

# 2016 HERITAGE BOOK



**FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA**





FORBUNDET AF DANSKE FORENINGER I CANADA  
FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA  
FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DANOISES DU CANADA

# 35th DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Montreal, Quebec

May 26 - May 29, 2016

Conference Theme:  
Renewal and Sustainability  
“Step into the Future”



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## Danish Club of Montreal



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## Step into the Future!

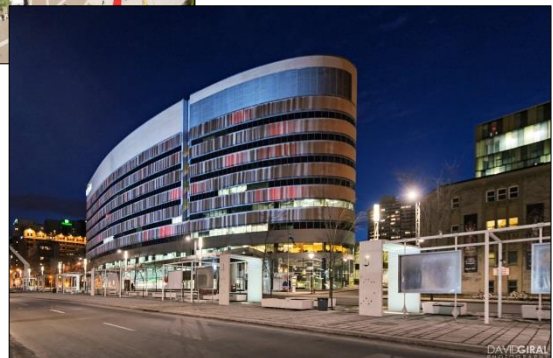


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# Conference Theme

## Renewal and Sustainability: *Step into the Future*

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The theme for the 35th Danish Canadian Conference is “Renewal and Sustainability - *Step into the Future*”. This theme was primarily chosen for three reasons:

1. The Danish community in Montreal continues to face challenges to renew and sustain itself for the future, just as is the case with many of the other Danish communities across Canada.
2. The City of Montreal, home for this year’s conference, is a city undergoing renewal, with many great examples of new and sustainable development, such as a mixed-use downtown area now known as the Quartier des Spectacles (Entertainment District), and the renewal of the Champlain Bridge, one of Canada’s most important and major transportation bridges, designed by a Copenhagen based, Danish Architect, Poul Ove Jensen. Greater Montreal is also home to many multi-cultural populations and collectively with the diversities they bring, society as a whole progresses forward — together.
3. The Danish Club of Montreal is pleased to organize and host this year’s conference, eager to enable and provide a forum to share dialogue with one another and to gain a greater mutual understanding by learning from the presentations presented during the conference sessions. The Danish Canadian Museum’s full day of activities include presenting phase 1 of its new web site, created for all Danish Canadians across Canada and beyond, and for those who have interest in Danish Canadian heritage. Leaders of key Danish Canadian communities from across Canada will be represented in a panel-discussion including interactive dialogue with audience participants. Collectively, we will be exploring how we can build new bridges between our Danish Canadian communities. Examples could include using internet and social media communications, collaborating/partnering for joint events and destination based promotions, connecting with our Danish heritage through the relevant cultural facilities across Canada such as Danish museums, exhibits, cultural centres, and Viking settlements. Importantly, as a Danish Canadian community of over 200,000 people, we must and can create a new vision for renewal and sustainability. A vision that permits us to build and cross new bridges to, and with one another, and to step into the future — together! It is my sincere wish and hope that this year’s conference will provide a good foundation for that.

Sincerely,  
Kren Clausen, President  
The Danish Club of Montreal

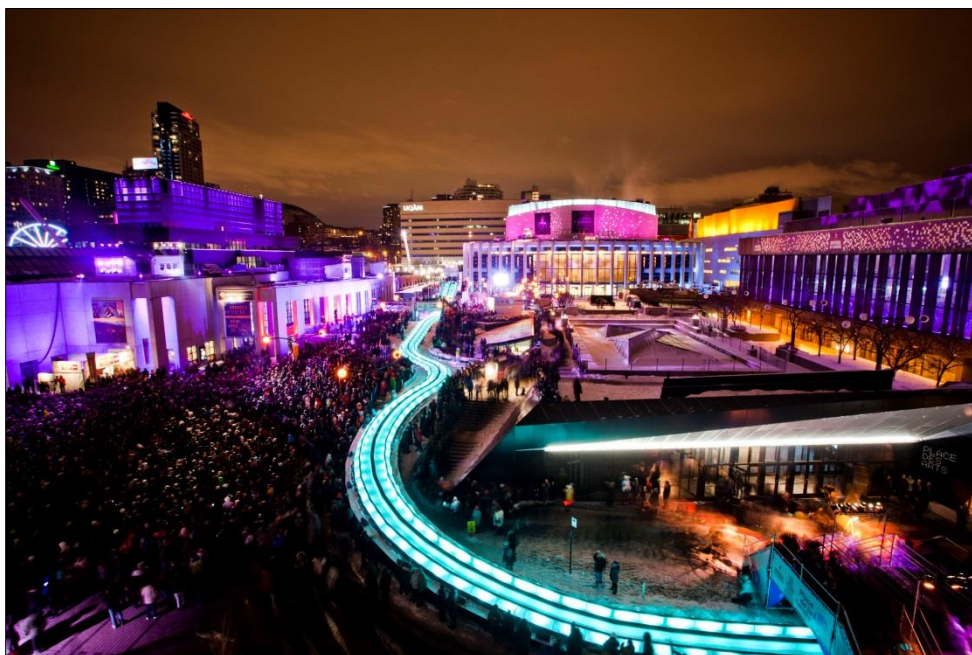
## CONFERENCE THEME

### **About the Danish Club of Montreal**

*(Source: [www.danishclubmontreal.com](http://www.danishclubmontreal.com))*

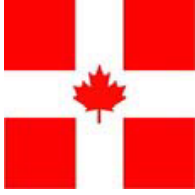
The Danish Club of Montreal was founded in 1922. It is the oldest Danish Club in Canada. Our purpose as a not-for-profit club is to encourage mutual solidarity among Danes in Montreal and to maintain the connection with the native country for persons with Danish origin or background, and for persons with an interest in Denmark or Danish culture and affairs. We create and sponsor special events throughout the year. The club supports our community through the Royal Canadian Legion and by giving to St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church. We support the activities of the Danish Canadian Society, DABGO (Danes Abroad Business Group Online) and St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church in effort to sustain a cohesive Danish community in Montreal.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month for a Danish Luncheon with smørrebrød, øl and akvavit (open face sandwiches, beer and Aquavit) at the the Royal Canadian Legion in NDG. Throughout the year, we have many special guests attend our lunches and a variety of music performers entertaining us. We have a Soccer Tournament in the summer involving available teams from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. This is followed by a picnic lunch promoting camaraderie among players and non-players. We participate in the Canada Day Parade on a large Viking Ship Float together with the Danish Canadian Society. Each November we have our traditional Morten's Goose Dinner.



