

## OPERATION OF THE MUSEUM

The Serbian Community provides for the Museum's rent-free facilities and all utilities are paid. Cost of furniture and supplies, storage and exhibit expenses, as well as day-to-day operation, are the responsibilities of the Serbian Heritage Women's Society. All work is done on a voluntary basis by members of the Society.

To assure the continuing operation of the Museum, the Serbian Heritage Women's Society holds various fund-raising activities. The Museum also operates its own Gift Shop which features hand-crafted objects made by volunteers or imported from Yugoslavia. Donations from generous individuals or businesses are an important source of income as well. Receipts for Income Tax purposes are issued for all donations of \$10.00 or more.

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Benefactor	\$500.00
Honorary Patron	\$100.00
Patron	\$50.00
Supporter	\$25.00
Friend	\$10.00

Cheques should be made out to:

Serbian Heritage Museum  
6770 Tecumseh Road East  
Windsor, Ontario  
N8T 1E6  
Tel. (519) 944-4884

## MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday: 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

*Groups welcome by appointment.*

## 1989 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations for their support during the past year.

### Benefactors

Mr. & Mrs. M. Budisavljevic    Mr. & Mrs. S. Petrovic  
Gracanica Church/School Board    Mr. & Mrs. V. Markovic  
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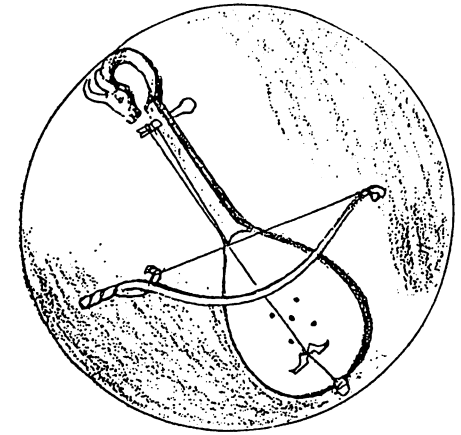
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### Donations to the Museum Collection

Mr. Nikola Alekseichenko,    Mr. Nikola Gacesa  
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Ethnographic Museum, Belgr    Mr. Slavko Zarin



*Serbian Heritage Museum, Windsor, Ont.,*

**SERBIAN  
FOLK  
INSTRUMENTS**

February 18 - May 11, 1990.

## SERBIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

### BACKGROUND

The Serbian folk musical tradition is similar to a rich and colourful tapestry. In its background there are traces from the distant Slavic roots which Serbs brought with them to the Balkans during the 7th century A.D. There are also traces inherited later from the peoples which came in contact with Serbs, such as their own Balkan neighbours and friends, and inevitably, there are traces from the conquering Turks who dominated over Serbia for nearly 500 years. Legends tell us that Serbs brought with them to the Balkans guitars and flutes. References about ancient Slavs state, that old pictures portray shepherds with two constant attributes; their flutes and their dogs.

Throughout the centuries, Serbian music remained closely related with folk life, their work and their customs. Cattle breeding, one of the oldest occupations, contributed a great deal toward the development of Serbian folk music. During the long hours, while tending their flock, shepherds made their own flutes and played melancholy songs reflecting their lonely life. Shepherds flutes (svirale frule) have been popular with Serbian folk and are still enjoyed in Serbian villages to-day.

During the long period of Turkish oppression, another, one-string instrument gained popularity. This instrument is called gusle. Gusle was played by talented bards at gatherings of Serbs during folk or religious festivals, usually by the church or by the monastery. Bards sang long ballads which told stories about glorious days from the Serbian past, about great Serbian heroes and famous Serbian kings. These ballads, handed down orally from one generation to another, upheld the spirit of the enslaved people and helped them preserve their hope for the future.

By mid-19th century, Serbia was liberated again, and there was much rejoicing in the land. As business and economy developed, cultural and educational life flourished and common folk began using more sophisticated instruments, made by skilled craftsmen or by factories.

Accordions and tamburicas became popular and orchestral groups provided entertainment for the village folk. However, this transition did not eliminate the old folk music, regardless whether it is played on a hand-made frula or on a fancy, factory-made instrument. Music is still an indivisible part of their lives at weddings, at christenings, at dances, at various celebrations, or just at friendly gatherings.

When Windsor Serbs came to Canada, they brought, in their hearts, the same ancestral love of music, and the same ancient folk melodies began to be heard at the same traditional celebrations in their chosen land. Some instruments were brought in from the Old Country, others were purchased in the United States where makers of Serbian instruments already flourished during the Twenties and Thirties.

Two men who played an important part in preserving and developing Serbian folk music in Windsor are: the late Mitar Jovanovich, known as Cika Mita (Uncle Mita) who played his accordion for Serbs from the time they first came to Windsor during the 1920's until his death. Another Serb who, as a teacher, passed a gift of Serbian folk music to the young Windsor Serbs, is Mr. Matija Stankovic, known as Cika Matija.

Instruments, played by Cika Mita and Cika Matija can be seen displayed in the exhibit.

### A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The Serbian Heritage Museum gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following individuals in the preparation of the current Exhibit:

Mr. Mike Adams	Mr. Mile Pasic
Mr. M. Budisavjevic	Mr. D. Pavlov
Mr. Bogdan Chuk	Mr. Momcilo Petko
Mrs. Jovanka Dobric	Miss Ilinka Popov
Mr. I. Dragicevic, Jr.	Mr. Miran Skaljac
Mr. Jovan Milojevic	Mr. Rade Stajic
Mr. Buddy Milojevic	Mr. M. Stankovic
Mr. Momir Nikolic	Mr. Dusan Supic
Mr. Joe Paich	Mr. W. Studak

In 1975, the idea of a Serbian museum was born. The Serbian Heritage Women's Society undertook the first collection of artifacts and archival materials from the Serbian community in Windsor. The material collected was displayed in 1976 in the Hiram Walker Historical Museum for four months. This first exhibit generated much interest from the general public and the Serbian Community. A permanent museum then became a new goal for the Serbian Heritage Women's Society.

This was accomplished in 1987 with the support of the government of Ontario through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, after the Serbian Community allotted space in its Community Centre.

### GOALS

The goal of the Museum is to: a) serve the Serbian community in Windsor by preserving and interpreting their cultural heritage; b) impart knowledge of Serbian culture, tradition and skills to the greater community. The Museum carries out these functions through its emphasis on exhibits, special activities, research and education programmes.

### EXHIBITS

The Serbian heritage Museum is not a dormant project with a permanent exhibit; it is constantly developing and seeking new challenges. Exhibits in the Museum change to mark special events and anniversaries in Serbian history; to depict various topics in Serbian cultural tradition, and to portray customs or skills of Serbian people.

### MUSEUM COLLECTION

The Museum collects, preserves and exhibits artifacts, photographs, documents, etc. related to Serbian history and tradition in general and the history of the Windsor Serbs in particular. Donations to the collection are gratefully received and acknowledged.