



FOLK CAMP

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



CONNECTING WITH TRADITION –
DISCOVERING OUR COMMON ROOTS



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Year in review

Our 2022 began very quietly.

The ongoing pandemic meant most in person events were not possible or very difficult to plan. Our koliada season was mostly celebrated separately. A small group of community singers went out in Toronto and sang koliadky for folks outdoors and did some fundraising for FCC. Another wave of the coronavirus went around during this time, and so things were mostly quiet as many were at home recovering.

In February some plans were hatching for in person pysanky workshops in the spring.

Then, on the morning of February 25th we woke up to a nightmare. Russia had launched a full scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, and troops were on the grounds; explosions were blasting all over the country. As Ukrainians, our whole world changed dramatically and a real shock and horror gripped us.

Day after day more horrific news continued pouring in. We focused on staying in touch with friends and family back home, monitoring the news, and supporting one another emotionally. In the meantime, we also galvanised our existing resources to financially support relief efforts in Ukraine: packaging and

sending out pysanky making supplies and artwork, hosting workshops, and supporting our community members in their concerts & singing performances in Toronto and beyond.

The immensity of the devastation launched at the Ukrainian people brought a renewed sense of the severity of threat to Ukrainian culture and the ongoing ravaging effects of centuries of colonisation. As community organisers we further bonded in shared grief and determination in continuing our work upholding Ukrainian folk culture and Ukrainian people.

We so gratefully took up the chance to be able to hold in-person events once again, and in the spring began to host and teach some in-person workshops and dream of gatherings on the land.

In the midst of early days of the invasion, Bozena Hrycyna and Blair Richards-Koeslag met with Jim Jones of the Ontario Rural Skills Network to discuss shared dreams, and quietly began to manifest a scything gathering. Plans slowly came together in partnership with Topsy Farms on Amherst Island, and an exciting and beautiful project was born.

In the meantime, another small group of dreamers came together to imagine the possibility of Summer Camp happening again. Dates were announced in late May, and in a pretty quick turn around, Summer Camp came together (in under 3 months)! The response to camp from the public was overwhelmingly positive, and tickets were sold out. We ran a full program, with an abundance of beautiful elements (including an increased Ukrainian presence and more children), as well as an abundance of challenges. Jumping headfirst back into everything on a full scale, following the pandemic hiatus and in an emotionally fraught and heart-wrenching year, without adequate time and human resources, proved to be very hard on the main organisers, the kitchen staff, and the whole team. Much recovery was needed, and big lessons were had for the future.

Yet, we were blown away by the show of creativity, devotion, and imagination that manifested when our community got together, and it was incredible and inspiring, and reinforced and reaffirmed the value of our organisation's work.

Above all, what this year reinforced for us as a community, was the immense power and healing in our collective culture making; the resilience inherent in our ancestral traditions, and the importance of connecting with these sources and drawing on them.

With a focus on sustainability of our organisation, ever wiser use of resources, and better practices, we will continue to move forward secure in our goals and confident in our purpose.

We are ever grateful for all the support we have received over the years, and especially this year, through the trials of war and continued uncertainty for many of our fellow Ukrainians. We give thanks to all those standing in solidarity with us, and building a life-affirming community around shared appreciation and love for our Ukrainian & Eastern European folk roots.

Thank you, Dyakuyu!

Peace,

[Bozena Hrycyna](#)
Executive Director



Statement put out in March:

Newsletter March 2022

Dear friends,

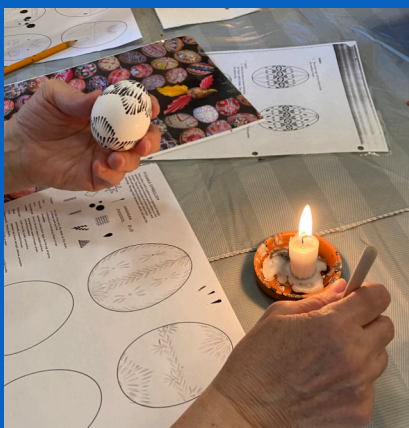
It has been an unbelievably difficult surreal time since Russia launched a full scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24th. We are devastated by the tragic events unfolding and worried for our friends and family, and all the innocent people under attack. Our community is closely tied to Ukraine and so for us this war and invasion are deeply personal. Not only do we all have family and dear friends there, but also countless colleagues, artists, folklorists, and community organisers who have devoted their lives to the betterment of their homeland, who have come and taught at our camps, who have shared with us the beauty and rich folk traditions of Ukraine.



We are deeply disturbed and saddened. We ask you to please stand with us and all Ukrainians in support of peace and Ukrainian sovereignty, and to help in whatever ways you can. We urge you to support humanitarian aid, and to lend your voices to spreading a message of peace. Please pray for all the people suffering through this trying time, and for victims of violent oppression everywhere. We need to battle evil with good, and we need to nourish each other's spirits so that we have the energy to withstand this assault.