*Quartier des Spectacles (Entertainment District) in Montreal*

EDITORS OF ANNUAL HERITAGE BOOK



**2016 Heritage Book**

35th Danish Canadian Conference

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**Note:** The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the individual writers, and they do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation or the Editor.

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Vancouver	1982	Poul B. Christensen
Montreal	1983	Svend Berg
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New Denmark	1985	Glenna Jensen & Judy Armstrong
Toronto	1986	Eva Terp
Kolding	1987	Birgitte Dedenroth-Schou & Rolf Buschardt Christensen
Winnipeg	1988	Bent Sørensen
Ottawa	1989	Rolf Buschardt Christensen
Vancouver	1990	Poul B. Christensen
Copenhagen	1991	Rolf Buschardt Christensen
Dickson	1992	Elin Barlem, Kathleen Christiansen, Erling Hansen, Juanita Nissen
Kingston	1993	Rolf Buschardt Christensen and Poul B. Christensen
Edmonton	1994	Lili Nielsen and Svend B. Nielsen
Montreal	1995	Morten Holm
Nanaimo	1996	Niels Jorgensen
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Winnipeg	1998	Niels Jorgensen
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Aalborg	2000	Niels Jorgensen
Kitchener	2001	Eva Terp
Red Deer	2002	Erling Hansen and Kirsten Wohlgemuth
Thunder Bay	2003	Eva Terp
Montreal	2004	Svend Berg
Blair, Nebraska	2005	Svend Berg
Vancouver	2006	Svend Berg
Edmonton	2007	Svend Berg
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Winnipeg	2010	Svend Berg
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Toronto	2012	Svend Berg
Victoria	2013	Svend Berg
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# Renewal and Sustainability

## *Step into the Future*

**Kren Clausen**

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As mentioned in the introduction letter at the beginning of this book, the theme for the 2016 Conference is “**Renewal and Sustainability – Step into The Future**”. Like many other Danish communities and clubs across Canada, the Danish community in Montreal continues to face challenges to renew and sustain itself for the future.

The Quartier des Spectacles (Entertainment District) and the replacement of the Champlain Bridge, designed by Danish architect Poul Ove Jensen, represent two very significant examples of Montreal’s commitment to renewal and sustainability.

### **About the Quartier des spectacles**

(Source: [www.quartierdesspectacles.com/en](http://www.quartierdesspectacles.com/en))

The history and vision of the Quartier des spectacles begins with a history stretching back more than 100 years. The Quartier des spectacles neighbourhood has always been a popular cultural and entertainment destination in Montreal.

In 2003, the Quartier’s purpose was officially defined with the creation of the Quartier des spectacles Partnership. The Quartier acquired its own visual identity and a shared vision: Live, Learn, Create and Entertain Downtown.



The present-day Quartier des Spectacles largely overlaps the site of Montreal’s former Red Light district, whose history extends back to the beginning of the 19th century. At the end of the 1800s, important teaching institutions such as the Bibliothèque Saint-Sulpice and Collège Sainte-Marie

## RENEWAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

moved into the neighbourhood. The Gesù theatre, the neighbourhood's first cultural establishment, opened its doors in 1865 within Collège Sainte-Marie. Other theatres followed: the Monument-National, birthplace of francophone professional theatre; the Gayety Theatre in 1912 (today the TNM); and the Théâtre Saint-Denis in 1916. In 1913, the Imperial Cinema was erected on Bleury Street, becoming one of the first "super palaces" to be built in Montreal.

Between the 1920s and the start of the 1960s, the neighbourhood was home to an impressive number of cabarets that headlined famous artists. Montreal garnered a reputation as a fun-loving city, and tourists started to arrive in great numbers. The American Prohibition (1920-1933) increased Montreal's popularity, but also created conditions that led to the growth of organized crime, prostitution and illegal gaming houses. It is during this time that the neighbourhood was christened the Red Light district.



Photo: [www.designmontreal.com](http://www.designmontreal.com)

Beginning in the 1950s, professional theatre started to take hold, notably with the founding of the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. In the 1960s, Montreal experienced a period of unprecedented modernization (the Quiet Revolution). In the neighbourhood, this new energy took shape in the construction of Place des Arts, the metro system (three stations service the Quartier) and in the establishment of Hydro-Québec's headquarters.



Photo: [www.modernaccommodations.com](http://www.modernaccommodations.com)

That same year, the Montreal International Jazz Festival presented outdoor concerts in the neighbourhood for the first time. The natural vibrancy of the downtown area along with the many empty lots supported the proliferation and expansion of festivals over the years. Important cultural events became one of the Quartier's motors and one of the principal attractions of the city for tourists and locals alike.

During the 1990s, the landscape changed once again with the opening of the Pierre-Mercure performance venue, the Musée d'art contemporain, the Société des arts technologiques and Club

## RENEWAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

Soda while the TNM underwent a complete renovation. To this day, the neighbourhood continues to draw cultural establishments and organizations.

This cultural flourishing laid the foundations of the Quartier des spectacles. In 2001, one year before the Montreal Summit – a major meeting that aimed to define a common vision for the future of Montreal – a number of representatives from the cultural sector came together at the ADISQ offices to consider what proposals they could bring forward to energize Montreal's cultural scene. The result of this reflection was the idea to create a Quartier des spectacles (QDS), positioning culture as a key development tool for Montreal.



Photo: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

At the Summit, the City of Montreal made the QDS a top priority, with the goal of establishing the presence of major festivals in the downtown area and showcasing its cultural institutions and performance venues. The task at hand was not to create a neighbourhood from scratch, but rather to identify it, highlight its rich cultural assets and equip it with the infrastructure to accommodate outdoor events. One year later, the Quartier des spectacles Partnership was founded, with 20 stakeholder members. Extensive consultations were begun in order to develop a vision for the Quartier's expansion.

