

Lietuviai Kalgaryje

Lithuanians in Calgary

Nr./No. 4 (36) Sausis/January



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Some interesting facts about Calgary:

It's a youthful city and full of energy. The average age is 35.7 years.

Nearly 25% of Calgarians are foreign born.

More than 120 languages are spoken in the city.

According to Forbes.com, Calgary is the cleanest city in the world!

The Calgary region is home to more than 1.3 million people.

There are more volunteers per capita than any other Canadian city.

Calgary sits at 1048 meters (3,438 feet) above sea level.

The sun shines on average of 2,300 hours a year. It's Canada's sunniest major city.

There are normally 115 consecutive frost free days – from May 23 to September 15th.

The temperature reaches 20C or better 85 days of the year.

You can walk 18 kms (11 miles) in downtown Calgary without having to

go outside! The **Plus 15**, a feature unique to Calgary, is an inside walkway that connects 100 buildings with 60 suspended bridges

15 feet above the ground.

Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY - LIETUVOS VĒLIAVOS IŠKĖLIMAS



Lietuvos tautinė vėliava, oficialus valstybės simbolis – trispalvė vėliava, plevėsuos Kalgario centre, rotušės aikštėje,

Vasario 16d. 2014, nuo saulėtekio iki saulėleidžio.

Kviečiame ir tikimės, kad geras būrys Kalgario lietuvių susirinks valandėlei prie miesto rotušės vėliavos nuleidimo laiku, 5 valandą vakaro, garbingai paminėti mūsų tautinę šventę ir sugiedoti Tautišką giesmę.

City of Calgary will fly the Lithuanian flag on February 16th 2015, from sunrise to sunset.

We invite and hope a good number of us will come to the city hall at 5:00 pm to sing Lithuanian and Canadian national anthems to mark this very important holiday in our history.

Iki malonaus, Valdyba

Commemoration of Lithuania's National Holidays – Independence Day, February 16, 1918 and Restoration of Independence Day, March 11, 1990

Historical background

The **Act of Independence of Lithuania** or **Act of February 16** was signed by the Council of Lithuania on February 16, 1918, proclaiming the restoration of an independent State of Lithuania, governed by democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital. The Act was signed by all twenty representatives, chaired by Jonas Basanavičius. The Act of February 16 was the result of a series of resolutions on the issue, including one issued by the Vilnius Conference and the Act of January 8. The path to the Act was long and complex because the German Empire exerted pressure on the Council to form an alliance. The Council had to carefully maneuver between the Germans, whose troops were present in Lithuania, and the demands of the Lithuanian people.

The immediate effects of the announcement of Lithuania's re-establishment of independence were limited. The German authorities prohibited publication of the Act, and the text was distributed and printed illegally. The work of the Council was hindered, and Germans remained in control over Lithuania. The situation changed only when Germany lost World War I in the fall of 1918. In November 1918 the first Cabinet of Lithuania was formed, and the Council of Lithuania gained control over the territory of Lithuania. Independent Lithuania, although it would soon be battling the Wars of Independence, became a reality.

While the Act's original document has been lost, its legacy continues. The laconic Act is the legal basis for the existence of modern Lithuania, both during the period between the two World Wars and since restoration of independence in 1990, following many decades of subjugation by the Soviet Union in the wake of World War II. The Act formulated the basic constitutional principles that were and still are followed by all Constitutions of Lithuania. The Act itself was a key element in the foundation of Lithuania's re-establishment of independence in 1990. Lithuania, breaking away from the Soviet Union, stressed that it was simply re-establishing the independent state that existed between the world wars and that the Act never lost its legal power.

February 16th has traditionally been celebrated as one of the major holidays in Lithuania and, in Canada, by Canadians of Lithuanian heritage. When independence was restored, in 1990, it became the custom also to celebrate Restoration of Independence Day (March 11, 1990), usually in conjunction with Independence Day. The year 2015 is of great significance to Lithuanians and those of Lithuanian heritage around the world, as it marks the 25th Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence, a pivotal event in the dismantling of the Soviet Empire.

By Sylvia Kasparas

Kviečiame susipažinti su KLJS - Kanados Lietuvių Jaunimo Sąjunga

Kas yra Kanados Lietuvių Jaunimo Sąjunga? Visas lietuvių kilmės jaunimas Kanadoje priklauso KLJS. Nors jų pagrindinė veikla Toronte, jie visuomet ieško būdų plėsti savo veiklą. KLJS tikslas yra sudominti jaunimą lietuviška veikla.

Šių metų spalio 4 d. Otavoje įvyko Kanados lietuvių bendruomenės XXII-oji krašto tarybos 2-oji sesija. Keturi atstovai iš Kanados lietuvių jaunimo sąjungos dalyvavo šiame suvažiavime: Skaidra Puodžiūnaitė, Joana Ažubalytė, Aleksandra Šarūnaitė ir Rimantas Kubilius. Dalyvaudami šiame posėdyje KLJS atstovai tikėjosi, kad jie geriau galės suprasti kaip Kanados lietuvių bendruomenė padeda lietuviams Kanadoje.

