



of Ukrainian descent. He paid tribute to Ukrainian Canadians, saying, "Canada and Ukraine have a special relationship, largely due to the efforts of Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry."

This charming Western Canadian comes to his new job with an impressive background. His previous posting was as Canadian ambassador for disarmament, in which he participated in the negotiations during which Ukraine agreed to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

He also served as Canada's ambassador to South Africa, Bangladesh and Burma, as well as director general of International Organizations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and various positions at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Since being appointed ambassador to Ukraine last July, Mr. Westdal and his wife, Sheila Hayes, have been studying the Ukrainian language.

His new language skills impressed all present at the ceremony, including Ukraine's First Deputy Minister Anton Buteyko and Ambassador-designate to Canada Volodymyr Furkalo. Canadian Embassy Consul Roman Waschuk, head of Canada's Trade Mission Dennis Goresky, as well as the handful of Ukrainian journalists were equally impressed. Mr. Kuchma's translator was the only one who seemed put out, not having anything to do.

In the evening the Ambassador and his wife hosted a reception for Canadians living in Kyiv, thanking everyone for contributing to make Canada's reputation in Ukraine a fine one.

*Marta Dyczok (Ukrainian Weekly)*

## UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS LETTERS OF CREDENCE

On January 24, 1996, the President of Ukraine appointed Volodymyr Furkalo Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Canada. On February 14, 1996 the Ambassador presented his Letters of Credence to Governor General Roméo LeBlanc. In attendance at the ceremony was Michael Mace, Director



*Ambassador Volodymyr Furkalo addresses Governor-General Roméo LeBlanc at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, while Ukrainian Embassy staff look on.*

General of the Europe Branch at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the entire Embassy staff, guests and media.

"It is with deep conviction that I have been entrusted by my President, His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, with an extremely important task to facilitate the further development of a very special relationship between Ukraine and Canada", said Ambassador Furkalo. "I pledge to work relentlessly towards this valuable goal, which I believe is in the best national interests of both our countries' prosperity, democracy and security".

Ambassador Furkalo was born June 5, 1950 in Kyiv. He graduated in 1972 from Moscow State Institute for

International Relations, Faculty of International Law, with a scientific degree of candidate in law. After serving in the armed forces, between 1974-77, he worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. In 1977 he was posted to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, then worked at the Department on political issues and decolonization of the UN Secretariat. From 1980-1990, he worked at Ukraine's Academy of Sciences, and his latest position was Deputy Head of the Directorate on International Relations, Presidium of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences.

Ambassador Furkalo returned to his service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 1991, when he was appointed Head of the Directorate on Foreign Policy Issues in the Administration of the President of Ukraine.

While serving at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President's Administration, Amb. Furkalo participated in numerous international conferences, and was appointed the President's personal representative at the negotiations on Prydnistrovya's conflict resolution.

Ambassador Furkalo is of Ukrainian parents, and fluent in English, French and Polish. He is married with one daughter.



*Among the guests to greet Ambassador Furkalo were Saskatchewan Lieut. Governor Neil Wiebe and Mrs. Anne Wiebe. Also in the photo are Mrs. Iryna Furkalo and daughter Olena.*