During the Rendez-vous 2007 – Montréal, the City of Montreal and provincial and federal governments gave the project a further boost when they committed to fund the development of the Place des Arts sector. Since then, new public spaces have been created (the Place des Festivals, Parterre, Promenade des Artistes) and many private and public real estate projects have been built, including several with a cultural focus, notably the 2-22 and the Maison symphonique de Montréal. The Partnership was then given the responsibility by the city to promote the destination, manage its public spaces and bring them to life.

For the last few years, the Partnership has thus been responsible for activities at the neighbourhood's public spaces. It manages not only the calendar of events — the Quartier hosts over 40 events each year alone — but contributes to enhancing the outdoor cultural offering through its own projects as well as logistical and financial support of other initiatives. This mandate is carried out with the constant aim of endowing the Quartier with a distinctive identity grounded in creativity and daring.

To develop this vibrant downtown neighbourhood, members of the Partnership have collaborated to create a vision focused on enhancing its cultural assets. **VISION: LIVE, LEARN, CREATE AND ENTERTAIN DOWNTOWN**

### **About Montreal's New Champlain Bridge:**

*(Source: [www.newchamplain.ca](http://www.newchamplain.ca))*

Montreal's Champlain Bridge is one of North America's busiest spans, with 50 million cars, buses and trucks crossing it each year. In addition to its being used by residents of the metropolitan region for their everyday commute, the crossing is part of a vital overland link for freight transportation between Canada and the United



States. Increased traffic combined with the damage caused by road salt and other factors have contributed to the structure's considerable wear and tear. This is why, in 2015, a new worksite was put into operation to build the new Champlain Bridge, slated to be completed by December 2018. Few people can claim to have witnessed the construction of a large-scale bridge in a major metropolis. Over the next few years, history will be written before our very eyes.

Designing the new Champlain Bridge is a long-term project that started years before the initial groundbreaking. Here is a brief overview:

The project includes:

The construction of the new 3.4-kilometre Champlain Bridge; a new 470-metre bridge for L'Île-des-Sœurs; the widening of Highway 15 between the Atwater interchange and the new bridge; the improvement of the ramps leading from Highways 132 and 10 on the South Shore to the bridge.

In addition, the project incorporates:

Rigorous environmental monitoring and mitigation measures to protect the surrounding natural environment; architectural quality and features that will enhance Montreal's cityscape and contribute to the corridor's status as the main gateway to the city; a corridor reserved for public transit and a safe, accessible multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists.

Since the announcement of the New Champlain Bridge Corridor Project, various stakeholders have expressed their expectations regarding the architectural quality of the new bridge and the corridor as a whole. To provide the Montreal area with a signature bridge, the Government of Canada innovated while complying with the usual Canadian supply framework in public-private partnerships. In the summer of 2013, steps were taken, together with the City of Montreal, to assess various options for ensuring the architectural quality of the new bridge.

## RENEWAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

The federal government, in keeping with this approach, selected the prescribed design model, with the shape and/or geometry of the new bridge's essential architectural components illustrated to ensure architectural quality while leaving the private partners enough flexibility to innovate.

The Government of Canada retained the services of Arup, a consulting engineering firm, which brought in the services of the firms Dissing+Weitling and Provencher Roy to develop the shape and geometry of the new bridge. An architectural review committee, made up of local experts in architecture and design, was also established with a mandate to advise on setting priorities for project components that require special attention in terms of architectural quality as well as to advise on the solutions being considered.

As a result, the new Champlain Bridge corridor was designed as a world-class initiative with a visual identity contributing positively to its status as the main gateway to Montreal. This reflects the values of the local community while respecting the environmental context of which it is part.

With the bridge project now in the implementation phase, the Government of Canada and Signature on the Saint Lawrence are working closely with the various stakeholders to ensure alignment of the project's design and implementation phases from an architectural standpoint, on the one hand, and contribution to the success of the project's integration with its urban setting on the other.

*On the horizon: Sleek, airy design to replace Montreal's Champlain Bridge*

ROBERT EVERETT-GREEN

The Globe and Mail

Published Tuesday, May 05, 2015 5:30PM EDT

Last updated Tuesday, May 05, 2015 10:59PM EDT A vision of the future, on the horizon

(Source: [www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/on-the-horizon/article24260290/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/on-the-horizon/article24260290/))

Canada's busiest bridge, the solid and conventional Champlain, has served its purpose, writes **Robert Everett-Green**. Montreal's new bridge, with its tuning-fork towers and sleek, airy design aims to do more than just carry you home.

Crossing to the other side is a familiar religious metaphor. It would be naive to think that an actual bridge, especially one that spans a mighty river such as the St. Lawrence, is only about getting from one shore to another. Besides offering a feeling of panoramic elevation seldom found on solid ground, a bridge is a meeting place and a focal point, a feat of engineering that is also a statement about the people and place to which it belongs.

So what will be expressed by the forthcoming new Champlain Bridge, whose builders, SNC-Lavalin Group Inc., were announced in Montreal on April 15, beyond the need to keep traffic flowing between Montreal and the South Shore?

## RENEWAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Danish architect Poul Ove Jensen's** cable-stayed design, as revealed last summer in a video animation, is remarkably airy. From the tuning-fork towers to the slender pillars, everything looks pared-down and sleek. When the video's virtual camera dives between double rows of parallel suspension cables, a cascade of piano arpeggios makes the bridge seem like a giant Aeolian harp singing in the breeze.



*Poul Ove Jensen is a director of the Copenhagen-based architectural design firm Dissing+Weitling architecture. He has been working with bridge design for 25 years and has been involved in the design of more than 300 bridge projects in 35 countries. Arup, an international design and engineering firm with a Canadian office, hired Dissing+Weitling with Jensen as Design Director to do the architectural design for the new Champlain Bridge.*

Compare that to the bridge Montrealers have been crossing since 1962. It's stolid and earthbound, much of it little more than a regular road stuck on concrete pillars. Its most distinctive feature, the central cage of cantilevered steel girders, has a connector-set look. Apart from the faintly decorative curves on the top of that cage, the bridge projects workaday function and power. It's completely in line with the image that Canadian heavy industry had of itself at the mid-century, when it was a main pillar of our economy.

When it was new, however, the bridge was also a forward-looking structure, built on the correct assumption that traffic between city and suburbs could only grow. Just 7,300 cars crossed the new \$35-million bridge in 1963. Now nearly 60 million crossings are recorded each year, which makes the Champlain this country's busiest bridge, well ahead of the nearly 35 million trips across Vancouver's Port Mann Bridge.

