



## PROCLAMATION

### SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY


August 20, 2022

- WHEREAS: St. Stephen's Day is celebrated on August 20 and is an official national holiday in Hungary. Its celebrations are pivotal since this is the day when the foundations of the state of Hungary were laid. This day is observed in order to pay tribute to King Stephen thanks to whom the establishment of the state of Hungary became possible; and
- WHEREAS: St. Stephen's Day holds a long and interesting history. It begins with Stephen the Grand Prince of the Hungarians who laid the foundations of the state. Until the end of the 10th century, the Hungarians were in conflict with other European countries. In 955 A.D., Hungarian tribes suffered a major military loss and the tribal heads decided to give up their raids and concentrate on building a strong state. Stephen was of the view that the conversion of Magyar to Christianity can serve as a great way of settling down and strengthening the state; and
- WHEREAS: Stephen received a crown from Pope Sylvester II and the honor of becoming the first King of Hungary in 1000 A.D. His crown is considered a holy treasure and is still found in Hungary's precious treasures. Stephen died on August 15, 1038 A.D. On August 20, 1083 A.D., he was made a Catholic saint. Ladislaus I declared August 20 a holy day and it was first celebrated in 1092 A.D. It was celebrated as St. Stephen's Feast Day until 1771 when Queen Maria Theresia expanded it from a church feast to an official national holiday. It further went through amendments and in 1950, the holiday's name was changed to Constitution Day. The Hungarian parliament reinstated it as the commemoration of St. Stephen's Feast Day to celebrate the foundation of the Hungarian state; and
- WHEREAS: the holiday is mainly about St Stephen, however, as a standing ritual due to the communist era, the new bread is still celebrated; and
- WHEREAS: making the Birthday Cake for a country is not a piece of cake. It's not just bread that features on St. Stephen's Day. To mark the National Day, the National Confederate of Hungarian Confectioner sponsors an annual contest to choose "Hungary's Birthday Cake," by invitation of the government. First held in 2007, the competition is open to the finest confectioners in the country and is fiercely contested with the judging process-taking place over the course of a few months. Confectioners spend months developing their recipes, as the rules state the cake must have never been on sale before; and
- WHEREAS: on August 20, 2022, we encourage and invite all residents of Nanaimo to visit [www.nanaimohungariansociety.ca](http://www.nanaimohungariansociety.ca) to take part in the organized events of that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Leonard Krog, Mayor of the City of Nanaimo, do hereby proclaim August 20, 2022 as:

### SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY

in the City of Nanaimo, Province of British Columbia.

  
Leonard Krog  
MAYOR  
Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022