



Ancient city of Polotsk acquires contemporary features on eve of jubilee which surpasses millennium

# Honouring 1150th anniversary of city with 1,150 kind deeds

Polotsk residents conduct 1,150 kind deeds to honour their city — as part of jubilee celebrations

By Darya Kurilova

The kind deeds include artistic contests, sports tournaments, festivals and fund raising events. For example, the young people of ancient Polotsk have decided to make a playground inside a city courtyard. By the time of the city's 1150th birthday, 1,150 such deeds will have been completed and those who have achieved the most

remarkable deeds will receive recognition.

Jubilee events are to take place in Polotsk from May 25th to June 5th, including a concert entitled *Masterpieces of Opera Art by the Walls of Ancient Sophia*, the *Rubon* festival of medieval culture, a historical performance by the Pilgrim People's Theatre (featuring artistes from the Yakub Kolas Theatre), a children's open air art work-

shop, and an international scientific-practical conference organised by the National Academy of Sciences and Polotsk State University. Under the aegis of the Orthodox Church, a festival of bell ringing is being organised in the city, in addition to a concert of church music and canticles, a religious procession, and a joint divine service by bishops, devoted to the memory of St. Yevfrosiniya

Polotskaya. Other events are to celebrate the interests of children and young people, as well as literature and folklore.

UNESCO has included Polotsk's 1150th anniversary on its 2012-2013 list of memorable dates and is to launch a thematic exhibition at its Paris headquarters in October 2012. In addition, UNESCO is to provide financial support to Polotsk in or-

ganising a conference entitled *The History and Archaeology of Polotsk and Polotsk Land*.

The city has a rich and glorious history, being among the most ancient cities in Eastern Europe. It was first mentioned in 862, in the *Tale of Bygone Years*. Its advantageous geographical location on the 'Varangians to the Greeks' route helped make Polotsk a significant cultural and trading centre in me-

dieval Europe. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya, Frantsisk Skorina and Simeon Polotsky, General Roman Kondratenko (a hero of the defence of Port Arthur) and Yuri Tarich (a founding father of Belarusian cinema) were all born in the city. About 150 historical treasures are located in Polotsk, including beautiful St. Sophia's Cathedral and the Holy Transfiguration Church.



Kazyuki-2012 trade fair of folk crafts in Grodno is astonishing in its breadth

# Grodno again hosts unique Kazyuki festival of folk art

By Iosif Pavlovsky

Unusual presents — as never seen in shops — on sale in Grodno

The *Kazyuki-2012* folk crafts festival saw blacksmiths working in the open air, creating forged roses from red-hot metal, all of which sold out quickly. Around 150 other

craftsmen joined them in the centre of Grodno for the unique holiday, being held for the 11th time. It unites the cultures of three neighbouring nations — Belarus, Poland and Lithuania — and is dedicated to St. Casimir: the patron of young people and folk craftsmen. He was born 554 years ago in Krakow and died in Grodno, with his remains

buried in Vilnius.

Visitors to the Grodno *Kazyuki* festival were able to buy articles made from straw, wood and leather, in addition to pictures, embroidery, ceramics, sewn toys and costume jewellery. Meanwhile, amateur teams from the Grodno Region gave performances, singing songs in Belarusian, Polish and Lithuanian.

# Souvenirs under well-known 'Neman' brand

**Berezovka Glass Factory produces first batch of souvenirs for 2014 IIHF World Championship, to be held in Minsk**

Twenty souvenir designs have been developed (all bearing the symbols of the championship) and approved by the Ministry of

Sports and Tourism. In addition, the prizes for the best players are to be manufactured there, with exclusive designs promised.

In May, souvenirs bearing the symbols of the forthcoming event will become available at shops selling Neman Glassworks products.

# Angel is in Your Heart. You are in Angel's Heart

**Charity launched in Grodno Region to support children in need**

The project aims to pull together various social layers of the public, while liaising with establishments, organisations and the church. Individuals and companies are to be

encouraged to donate funds for the purchase of medical equipment for the region's schools and for disabled children. Finances will also be spent on operations and treatments. The results of the fundraising project are to be summed up on International Children's Day.

# Know-how for drivers

**Before setting off on journeys, drivers will be able to assess road conditions**

The Belavtodor Department (<http://belavtodor.belhost.by>) website is to provide the latest information on road conditions, as collected by 39 data stations along major roads. Users will be able to learn the air and road temperature, the degree

of precipitation, visibility and the condition of the road surface.

This year, 16 more road and measuring stations are to launch: in the Minsk, Brest, Vitebsk and Grodno regions. In all, road conditions will become available from 55 data stations, bringing greater information to drivers and perhaps ensuring greater road safety.