Montreal's new Champlain Bridge is planned to last 125 years from its projected completion in 2018. (Arup/Government of Canada)

You could also say that the old bridge proposed a vision of the future in which all those additional suburbanites would live. The sheer scale of the thing — the biggest bridge in the country at the time — implied that the way ahead would be an amped-up version of the present. Wealth and employment would be driven by the same factories, foundries and mills that kept the economy humming in the early 1960s.

The future was a big topic in those days in Montreal, which had been angling for a world's fair since the late 1950s. The bridge was under construction when the city clinched the deal on Expo 67, in which Montreal would show the world what lay on the horizon.

The old Champlain's pride in unfussy engineering was in harmony with some of the ideas of R. Buckminster Fuller, the engineering guru who would soon build his most famous structure on the Expo grounds. Mr. Fuller said there was beauty in any well-engineered thing, even a grain silo.

## RENEWAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

But he also believed the built future would be buoyant and transparent, not earthbound. His Dymaxion house, designed in the late 1920s, was made of light-weight metals and glass and hung on a central mast. It was meant to be dropped anywhere by helicopter, and removed the same way when no longer needed. His American pavilion at Expo (now the Montreal Biosphere) looked like a big geodesic bubble.

In that respect, the new Champlain design looks like the bridge of the future as Mr. Fuller might have imagined it. Its smooth shape is like an idea of motion filled out in minimalist style, with no undue emphasis on gravity. It's the bridge Expo 67 seemed to dream about, showing up 50 years late.

But the new Champlain, like the old, also reflects the industrial economy of its time. There's been a shift of production from milled and manufactured objects to nearly immaterial things — software, virtual services and Web commerce in things mostly imported from elsewhere. Goods are downloaded and speed rules. In our city cores, almost all new buildings of significant size aspire to transparency, glass walls being the upright rectangular form of Mr. Fuller's geodesic triangles.

If the new Champlain represents the now, what does it say about the future? Mainly, that the way ahead will be an intensified form of what we already have. That's basically the message of the old Champlain, a digital revolution ago; but the old Champlain turned out to be wrong, or at least short-sighted. The bridge itself suffered



Photo: DISSING+WEITLING architecture a/s

from the short-sightedness of its political masters, who tried to scrimp with some trick engineering from France for the southern approach section, which used concrete girders reinforced with steel cables. That move has stymied replacement of individual beams, and turned the structure into a maintenance nightmare.

The new bridge is planned to last 125 years from its projected completion in 2018. If that seems a long time, consider that the Victoria Bridge, still used by Montrealers, has been standing in its present form since 1896, and was thought to be a relic before the old Champlain was built.

What will they say about the new Champlain Bridge in 2143? Will it be seen as a charming but misguided take on a future that turned out quite differently? That's the thing about a major bridge: It's an augur and time capsule that will also carry you home, traffic permitting, in time for supper.

## GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 26–29, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the national Danish Canadian Conference.

This meeting offers an ideal opportunity to reunite with Danish Canadians from across the country to share in the year's achievements and to set goals for the future. The theme of this event —Renewal and Sustainability— provides a framework for lively discussions about the preservation and promotion of your rich Danish heritage and traditions.

I would like to commend the members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for their dedication to upholding your language and culture in Canada. This gathering is a tangible manifestation of the significant contributions Danish Canadians have made to our multicultural fabric and proof that our country is strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them.

Please accept my best wishes for a very enjoyable and successful conference in Montréal.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada



## GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 26 au 29 mai 2016

Chères amies, chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à celles et ceux qui participent à la Conférence dano-canadienne nationale.



Cette rencontre offre une occasion idéale aux Canadiennes et aux Canadiens d'origine danoise de l'ensemble du pays de se réunir pour parler des réalisations de la dernière année et se fixer des objectifs pour l'avenir. Le thème de cette activité — Renouveau et pérennité — offre un cadre propice pour mener des discussions animées sur la préservation et la promotion de vos riches traditions et de votre important patrimoine danois.

Je tiens à féliciter les membres de la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada de leur dévouement dans la mise en valeur de leur langue et de leur culture au Canada. Cette rencontre est une manifestation bien concrète des contributions importantes qu'ont apportées les Canadiennes et les Canadiens d'origine danoise au renforcement de notre tissu multiculturel tout en permettant de montrer que nos différences, loin d'affaiblir notre pays, le rendent encore plus fort.

Je vous souhaite une conférence des plus fructueuses et agréables à Montréal.

Cordialement,

Le très hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, C.P., député  
Premier ministre du Canada

## GREETINGS



Ottawa, March 2016

I am pleased to once again send my sincerest greetings to the annual conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada taking place in Montreal this year.

The theme of this year's conference *Renewal and Sustainability* sets out an important agenda. One of Denmark's core values is sustainability, which is very much reflected in the architectural tradition. For decades, Danish architecture has been recognized worldwide and, with the new generation of architects focussing on sustainability and elegant design, it continues to be cherished worldwide.

The first Danish architectural foot prints appeared in Canada with the Vikings and their long houses about 1,000 years ago. However in recent years Danish architects have made great architectural contributions in Canada. Their work can be found across Canada from the east to the west coasts; from Schmidt Hammer Lassens' Central Library in Halifax, to the Champlain Bridge in Montreal by Dissing and Weitling Architects, and to BIG Architects' residential projects in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Common to all of these designs is the great pride that has been taken to develop solutions where high architectural quality is combined with aesthetics and sustainability.

It is very encouraging to see emerging partnerships like this between Canadian and Danish companies. The great expansion in many big cities in Canada combined with the upcoming implementation of the EU Canada Free Trade Agreement has the potential of creating more job opportunities and growth in both Canada and Denmark. This clearly demonstrates that the relationship between Denmark and Canada is constantly renewing and I believe that this type of cooperation will create additional value to our already strong relationship.

Another important political agreement has been implemented since the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada had its last conference; the Danish law on dual citizenship, which entered into force on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. This is an added gain to the ongoing relationship between Denmark and Canada, as the new law makes it possible to hold both Danish and Canadian citizenship. I therefore hope that those of you who so desire will reacquire your Danish citizenship or obtain Canadian citizenship in addition to your Danish citizenship.

