

the Bohemian

state of mind



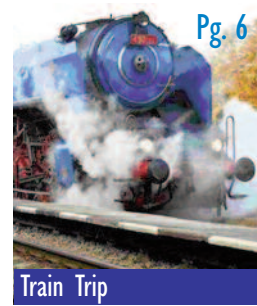
CONSULATE GENERAL
of the Czech Republic

monthly newsletter for Bohemians by birth and bohemians at heart



December 2011

- Golden Age Gala
- Dear Bohemians
- Travel Tips



Events Calendar

Czech Events

Dec 1 @ 8 pm

**George Grosman
Quartet**

The Dominion on Queen
www.georgegrosman.com

Dec 1 - 12

The Czech Boys Choir

Various cities in Ontario
www.czechboyschoir.com/en/calendar

Dec 4 @ 2 pm

**St. Nicolas at
Masaryktown**

Prague Restaurant
Info: 416-439-4354

Dec 11 @ 11 pm

Christmas Market

Prague Restaurant
Info: 416-439-4354

Dec 16 @ 7 pm

**Annual Christmas
Dinner MMI**

Prague Restaurant
Info: 416-439-4354

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Consular Window

– New Civil Code passed

The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic passed a new Civil Code during its session on November 9, 2011. The bill was prepared by the Recodification Commission of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic led by Professor Karel Elias. Preparatory work and discussions on this were started 11 years ago. The Code incorporates a new, modern, comprehensive adjustment of civil law; it lays a larger emphasis on individual rights, the principle of free will, and contains a



unified codification of contract law. The Code comes into effect starting in 2014, replacing the Civil Code from 1964 which was amended many times and did not adjust to all civil law spheres. It is believed that the new Code

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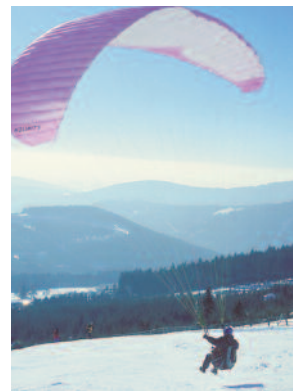
Bohemian Journey

– Unusual Winter Sports

Apart from a wide choice of ski slopes and terrains for freestyle skiing, Czech mountains also offer many facilities for untraditional winter activities ranging from adrenaline sports to fun leisure time activities.

You can try out bobsleigh tracks, ski-bobbing, snow scooters or a wild snow tube ride. Other possibilities include riding a

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Events Calendar *cont'd*

**Dec 24 @ 10 pm
Midnight Christmas
Mass**

St. Wenceslaus Church
Info: 416-532-5272

**Dec 25 @ 10:30 am
Christmas Day Mass
and Carols**

St. Wenceslaus Church
Info: 416-532-5272

**Dec 26 @ 3 pm
2nd Christmas
Day Mass**

Masaryktown Homes
Info: 416-532-5272



Dear Bohemians

– by Consul General

The summer was beautiful. I arrived in Canada at the end of June, during which time the weather was warm and sunny. It wasn't beautiful in the Czech Republic and I told myself that perhaps this was only good luck, but it was not. The entire summer was humid and sweaty; I was puzzled, "How can this be? Isn't Canada similar to Greenland?" At least, that is what we Czechs think. Throughout the summer months I met many Czech compatriots, colleagues from other diplomatic missions, and important politicians in Ontario.

The fall was pleasant; the weather continued to be lovely and together with my colleagues from the Consulate we prepared for the season of National holidays. In September we celebrated the Day of Czech Statehood. In October, along with the community, we remembered the Independent State Day. And in November, we commemorated the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day at our Czech Embassy in Ottawa. It was another sunny day and I took a beautiful walk through downtown Ottawa.

The winter will be interesting. I have not experienced winter here yet and I am very curious whether it will be as "mild" as in Belarus, where I had served as the Head of the Embassy for nearly five years. But most importantly, it is Christmas time. We will be celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus. There will be plenty of snow. New Year's Eve will be sunny again; the snow will glisten and crunch



under our footsteps. At least, that is what I wish for. Regardless, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours,
Vladimir Ruml

Consular Window *(continued from pg. 1)*

brings a final break-up with communist law in this area.

