

# the Bohemian

state of mind



CONSULATE GENERAL  
of the Czech Republic

monthly newsletter for Bohemians by birth and bohemians at heart



October 2011

- Dear Bohemians
- Jazz Goes to Town



## Events Calendar

### Czech Events

Oct 1 @ 8 pm

### Hulka's Musical Circus

Prague Restaurant

Info: 416-289-0283

Oct 9 @ 2 pm

### Sokol Canada's Centennial

The Sparwood

Recreational Complex

Sparwood, British Columbia

Info: 613-946-2803

Oct 15 @ 8 pm

Oct 16 @ 4 pm

### George Grosman CD Launch

### Water and Wine

Prague Restaurant

Info & reserve: 416-289-0283

## Consular Window

### – Consular Staff Regular Rotation

Those of you who visited our Consular Department in recent weeks might realize we have a new face there. Jan Capek, who had held the position of Consular Officer

for the past five years, departed to a new post at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ottawa. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan for his work and

*continued on pg. 2*

## Jan Waldauf Leaves Us at Age 82

– by Josef Cermak

On Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 2:30 in the afternoon, Jan Waldauf, a remarkable member of the Sokol gymnastic movement, and a truly remarkable human being, died – at the age of 82 – at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. He disliked pomp and big words and I feel that we should be spare in our tribute to his life.

A biographical sketch in his important book *Sokol malé dejiny velke myslenky (Sokol: a Little History of a Great Idea)*, written by



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## Events Calendar

cont'd

Oct 21 @ 8 pm

Oct 22 @ 4 pm

Oct 22 @ 8 pm

Oct 23 @ 4 pm

**Rumours – “Řeči”**

Burnhamthorpe

Library Theatre

(SW corner of Burnhamthorpe  
and Dixie)

Info: 416-463-3182

Oct 30 @ 4pm

**The Independent  
Czechoslovakia  
State Day Festivities**

Prague Restaurant

Info: 416-439-4354

**Slovak Events**

Oct 1 @ 2 pm

**Marosko – Poetry****Competition**

St. Paul's Church

Info: Dadika2002@gmail.com

Oct 29 @ 6 pm

**Society of****M.R. Stefanik****4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner  
& Dance**

Hall of Cyril and

Methodius Church

Info: 416-744-4094



## Dear Bohemians

– by Consul General

The fall season in the calendar of national holidays of the Czech Republic is marked with

three important state holidays: the *National Day of Czech Statehood*, the *Independent Czechoslovak State Day* and the *Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day*. Today I would like to talk about two of them.

On September 28th we celebrate the *National Day of Czech Statehood*. This day we commemorate historical tradition, noble goals and past ups-and-downs that the Czech statehood is being built upon. This state holiday has been recognized since 2000. This year Consulate General of the Czech Republic celebrated this important national day at the most appropriate place in Toronto – Queen's Park, the seat of the Ontario Parliament, where the national colours of our red, white and blue flag were raised. Following the national anthems, I had the opportunity to address our guests about the importance of

this holiday in the modern days of the Czech Republic.

This month, the Czech Republic will commemorate the founding of the *Independent Czechoslovakia*, although it no longer exists. When the Austro-Hungarian Empire crumbled, two remarkable politicians – Tomas Garrigue Masaryk and Milan Rastislav Stefanik – had a vision to re-establish an independent country built on the legacy of the Kingdom of Bohemia. Their vision became a reality on October 28, 1918, when Czechoslovakia was declared a sovereign state.

This year, I will commemorate our national holiday along with the representatives of *Masaryk Memorial Institute*, *Czech and Slovak Association of Canada* and *Sokol Toronto* with festivities at the Prague Restaurant in Masaryktown. On behalf of the organizers, I extend a warm invitation to each and every one of you. Please join us on **October 30th at 4 pm** for this special celebration.

Yours,  
Vladimir Ruml



Photo: Zuzana Hahn

## Consular Window (continued from pg. 1)

expertise, and wish him all the best at his new posting in Ottawa, as well as in his personal life.