I wish you all the best at the conference and for the rest of 2016.



Niels Boel Abrahamsen  
Ambassador of Denmark

## GREETINGS

# MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE DU QUÉBEC



Je souhaite la bienvenue à la communauté canado-danoise, qui prend part à la Danish Canadian Annual Conference pour la troisième fois ici, à Montréal. J'espère que ce rendez-vous sera le théâtre de nombreux échanges constructifs entre les différentes communautés canado-danoises.

Comme vous le savez, plusieurs similarités existent entre le Québec et le Danemark, à commencer par les valeurs essentielles, comme l'égalité, de même que sur le plan du développement nordique et du transport maritime. J'ai eu la chance de rencontrer l'ambassadeur du Danemark au Canada, Son Excellence monsieur Niels Boel Abrahamsen, en février 2015, pour aborder ces questions. Le potentiel de collaboration entre nos deux territoires nordiques s'avère fort important, et je souhaite que cette collaboration perdure et mène à un partage de savoir-faire dans divers domaines. Je souhaite surtout que notre amitié franche se poursuive.

D'ailleurs, au cours des prochaines années, nous aurons la chance d'admirer, chez nous, l'expertise d'un architecte danois par sa participation au design du nouveau pont Champlain.

Au nom du gouvernement du Québec, je tiens à saluer l'initiative de la Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, qui a fait de cet événement une tradition, et à remercier le Danish Club of Montreal, le plus ancien Danish Club au Canada. Continuez à promouvoir la solidarité mutuelle entre les Danoises et Danois à Montréal, et surtout, merci de contribuer au maintien des liens forts unissant le Québec et le Danemark.

Bienvenue à Montréal, et bons échanges !

PHILIPPE COUILLARD

### MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUÉBEC

*I welcome the Danish-Canadian community, which is taking part in the Danish Canadian Annual Conference for the third time here in Montréal. I hope this event will provide an opportunity for much constructive dialogue within the various Danish Canadian communities from coast to coast.*

*As you are aware, there are many similarities between Québec and Denmark, beginning with essential values such as equality, as well as in the area of northern development and marine transport. I had the opportunity of meeting with the Danish Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Mr. Niels Boel Abrahamsen, in February 2015, to discuss these matters. The potential for collaboration between our two northern countries proves to be quite considerable, and I hope that this collaboration will be lasting and will lead to a sharing of knowledge in various fields. Most especially, I hope that our warm friendship will continue.*

*Furthermore, over the next few years, we will have the opportunity to admire the expertise of a Danish architect through his participation in the design of the new Champlain bridge.*

*On behalf of the Gouvernement du Québec, I wish to applaud the initiative of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, which has made this event a tradition, and to thank the Danish Club of Montreal, the oldest Danish Club in Canada. I encourage you to continue promoting mutual solidarity between the Danish women and men of Montréal, and I especially thank you for contributing to maintaining the strong ties between Québec and Denmark.*

*I Welcome you to Montréal, and wish you fruitful discussions!*

## GREETINGS



I would like to offer my warm greetings to participants of Danish Canadian National Conference—and welcome those who have travelled here to attend it.

This conference is especially important, because the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada selected Montréal for this important event and for discussing shared values, to everyone's benefit!

Montréal is rich in its diversity and this quality has helped our city forge ties through the years with peoples from around the world.

I want to pay tribute to the association's founders and to all those who have given their support to Danish immigrants over time, helping them find their niche and become established in our great city.

Sharing your Danish heritage with all Montrealers attests to the community spirit and openness that characterize your organization, enabling it to play a key role in Montréal's harmonious development!

Many thanks to the Danish Club of Montreal for having helped bring this great event to our metropolis and for hosting this conference in Old Montreal!

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A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Denis Coderre". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Denis Coderre  
Maire de Montréal  
Mayor of Montréal

Montréal 

## GREETINGS



À l'occasion de la Conférence nationale des Canadiens d'origine danoise, édition 2016, je tiens à offrir mes chaleureuses salutations aux participants à cette conférence et souhaiter la bienvenue à ceux d'entre eux qui viennent de l'extérieur pour y assister.

Cette conférence revêt une importance particulière, puisque la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada a choisi Montréal pour y tenir cet événement d'envergure et permettre l'échange de valeurs partagées, au bénéfice de tous !

La collectivité montréalaise est riche de sa diversité, c'est cela qui lui a permis au fil des ans de tisser des liens avec les peuples du monde entier.

Je veux rendre hommage aux fondateurs de l'Association et à toutes les personnes au sein de cet organisme, qui ont apporté leur soutien à de nouveaux arrivants danois au fil des ans et leur ont ainsi permis de trouver leur place et de s'enraciner dans notre métropole.

Le partage du patrimoine danois avec l'ensemble de la collectivité montréalaise est le symbole d'un esprit de solidarité et d'ouverture aux autres, dans lequel votre organisme joue un rôle essentiel dans le développement harmonieux de Montréal !

Toutes mes félicitations au Danish Club of Montreal d'avoir su attirer cet événement important dans notre métropole et de tenir cette conférence dans le Vieux-Montréal !

---

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Denis Coderre". The signature is fluid and stylized.

Denis Coderre  
Maire de Montréal  
Mayor of Montréal

**Montréal** 

## GREETINGS



Montreal, May 2016

TO ALL CONFERENCE DELEGATES:

As Honorary Consul of Denmark in Montreal, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

Before the advance of modern air transportation, Montreal was the main gateway for immigrants coming to Canada. A large wave of Danish immigrants came to Montreal in the 1920s. A Danish Club was founded in 1922, and St. Ansgar's Danish Lutheran Church in 1927. Although over the years, a significant number of Danish immigrants decided to move on, there is a vibrant Danish community in Montreal and the holding of the Annual Convention in Montreal will undoubtedly strengthen the bonds between the Montreal Danish community and the other Danish communities throughout the country.

