

A Summary of the USCC Kootenay Men's Group Activities, Contributions and Donations Since 1988

Compiled by Mike W. Popoff, Kootenay Men's Group Secretary, 2013

The USCC Kootenay Men's Group was formed in 1988 and the first organizational meeting was held on March 21, 1988, at Brilliant, BC, with the following members present: Nick Denisoff, Walter Gorkoff (deceased), Bill Nichvolodoff, Mike Semenov, Peter Voykin, and Alex Pereverzoff. Peter Voykin was elected as Chairman and Alex Pereverzoff as Secretary.

The following guidelines were established:

1. Give family support to children, the aged, those in need, disabled, or grieving
 2. Develop programs for our youth so as to encourage greater involvement in our USCC Doukhobor Community
 3. Create a labour pool for special community projects and activities
 4. Raise funds for special projects, maintain closer liaison between the Men's Group, the Trustees, and the Executive Committee of the USCC
- ❖ Any member of the USCC could join but the main aim was to encourage membership from the 50 to 70 year age group.
 - ❖ Most of the work at the beginning was done at Nick Denisoff's shop in Glade, BC.
 - ❖ 2" and 1" mill ends were picked from the chipper at Pope and Talbot and Slocan Forest Products sawmills as well as other low grade pine lumber to create small projects for community help.
 - ❖ One major project was building a shelter for the carriage which was used by our leaders to visit settlements in the West Kootenay and Slocan Area.
 - ❖ Woodworking such as apple, pear, juice, and other types of boxes were made for donations and sales.
 - ❖ The printing of our Hymn Book – "Вечная Память" was done in 1995 and many copies were sold.
 - ❖ More and more men joined our Men's Group and more activities and projects were done and more products were made and sold.
 - ❖ Donations were made to the Union of Youth; built 10 banquet tables for the Cultural Centre and risers for the stage to be used by different Choirs.
 - ❖ Collection of old car batteries for recycling was implemented to raise extra monies.
 - ❖ Cash donation was made to the four Working Groups and to the three members that went to Tula, Russia, in order to help them build residences in 1990.
 - ❖ Started building and selling wooden pine coffins for our Doukhobor funerals and for the public.
 - ❖ Headstones were also added for sale.
 - ❖ Cash Donations were made to: Variety Club of BC, Canadian Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Hospice societies of Nelson, Castlegar and Trail, United Nations, plus others.
 - ❖ By 1994, our membership grew to over 30 members and we started to participate in the fall Craft Fair to sell our wood products.
 - ❖ Helped with house repairs for the needy and seniors.

A lot of thanks and praise to be given the Denisoffs for the use of their shop and tools for over 12 years.

