he plans to switch to a 4 GB plan. "This way it will be guaranteed that I have enough data traffic," he says. But he would prefer to pay more for unlimited data traffic.

life:) so far only provides 3G in Kyiv and Lviv with tariff plans ranging from Hr 55 to Hr 150 monthly.

According to Serhiy Huliayev, marketing director for life:), the average monthly Internet consumption by its subscribers is about 140 MB, which is why the operator offers tariff plans with more limited volume.

But life:) subscriber Ksenia Mure wants more. "It seems to be enough, but will it be enough for the whole month?" she asks. "This is a question without an answer so far."

Kyiv Post staff writer Bozhena Sheremeta can be reached at sheremeta@kyivpost.com. The Kyiv Post's IT coverage is sponsored by AVentures Capital, Ciklum, FISON and SoftServe.

Canadian philanthropists helping soldiers, children, students and wounded

→ 10 25 Canadian families adopt 50 Ukrainian soldiers by supplying them with non-lethal aid. The concept was to not look at the war "through facts and figures, but to have a soldier to sponsor and get to know them" Koszarny told the Kyiv Post.

They received individualized equipment and had it delivered to them where they were stationed, including

one near the Donetsk Airport.

Horizon Capital helped raise money to purchase building materials to rebuild a school in the town of Mykolayivka in Donetsk Oblast through Novy Donbas, a Ukrainian group. It was the only school in town with an auditorium so it was used by all area schools and was considered, "the heart of the whole town," she said.

Another company, KMCORE, where Canadian Bohdan Kupych is a partner, helped upgrade the computer lab together with Iskander Energy, a Canadian-based firm. Separately, Kupych contributed to sending 3,000 tablet computers with mapping and communication capabilities to the front. He's also developing drones.

Rebuilding the school helped mend wounds and show the community that all of Ukraine cares about Donbas, said Koszarny, whose father was born near Artemivsk in Donetsk Oblast.

Led by Lora Artugina, Novy Donbas brought volunteers from different regions to help rebuild the school and ended up "transforming hearts and minds in the process melting away all the barriers," Kszarny said.

She also helped through the local chapter of UCC to ensure that non-lethal aid sent by the Canadian government got properly distributed and in the right hands. They partnered with volunteers to meet the aid, check documentation, oversee deployment and accompany the equipment to the front lines.

"It was to build credibility in terms of giving aid to Ukraine because people have heard different stories of things being not properly allocated or going missing," she said.

Kyiv Post editor Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

Canada at a glance

Total area: 9,984,670 square kilometers

Population: 35.75 million

Population of Ukrainian descent: 1.2 million

Government type: a parliamentary democracy, a federation, and a Commonwealth realm

Head of state: Queen Elizabeth II; represented by Governor General David Lloyd Johnston

Head of government: Prime Minister Stephen Joseph Harper

GDP, PPP: \$1.647 trillion (2015 estimate)

GDP per capita, PPP: \$45,982 (2015 estimate)

Main sectors of the economy: mining, energy, agriculture, aerospace, banking, and services

Sources: Central Intelligence Agency, Ukrainian State Statistics Service, Embassy of Canada in Ukraine, Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, Global Finance Magazine

Ukrainian-Canadian relations:

Trade: \$264.1 million (2014)

Exports from Canada to Ukraine: pharmaceuticals, mineral fuels and oils, fish and seafood, meat and machinery.

Exports from Ukraine to Canada: copper wares, mineral fuel, oil and refining products, ferrous metals and products, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and fertilizers

Canadian investment in Ukraine: \$72.4 million (cumulative as of April 2015)

Main Canadian investors: Black Iron (mining), Cub Energy, Serinus Energy, Shelton Petroleum (oil/gas) Toronto-Kiev (real estate), AG Growth International (agriculture), Promotion/KSV Consulting Inc. (outsourcing), Meest (logistics), Semex Alliance (agriculture)

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Lifestyle

Ukraine has an official day off on June 29, following the Constitution Day Sunday. Use our Going Out Guide at www.kyivpost.com/lifestyle to pick the best entertainments for this long weekend.



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Where to find great Ukrainian food



WITH YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM

Sommeliers offer tips on ordering good wine in Kyiv

Kyiv restaurants tend to offer extensive wine menus that can confuse a novice diner. So the Kyiv Post gathered advice from experts to help guide them through the wine ordering process at venues.

Their main recommendation is to order wine where professional sommeliers – the chief wine stewards of a restaurant – are employed. They can recommend a wine pairing for any dish.

“The wine list depends on the specialization of a restaurant,” says Oleg Kravcheko, a sommelier at Sobaka Siela Golubia restaurant, who was picked Ukraine’s best sommelier in 2011. “Ideally, it must harmonize with the cuisine.”

For instance, the best choice for Japanese cuisine is white and sparkling wines. A good seafood restaurant should offer a variety of dry, sparkling, or rose wines, while red ones may not be represented, but they are much needed where red meat and chicken are served, as well as sparkling and rose-chilled wines.