One can observe renewed interest for all things Danish in Québec. The new Champlain Bridge linking Montreal with its south shore has been designed by famed Danish architect Poul Ove Jensen. In March 2016, the École des médias of the Université du Québec à Montréal held a conference dealing with the taking of risks in television series and featured the making of Danish television series as a model to follow. The conference was well attended and received favourable reviews from Québec media. A new festival featuring Scandinavian culture, music and food "FIKA(S)", in which Denmark was prominently featured, was also held in March 2016.

As you will undoubtedly discover, Montreal is a very dynamic and diverse city whose citizens come from various geographical and cultural origins. This diversity enriches the city. Your presence in Montreal for this Conference will contribute to this diversity.

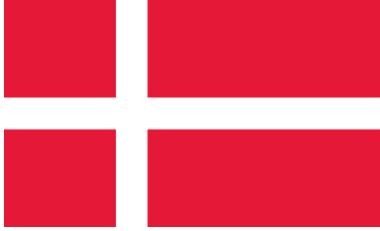
I hope that the convention will be successful and that the participants will enjoy their stay in our beautiful city.



André Vautour,  
Honorary Consul

1 Place Ville Marie, Suite 4000, Montreal, Quebec H3B 4M4  
Direct Line 514 877- 3060  
Fax 514 871-8977  
[dk.consul.montreal@lavery.ca](mailto:dk.consul.montreal@lavery.ca)

## GREETINGS



Canada's Oldest Danish Social Club  
Established in 1922

### The Danish Club of Montreal

March 30, 2016

To fellow Members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada:

It is a great pleasure to invite you to this year's Annual Danish Canadian Conference hosted by The Danish Club of Montreal in charming Old Montreal from Thursday, May 26 to Sunday, May 29, 2016. Imagine cobblestone streets, old world architecture, cafés, restaurants and retail stores, all nestled alongside the Port where the essence of Canadian Trade and Commerce nationally flourished for centuries. Out-of-town attendees will be staying at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Old Montreal.

The theme of the conference is *Renewal and Sustainability*. Presentations will address how *renewal and sustainability* in transportation for the Greater Montreal area will be better achieved by the billion-dollar Champlain Bridge Project, designed by a Danish architect, Poul Ove Jensen. We will learn how the Place-des-Arts district has been renewed through multi-use redevelopment for arts, music, performances, concerts (indoor and outdoor) and commerce, with a bustling new sustainable residential condominium area. A panel discussion will end our seminars with four persons representing Danish Clubs across Canada. Questions and answers will be openly discussed pertaining to the *renewal and sustainability* required collectively for all Danish Clubs in Canada.

The Danish Canadian Museum will hold its Annual General Meeting and launch phase one of its virtual museum. The Danish Federation will hold its Annual General Meeting with reports from Danish clubs across Canada. There will be a banquet dinner and dance with entertainment, a sightseeing tour of Old Montreal, and a visit to a local museum. A sightseeing bus tour will ascend the beautiful Mount Royal, where panoramic vistas can be seen stretching as far as the eye can see. A morning service at St. Ansgar's Church followed by a closing lunch in Beck Hall will feature Danish open faced sandwiches, beer and akvavit. The conference is open to anyone wishing to attend. We hope to see you there!

With sincere wishes for a great time by all,

The Danish Club of Montreal  
Kren Clausen  
President

C.P. 512 Place d'Armes  
Montréal, Québec H2Y 3H3

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[www.danishclubmontreal.com](http://www.danishclubmontreal.com)

Telephone: 514-993-1948

# O Canada

O Canada!  
 Our home and native land!  
 True patriot love  
 in all thy sons command.  
 With glowing hearts  
 we see thee rise,  
 The True North  
 strong and free!  
 From far and wide,  
 O Canada,  
 We stand on guard  
 for thee.  
 God keep our land  
 glorious and free!  
 O Canada,  
 we stand on guard for thee,  
 O Canada,  
 We stand on guard for thee.

## Canadá

“O Canada” was proclaimed Canada’s national anthem on July 1, 1980, 100 years after it was first sung on June 24, 1880. The music was composed by Calixa Lavallee, a well-known composer; French lyrics to accompany the music were written by, Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The song gained steadily in popularity. Many English versions have appeared over the years. The version on which the official English lyrics are based was written in 1908 by Mr. Justice Robert Stanley Weir. The official English version includes changes recommended in 1968 by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons. The French lyrics remain unaltered.



**DENMARK**  
**DANMARK**

## DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

### DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

Der er et yndigt land  
 (There is a lovely land)  
 D et står med brede bøge  
 (Where stand the shady beeches)  
 Nær salten øster strand  
 (Near salty eastern strand)  
 Nær salten øster strand  
 (Near salty eastern strand)  
 Det bugter sig i bakke, dal  
 (With hills that gently rise and fall)  
 Det hedder gamle Danmark  
 (Its name is dear old Denmark)  
 Og det er Freia’s sal  
 (And it is Freya’s hall)  
 Og det er Freia’s sal  
 (And it is Freya’s hall)  
  
 Og gamle Danmark skal bestå  
 Så længe bøgen spejler sin top i  
 bølgen blå  
 Sin top i bølgen blå



# FEDERATION



Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada  
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada  
Fédération des Associations Danoises du Canada

## Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada  
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

We have formed a Federation,  
and together we have bound  
many Dane Association  
which in Canada are found.  
And with all Canadians here  
it's our hope that we can share  
culture and tradition.  
Yes, we will extend our hand,  
hope we from our chosen land  
will earn recognition.

As the years have been unfolding,  
Danes to Canada found way.  
And they all have helped in molding  
this land, as it is today.  
Many to New Brunswick went –  
built New Denmark settlement,  
and where they were  
staying fertile made Canadian soil,  
and to them for all their toil  
tribute we are paying.

Proud we all are of our homeland  
and the country, where we live.  
Values we have learned at home,  
and much we Canada can give.  
Serious in our aim and work;  
we our duties never shirk.  
Forward we are going.  
But though serious -all the while –  
Danish humour and a smile  
readily are showing.

We together make work lighter,  
and can make our dreams come true.  
Build a future, which is brighter  
for ourselves and children too.  
We our culture will preserve –  
Canada we want to serve –  
Build a stronger Nation.  
And we now from coast to coast  
all join in and make a toast  
to our Federation.