Michaela Pospisilova assumed position of the Consular Officer at our Consulate on September 8. Michaela has been

working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2002. She gained her experience at the Ministry in Prague, as well as during her postings at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lithuania and UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava.

## Jan Waldauf (continued from pg. 1)

him, reads: “Jan Waldauf, born April 8, 1929 in Nove Hradky. Beginning in 1948, lived in exile, from 1949 in Canada. In Czechoslovakia a member of the Telocvicna jednota Sokol Ceske Budejovice (Gymnastic Unit Sokol Ceske Budejovice), a member of the youth group of the Hus district, performed at the X. All Sokol Festival in 1938 and the XI. Festival in 1948. In exile, leader of pupils of the exile Sokol unit in Ludwigsburg-Krabbenloch. In Canada held office in Sokol Toronto, Sokol Canada, Central office of Sokol Abroad, Canadian Gymnastic Federation and the Advisory Council of the Canadian Government for physical training and sport.”

That’s one way to put it. Even though it says hardly anything about what Jan did, or about the kind of man he was. He himself looked very differently at the legacy of his father, whom he loved and admired, than at his own. It pained him that his father was almost forgotten.

And so I believe that Jan, Jr. would allow me – I count on his consent – to value his life along the lines he valued his father’s. Let’s start with enriching his description of his own career.

He was one of the youngest refugees. He arrived in Halifax, Canada on the ‘U.S.A.T. Le Roy Eltinge’ on April 23, 1949. In Canada, Jan worked as a farm laborer, a lumberjack, and accountant. In 1963, he became Comptroller at the Chartered Accountants firm Dunwoody and Company (where George Corn was a partner and Dr. Karel Jerabek worked as Trustee in Bankruptcy. In 1975 Jan joined Mitsui (Canada) Ltd., eventually retiring as Vice-President. For years, he held the position of Treasurer of the Czech and Slovak Association of Canada, as well as

the Canadian Fund for the Czechoslovak Universities.

We should also mention that he was the main organizer of the glorious slets (gatherings in the free world) of the Centre of the Czechoslovak Sokols Abroad, including the memorable slets in Vienna and Zurych. The Zurych slet in July 1976 was particularly significant and heartwarming. For one reason, although it was a joint effort of many people, it was truly an achievement of Jan Waldauf and his wife, Vlasta, the men and women leaders of the Centre. *Zpravodaj*, a periodical for the Czechs and Slovaks living in Switzerland, had this to say about this slet: ” Participating at this slet were Sokol units from all over the world. More than 800 athletes took part and their performances were witnessed by more than 6,000 spectators. We feel that no other exile organization (and possibly no other organization of any kind) would be able – on its own, relying only on its own resources, supported



only by the enthusiasm of individuals, duplicate this feat.”

A chapter by itself is the Sokol bulletin, in the view of many the best Sokol periodical in the world. It was edited (and largely written) for decades (I almost wrote ‘centuries’). The disappearance of the bulletin (Jan was unable to continue, and no one was brave enough to take it on) was for many members of Sokol almost a personal tragedy. But that came about many years after the fall of communism and renewal of Sokol. I thought that after the fall of communism Jan would be appointed president of the Czechoslovak Sokol Organization. He was – in my view – eminently equipped by fate to breathe

Jan Waldauf (continued from pg. 3)

into the shaky organization the spirit of its founders and his own faithfulness to Sokol ideals. It did not happen. The leadership of the Czechoslovak Sokol Organization (CSO) even refused to accept the Czechoslovak Sokol Abroad as its member. And had he been drawn into the muddled waters of the November CSO, would he have been able to find the time and strength to write his history of “the great idea”?

The first volume of Waldauf’s book *Sokol: a Little History of a Great Idea* appeared in 2007 in the publishing house Atelier IM in Luhacovice covered the story of Sokol from its foundation on February 16, 1862 in Prague, until the period of the Czechoslovak Sokol in exile. The second and third volume report the “activities and life of the Sokol external units and the attempt at restoration of Sokol in Czechoslovakia in 1968 , and the restoration of the CSO after November 1989.” If Jan Waldauf had not achieved anything other than writing his Sokol history (1 822 pages!), he richly deserves the gold medal of the CSO.