Kiekvienais metais KLJS yra skirtingi, nes keičiasi valdyba kasmet ir ruošiami kitokie renginiai. Keliatas renginių organizuotų praėjusiais metais:

KLJS dalyvavo Pasaulio Lietuvių Jaunimo Sąjungos kongrese. Prieš pradėdant šių metų kadenciją didėdė grupė jaunų atstovų dalyvavo PLJS kongrese, kuris subūrė 50 jaunuolių iš trylikos šalių.

Vasario 16-osios proga, kaip ir yra daroma daugelį metų, buvo ruošiamas minėjimas Maironio mokyklos mokiniams.

Norėdami sužinoti daugiau apie KLJS veiklą galite apsilankyti:

Facebook – Kanados Lietuvių Jaunimo Sąjunga – KLJS

Tinklapyje – <http://www.kljs.ca>

E-mail – kanadoljs@gmail.com

Kalgario lietuvių senjorų galo metų suėjimas

Calgary Lithuanian Seniors Brunch,

December 13th 2014, at the Dansh Canadian Club

2014 metai eina į pabaigą, oras atšalo ir visi visur susirenka ir švenčia tą didžiausią žiemos šventę, Šventas Kalėdas. Ta proga, gruodžio 13ta ir Kalgario lietuvių senjorų burelis susirinko Danish Canadian Club, pabendrauti prie valgio stalo, ir palinkėti viens kitam sveikatos ir laimingų ateinančių metų.

Until a decade or so ago it was unheard of in Lithuania to celebrate Christmas season. The Advent time was spent with solemnity.

However with Western influence, traditions are changing there too. In Calgary, we have always combined and celebrated both the local and Lithuanian customs.

In the spirit of the season, eighteen seniors met for brunch on December 13th at the Danish Canadian Club downtown, to continue friendships and associations with each other, to celebrate the coming of Christmas, and to wish each other a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and a happy New Year.

Elvyra Krausas

CLCS President and Seniors' member

Photos by Juozas Žagelis



Sveikiname 2014 metų Kalgario lietuvių bendruomenės stipendijos laimėtojus:

Juliją Blazytę ir Patricką Labanauską laimėjusius po \$1000.00 CAD mokslams aukštosiose mokyklose.

Linkime jiems abiem sėkmingų studijų !



Patrick Labanauskas



Julija Blazyte

Klevelio pasirodymas 2014m. gruodžio 5d. Skandinavų bendruomenės kalėdiniame koncerte.

Lietuvių bendruomenės šokių kolektyvas "Klevelis" buvo pakviestas sudalyvauti Kalgario skandinavų bendruomenės reginyje 2014m. Gruodžio 5d. Koncerte, be Klevelio, pasirodė ir Skandinavų namų jaunimo choras, instrumentinė grupė ir Skandinavų suaugusių choras.





Lithuanian Community Membership

Membership in our organization is collected yearly. Dues are \$10 per adult or \$20 per family (a family is defined as two adults who live together and their children under the age of 18 or, if over 18, who are attending high school or post-secondary school). Even though most prices go up on a yearly basis, this is the same low price we have been paying for many years.

To pay your dues **FOR 2015**, please send a cheque made out to CLCC (Calgary Lithuanian Canadian Community) to Sylvia Kasper, Treasurer, at 923 – 13 Avenue S. W., Calgary, AB T2R 0L3 with a note of your names, address, e-mail and phone number. If you can't remember whether or not you paid this year, contact Sylvia by e-mail at tonykasper@shaw.ca and she will check the records.

Is it necessary to be a member to participate in events held by the Lithuanian Society? No, all events are open to those of Lithuanian heritage and their friends in the Calgary area.

Why should you become a member? For many years, Calgarians of Lithuanian heritage have been getting together to promote and encourage the Lithuanian heritage, culture and language, as well as to socialize and share fellowship. Your membership dues help to pay the cost of organizing events and sharing information with one another. We are also the Calgary Branch of the Canadian Lithuanian Bendruomenė and, as such, we receive assistance and funding for our Lithuanian Heritage Language School and other projects. Several years ago, we legally formed the Calgary Lithuanian Cultural Society so that we would be able to apply to Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission to share in Alberta's gaming funds. Since then, we have worked three Casinos and been awarded a substantial sum of money. That has allowed us to participate in a number of cultural events: Dainiu Svente in Toronto 2010, Soku Svente in Boston 2012, Song and Dance Festival 2014 in Vilnius, sending a number of youth to Camp Kretinga in Ontario three times, Jonines Festival 2012 featuring a concert by top Lithuanian vocal artists, travel to conferences, bringing in speakers and performers from other parts of Canada, the United States and Lithuania, and donating funds to charities in Alberta and Canada. We have also held three lunches to show our appreciation to the senior members of the Community who have contributed so much in the past. Did you enjoy Cepleinai Night last September? That was organized by the Society. We hope to be able to offer other such fun events in the coming year. Did you attend either of the Immigration Information events that we held in 2014? More of these useful meetings will be coming up.

PLEASE JOIN so that you can help us to plan how we can best use our funds for the benefit of the whole community and so that our Society will have paid-up members in order to continue to qualify as a legitimate group to participate in the Casino program.

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