Lisa Shymko: In the footsteps of family, community and far-right, war heroes

Ukrainian “Independence” Day
Kiev, August 24, 2017

Lisa Shymko (right), the co-coordinator of this global ABN event, was honoured with ABN president Slava Stetsko (left), Anna Steciw, and her husband Orest Steciw, the chairman of ABN-Canada.

edited by Slava Stetsko, whose husband Yaroslav was then ABN president.

1986: Lisa Shymko co-ordinated the ABN’s global conference in Toronto. Its keynote speaker, Slava Stetsko, had just become ABN president. Other speakers included Nazi collaborators, and delegates from contras and mujahideen “freedom fighters.”

1990: She attended the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU) delegation. (It was led by Ukrainian Andrew Witer, who, as a Conservative MP in 1987, stopped quick passage of a bill to create the Deschens Commission. Witer called this inquiry into war criminals “a witch-hunting brigade” that “would only cause anger and panic in East European communities.”)

He was named 1988’s Person of the Year by the government-created Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). (See p.47.) Shymko was on WCFU’s team as “an accredited freelance journalist” for Echo, the government-funded League of Ukrainian Canadians’ (LUC) newspaper. (See pp.47, 50-51.)


1992: She co-chaired the public relations subcommittee of a WCFU affiliate, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations.

1993: She was Exec. Dir. of Canadian Friends of Rukh - Toronto. Rukh arose from an anti-Soviet movement that led Ukraine’s successful fight to break up the USSR.


2009: She received the Medal of Merit from Ukraine’s pro-NATO Pres. Victor Yushchenko.

2012: The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to her by Canada’s Gov. General.

2012-17: Managing Dir., Forum TV. (She was succeeded by Stephen Bandera, Winnipeg-born grandson of Yaroslav Stetsko.) She appeared in Forum TV shows with portraits of OUN military leaders Yevhen Konovalets and Roman Shukhevych. (pp.50-51) Forum TV recently aired a documentary glorifying the OUN(B), its UPA army, the ABN, leaders Bandera and Yaroslav Stetsko, and various campaigns to promote their Bandere causes in Canada by LUC and its affiliates: LUC Women (LUCW) and the Ukrainian Youth Assoc.

2013-16: She represented LUCW on UCC’s board of directors.

2014-17: National president, LUCW.

References and notes