Inger K. W. Andersen  
Kingston, 1983

FEDERATION



*Federation of Danish Associations in Canada*  
*Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada*  
*Fédération des Associations Danoises du Canada*

**Board of Directors 2015-2016**

National President	Mr. Rolf Buschardt Christensen, R, Gloucester, Ontario
National Vice-President	Mr. Gert M. Andersen, Waterloo, Ontario
National Secretary	Mrs. Aase Christensen, Guelph, Ontario
National Treasurer	Mr. Sune Overgaard, Mississauga, Ontario
President, Atlantic Region	Mr. Gunnar Pedersen, New Denmark, New Brunswick
President, Quebec Region	Mr. Ole D. Larsen, Montreal, Quebec
President, Ontario Region	Mrs. Eva Terp, Willowdale, Ontario
President, Man-Sask Region	Mr. Karl Sorensen, Winnipeg, Manitoba
President, Alberta Region	Mr. Larry Kjearsgaard, Markerville, Alberta
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Director, Pacific Region	Mrs. Henny Andersen, Crofton, British Columbia
Secretary, Ontario Region	Ms. Liselotte Ostergaard, Newmarket, Ontario
Secretary, Alberta Region	Ms. Pernille Nielsen, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
Secretary, Pacific Region	Mrs. Margaret Chester, West Vancouver, British Columbia

## FEDERATION



### Members of the

## FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

1. New Denmark Historical Society, New Denmark, N.B
2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.
3. The Danish Club of Montreal
4. The Danish Club of Ottawa
5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto
7. Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto
8. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada
9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch
10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch
11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby
12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John's Church, Waterloo
13. Pass Lake Historical Society
  
14. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg
15. The Battlefords Danish Canadian Club, North Battleford
16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary
17. Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association
18. Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary
19. Dana Village, Danish Senior Citizens Apartment Foundation, Calgary
20. The Naver Club, Calgary
21. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada
22. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson
23. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson
24. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
25. The Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton
26. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton
  
27. The Danish-Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia
28. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver
29. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest
30. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver
31. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby
32. Danish House Society, Burnaby
33. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey
34. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver
35. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo
36. Danish Social Club of Victoria
37. Canadian American Friendship Association, Middelfart
38. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
39. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
40. Danish American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa
41. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa



## The Purpose of the Danish Federation

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada was established for the purpose of bringing together all existing Danish organizations in Canada; that is: to create a permanent network of cooperation among them. The Federation is a *Club of Clubs* - it is therefore the national umbrella organization of the Danes in Canada. Some of the reasons for establishing the Federation were to strengthen personal and institutional contacts, to exchange ideas and experiences, and to cooperate on joint projects. Indeed, a Federation is able to coordinate joint projects, and also to take on major projects, which could not be handled by one organization alone.

Danes from across Canada, representing various Danish organizations, founded the Danish Federation at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario, on June 7, 1981. A board of directors, elected annually, manages the Federation. The Federation consists of 41 member organizations.

### Danish Federation Activities

One annual activity is the national *Danish Canadian Conference*, where Danes from across Canada get together to discuss specific issues and common projects. The Conference themes have focussed on the preservation and promotion of our heritage, documenting our history, youth involvement, communications, our identity, fundraising etc.

For each Conference, the Federation publishes a 200-page *Heritage Book* with articles, reports, biographies, and histories relating to the Danes in Canada. As well, each year, the Federation publishes a helpful *Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada*, available free upon request.

In 1983, the Federation arranged lectures on Grundtvig in Toronto and Vancouver by Dr. Knud Bugge. In 1986, Danish actress Anne Jensen toured Canada. In 1991, the Federation helped sell the book *Danish Emigration to Canada*, published by Udvandrerarkivet. In 2000 Udvandrerarkivet, in cooperation with the Federation, published *In Denmark Born - To Canada Sworn*.

In 2002 the Federation sponsored a plaque at Pier 21 in Halifax to commemorate Danish immigrants. In 2003 the Federation donated a stone from Denmark to the Canadian Lung Association for a monument in the Association's Plaza in Rockwood Park in Saint John, N.B.

### National Museum in Dickson

The Danish Federation is a strong supporter of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. At the Federation's 1988 Conference in Winnipeg, the Federation fully endorsed the plans for the proposed Danish Canadian National Museum, which was then officially founded at a Danish Canadian Conference in 1992. The Museum opened in 2002.

### Educational and fun-filled Danish Heritage Seminars

In 1989, the Danish Federation arranged a successful one-week course on Danish history and culture at Geneva Park, near Orillia, Ontario. The course had a typical Danish Folk School atmosphere. The participants found the course inspiring and educational, as well as a lot of fun. Similar one-week seminars have been held at Banff, Crieff, Devon, Montebello, Ladysmith, New Denmark, Gimli, Canmore, Ancaster, Thunder Bay, Val-Morin, Blair, Harrison Hot Springs, Jasper, Drumheller, Parksville, Lake Couchiching and Calabogie.



*Federation of Danish Associations in Canada*  
*Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada*  
*Fédération des Associations Danoises du Canada*

**Annual Report**

**2015 - 2016**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Danish Federation for the year 2015-2016. As I write this I am reminded that it was 35 years ago that we met at Sunset Villa to establish our national umbrella organization. The following year, at our first Danish Canadian Conference in Vancouver, we consisted of fifteen member organizations, and we quickly grew after that. At present our membership stands at 41 member organizations, the same as last year.

The 2015 Conference was held in Vancouver, more specifically at the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster, from May 21 to 24. The host was the Danish House Society, who had chosen the theme Keeping Traditions Alive. An exhibition about the Danes in British Columbia, entertainment and various speakers offered the participants an informative program. It was a well-organized Conference, with visits to the Danish Lutheran Church, Dania Home and the Scandinavian Centre. A big thank you to Ed Kuhlman and his organizing committee!

Friday was Museum Day which included the Museum's Annual General Meeting, an information update and launch of new projects as well as a fundraiser in the evening. Later Gordon Petersen stepped down as president, and elected president was Svend E. Nielsen, who back in 1992 had been elected to serve as the Museum's first president.