The Code contains more than 3,000 articles and is divided into 5 parts. The first part deals with the legal position of an individual. The second part amends family law – marriage, rights and duties of man and wife,

parents and children. The third part adjusts so-called absolute property rights – possession, property, joint ownership, material rights, trust, and succession law. The fourth part deals with so called relative property rights – contracts. The last part contains articles on implementation.

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Consular Window *(continued from pg. 2)*

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL CHANGES:

- **An animal** is no longer considered an object.
- **Paternity denial** – it will be possible to deny one's paternity until the child's 6th birthday.
- **The educational role** of parents has been strengthened.
- **Children's homes** – children can no longer be placed in a children's home for an indefinite period of time, but for a 3-year maximum. After this period the judicial decision must be re-deliberated.
- **Succession law** – in the case of more contradictory testaments, the testament must be dated, otherwise it will be considered invalid. It will be possible to put some conditions in the testament.
- **Water pipeline, sewage or electric lines** will not be part of the property.
- **Leases of apartments** – landlords may raise the rent once a year to a 3 year maximum of 20%. Rent may be raised by 10% only in case of renovation.
- **Adoption** – it will now be possible to adopt an adult.



PLEASE NOTE

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Toronto would like to inform all clients that due to legislative changes being implemented in the process of issuing identification documents, **the passport application system will be shut down** and necessary upgrades will be performed from **December 19th, 2011 to January 1st, 2012**. During this time, no passport applications will be accepted and newly issued passports will not be handed out. Thank you for your understanding.

Czech and Slovak Television
Nova Vize & Slovensky Svet invite you to
The Golden Age Gala

*Under the auspice of the Consul General of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vladimír Ruml
& the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Michael Martinec*



Join us for an evening of world-class entertainment and dance, featuring live performances by stars of the Czech and Slovak music scene, singers: **Nad'a Urbánková, Peter Ondria, Martin France** and other special guests!



Your hosts for the night will be Martina Sirova and Slovak radio personality Marek Markuss Adamec.



PLUS don't miss an exclusive fashion show by world renowned designer **Beata Rajská**

...and the one-of-a-kind Silent Auction!

**Tickets: \$160.00 in advance
\$180.00 at the door
\$1500.00 for table of 10**

**Saturday, January 28, 2012
Champagne reception at 6:00 P.M.
Dinner at 7:00 P.M.
Followed by entertainment and dance**

**Mississauga Grand Banquet & Convention Centre
35 Brunel Road, Unit 7
Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 3E8**



Reserve your tickets now at:
TEL: 416-508-4517 (Roman)
EMAIL: info@goldenagegala.com
WEB: www.goldenagegala.com

Bohemian Journey *(continued from pg. 1)*

sledge or setting out for a journey on snowshoes into deep snow.

Ski-bobbing

The Czech Republic is one of the world powers in ski-bobbing – a winter sport which takes place on steep ski slopes or slalom tracks. At first sight, the skibob resembles a children's bike but instead of wheels, there are two short skis attached to the bottom of the metal construction. Riders usually reach speeds of up to 120 km per hour. You can ride a ski-bob in all Czech mountains and it is also possible to rent one from most ski resorts.

Snow scooters

This winter activity has not spread widely as the local mountains are rather small and there are only a few specially marked trails. Despite that, you can still frolic on the snowy plains of the Krkonose Mountains as well as in other bigger winter resorts.



Snow-tubing

Snow-tubing offers a wild ride on a special inflatable snow boat on a snow track. It is an adrenaline sport but you have nothing to worry about. There are



snow-tubing areas in Bozi Dar Ski Resort or in the Zubri Resort near Nove Mesto in Moravia, which offer a 350-metre long snow-tubing track.

Snow shoes

Snowshoeing is a popular relaxation sports activity. Snowshoes used to be a means of getting across areas covered in snow in the past but are currently experiencing a great comeback. The greatest advantage of snowshoes is that you can head out anywhere you want, even outside cross-country skiing routes and into the woods. You may rent snowshoes in most ski resorts and enjoy a short walk or set out for a several-hour long journey.

