



Leaders of Canada's Bandera youth with **Paul Grod** (then-UCC pres.), flanked by photos of the Queen and Bandera

Government-funded centres of Canada's Bandera cult and its Bandera youth

The global cult of Stepan Bandera is represented in Canada by the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC). It was formed in 1949 by activists loyal to his faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B). LUC joined the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) in 1959 and has dominated its leadership for decades. LUC affiliates include the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA) and the Society of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Veterans. By 1990, LUC had 57 local chapters (with 38 in Ontario), and 15 cultural centres.¹ These centres, often funded by government, besides having great practical value, are also powerful unifying symbols of this community's far-right politics.

Millions in government funding to far-right Ukrainian-Cdn groups has recently included \$103,000 to LUC's publication and \$141,000 to its Bandera youth troops

Canada's Bandera youth
LUC centres often focus on aiding the Bandera youth movement. Structured along military lines, the UYA scouting movement² was begun in the 1920s by fascist Ukrainians fighting an "armed struggle against the forces of Bolshevism."³ In 2016, a UYA event at Montreal's

Ukrainian Youth Centre praised former UCC presidents Paul Grod (2007-18) and Eugene Czolij (1998-2004) as "lifelong members and products of growing up within the ranks of UYA."⁴ Both have led the World Ukrainian Congress (WUC),⁵ a Toronto-based global network of Bandera front groups. Formerly called the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, it worked closely with the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN). LUC "prides itself on being one of the principle founding members" of WUC and gave it "three consecutive secretaries-general."⁶

In 2015, Canada's government gave \$70,000 to the Ukrainian Youth Centre in Calgary. Photos of the UYA's national leadership conference there show the centre's portraits of OUN(B) fascist military leaders Stepan Bandera and Yevhen Konovalets.⁷ The latter was an OUN leader (1929-38) who commanded its military organization in the 1930s. Having met Hitler in 1933, he pushed for Nazi policies in East Europe.

Ukrainian Cultural Centres in Toronto

Ukrainian Cultural Centre in downtown Toronto housed offices of the UYA and *Homin Ukrainy (Ukrainian Echo)*, LUC's government-funded paper launched by OUN(B) activists in 1948.⁸ From 1960 until its 2015 sale, it hosted many LUC meetings, banquets and artistic events.

Neighbouring Etobicoke also boasts a Ukrainian centre. In 2012, it hosted a national UYA event honouring the birth of Yaroslav Stetsko,

a leader of the OUN(B), the ABN and the World AntiCommunist League. Uniformed youth marched in formation carrying Stetsko's portrait, Ukrainian flags and the battle flag of Bandera's fascist army.⁹ (See p.49.)

For the UYA's 65th anniversary in 2013, then-UCC Pres. Paul Grod posed with youth activists from across Canada. (See photo above.) Other photos from this event show that the Etobicoke centre also gives pride of place to portraits of Stetsko and Yevhen Konovalets.¹⁰

Shukhevych Ukrainian Youth Centre, Edmonton

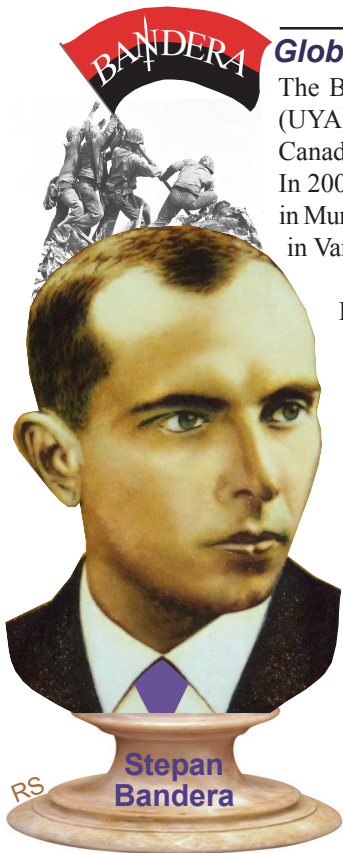
Canada's largest Ukrainian centre, the Roman Shukhevych Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton, is named after another nationalist war hero. Shukhevych, a Ukrainian war criminal, fought communists before, during and after WWII. The 27,000-sq.ft centre named for him includes classrooms, a library, gym, pool and a huge meeting hall with portraits of Bandera, Shukhevych and other revered "heroes."

