



First day of summer brings fire to Burgis Beach

After a fairly quiet spring, members of Canora & District Fire Rescue were called to a major fire at Burgis Beach in the early hours of June 21, the first day of summer, according to Jess Harper, fire chief. “We got the call at 12:15 a.m.,” said Harper, “and we got back at around 9:30 a.m. so we were at the site for around eight hours. When we arrived on the scene, it was just a big ball of fire. Four cabins were lost in total and another was damaged.” Harper said three of the cabins were fully involved when they arrived, and they didn’t have time to get around the side of the buildings to save the fourth cabin. “Thankfully no one was injured.” The Rhein fire department was called in for mutual aid, and according to Harper, “Their help made a big difference.”

Ukrainian Catholic Minister retires after 40 years

Fr. Joakim Rac has officially retired from his position as Ukrainian Catholic minister of many communities in the Canora/Kamsack/Preeceville area. The congregation at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Preeceville hosted a farewell light supper after the mass church service on June 3.

Rac was born in Ruski Kerestur, Vojvodina, Serbia, Yugoslavia to Ljubmir and Anna Rac in 1954. Ruski Kerestur was built and populated by the old Ukrainian emigration from the Carpathian Mountains in 1746. Fr. Joakim’s two brothers, Ljubomir and Michael died in infancy, he has younger twin sisters, Melanie and Irene.

He attended elementary school in Rome, Italy, where he graduated from the six-year Classical High School. In 1972, he moved to the Ukrainian Catholic College of St. Josaphat, Rome (Pontifical Ukrainian Major Seminary) and took two years of Philosophy at the Pontifical University Urbaniana in Rome where he received his Bachelor of Philosophy with highest honours.

In 1974, he entered SS. Cyril and Methodius Greek Catholic Seminary in Zagreb, Croatia. After studying Sacred Theology for six years at the Catholic Faculty in Zagreb, he received his License of Theology achieving the highest honours. He took two more years of Theology at the same

faculty, as specialization in Moral Theology. He also took German language classes at the Goethe Institute in Prien, West Germany with two years specializing in the Latin, German, Croatian, and Italian languages at the State University of Arts and Sciences in Zagreb, Croatia, two years of Philosophy at the State University of Arts and Sciences in Belgrade, Serbia and he spent one year in the Army and Navy, which as an obligation in Yugoslavia.

Before his 20th birthday, he managed to learn the languages of Ukrainian, Ruthenian (Rusyn), Serbian, Russian, Italian, Old Slavonic, German, Croatian, Latin and Greek. He learned English later in Canada. Writing, translating and publishing was his passion.

On Sept. 25, 1982, he married Zlatica Kovac, a pediatric nurse from Ruski, Kerestur. At that time she worked at the Provincial Hospital in Novi Sad, Vojvodina, for mothers and children.

On Oct. 9, 1982, Rac was ordained as a deacon in St. Cyril and Methodius Greek-Catholic Seminary in Zagreb by Bishop Joakim Segedi. On Oct. 24 1982, he was ordained a priest by Bishop Joakim Segedi at St. Nicholas Greek-Catholic Church in Ruski, Kerestur, which became his first parish with 6,000 parishioners.

On June 17, 1983, following the invitation of His Excellency Bishop Andrew



Fr. Joakim Rac officially retired from his position as Ukrainian Catholic minister of Canora and many surrounding communities. The congregation at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Preeceville hosted a farewell light supper after the mass church service on June 3.

Roborecky and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rudolf Luzney, Fr. Rac and his wife, Zlatica came to Saskatchewan. He was the assistant priest at St. George’s Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Saskatoon for three months and on September 15, 1983 he was appointed a pastor to the Norquay and Preeceville Parish district and on Aug. 2, 1995 to Canora and district.

The couple had four children, Tanya, Boris, Anna-Maria and Tony.

Father Rac has many accomplishments that include taking on many other Ukrainian Catholic churches. He was the pastor of the Canora parish district, was the Dean of the Yorkton Deanery from the establishment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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