Lighting candles, writing pysanky with prayer and intention, and singing vesnianky to call forth spring with prayers in our hearts, is more important than ever.

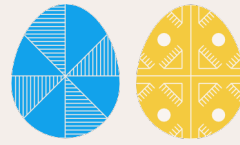


So, please join us in writing pysanky, from your home, or join a group gathering*, and speak up, reach out, and do what you can to be the light in the world.

We will make it through if we support one another. Keep the faith.

Pray for peace.

Pysanky for Peace



Pysanky workshops started in the spring of 2010 by Kosa Kolektiv members as a fundraising initiative to help build and furnish an orphanage in Potelech, Ukraine. Pysanky has always been a way of bringing our community together and giving back to Kosa's ancestral home in a meaningful way.



Since the devastating Russian invasion of Ukraine, Folk Camp members quickly got together to find ways to fundraise to support Ukraine, from making pysanky and selling pysanky, pysanky supplies and With Ukraine buttons and posters. We are so grateful that our community continues to speak up, reach out, and offer their support. We continue to raise funds to support Ukraine from proceeds from our annual pysanka workshops and supplies.

Note that we've allocated **\$3,391.22** from Folk Shop sales to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine in 2023. Proceeds from fundraising initiatives organized by FCC members are not part of our financials.



Meet Me in the Meadow

“Meet Me in the Meadow”~ A Scything Gathering, brought to fruition a shared vision of connecting people to the land and their roots through ancestral tools, empowering skills, and deep ecology; it was held over July 30- Aug 1, the high harvest holiday known as Lammas in the UK, and Zhnyva in Slavic countries.



Summer Camp Garden Work Bee



June 4, 2022, Plastova Oselia, Grafon, ON

Summer Camp

The purpose of our summer Folk Camp is to provide a supportive and dynamic environment for people to explore folk art traditions from Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and beyond, and to learn traditional skills and folkways while deepening their connection with the land and one another.

This year, Folk Camp (6th annual) took place from August 15 – 21, 2022 at the Plast campground in Grafton, Ontario.

We had a total of 120 people at camp, including all participants, workshop leaders, facilitators, volunteers and kitchen crew. Our numbers grew on feast nights and weekends to 130+.



People came from all over Canada (Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, rural Manitoba, Alberta & more), and we hosted Ukrainians from Ukraine, who have been displaced by Russia's latest aggression and have come to Canada since the invasion. We were a group made up of not only Ukrainians and Ukrainian-Canadians, but also folks with Belarusian, Ashkenazi, Polish, German, Chinese, French-Canadian, Japanese, Slovenian, Anishnaabe, and Croatian roots... and many more.

As always, we had a cross-section of different ages, and this year, because of our efforts to welcome as many displaced Ukrainians as possible, we had more families than we've ever had. (We received approval for a bursary for displaced Ukrainians (ie. refugees) and were able to accept several families.)

We hosted four families and several individuals displaced by the current war in Ukraine, from Kharkiv, Zaporizhia region, Nova Kakhovka, Lviv & Lviv region, Odessa, and Kyiv. Parents with young children, grandparents, teens, and young adults– all ages and regions were represented! It was incredibly humbling to hear their stories, and heartwarming to be able to host them, and to grow bonds together over the week. Many shared the sense of awe and wonder as they arrived in this new environment, and how the camp profoundly impacted them, and how grateful they were for this magical reality enveloped in the beauty of nature. Most are settled in the Toronto area and have made connections that can be maintained after camp.



Everybody was assigned a “clan” for the duration of camp, which was a small group with mixed ages and backgrounds, including a clan leader, who was someone who had attended camp before and could act as a mentor and guide for those new to camp. Participants were able to get to know each other a little better, and worked together while on duty in the kitchen.

We had wonderful and skilled teachers - world renowned vocalists, musicians, artists and craftspeople of traditional arts who led daily workshops, including:

Ukrainian Polyphony (from the Steppes of Ukraine) with Olesia Jarymowycz
Songs from Ukrainian & Belarusian Polissya

with Siarhei Douhushau

Croatian & Serbian Singing

with Dina Cindric

Lullabies with Elizabeth LaPrelle
& Brian Dolphin

Ceramic Talismans with KurKul Arts:
Fedir Kurkchi & Aleksandra Kulinenko

Polish Basket Weaving (“taca”)
with Johnny Suderman

Fibre Spinning, and Ukrainian Weaving
with Johanna Koeslag

Forging (with Metal) with Rok Kovacz
Klezmer Tunes with Alexander Jones

European Dances & Instrumental Tunes
with Brian Dolphin, Dayna Pirso

Horticulture with Blair Richards-Koeslag

Corn Doll & Motanka Doll-making
with Fedir Kurkchi & Aleksandra Kulinenko

Folk Tales & Crankie Storytelling
with Gabriella Mohalik & Elizabeth LaPrelle

Spoon Carving for Kids
with Johnny Suderman

Adventures & Games for Kids
with Anna Migunova

Yoga & Movement with Karolina Kisiel



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In addition to 3 workshops a day, the program included cultural ceremonies, group singing, dancing, bonfires, variety shows, and storytelling times. The evenings were a time of sharing and reflection and included our big end-of-week Ukrainian feast and Zabava, which was open to family and friends, and the general public, and featured a fundraising bazaar and silent auction.



