

- *The Serbian Heritage Museum* is the only Museum of its kind in Canada. It was officially established in 1987. There were over 40 exhibits during its existence. It is privileged to have a wide scope of visitors. It preserves artifacts, collects original art work, enhances traditional skills and language, keeps archives and genealogy, has a reference library and is open for research.

An extension to the Church & School is **Gracanica Library**. This section opened August 1990 and has acquired book collection in Serbian and some in English accessible to the public.

The Serbian community is one of those many stops in Windsor where traditional dancing, food and museum exhibits provides an exciting experience.

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\* Multicultural globe & maple leaf symbol on the front page is used here to indicate the '99 theme.

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Heritage Council): [www.swoheritagesites.org](http://www.swoheritagesites.org)

#### MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Friday am - 4 pm

Sunday 2 pm - 4 pm

*Groups are welcome by  
appointment. light lunches served to  
groups of 15 or more, upon request*

Visits may include viewing of fresco  
paintings at the Serbian Orthodox  
Church Gracanica.

*Serbian Heritage Museum  
of  
Windsor*

presents

Carrousel '99 theme

"EXPO TO THE WORLD"



Exhibit: June 18 - Aug 20, 1999



## INTRODUCTION

Carrousel of Nation is a yearly multicultural event. It brings people to ethnic communities to share different cultures.

The Multicultural Council launched the 1999 theme "*Expo to the World*" associating it with the idea of opportunity by showing the communities' involvement throughout the city.

The Serbian community has nine organizations. Each one has its own particulars, activities, duties and missions. They are the links with Serbian and Windsor events and are presented in this exhibit:

- **Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church "Gracanica"** represents a continuation of spiritual existence. Displayed artifacts show the tradition of communion, a symbolic enactment for togetherness within the faith of God and in the context of Orthodox Church. Two years ago, church building was architecturally recognized for its heritage quality. It is the first of two (another one is **St. Dimitrius Serbian Orthodox Church**) churches that shaped the Serbian Community in Windsor.

- **Serbian Sunday School** closely coexists with the church. Along with it is the religious teaching, church attendance and other

activities. Children perform for parents and community during the festive days such as Slava - i.e., St. Patron - Saint Sava's Day.

- In 1987, the **Serbian Community Centre** opened its door to the community and became a core gathering place. It accommodates the local and Windsor community, inviting guest speakers at many traditional and non traditional occasions. During the opening ceremonies a few prominent Canadians were present.

- **The Serbian Singing Society "Gracanica"** is a tireless and energetic group. They sing regularly in Gracanica Church for Sunday liturgy, weddings or funerals, Christmases carol at many homes in Windsor and tour across this continent. They will celebrate their 50th Anniversary this November.

- The oldest organization is *Circle of Serbian Sisters "Princess Jelena"*. It was established in 1938. Their mission has been to help those in need as during WWII through the Canadian Red Cross. As much as they are responsible for financing the building, frescoes, parish home, they are also tireless bakers and cooks making events well attended.

- **"OPANAK", FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE** formed in 1993 and continues their predecessors work of the traditional

"kolo" dancing. This dynamic group of young people and their past and present leader Velickovic sisters, Mirjana Vujanovic, Angie Stevanov-LaMarre and choreographers Nada Borcic and Bojan Dimitrijevic (Gruja Stevanov was the first choreographer) perform at numerous events, locally and also across the world. One of those trips was their tour to Australia last year. Their latest participation at the Cleary International Centre along with other Windsor ethnic groups were applauded by many folklore fans.

- **The Serbian Business & Professional Association** formed by Budimir brothers with their partners in 1963 is another organization that promotes Canadian-Serbian business and a democratic attitude. They support and fund cultural and educational efforts.

- The Serbian Heritage Women's Society is a cultural group of women who got together in '72 with an objective to preserve and share with other Canadians the Serbian cultural tradition. And more than that they also cooperate with all Serbian and other ethnic cultural groups in Windsor. Another aspect of their dedication is assisting Serbian immigrants to adjust to the Canadian way of life. They initiated the birth of the first Serbian Heritage Museum and governed until 1993.