- ❖ In August, 1999 we began to build our new Training Centre with a full basement and main floor under the Project Management of Mike Popoff, with assistance from Pat Pereverzoff, Sam Popoff, Joe Nazarov, George Anutooshkin, Nick Denisoff and George Pozdnikoff (deceased), plus other USCC men and others coming to help build our centre.
- ❖ Grants were received from Local areas "I" and "J", the USCC Ladies Group, plus others to help complete our Training Centre.
- ❖ Power Tools were purchased for the shop and it became totally operational.
- ❖ The Ladies Cultural Interpretive Society (CIS) took over the upstairs.
- ❖ Donations were made to service clubs and non-profit organizations for silent auctions and fund raisers in our district and Kootenay area.
- ❖ Many cash donations were made to our Cultural Centre, Verigin Memorial Park, Verigin residence and others.
- ❖ Yearly donation of wood products were given to our USCC Kootenay Ladies Organization Raffle held at the USCC Union of Youth Festival.
- ❖ A lot of volunteer time and wood items donated to the high school and elementary schools for classes taught by our members in making wood ladles, spoons and other items which were organized by Peter Evdokimoff and others.
- ❖ In 1999, a new slate of officers was elected including: Chairman – Joe Podovnikoff, Vice Chairman – George Anutooshkin, Treasurer – Nick Verigin, Secretary – Alex Pereverzoff.
- ❖ Our membership grew to over 35 members.
- ❖ In the years 2000 – 2002 our cash donations of over \$3000 were increased to include: Soup Kitchen (Castlegar), ISKRA Publication, Four Working Groups, Rotary Lodge (Kelowna), USCC Office Expenses, United Way (Castlegar), Dare Program (RCMP), Video Club, Community Services.
- ❖ Major cash donations were made to the Verigin Memorial Park to help build the new Guest House.
- ❖ Second printing of the hymn book "Вечная Память".
- ❖ In 2003, a new slate of officers was elected including: Chairman – Walter Kanigan, Vice Chairman – Joe Podovnikoff, Treasurer – George Anutooshkin, Secretary – Mike Popoff.
- ❖ In 2005, a cash donation of \$1,000 was made to help build the Castlegar & District Hospital Auxiliary building.
- ❖ The Ladies CIS addition was done under project supervision of Mike Semenoff, with the assistance of Bill Nichvolodoff plus other Men's Group members and other volunteers.
- ❖ Also, the Men's Group added more space to the centre from 30' x 40' to 40' x 45'.
- ❖ Yearly donations of items for the Selkirk College silent auction are still being made.
- ❖ Honourable mention and recognition to Harry Soloveoff (recently deceased) on being very able and willing in helping with drawing various blueprints for our USCC projects, Paul Semenoff for helping with layouts, other professional help and donation of materials for our projects, also, Peter Rezansoff and others for their donations.
- ❖ In 2008, the same officers returned by acclimation.
- ❖ In 2008, over \$8,000 donations were made to the USCC and \$5,000 to the John J Verigin Memorial Fund; Annual donations of wood products given to the South Slocan Ladies Auxiliary.
- ❖ In 2009, the Men's Group became a Society and we had to add another Executive Member, Nick Denisoff volunteered.

- ❖ Also in 2009, a \$7,000 loan was made to help in the finishing of printing the John J Verigin Memorial Book and DVD; \$2,000 was donated to complete our USCC Website.
- ❖ A canopy and sidewalk was built at our basement area (Shop) training centre.
- ❖ Sent coffins to Victoria, Calgary, and Saskatoon.
- ❖ Peter Rezanoff donated a Heavy Duty Thickness Planer to our Men's Group .
- ❖ Made and donated a display for the Community Services office with a brief history of the Doukhobors in Saskatchewan, Peter V. Verigin's residence in Verigin Sask., the migration of Doukhobors to BC, and Peter V. Verigin's original residence in Brilliant, BC.
- ❖ In 2009, purchased a new laptop for the Men's Group
- ❖ In 2010 held a banquet of up to 80 members and their spouses, volunteers and their spouses, and USCC and ISKRA office staff.
- ❖ Donated to the Haitian and other disaster areas throughout the world
- ❖ Supported the proposal in developing the Champion Creek Campgrounds and helped in financing and building a water storage tank and pipeline on Champion Creek
- ❖ In 2011, donated \$1,000 towards purchasing computers for Grand Forks and Brilliant USCC offices
- ❖ Also donated \$2,000 towards the repairs done to the Cultural Centre.
- ❖ In 2011, donated \$5,000 to the USCC organization to assist in their budgetary shortfall.
- ❖ In 2011, made personal donations of over \$2,000 to the USCC members and others in need due to illness.
- ❖ Donated \$500 to the ISKRA in memory of deceased members, volunteers and spouses.
- ❖ In 2012, received a donation of \$2,500 from Peter Rezanoff of ITC for boxes made for presentation of Christmas Presents.
- ❖ In 2012, donated \$500 for Liza Poznikoff and Barry and Stephanie for their trip to Saskatchewan to represent our USCC organization at their celebration.
- ❖ Third printing of our Hymn Book "Вечная Рамит".
- ❖ Ordered 2500 brochures to celebrate our USCC Kootenay Men's Group 25th Anniversary.
- ❖ Estimated annual donations of over \$10,000 to various non-profit and USCC needs in the Kootenay and Grand Forks areas.
- ❖ Held another banquet for our group.
- ❖ Continuing to support student workshops at the Stanley Humphries High and Elementary Schools.
- ❖ By the end of 2012, over 500 pine coffins were built and sold.

We are still going strong with membership getting older and into the ages of 70 and 80 years. Members are leaving due to age, ill health and passing on.

We are always looking for more new USCC members and volunteers to continue our work in helping our USCC Organization and those in need in our area.