

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 24, 2005, week 2

## Radio Quiz Devoted to Celebration of 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peterhof

In November 2004, Radio Russia together with Eclectica tourist company started a quiz for its listeners to choose the best expert on the history of the architectural ensemble Peterhof. The Stockholm Region Office provides the information support for the project (see Northwest Russia, week 45 2004).

In January 2005, Radio Russia has extended the quiz for the listeners in Sweden in cooperation with Radio Sweden, Silja Line company and its official representative in Russia Baltic Tours company.



BalticTours



The quiz will finish in June 2005, with 10 winners (5 from Russia and 5 from Sweden) awarded with a trip to St. Petersburg and Peterhof. They will be able to attend the celebrations of the Peterhof's 300th anniversary. Now the architectural ensemble Peterhof famous all over the world for its fountains, palaces and parks offers the visitors 17 museum objects, with 4 of them renovated in 2004. During the last 2 years, Peterhof collections were enriched with 16 thousand exhibits that will be shown in the coming exhibitions.

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Photo: Interpress, [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

## Red Book of St. Petersburg Nature

In the end of 2004 the St. Petersburg Committee on Environmental Protection and Safety and the Directorate of Protected Territories presented the Red Book on St. Petersburg nature. Its objective is to preserve the biological variety of species in a big city with its extreme survival conditions. The contents of the Red Book was formed by a group of St. Petersburg leading scientists that worked under the aegis of the Biological Scientific and Research Institute, St. Petersburg State University. During the official presentation of the book, the authors especially thanked the Ministry of the Environment of Finland that supported the idea of the Book and provided help under its elaboration.

6 especially protected nature zones within the city's boundaries and 17 unique places to be added to the list of protected zones are included in the Red Book. It also contains 164 animals and 54 birds that need to be taken care of.

The main task for the specialists now is to work out a plan on how to provide protection and control over the disappearing species, as well as their reproduction on the city's territory. A whole complex of city-planning, administrative and educational measures is required.

Under 2005, a web-version of the Red Book will be created. All the major libraries of St. Petersburg will be provided with the issue. At the moment the Red Book is available at the website of the Committee on Environment.

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### New Municipal Laundry at Nikolaevsky hospital

The new municipal laundry was launched at the premises of Nikolaevsky hospital in Petrodvorets (Peterhof) district (one of St. Petersburg's city districts) in the end of December 2004. It serves both medical and social institutions and the inhabitants of the district. Today the laundry can process about 600 kg washing daily. In the future, it is planned to increase the capacity of the laundry and expand the range of its services with the support of burgomaster Bad-Homburg and Countess Klotilde von Rintelen (Germany), Head of the Nikolaevsky Hospital Support Union.

According to the analysis made in Peterhof, laundry services were lacking on the consumer market of approximately 80 thousand inhabitants. The local laundry made washing cheaper and more convenient. Now the Nikolaevsky hospital and other institutions do not have to carry personnel's clothes and patients' linen to St. Petersburg.

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### Cooperation Protocol between Northwest Russia and Southwest Finland



The protocol on cooperation between the association Severo-Zapad (Northwest) and the Regional Council of Southwest Finland was signed in the St. Petersburg City Hall in the end of December. Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg and Chairman of the Association for economic cooperation between regions in Northwest Russia, and Juho Savo, Executive Director of the Regional Council of Southwest Finland put their signatures under the document stipulating cooperation development and information exchange in such spheres as environment protection, life science, power engineering, tourism, culture etc.

During the meeting with the Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Valentina Matvienko said that relations between Finland and Russia had always been an example of neighbourliness and mutually beneficial cooperation. In the course of many years Finland has been the main economic foreign partner for St. Petersburg. In 2003, the commodity turnover between St. Petersburg and Finland comprised 800 mln USD, which is 26% more than in 2002. The construction of the Southwest waste water treatment plant (see Northwest Russia, week 7, 2004) was declared to be the best European environmental project in 2003. Another larger project recently launched in St. Petersburg is the Elcoteq plant construction (see Northwest Russia, week 45, 2004).

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru)



### UN Civil Society Award 2004 for St. Petersburg Drug Abuse Prevention Center

In the end of 2004, the St. Petersburg Drug Abuse Prevention Center was awarded the United Nations Vienna Civil Society Awards for fighting drugs. The diploma and medal were signed, in particular, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, the UN Deputy Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Established in 1997 in St. Petersburg, the Center deals with social rehabilitation and employment, psychological support and consulting of drug addicted.

Source: Metro, 30 November 2004

## Shroud Bridge over Neva



On 15 December 2004 the bridge made of shrouds was opened in Obukhovo district, the southern part of St. Petersburg. It is the first non-draw bridge over the river Neva that allows the passage of vessels with no tonnage limitations. The bridge, which is 2,8 km long and about 30 m high, is an important section of the St. Petersburg ring road.

The opening ceremony was attended by Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Ilya Klebanov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President in the Northwest Federal District, and Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg. Vladimir Putin emphasized in his speech that the new bridge would not only connect the southern and the northern parts of the city, but also stimulate the construction of new transport objects outside the center of St. Petersburg, which would help to preserve the historical center and to improve the environment in the city.



Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru)  
Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

## Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia Programme Completed



The Swedish-Russian business development programme *Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia* launched in 1998 has been completed. The last group of participants within the frames of the Programme went on internship to Sweden in November 2004.

Since 1999, the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg coordinated the implementation of Nordpraktik programme in St. Petersburg, Leningrad region, Pskov, Novgorod the Great and

Kaliningrad. The project in Russia was implemented in cooperation with the Programme for Managers and Executives Training for Enterprises of the Russian Economy.

*Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia* is a Swedish governmental programme financed by Sida. The Programme provides Russian companies with a possibility to send their managers for four weeks' internship at a Swedish enterprise. The main goal of the programme is to facilitate the development of cooperation projects between Russian and Swedish companies.

In 2003-2004, 131 Russian managers and 127 Swedish companies participated in the programme. In total, during the period of 1998-2004, over 630 Russian managers and 450 Swedish companies became Nordpraktik participants. According to the follow-up made in the end of summer 2004, over 50 participants from the regions coordinated by the Stockholm Region Office, have successful ongoing business cooperation at present time.



In June 2004 the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg started publishing articles on joint projects as a result of the internship in the newsletter *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events* (see the issues for the weeks 24, 26, 35, 39, 47). We will continue informing you on the joint projects within the Programme.



Source: Stockholm Region Office, [stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)

Photo: Andrey Mashoshin, participant of the Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia Programme, [baltmail@mail.ru](mailto:baltmail@mail.ru)

The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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