

## **SOPHIA ZENNA HOLOWACZ (1933 – 2024)**

**Sophia Zenna Holowacz** (nee Krenciglowa/Krutyholowa) was born in 1933 in the village of Rakovets in the Ternopil oblast and spent her childhood there until 1944 when the family was evacuated to Germany.

From 1944 to 1949, Zenna (people knew her as Zenna) lived as a refugee with her parents, Mykola and Anna Krenciglowa and her brother Eugene, in the German town of Mittenwald. The family immigrated to Canada when Zenna was 16, arriving first in Marsden, Saskatchewan and eventually settling in Hamilton, Ontario. There Zenna met her future husband, Jaroslaw, at a Ukrainian scout (Plast) event, and they married in 1952. Together, they raised a son, Ihor Borys and daughter, Tamara Anna. While Jaroslaw completed university, Zenna supported the family by running a hairdressing business, first in Hamilton and later in Toronto. Without his wife's support, Jaroslaw would never have realized his academic dreams. She and Jaroslaw later lived in Thornhill as well as in Ottawa, Ontario. She settled in Toronto after Jaroslaw's passing in 1990.

Zenna was an active participant in Ukrainian community life in all cities where she lived, volunteering her time and expertise at local churches and in particular at the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, Toronto branch. Along with volunteering, she devotedly supported and cared for many close as well as extended family members, both in Canada and in Ukraine. After Jaroslaw's death, it was Zenna who had the vision and foresight first to establish the Holowacz Collection at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and then to establish the Holowacz Family Fund at the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies to support the maintenance and development of the Collection. Until her death in January 2024, she stayed actively informed about the Collection and looked forward every year to reading the annual reports from NaUKMA.

Sophia Zenna Holowacz passed away peacefully at Saints Peter and Paul Seniors Residence on January 4th, 2024 at the age of 90 years. She is buried in the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington near Hamilton.