



Literatoura 2013

featuring
Barbara Sapergia, author of
BLOOD AND SALT

THURSDAY
April 25, 2013

Musee Ukraina
Museum
222 Avenue M South
Saskatoon, SK

7:00 p.m.

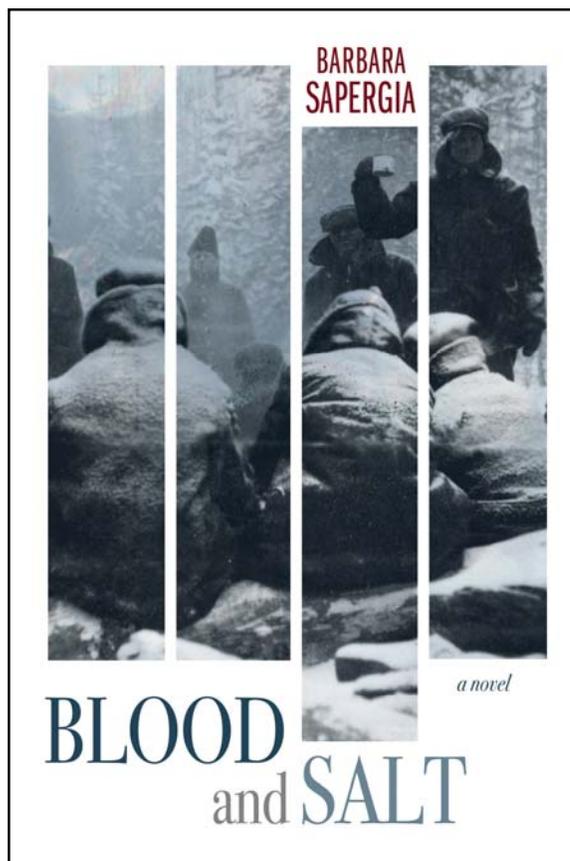
- ✿ **Reading by author**
- ✿ **Book signing**

*Books available for
purchase at event (cash &
cheques accepted)*

Hosted by:



**Ukrainian Canadian
Congress –
Saskatoon Branch**



Presented by the

Ukrainian Canadian Congress–Saskatchewan Provincial Council

The time is World War I, and Canadian soldiers are proving their worth in the trenches of Europe. But on the home front, Ukrainian Canadians are being sent to internment camps - "Canada's gulag."

BLOOD AND SALT

recovers one of Canada's lost stories.

Sponsors



They have committed the crime of being unemployed in bad times. Or simply of having come from lands ruled by the Austrian empire. They have become "enemy aliens."

**A work of fiction grounded in real-life details from the
Banff-Castle Mountain Internment Camp,
Blood and Salt explores the search for a new life and the search for love
– all the while asking what it is to be Ukrainian.**

BLOOD AND SALT imagines the lives of men interned in Banff National Park from 1915 to 1917. Prisoners lived in tents at Castle Mountain in the summer and in bunkhouses in Banff in the winter.

In August, 1915, a young man finds himself on a train bound for Castle Mountain. "What have I done wrong?" he wonders. "Why am I here?"

Taras Kalyna sits turned to the window. Nothing to see but his reflection. Ashy skin, tangled black hair, eyes staring into the dark. A see-through man...

He's travelling west to a place he's never heard of. He doesn't understand how he came to lose his freedom...

He came to Canada to be with his love, Halya. Now he doesn't know if he'll ever find her.

Taras does make wonderful friends in the internment camp: Yuriy the optimistic young farmer; Tymko the radical socialist; Myroslav the scholarly schoolteacher; Ihor the Hutsul; Bohdan the carver. These men help him survive.

In the evening the men tell each other their stories. As Taras talks about his life, his understanding grows; he becomes a storyteller.

Taras' love, Halya, is a strong-willed, passionate, and unsentimental woman, determined to be with the man she chooses, despite her father's objections. Taras thinks of her on the train to Castle Mountain:

In the darkness he sees his old village, where he could catch a glimpse of Halya almost every day. He imagines her light brown hair flecked with brassy gold; her steady blue-grey eyes and small, firm mouth that sets into a stubborn line when she's angry. He loves her fierceness, the shadow that can come across her face like a cloud over the sun. If he could be with her, he wouldn't care if she was angry all the time.

Taras Shevchenko

Another layer of the story reveals the life of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's great poet, artist, and patriot. Taras' friend Myroslav tells stories of Shevchenko's love of Ukrainian culture and his desire for Ukraine to become a free, independent country.

Praise for *BLOOD AND SALT*

An unforgettable love story embedded in a searing indictment of Canada's First World War internment operations, *Blood and Salt*, not unlike Joy Kogawa's *Obasan* before it, will open its readers' eyes and break their hearts. The novel carries us into the human centre of one of this nation's most shameful and well-kept secrets.

- Lisa Grekul, author of *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians*