

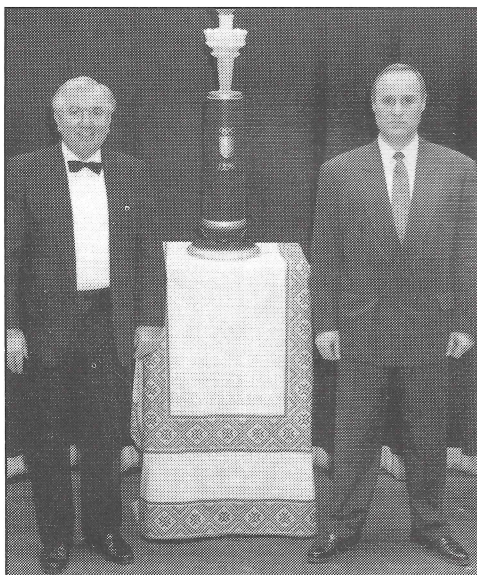


# CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF UKRAINE



**W**hen the Olympic flame is lit in Atlanta, Georgia, later this year, it will see Ukrainian athletes competing for the first time at the summer games under the yellow and blue Ukrainian flag. Since the fall of 1994, the CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF UKRAINE (CFNOCU) have been actively involved in fundraising efforts and an awareness campaign of the needs of the athletes from Ukraine as they prepare to participate in the upcoming Games.

In an effort to share ideas and establish a coordinated action plan, the organizers of CFNOCU - President Stan Haba, Secretary Raya Shadursky, and



*CFNOCU President Stan Haba with Deputy Minister of Sport of Ukraine Mykola Kostenko at Toronto fund-raiser.*

Western representatives Mr. and Mrs. Holowka - have met with members of the Canada and U.S. Committee, as well as with the president of the National Olympic Committee and Minister of Sport of Ukraine, Valeriy Borzov.

The activities of CFNOCU have kept their many chapters across Canada busy for the last two years. The Western Regional representatives in Winnipeg hosted the Ukrainian Women's Volleyball team when they competed against Canada. Montreal received the Ukrainian Kickboxing Team during the Championship games (Ukraine won one gold, four silver and two bronze medals), as well as the World Free Style Skiing teams from Ukraine competing in Quebec. The Thunder Bay chapter hosted the Ukrainian teams during the competitions for the World Ski Championships. The Ukrainian Gymnastic team was sponsored by the Edmonton chapter during their competition in Atlanta at the World Gymnastics Championships (They won gold!). Edmonton also arranged accommodation and special performances of the Ukrainian skaters one week prior to their participation at the World Championships held in that city, thereby allowing them practice time prior to the actual competition.

Toronto itself has seen a flurry of events. The most recent was a major fundraising success - a banquet to kick off the 1996 Olympics, held in cooperation with the Toronto chapters of UCC and the Ukrainian Women's League, where the Deputy Minister of Sport of Ukraine, Mykola Kostenko, and Ukraine's Consul General, Serhiy Borovyk, were the guests of honour. Earlier CFNOCU had hosted two receptions to honour the four member regatta

team 470 and 17-year old gymnast Lilia Potkopayava. The two female members of the regatta team placed second in the Regatta Championships in Toronto, while Ms. Potkopayava won the overall gymnastics medal at the World Championship Games in Hamilton (November, 1995). The Toronto Chapter hosted the Ukrainian Women's Volleyball Team prior to their trip to Brazil for the World Volleyball Championships, and financed the Ukrainian rowing team in Savannah, Georgia, where they won a gold medal in the World Rowing Championships. Organizers in Toronto arranged accommodation and travel for the junior hockey team from Ukraine travelling from Toronto to Calgary to the World Junior Hockey Championships in Red Deer, Alberta.

Meanwhile, the president of the CFNOCU, Stan Haba, has become well-known in sports circles in Ukraine. In the sports magazine "START", partially supported by CFNOCU, he is affectionately referred to as "...our Stan". Since this Olympic partnership began, Mr. Haba has even been given the honour of kicking the opening soccer ball at a game between the Dynamo Kyiv Soccer Team at their opening game with Carpaty Lviv.

With the Atlanta Olympics barely months away, interest and activities are coming to a peak. One thing the Ukrainian Olympians can be sure of is that they will have a lot of people cheering for them, even though they are half-way around the world from home.