The complex was built in 1973 for the equivalent of \$4.7 million today, with 10% of this from Alberta's government. Funding also came from the Government of Canada, LUC, its women and youth affiliates, the local Nazi Waffen-SS Galicia veterans' group and Ukrainian Catholic churches.¹¹ (According to the Public Accounts of Canada, the Shukhevych Centre received \$279,000 for renovations in 2015.)

The centre's grand opening event in 1973 "combined militaristic, religious, folkloristic and *völkisch* elements" and was blessed by Edmonton's Ukrainian Catholic Bishop. Politicians from the mayor and MLAs to Alberta's Conservative premier, Peter Lougheed, all gave glowing speeches. There were also Ukrainian nationalist hymns, poems by uniformed children and patriotic youth singing soldiers' songs. Describing the scene, an Edmonton-based Ukrainian Catholic paper, *Ukrainian News*, said that the Shukhevych Youth Centre would raise and harden a new generation of fighters for the liberation of Ukraine, ready to unite its strength with the forces of the warriors for the captive Ukraine. [It invokes] the name and the activities of Gen. Chuprynka [Shukhevych's nickname], St[epan] Bandera and other outstanding Ukrainian activists and path breakers....¹²

In 1981-82, this Catholic paper was edited by Michael Chomiak, grandfather of Canada's deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland. As a youth, she also worked for this publication.

Outside Edmonton's centre is a "larger-than-life bronze bust of a uniformed Shukhevych," where, said historian Per A. Rudling, "believers ... perform their nationalist rituals."¹³ These commemorative rites celebrating Shukhevych's place in the pantheon of Bandera cult idols have involved uniformed veterans of fascist armies and Ukrainian youth.



Global Bandera youth movement

The Banderite Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA) has branches in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Germany, Ukraine, the UK and US. In 2009, its World Executive Committee met in Munich to plan their 8th world meeting (held in Vancouver during the 2010 Olympics).

The Munich event, scheduled for Bandera's 100th birthday, allowed UYA activists to join church leaders and others on a pilgrimage to his tomb in the Waldfriedhof cemetery¹⁴ where Yaroslav Stetsko is also buried. At Munich's Ukrainian centre, the UYA held an event to honour Bandera. Youth performing patriotic songs included two Toronto groups: the Baturyn marching band and the Prolisok Youth Ensemble choir. A huge Bandera image rose behind them on stage.¹⁵

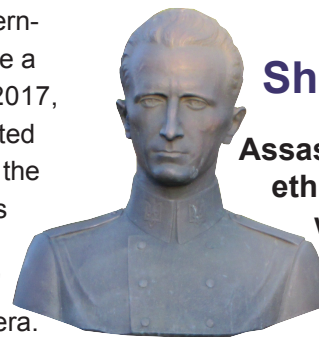
Sheltered from history by their elders, Bandera youth are unaware that their nationalist heroes were fascists with leading roles in the genocide of Jews, Poles and communists. Being raised in the Bandera cult, these youth are taught to denounce such facts as Russian lies, smears and propaganda.

References

1. Oleh Romanyshyn, "The Canadian League for the Liberation of Ukraine," *Ukrainian Review*, Spr. 1990. bit.ly/CLLU-LUC
2. The UYA was based on Britain's Boy Scouts, begun in 1907 by Lt. Gen. Sir Rob't Baden-Powell, who served British imperial interests in India and in South Africa.
3. History of the Ukrainian Youth Assoc., UYA website bit.ly/UYAhistory
4. Banquet commemorating CYM's 70th anniversary in the Diaspora, Mar. 10, 2016. bit.ly/UYA-Czolij-Grod
5. Grod became UWC president after Czolij (2008-18). Previous presidents included Canadians Catholic Father Wasyl Kushnir (1967-69, 1973-78) and SS veteran Peter Savaryn (1983-88). UWC Presidents bit.ly/UWC-presidents
6. Romanyshyn, *op. cit.*, pp.8-9.
7. Richard Sanders, "Govt Funds another fascist-revering Bandera Youth Centre," *Freeland Watch (Context)*, Jun.26, 2020. bit.ly/CdaFundUYA
8. Romanyshyn, *op. cit.*, pp. 11-12.
9. "100th anniversary of OUN-B chairperson Yaroslav Stetsko" (trans.), March 5, 2012. bit.ly/UYA-Stetsko
10. Andrij Duma, 30th National Congress. bit.ly:/GrodBandera and bit.ly/2uLNT2c