Ride on a bobsleigh track

The adrenaline-fuelled bobsleigh track ride has become very popular with people of all ages. You can limit the style and speed of the ride yourself. You will find quality bobsleigh tracks in the Krkonose Mountains, as well as in many other resorts.

Riding in a sleigh

It is not exclusively a children's activity. You can see that for yourself, for example, at the 4-km long natural sleigh track in Spindleruv Mlyn or at the foothill of Cerna hora in the Krkonose Mountains.

<http://www.czech.cz/en/105537-unusual-winter-sports-in-the-czech-republic>

Czech Republic Travel Tips for December 2011

206TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SLAVKOV 02/12/2011 - 05/12/2011

The Slavkov battlefield becomes the site of the traditional commemorative event to recall the famous battle of the Three Emperors. Re-enactment of “Battle below Santon Hill”, demonstration of battlefield crawling, and active fighting with fireworks at the end of the day.

www.zamek-slavkov.cz



CHRISTMAS IN PRAGUE 08/12/2011 - 12/12/2011

Music is an inseparable part of the Christmas Holiday Season. The 12th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music will be taking place in the churches and concert halls of Prague – a music festival competition to please everyone with a fondness for Christmas carols and traditions.

www.choirs.cz

CHRISTMAS MARKETS 26/11/2011 – 01/01/2012

The Christmas markets in Prague are considered to be the largest and most beautiful markets in the Czech Republic. They will be open in Old Town Square and Wenceslaus Square with stands full of Christmas decorations, gift items, sweets, nativity sets and jewellery for sale. You can witness the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree – you need only be at Old Town Square at 5:00 PM. The wonderful scent of Christmas can also be experienced at the markets in Brno, Cesky Krumlov and other cities around the country.

www.czechtourism.com

SKI JUMPING WORLD CUP IN HARRACHOV 09/12/2011 - 11/12/2011

The organizers of the cup have truly prepared a “super-weekend” for the spectators. Apart from the two traditional competitions, there will also be a third event this year: the two individual competitions and a team competition. The accompanying programme, which includes a laser show, fireworks show, video projections directly on the ski slope, and musical performances by bands such as *Midilidi*, *Cartonnage* and *Clou*, also promise an attractive spectacle.

<http://www.czech.cz/en/105723-jumping-world-cup-in-harrachov>

HISTORIC TRAIN JOURNEY TO KRIVOKLAT 10/12/2011

You can set out by historic train for an Advent event at Krivoklat, which departs at 9.06 am from the Prague-Branik train station. You can also buy tickets and reserve seats there. You will be at Krivoklat in two-and-a-half hours' time; a medieval advent festival will await you at your destination. The train will be ready to head back in the direction of Prague at 3 pm.

www.czechtourism.com/event-calendar/Historickym-vlakem-na-Krivoklat.aspx



For more information visit www.czechtourism.com or www.czech.cz

the Bohemian

Charles University

– among the World's Best



According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (www.arwu.org), Charles University was once again ranked among the top 1.5 percent of the world's best universities. It was ranked 200-301 out of 17,000 universities.

This ranking is highly respected by universities and colleges. A specialised centre of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University has been ranking schools for many years. Educational institutions are assessed by the number of Nobel Prize laureates or winners of other significant awards coming from the ranks of their staff and graduates. The number of publications in prestigious scientific magazines is also included in the assessment.

As for universities from central and Eastern Europe, Charles University was only surpassed by

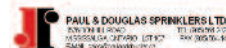
Moscow University (74th place). The oldest and biggest Czech university consists of 17 faculties and educates nearly 54,000 students.

Universities in the USA have been occupying the leading places for many years. Apart from Harvard University, the indisputable winner, there are 16 more American universities in the first twenty, including Yale, Princeton, Berkley and Stanford. As for schools outside the USA, Cambridge University attained fifth place, Oxford University tenth, and University College of London was ranked as the 20th best school.



<http://www.czech.cz/en/105461-charles-university-among-the-best-universities-in-the-world>

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our partners.



Published in Toronto, Canada.

The Bohemian State of Mind is the product of a joined effort by the team of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Toronto.

Media Partners: Get Graphic Inc., Canada SK Entertainment. Language Consultant: Jitka Klimova Jr. Design: Zuzana Hahn.

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