
MEDIA ADVISORY/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2009

Vaughan Public Libraries and the Russian Library & Community Information Centre are partnering to celebrate the **Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture, Wednesday, May 20, 6 - 9 pm**, with Russian artwork, music and poetry.

WHAT: Celebrate the **Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture, May 20**. The **free** evening program begins with a performance by the Russian Children's folklore ensemble **Ladushki**. This performance is followed by students from **Trendy Students Learning Centre** reading poetry and a musical performance by **Tatyana Bila**. Next, the **Russian Poetry Festival** showcases readings by local poets in Russian. There will be a display of traditional Russian toys, games and costumes courtesy of the **Community Russian House** and selections of Russian-language materials from the collections of both the **Bathurst Clark Resource Library** and the **Russian Library & Community Information Centre**.

WHEN: **Wednesday, May 20**

6:00 – 6:20 pm	-Welcome remarks by dignitaries
6:20 – 6:30 pm	-Performance by Russian children folklore ensemble Ladushki
6:30 – 6:40 pm	-Children's poetry read by the Trendy Students Learning Centre
6:40 – 6:50 pm	-Music performance by Tatyana Bila
6:50 – 7:10 pm	-Intermission
7:10 – 8:40 pm	-Russian Poetry Festival
8:40 pm	-Closing remarks by Svetlana Roufanova

WHERE: **Bathurst Clark Resource Library**, 900 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill, 905-653-READ (7323).

WHY: Through the richness and depth of Vaughan Public Libraries' collections and materials, VPL reflects the diverse cultural background of the communities it serves. VPL is committed to actively seek and develop partnerships to enhance the awareness of and inform these diverse communities of the collections, materials and services available to them in their languages. The

co-sponsorship of this program connects VPL to the local Russian community, welcomes them into the library and offers them an awareness of what VPL has to offer.

Background on the Day of Slavic Written Language & Culture

May 24th is the **Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture**, celebrated in Russia in memory of two great enlighteners, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, who created the first Cyrillic alphabet.

This initiative, by Vaughan Public Libraries and the Russian Library & Community Information Centre, is the 4th celebration of the Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture that the two organizations have co-sponsored.

Their first collaboration in 2005 was the first time this special event was celebrated in Canada. The evening will showcase Russian artwork and literature, readings by local Russian poets, and entertainment by a children's folklore ensemble. Over 70 people attended the previous celebration.

"The Day of Slavic Written Language and Culture provides residents with an opportunity to share special customs and traditions, while learning more about the unique cultural heritage of Slavic communities," says Gino Rosati, Chair, Vaughan Public Library Board. "Vaughan Public Libraries participates in the festivities by offering fun-filled activities to explore Russian music, literature, artwork and poetry, in addition to hosting exciting folklore performances."

One of the organizers of this event and host of the evening is Svetlana Roufanova, Founder of The Russian Library & Community Information Centre, the only Russian Library in Canada. Initially located in Thornhill, the Russian Library & Information Centre moved to 920 Alness St., Unit 206 in North York. It houses a collection of 15,000 books, videos, DVDs, CDs and sheet music, most of it donated. The catalogue is in Russian characters and is also on their website. Programming consists of guest speakers, book discussion groups and some children's programming. The Russian Library & Community Information Centre, a community non-profit organization with annual members, also functions as a community meeting place and source of community information and services.

VPL's Russian Collection contains over 5400 Russian materials and is available at Bathurst Clark Resource Library and Dufferin Clark Library. Types of materials include books for children and adults, periodicals, magazines, DVDs and CDs.

Approximately 200,000 Russian-speaking people live in the GTA. In Vaughan, four per cent of the population speaks Russian. It is the third most popular language spoken in Vaughan, after English and Italian. The majority of Russian speaking people in Vaughan reside in Thornhill.

Children's Program

BATHURST CLARK RESOURCE LIBRARY - 900 Clark Ave. W.

Russian Art Plate Decoupage

May 20, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Join Elena Goulak, Russian artist and author of the book *Russian Folk Crafts* for a storytime and hands-on art experience with Russian Plate Painting. For ages 5 – 12. Please pre-register at the Information Desk.

Notes for Editors and Photographers:

Vaughan Public Libraries does not require participants in this program to complete or sign photo permission forms prior to attending. However, some children may be accompanied by a parent or caregiver who would be responsible for granting permission.

Vaughan Public Libraries

Vaughan Public Libraries contributes to the success of our growing diverse community; serving its information, learning, leisure and cultural needs in a welcoming and safe environment. In 2008, VPL welcomed over 1.7 million visitors making it one of the top leisure and information destinations within the City of Vaughan. For more information on all of VPL's programs and services call 905-653-READ (7323); pick up a copy of *@ The Library, Your Guide to Programs, Special Events and Using Your Library* at your local library or visit the website at www.vaughanpl.info.

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