

Czech Country Minnesota Invites You to Join Us in Celebrating the 100-Year Anniversary of the Creation of Czechoslovakia

To honor the creation of Czechoslovakia 100 years ago, at the end of WW1, the communities of New Prague, Montgomery, Lonsdale and Veseli have worked on putting together a celebration to take place on October 27th and 28th with a multitude of activities in each location.

Since these communities have been referred to as the ‘Bohemian Triangle’ in Minnesota, and share a common history, it is fitting that they are coming together for this once-in-a-century event.

Starting Saturday morning on the 27th, 12 area cemeteries will have Czech immigrant graves marked with Czech flags to honor our Czech ancestors. Assistance will be available at the cemeteries in locating specific gravesites from 10 am. to 3 pm. In addition, general information on cemetery locations will be available at the Arts & Heritage Center (206 First Street N.) in Montgomery, Minnesota.

In addition to the cemetery activities, from 9 am. to 3 pm. at the Arts & Heritage Center will be a Children’s Culture Camp featuring Czech language, cooking, and singing. The Miss Czech Slovak MN Pageant is putting on the Culture Camp. Advanced registrations are requested by contacting Anne Jans at (507-202-4598) or Ashley Zimanske at (952-201-4107). During the day, Czech meals will be available at the Montgomery Brewing Company located at 306 Second Street, NW in Montgomery also sponsored by the Miss Czech Slovak MN Pageant Committee.

Sunday starts out at 1pm. with a Czech Mass and Music at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague, Minnesota. The service will be officiated by Bishop Peter Esterka of California. Bishop Esterka, who was born in Czechoslovakia experienced WW2 and the control of communism first hand; eventually, he escaped and began an illustrious career in the ministry and education fields. Music will include the New Prague Czech Singers and the Czech and Slovak Minnesota Singers.

Following mass, Taste of Czech and Slovak will take place in the church cafeteria where traditional old country favorites can be purchased.

The Battle of the Czech Bands begins at 2pm. with four bands (The Novotny Trio, Glen Wondra and The Country Gentleman, Eddie Shimota and Friends, and the Bob Pexa Rubber Band) performing until 6pm. in the St. Wenceslaus PAC (Parish Activity Center) area to the north of the church. Czech Folk Dancing will also take place during the afternoon with local dancers from Domaci, Inc. participating.

Also in the PAC, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will be providing a traveling exhibit for viewing titled "Leaving Czechoslovakia". In addition to the traveling exhibits, we will have a number of vendor tables set up including the Czech Heritage Club, Honorary Consul- Marit Lee Kucera, Domaci Inc., Czech & Slovak Minnesota, Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant, Author's Kenneth Janda "The Emperor and the Peasant" and John Palka "My Slovakia My Family", First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Czech Genealogical Society International, and Stanley Chromy.

Domaci Inc. (Czech Folk Dancers) will sponsor children's cultural "hands on" activities in the St. Wenceslaus PAC area coordinated. During the course of the afternoon, various drawings will take place with prizes for both adults and children. Additionally, several dignitaries will be present, including Borek Lizec, the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, and Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in St. Paul who will speak in the afternoon.

Souvenir booklets will be available for purchase at the Arts & Heritage Center on Saturday and at the St. Wenceslaus (PAC) on Sunday.

The public is invited to participate in this once in a century celebration recognizing the creation of Czechoslovakia and the difficulties of the early immigrants creating a life in a new country. Czech Country Minnesota looks forward to honoring our early immigrants, celebrating their faith, enjoying traditional food and participating in an afternoon of

great music, dancing, and other activities. We are fortunate that our heritage and customs continue to this day and so we toast our ancestors with a glass of specially brewed Století Pivo (Century Beer) provided by the Montgomery Brewing Company and enjoy the day with friends.

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