A restaurant with Asian cuisine should have in its cellar wines that go well with spicy food – like Pinot Gris and other French Alsace wines like Gewurztraminer, as well as the German wine Riesling.

When leaving the choice of wine up to the sommelier, customers are expected to name a country of preference, a wine’s age, and a price range, Kravchenko advised.

Dmytro Sydorenko, president of the Association of Sommeliers of Ukraine, devoted 20 years of his life to the wine business. He refuses to recommend even a classical combination of red wine with cheese, saying that without knowing the type of cheese it would be pointless.

“When some say that a certain wine tastes good with fish, does it mean that it is good with stock fish too? Because it is also fish,” Sydorenko said.

Sydorenko also said that an average customer may not distinguish between the refined taste of expensive wine and ordinary wine from a supermarket.

Dmytro Sydorenko’s picks of restaurants with best wines

Pantagruel specializes in Italian cuisine and offers Italian wines. The restaurant owner has been working to perfect the Italian wine list for some 10 years now.

“They have wines that → 13



Olena Philipenko, head chef of the Ukrainian cuisine restaurant O’Panas, proudly sits in front of the traditional dishes she serves: crepes, potato patties, borscht and others. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

After shopping for clothes in a made-in-Ukraine store, the latest fashion trend, don’t go home: Keep up the patriotic theme by taking in a hearty Ukrainian meal. There’s much more to the national tastebuds than simply borscht and salo. The Kyiv Post rounds up the best Kyiv restaurants to feel the authentic taste of Ukrainian cuisine.

O’Panas

One of the Kyiv’s best-known restaurants, O’Panas is located in the cen-

tral and picturesque Shevchenko Park. Its traditional stove, straw chairs, Ukrainian baroque elements in decoration, and lots of verdure recreate a design of a traditional Ukrainian house. The highlights of the menu are varenyky with potatoes and mushrooms (Hr 62), pork shank baked with spices and beer (Hr 295) and borscht, served with sour cream, garlic sauce and *pampushka* buns (Hr 68). The restaurant has an impressive offer of tasty wild game.

10 Tereshchenkivska St. Open 8 p.m. – midnight on weekdays, 10 a.m. – 1 a.m. on weekends

Dykanka

Named after the area in Poltava Oblast that was featured in Mykola Gogol’s classic collection of short stories, “Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka,” the restaurant offers an extended list of traditional Ukrainian meals. It serves gourmet dishes that Ukrainian nobles used to dine on, such as a duck leg served with apples and raspberries (Hr 135) or a rabbit stewed in cream (Hr 260). The more common meals that could be found on a table of a Ukrainian villager are represented by the many versions of salo, or lard (Hr 29-52), the greasy Carpathian corn porridge *banosh* (Hr

50) or potato patties *kartoplyanyky* with cabbage stuffing (Hr 35).

4A Malyska St. Open every day noon – midnight

Mlyn

The menu in Mlyn (Ukrainian for “mill”) offers a mix of Ukrainian and European dishes. Traditional Ukrainian meals are represented with veal served with potatoes and mushrooms in crocks (Hr 65), salo with garlic and croutons, or potato pancakes *deruny* with meat stuffing. Mlyn has an excellent location in Hydropark on the picturesque banks of the Dnipro River. → 13

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Vitaliy Larin, a sommelier at *Vino e Cucina* in Kyiv, pours wine in the restaurant's dining room on June 23. The Italian restaurant serves wine starting at Hr 200 per bottle and ranges up to Hr 104,000. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Connoisseurs who pay Hr 100,000 for a bottle

→ 12 are served only in this restaurant. Guests can sample them and the price is affordable," Sydorenko says.

Every month, Pantagruel has wine tastings that offer wine from little-known wineries



from a different region, and sells it by the glass.

Price: Bottles start at Hr 330 and go up to Hr 10,000.

Where and when: 1 Mykoly Lysenka St. 8 a.m. – 11 p.m.

The sprawling **Praha** restaurant is located far from the city center, but its wine list is worth the trip. It pours wines from France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, the U.S., New Zealand, and Ukraine.

The restaurant's special perk is a terrace near a lake with swans. The most sought after wine is Italian sparkling wine Prosecco, which is good as an aperitif or with light salads. A sommelier is available.

Price: From Hr 440 for a bottle of Ukrainian Chardonnay Colonist 2012 to Hr 22,500 for French rose champagne Louis Roederer 2015.

Where and when: 1 Akademika Glushkova Ave. 9 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. A sommelier is available from noon.

Vino e Cucina specializes in fine wine and Italian cuisine. The venue pours wines with a special device that doesn't harm the cork, preserving the opened bottle for the next visitor.

The wine list includes more than 800 titles and has a very impressive price range.

Price: Bottles start at Hr 200. The most expensive wine is Chateau Petrus 2014 from Pomerol, France,

sold for Hr 104,000.

Where and when: 82 Artema St., 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Mr. Zuma restaurant specializes in modern Japanese cuisine, but also offers red meat with a variety of original sauces. Its sommelier advises to choose red Pinot Noir from Burgundy, France, to go with grilled salmon or a red meat steak.

