

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Delegation of Solna city Visited St. Petersburg



On 30 September-4 October the delegation of Solna city headed by Sune Reinhold, Chief Executive Officer, visited St. Petersburg. In 2000-2002 Solna took an active part in one of the pilot projects within the frames of the Russian-Swedish project *Development of Social Work in St. Petersburg* and shared its experience with the Kirovsky city district. As a result 2 social centers were opened. During the meeting with the Administration of the Kirovsky district, prospects of further cooperation were discussed. "We are looking forward to further cooperation with Solna city which could be, in particular, formalized in cooperation agreement. Next year the district will celebrate its 90th anniversary and we will be very glad to invite Solna representatives to this event" said Irina Boytsova, Deputy head of the Administration of the Kirovsky district. Several social institutions as well as Museum *Narvskaya Zastava* – cultural center of the district - were presented to the delegation.

The programme of the visit also included a meeting with the colleagues from the Admiralteysky city district. Konstantin Shmelev, Head of the Administration of the Admiralteysky district, made a presentation of the district and ongoing projects in the economic, construction, social and cultural sectors. Fields of possible cooperation were discussed. Study-visits to the Youth Palace, orphan asylum for handicapped children as well as recently constructed trade center took place.

During the meeting with Irina Belinskaya, Director of St. Petersburg Construction Center, Anton Libman, Deputy Director of the Agency for Strategic Investments, St. Petersburg Committee for Investments and Strategic Projects, and Alexey Kaidalov, Deputy Head of the St. Petersburg Construction Committee, St. Petersburg strategic investments projects were presented. The parties, in particular, discussed the current constriction of new football stadiums both in Solna and St. Petersburg.

The programme of the visit was arranged with a support from the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, Stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

Tourist Workshop

On 26 September 2006 the sixth Swedish Tourist Workshop took place at Nevsky Palace Hotel in St. Petersburg. The workshop was organized by the Swedish Travel & Tourism Council with a support from Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg. The aim of the workshop was to further develop contacts with local travel operators arranging tours to Sweden, as well as introduce new products and programmes to them. A total of 23 organizations, including Stockholm Visitors Board, Silja Line, Scandinavian Airlines took part in the workshop.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg,
Stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

Danish-born Empress Buried in St. Petersburg

Tsarina Maria Feodorovna, Danish-born Empress who was the mother of Russia's last tsar, was interred in the Romanovs' royal crypt in St. Petersburg 78 years after her death. She fled to Denmark in 1919 and died in 1928. The empress wished to be buried in Russia.

Russian and Danish guards placed the wooden casket, covered with a bright yellow flag, near her husband, Tsar Alexander III, in the royal crypt at the cathedral of the Peter and Paul Fortress, as an orchestra played solemn music. A marble sarcophagus bearing Maria Fyodorovna's name was then placed in the cathedral.

Several hundred officials, guests and foreign dignitaries, including members of the British and Danish royal families, attended the ceremony, many holding candles and white roses, and most of them wearing black.

Source: St. Petersburg Times, www.sptimes.ru,
photo: www.interpress.ru

Acceptance List for the XII International Tennis Tournament ATP St. Petersburg Open-2006 announced.



The Acceptance List for St. Petersburg Open (October 23-29, 2006) was announced on 12 September. ATP traditionally undertakes this procedure 42 days before the Tournament. This year the Tournament can boast such names as Tommy Robredo, Nikolay Davydenko, Mario Ancic, Nicolas Kiefer, Thomas Johansson, Dmitry Tursunov, Jarkko Nieminen, Tommy Haas, Mikhail Youzhny and other stars of the world's tennis.

St. Petersburg Open is an ATP International Series Tennis Tournament with the prize money of 1,000,000 US\$, taking place in St. Petersburg, Russia, annually since 1995. This world level tennis tournament is not only a spectacular event for people of all ages and occupations, but also an incentive for the development of this exciting sport and a reason for many tennis fans to come to St. Petersburg following their favorite players. Please, find more information at <http://www.spbopen.ru/eng>



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VII Russian-Finnish Cultural Forum Successfully Completed in Finland



On 18-19 September the VII Russian-Finnish Cultural Forum *Cultural Cooperation between Russia and the European Union* took place in Kajaani, Finland. 199 representatives of Finnish and 110 – of Russian cultural organizations became participants of the Forum, among them – 19 representatives of St. Petersburg.

At the beginning of the Forum, the plenary session was held with the Minister of Culture of Russian Federation, the Minister of Trade and Development of Finland and representatives of the European Commission delivering their speeches. The basic part of the Forum included bilateral partnership negotiations and seminars on such topics as "Tours of Castles and Fortresses of Russia and Finland", "Art, Literature and Library Science", "Education and Cultural Management". The educational program "Music Festival Management" held by Sibelius Academy and the Institute for Cultural Programs was presented during the seminar "Education and Cultural Management".

The VIII Russian-Finnish Cultural Forum will be held in 2007 in Tver.

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