Some highlights from this year's camp included:

- the opening ceremony led by Anastasia Fyk & Aleksandra Baczynska ~ pure magic!
- storytelling & teachings by Jesse Wabagijig, indigenous artist-in-residence who told stories from their Anishnaabe heritage, and presented their theatre piece- work in progress
- presentation on traditional instruments of Belarus by Siarhei Douhushau
- delectable feast prepared by our chefs and honoured with much toasting & singing, followed by a wonderful zabava led by our camp band
- the children's performance of their crankie story (moving panorama picture theatre)
- moving & beautiful tribute altar to lives lost in Ukraina & ancestor altar at the feast night



Financial Report

(UNAUDITED)

OCT. 1, 2021 TO SEP. 30, 2022

REVENUE	\$47,379.48
GRANT/SPONSORSHIP	\$-
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	\$10,108.56
MEMBERSHIP	\$742.66
FOLK SCHOOL	\$-
FOLK SHOP	\$5,805.91
FOLK CAMP	\$28,322.35
EVENTS/OTHER	\$2,400.00

EXPENSES	\$42,022.42
HONOURARIUM	\$5,952.97
WAGES	\$-
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$606.65
FOOD/BEVERAGE	\$11,020.70
VENUE RENTAL	\$10,377.50
WORKSHOP MATERIALS	\$764.75
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES/RENTALS	\$-
MERCHANDISE	\$1,914.06
TRANSPORT/TRAVEL	\$807.36
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$9,134.80
ONLINE PRESENCE	\$588.70
OTHER(SHIPPING, BUSINESS, REFUNDS)	\$718.69

Financial report prepared by
Johnny Suderman and Oksana Hawrylak

Looking ahead...

At the beginning of 2022, a new board was formed after the agm, and a number of topics for consideration were distilled.

The magic and value of the work that Folk Camp Canada undertakes is uncontested. There is an inherent drive to want to continue and expand. Each event expresses an unequalled ambition to showcase and weave education, skill building, bedazzlement, intimacy, and literal and metaphorical food for the soul. That said, the bulk of the foundational and directive work has fallen on the shoulders of only a few individuals. Resulting in burnout, that is also uncompensated for all of the time, effort and dedication.

Therefore the following topics have emerged to respond to the organization's need for more support:

- How to get more members and community involved in higher levels of organization.
- The organization needs assistance in writing grants and fundraising so organizers, musicians & teachers can be paid
- How to create a succession plan, as the founding directors are wanting to retire some of their responsibilities to pass on to new members.
- How best to position Folk Camp Canada to grow as an organization. What structures, legal, organizational, business, will ultimately enable the organization to serve its members' longings, dreams and foster stability.

The board has responded with three actions to respond to these big questions:

1. The FCC board is looking to change the name of the organization and rebrand as Kosa Arts or Kosa Collective Arts/ Kosa Kolektiv Arts, to reflect the roots of the organization and the variety of activities the organization is involved in.
2. The FCC board is looking to run a series of think tank events, monikered Tak talk, to engage members and community in resourcing ourselves to discover the future directions of FCC as well as work to answer these big questions.
3. The FCC board has identified 4 board/ committee positions that need filling, developed detailed role descriptions and is actively looking to fill them.

Lizzy Shipman
Chair

Board Members

KAROLINA KISIEL – Director

OKSANA HAWRYLAK – Director

BOZENA HRYCYNA – Executive Director

LIZZY SHIPMAN – Chair

JOHNNY SUDERMAN – Treasurer

WEBSITE: FOLKCAMP.CA

FACEBOOK: [@FOLKCAMP](https://www.facebook.com/FOLKCAMP)

INSTAGRAM: [@FOLKCAMP](https://www.instagram.com/FOLKCAMP)

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PHOTOS

Cover photo by Marta Iwanek

Pysanky for Peace page 7

Colourful pysanky by Marichka Galadza, With Ukrainian buttons, Pysanky workshop at Shevchenko Museum, Pysanky pop-up in Kitchener, Bozena Hrycyna holding her pysanka

Summer Camp pages 9–12

photos by Marta Iwanek, Alexandra Kulinenko, Oksana Hawrykak, and Marichka Galadza