The restaurant offers wines from old Europe and from Chili, New Zealand, Argentina as well.

Price: Hr 500 - 10,000 for a bottle

Where to drink: 1A Sportyvna Square, Gulliver Shopping Mall. 12 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuliana Romanyshyn can be reached at romanyshyn@kyivpost.com.

Going native, food and all, in Ukraine

→ 12 9V Brovarsky Ave. Open daily noon – midnight

Kanapa

This gourmet restaurant offers a variety of meals cooked according to the recipes of Ukraine's pre-Soviet bourgeois. Those looking for an unusual approach to the Ukrainian cuisine can try the traditional dishes cooked with molecular cuisine techniques, which is another specialty of Kanapa.

Some of the highlights of the menu are the veal ribs with blueberry sauce with a side of mashed green peas (Hr 239), grilled catfish with oat flakes, aged cheese, cream and nuts (Hr 229) and steamed varenyky stuffed with poppy seeds, apples and honey (Hr 89). To complement the meal with drinks, choose fresh Rhubarb Lemonade (Hr 27), Buckthorn Juice (Hr 35) or traditional strong drink Khrynovuha (Hr 640 per bottle).

19A Andriyivsky Uzviz St. Open daily 10 a.m. - midnight

Tsarske Selo

This iconic Ukrainian cuisine restaurant is styled after a Ukrainian village of 18th century. The restaurant serves meals prepared according to old

recipes. Visitors can enjoy different types of varenyky stuffed either with cherries, poppy seeds and raisins, or salmon, spinach and cheese (Hr 79). Rabbit leg braised with cream and stewed vegetables costs Hr 199 and beef tongue baked with mushrooms and cheese goes for Hr 199. On the drink side, the venue offers *spotykach*, Ukrainian vodka infused with nutmeg and spices (Hr 100).

22 Lavrska St. Open daily 9 a.m. – 1 a.m.

Korchma Taras Bulba

Having the appearance of a two-story Cossack estate, the restaurant offers a menu that corresponds to 17th century Ukrainian dishes. It serves authentic meals like duck roasted with apples and buckwheat (Hr 289), Ukrainian blood sausage *kroviianka*, served with pickled cabbage, marinated tomatoes and horseradish (Hr 86) or grilled chicken with thyme served with vegetables and sour cream (Hr 132). The staff wears traditional Ukrainian attire.

2-4/7 Pushkinska St. Open daily 9 a.m. – midnight

Kyiv Post staff writer Nataliya Trach can be reached at trach@kyivpost.com



Ukrainian borscht is served with pampushka buns and sour cream in Kanapa, a national cuisine restaurant on Andriyivsky Uzviz Street. (Courtesy)

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Ukrainian Drift Challenge. June 28. 12 p.m. Kyiv Chayka Airfield (5 Antonova St., Petropavlivska Borshchahivka village near Kyiv). Hr 200

June 28



Ukrainian short films festival

Vidkryta Nich (Open Night) is the only all-Ukrainian short film festival. It usually lasts one night, but this year organizers turned it into a two-day festival which will take place in many Ukrainian cities at once. All the movies are screened in Ukrainian with English subtitles.

Vidkryta Nich (The Open Night) short film festival. June 26-27. Art Prychal Gallery (Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska Street, pier No. 2). Free

June 26-27



Bandits (Kyiv) vs. Lisoruby (Uzhhorod) American football match

Two avid competitors in American football play for the title of Ukraine's championship at Kyiv's Spartak Stadium.

Bandits (Kyiv) vs. Lisoruby (Uzhhorod). June 28. 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Spartak Stadium (105 Kyrylivska St.). Hr 30

June 28



'At the Bottom' comedy fest

The second "At the Bottom" humorous festival aims to remind everybody in an entertaining way about the difficulties of office life. The outdoor festival's program includes a horror show, a labyrinth with human resources tests, a bankrupt office museum, and other amusements, as well as a range of snacks also themed after work life at offices.

'At the Bottom' humorous festival. June 27 – 28. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Kyiv Expocenter (1 Akademik Hlushkov Ave.). Entrance fee to be announced

June 27 – 28



Ukrainian art of 1985 – 2004

This show at the Pinchuk Art Centre presents works of contemporary Ukrainian artists whose talents matured in the late Soviet era and in the first decade of independent Ukraine. The display features the paintings of artists like Serhiy Bratkov, Vlada Ralko, Oleksandr Roytburd, Oleh Tistol and many others.

Ukrainian art of 1985 – 2004 (art exhibition). Through Oct. 4. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Closed on Mondays. Pinchuk Art Centre (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). Free

(Vlada Ralko/facebook)

Through Oct. 4




Ostrov electronic music festival

Onuka and Cepasa, Ukrainian electro music bands, along with the American underground legend Carl Craig and German bands Booka Shade and DJ Koze are on the lineup of Ostrov, the electronic music festival.

Ostrov (electronic music festival). June 28-29. 8 p.m. Trukhaniv Island. Hr 350-799

June 28-29

(Carl Craig/facebook)



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