Jan was a gentle, peaceful man, who avoided argument at almost any cost. He didn’t directly join in two court cases (the Kirschbaum case and the case involving definition of ‘refugee’), in which his friends (and organizations he belonged to) were sued for millions of dollars. And he was right. Had he joined and had we lost either case, it might have financially ruined his family. He accepted – with rare refinement, even though with bitterness - the decision of the executive of the CsO in November 1995, which cancelled the provisions respecting membership of the external units in the CSO and so, destroyed any chance of their membership. What he never accepted, was the perfidy and cynicisms of some officers in the renewed CSO, which he

criticized (but even then with incredible refinement) in correspondence with friends, in submissions to the CSO and in publications.

The toughest fight he fought was for his life. It came in a strange way: he was nimbly dancing at a Sokol dance with Barbara Sherriff. Suddenly, he couldn’t speak. He was taken to a hospital where they found that he suffered a light stroke, but also found cancer on his brain, on his lungs and in his stomach. The diagnosis wasn’t good. When I saw him a little later, he told me, that he accepted that this fight he couldn’t win. He said it as calmly as if he was talking about weather. Only his eyes lost some of their spark. During our last walk in High Park three months ago we walked by a flowerbed, bathing in the afternoon sun. Jan stopped and said in a voice full of melancholy, as if he was saying goodbye: “Such beauty!”

Jan gave a large part of his life to Sokol, but he managed to keep some of his energy for activities less visible, less historic. I think I’ll remember him longest as he was every Sunday before the mass directing traffic at Father Libor Svorcik’s St. Wenceslaus Church in Toronto, or preparing program for the Wednesday meeting of the Seniors Club, or leading – around All Souls Day – a handful of Sokols around the Toronto cemeteries, looking for the graves of Sokols who predeceased us to the other shore by a few cosmic seconds. On September 8, 2011, at 3:20, they were joined by another, possibly the greatest, Sokol of his generation.



Full story:

<http://czechfolks.com/plus/2011/09/13/josef-cermak-zemrel-jan-waldauf/>

## Czech Republic Travel Tips for October 2011

TOURFILM IN KARLOVY VARY 06/10/2011 - 08/10/2011

The 44th Annual International Film Festival of Tourism, as well as the 18th Annual National Film Festival of Tourism, will be taking place in Karlovy Vary, displaying the world's elite and new trends in film creation. The star of this year's festival is Swiss balloonist and adventurer, author of *Solar Impulse*, Mr. Bertrand Piccard.

[www.tourfilm.cz](http://www.tourfilm.cz)



MORAVIAN AUTUMN – INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL  
07/10/2011 - 22/10/2011

A must for music enthusiasts is this series of concerts of the 46th annual thematic festival.

[www.mhf-brno.cz/moravsky-podzim/cz](http://www.mhf-brno.cz/moravsky-podzim/cz)

VELKA PARDUBICKA CROSS-COUNTRY STEEPLECHASE  
09/10/2011 - 10/10/2011

The city of Pardubice will host the 121st year of the oldest and toughest race on the European continent. The *Velka Pardubicka* is the longest-running social and sporting event in the Czech Republic and boasts its own special magic. The horses must overcome a total of 31 obstacles, the most notorious being the Taxis Jump, one of the most challenging in the world.

[www.pardubice-racecourse.cz](http://www.pardubice-racecourse.cz)



JAZZ GOES TO TOWN 10/10/2011 - 16/10/2011

Jazz lovers are in for a musical extravaganza – Hradec Kralove is hosting the 17th annual International Jazz Festival which, like every year, will fill the concert halls for six days with plenty of great experiences and interesting musical and friendly encounters.

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

**Ji  
hlava**  
International  
Documentary  
Film Festival

JIHLAVA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL  
25/10/2011 - 31/10/2011

The documentary film competition/festival in Jihlava covers the contemporary Czech, Central European, and global documentary scene. This festival of original documentaries is renowned for its casual atmosphere and has become the largest of its type in Central Europe.