11. Per A. Rudling, "Multiculturalism, Memory and Ritualization: Ukrainian Nationalist Monuments in Edmonton, Alb.," p.743-44. bit.ly/EdmCen
12. M. Tysivs'kyi, "Dim Ukrains'koi Molodi v Edmontoni," *Ukrains'ki Visti*, May 9, 1974, p.4. Cited by Rudling, *Ibid*, p.745.
13. *Ibid*, p.744.
14. Plenary session of Druzhynnyky speakers, Oct.14, 2009. bit.ly/UYA2009
15. Photos of LUC youth at Bandera commemorations, Oct.22, 2009. bit.ly/Bandera-100th and bit.ly/Bandera2-100th

In 2007, Ukraine's government declared him to be a "Hero of Ukraine." In 2017, the city of Lviv celebrated Shukhevychfest and in the capital city, Kiev, streets were renamed for their antiSoviet "war heroes" Shukhevych and Bandera.



Roman Shukhevych

Assassin, terrorist, ethnonationalist, war criminal, and cult hero in Canada



Roman Shukhevych conducted his first political assassination in 1926 at the age of 19. In 1934, he was jailed for his role in killing Poland's Interior Minister. By 1940, he was attending a Nazi military intelligence (*Abwehr*) academy in German-occupied Poland.

Shukhevych was an organizer of Bandera's faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B). In 1941, he helped create their founding policy. It called for the ethnic cleansing of "non-Ukrainians" and the liquidation of "Polish, Muscovite and Jewish activists" in a future Ukrainian state.¹

Shukhevych was the top-ranking Ukrainian in the Nachtigall Battalion (aka Konovalets' Legion). Trained, armed, funded and led by the Nazis, and attached to a Germany special-forces regiment, its Ukrainian soldiers wore German uniforms and joined their Operation-Barbarossa invasion of the USSR (June 22, 1941). Eight days later, on his 34th birthday, Shukhevych's Nachtigall marched into Lviv with the Nazis. The OUN(B) then declared Ukraine a state under President Yaroslav Stetsko, with Shukhevych as Deputy Defense Minister.

In 1942-1943, Shukhevych led Schutzmannschaft Battalion 201. Based in Nazi-occupied Belarus, this Ukrainian legion selecting targets using what historian Waitman Beorn called "Jew-Bolshevik-partisan calculus." By this ideology, "all Jews were Bolsheviks, all Bolsheviks were partisans, and thus, all Jews were also partisans or partisan supporters."²

By 1943, Shukhevych was commander of the OUN-B's Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) which carried out ethnic cleansing and genocide in western Ukraine (1943-44). During that time, the UPA massacred several thousand Jews and as many as 130,000 Poles.³

Shukhevych led the UPA until his death in 1950. Vassyl Koval then took command until the Soviets defeated it in 1954. CIA covert operations chief Frank Wisner estimated in 1951 that the UPA had killed 35,000 Soviet police and communists inside the USSR since 1945.⁴

References

1. Per A. Rudling, "The OUN, the UPA and the Holocaust: A Study in the Manufacturing of Historical Myths," *Carl Beck Papers*, 2011, p.8 bit.ly/OUN-UPA
2. Per A. Rudling, "The Cult of Roman Shukhevych in Ukraine: Myth Making with Complications," *Fascism*, Vol.5, Iss.1, May 26, 2016. bit.ly/ShukCult
3. Ewa Siemaszko, "Bilans zbrodni," *Biuletyn Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej*, Jul.-Aug. 2010, pp.116-117, cited by Rudling, 2011, p.50.
4. John Loftus, *The Belarus Secret*, 1982, pp.102-103.