



Dancers from throughout the province entertained at the opening of the Canadian-Yugoslav centre on Sunday.



Officials of various Yugoslav groups welcome Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCullion to the centre.

This week thru the lens



Mayor Peter Pomeroy presents gifts for visiting Yugoslav singers.



Nick Cajic helps Mayor Pomeroy on with the official T-shirt for the 1984 winter Olympics.



A singing group came over from Yugoslavia to entertain at the opening of the centre.



Provincial representative Donald Stevenson spoke to the audience in Yugoslav.

Canadian-Yugoslav centre opening draws 1,000

Over 1,000 people representing all six republics and two provinces which were merged to form the nation Yugoslavia after World War II gathered over the weekend to officially open their 97 acre recreation centre on Highway 25 between Acton and Speyside and also celebrate the 114th birthday of their adopted country Canada.

Haltom Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy, who was introduced as the mayor of Georgetown and quickly corrected the error, joined Marko Vujacic, the oldest living Yugoslav immigrant to this country, in cutting the red ribbon and officially opening the Canadian-Yugoslav Cultural Association centre Sunday. Vujacic came to Canada in 1930.

Pomeroy said it was a "pleasure and privilege" to be invited to the opening and offered a sincere welcome to the people who came from all over the province to "one of the prettiest corners of Halton Hills."

He paid tribute to the coming together of the many nationalities that make up Yugoslavia. He said just as the European nation has been the blending of various cultures so has their adopted country of Canada.

The efforts of organizers to get the site ready for the opening in just a few weeks was applauded by the mayor.

Pomeroy presented Haltom Hills souvenirs for the girls in the singing group which came over from Yugoslavia just for

the centre opening.

Canadian-Yugoslav Cultural Association officials showered Pomeroy with gifts, including a T-shirt which he donned, making it the first time it has been worn in this country. The shirt sports the logo for the 1984 Winter Olympics which are going to be held in Yugoslavia.

The audience and dignitaries observed a minute's silence in honor of two great men; a Canadian, Terry Fox, who united a nation, and Marshal Tito, the Yugoslav leader who died two years ago. He was described as a leader who worked a lifetime for the unity of his nation and for peace.

Naum Nacevski, vice-consul of the Yugoslav Consulate in Toronto talked about the cooperation and friendship between the two nations.

A big hit with the audience was provincial representative Donald Stevenson, deputy minister for Intergovernmental Affairs, who spoke in Yugoslavian fluently. He is married to a Yugoslav woman and has visited the country.

Letters of congratulations were read from the office of Prime Minister

Pierre Trudeau and Multiculturalism Minister Jim Fleming.

Officials of all Yugoslav groups offered words of welcome and unity.

There was a good mix of all the groups which make up Yugoslavia both in the audience and on the platform. There were representatives of various groups in Ontario made up of natives of the six republics which make up Yugoslavia: Slovenia; Croatia; Serbia; Macedonia; Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina; and the two provinces of Vojvodina (mostly Hungarians) and Kosovo (mostly Albanians). There were some newspapers being handed out by various factions but little sign of the politics which has sometimes resulted in violent actions in Toronto between the factions.

There was a real feeling of brotherhood and unity among the factions exhibited over the weekend.

Nedjo Orbovic, president of the Montenegrin Cultural Society of Toronto and chairman of the weekend celebration issued an invitation to all non-profit groups in Halton Hills to make use of the centre's lands and eventually its facilities free of charge any weekday. The centre, which in the years ahead will be developed into a recreation and social centre with tennis courts, campgrounds, a pool, sports fields, etc., will be in use weekends.

Singing and dancing groups from cultural clubs all over Ontario entertained throughout the afternoon.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCullion dropped by after the ceremonies to offer her congratulations, noting Yugoslavians live in her city and play in Halton Hills.



The flags of both Canada and Yugoslavia were flown proudly at the opening on Sunday.

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