[www.dokument-festival.cz](http://www.dokument-festival.cz)

## Bohemian Journey

– the World of Glass: Traditional Czech Craft

### HISTORY OF GLASS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The first glassworks were founded in the second half of the 13th century in the unspoiled forests by the borders of the Krusne, Luzicke, Jizerske, Krkonose and Sumava mountains, as well as in the region of Moravia. From the 1350s the oldest Czech glass factories smelted an almost clear, yellowish or greenish potassium-lime glass that was used in the production of stained church windows, goblets and glasses at that time.

At the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, some Czech glassmakers and their products overshadowed Venetian glass, unmatched until that time. In the town of Sazava in the 1830s Frantisek Kavalir smelted the first chemically resistant glass in the world.

In the early 20th century, glass products made in Harrach's glassworks in Novy Svet or Moser's glassworks in Karlovy Vary, were of exceptional quality as well. The first Owens' automatic bottle-makers were installed in Bohemia and machine production of flat glass was also launched at that time.

### CHERCHEZ LA FEMME!

One of the most beautiful branches of glass production is the production of glass jewellery: bijouterie. Bijouterie is as old as mankind and has remained an integral part even until today. Cherchez la femme - and her desire to be even more beautiful! The first producers of glass jewellery were the Celts, who focused on the production of glass pearls, beads and buttons. Craftsmen from Great Moravia and western Slovakia took over in the 9th century. Bijouterie,

as well as a wide range of other glass products, became renowned in the town of Jablonec nad Nisou. The local museum hosts permanent, year-round exhibitions and offers a comprehensive list of glass jewellery exhibitions.

### JOURNEY TO THE WORLD OF GLASS

The popularity of glass in the Czech Republic is proven by the establishment of the "Glass Route", taking tourists around the sought-after region of Cesky raj ("Czech Paradise"), located in north-eastern Bohemia. "Glass Route" implies a journey to places bearing the glass-making tradition and the region of Cesky raj is one of the richest glassware-producing regions in the Czech Republic. Private glassworks situated near the town of Hluboka nad Vltavou will introduce you to all of the glass-making processes you may be interested in. In addition, you can make



your own glass product, be it a vase, Christmas tree decoration or a set of glass beads.

### CZECH GLASS IN THE WORLD

Production of quality Czech glass reaches well beyond Europe - for example in Japan, tourists can visit the Bohemia Glass Museum, located Tokyo. Cut crystal glass, bijouterie, utility glass and chandeliers rank among successful commodities in Japan. Even the largest and the most famous American glass museum, situated in the state of New York, does not seem to have enough of Czech glass: it has already opened its third Czech glass exhibition only this year so you will be able to admire almost 500 Czech works of glass this summer.

[www.czechtourism.com/News/Tradicni-ceske-remeslo---vyroba-skla.aspx](http://www.czechtourism.com/News/Tradicni-ceske-remeslo---vyroba-skla.aspx)

## Wilson Statue to Be Unveiled

After a 70-year absence, former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson will again greet travellers arriving in Prague via the city's main train station.

A new 3.5-meter-tall statue of the man considered one of the driving forces behind the creation of an independent Czechoslovak state in 1918, will be officially unveiled on October 5.

The statue replaces one torn down by the Nazis in 1941 and sits in almost the same position facing the station's main doors.

"People got a sneak preview when we installed the statue, and there are some pictures, but the real unveiling will be in October", said Phillip Kasik, director of the *American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR)*, which commissioned the statue. Newspaper clippings from the day of the installation, as well as photographs and documents about the history of the statue, were placed inside a bronze tube inside the statue as part of the installation.

The actual dedication ceremony Oct. 5 will be hosted by President Vaclav Klaus and attended by U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Norman Eisen and around 200 foreign guests, including former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is originally from Smichov.



[www.praguepost.com/news/10220-wilson-statue-is-to-be-unveiled.html](http://www.praguepost.com/news/10220-wilson-statue-is-to-be-unveiled.html)

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