On the Saturday the Danish Federation held its Annual General Meeting, chaired by Solvejg Nielsen. Sune Overgaard presented the Financial Statement. Elected president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer were respectively Rolf Christensen, Gert Andersen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard. Appointed reviewer was Soren Sondergaard. In addition to the Club Reports from the member organizations, the presidents of the Ontario, Alberta and Pacific Regions gave reports on their work and meetings.

Ed Kuhlman took over as editor of the Heritage Book from Svend Berg. Ed produced a first class Heritage Book, using a more glossy paper. Ed also looked after the book's distribution. The 2015 Heritage Book sold very well. Moreover, National Secretary Aase Christensen prepared the useful 2015 Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada, which is available upon request.

Immediately after the Conference the ever-popular Danish Heritage Seminar was held at Harrison Hot Springs with Vancouver Pastor Birgitte Saltorp as headmaster. There were twenty-four participants who also had lots of opportunity to swim in the hot pools. The Seminar theme was Danish entrepreneurs.

## FEDERATION

Last year the Danish Federation also helped Danes Worldwide organize speaking engagements in Toronto and Vancouver, which took place at the beginning of June. Thank you to the Danish organizations which hosted Secretary General Anne Marie Dalgaard and Head of Instructional Services Carina Kjær Busk, and arranged meetings for them to speak about Danes Worldwide and their Summer School and above all Danish Dual Citizenship.

Yes, a major change occurred in Denmark during the past year. As of September 1, 2015, the new legislation came into effect and Danes may now have dual citizenship. The Danish Parliament passed the law in 2014, allowing foreigners living in Denmark to become naturalized Danish citizens while retaining their original citizenship. Similarly, the law allows Danes living abroad to become naturalized citizens of their country of residence, while retaining their Danish citizenship. Two of our member organizations lobbied very hard for this change to Danish law, Danes Worldwide in Copenhagen and the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto.

During the past year I visited Danish organizations in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Grimsby, Calgary, Dickson, Edmonton and Vancouver. I visited the Danish settlement of Standard in Alberta, the Markerville Creamery and the Red Deer Archives and not least the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton. I attended the Annual General Meeting of DANIA in Edmonton and Regional Meetings in Ontario and Alberta, as well as the Weekend Retreat at the Museum in Dickson. I am impressed by all the activity which takes place across the country.

Several of our member organizations are celebrating anniversaries this year. The Danish Canadian Society DANIA in Edmonton was started ninety-five years ago, in 1921, and it is the oldest Danish Club in Canada. The Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, based in the Vancouver area, was formed in 1931. Then in 1941 members of the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver created the West Canada Danish Old Peoples' Home, now Dania Home in Burnaby. This year Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey can celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Danish Sisterhood, Lodge 179, based in the Vancouver area, will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Danish Canadian Club in Winnipeg was formed 35 years ago. And finally, the Danish House Society, part of the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby, will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Congratulations to you all! Keep up the good work promoting our heritage!

During the past year Aase Christensen has worked on developing a new website for the Danish Federation. We have wanted a website which provided information about the Danish Federation, focusing on upcoming events such as the annual conferences and the Heritage Seminars. We wanted to include links to our member organizations and others of interest, as well as information about the Danes in Canada. We wanted a website which would not be costly and which was easy to update and maintain. I think we have achieved that. Thank you, Aase.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Directors for your work and commitment. And thank you to all the member organizations for your work and dedication. You are contributing to maintaining and promoting our rich Danish heritage. Thank you!

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

President

Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

# Danish Canadian Conference at the Inn at the Quay

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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The 34<sup>th</sup> Danish Canadian Conference was held at the Inn at the Quay, New Westminster, from Thursday, May 21 to Sunday, May 24, 2015. The host was the Danish House Society, who had chosen the theme Keeping Traditions Alive.



The Conference started Thursday evening with a Meet and Greet Reception in the Hyack Ballroom at the Inn at the Quay, where Ed Kuhlman, the president of the Danish House Society, bid welcome. Bill Harper from the New Westminster City Council also said a few words of welcome. Similarly, Rolf Christensen and Gordon Petersen said a few words on behalf of respectively the Danish Federation and the National Museum.

## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS



*Luncheon Speaker,  
B.C. MLA Judy Darcy  
Receiving Heritage Book from  
DHS President Ed Kuhlman*

Friday was Museum Day, devoted to the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. Prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Museum's board of directors met for a breakfast meeting in the Riverside Room. The Annual General Meeting was chaired by Gordon Petersen. As Carl Sorensen was stepping down he was paid a tribute for his many years of service, including serving as president. Luncheon speaker was MLA Judy Darcy, who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria for the riding of New Westminster. Judy's family immigrated to Canada from Denmark and she shared many of the challenges New Canadians might face when settling in Canada.

After lunch Eric Damer spoke about Oral History Projects. Eric Damer is a researcher, writer and historian, as well as a Museum Interpreter at the Burnaby Village Museum. This was followed by the presentation "Shaping our Future: the Danish Canadian Community" by Gordon Petersen and Steve Morck.



*Eric Damer,  
Burnaby Village Heritage Museum,  
Speaks about Oral History Projects*

In the evening the program 'Step into the Saga' consisted of an inspirational Power-Point presentation and information about the Museum. This was presented in conjunction with a silent auction as well as a live auction by Knud Nielsen in addition to a raffle, with the proceeds going to the Danish Canadian National Museum.



*Gordon Petersen & Solvejg Nielsen*

Saturday morning the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada held a short board meeting, followed by the Danish Federation's Annual General Meeting, chaired by Solvejg Nielsen. Twenty-five Club Reports were given in addition to reports from the Ontario, Alberta and Pacific Regions, by respectively Eva Terp, Larry Kjeersgaard and Solvejg Nielsen. Elected president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer were respectively Rolf Christensen, Gert Andersen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard. Appointed auditor was Soren Sondergaard.

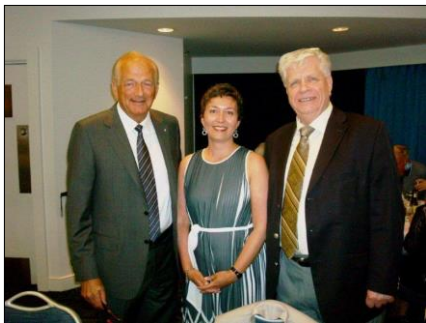
Luncheon speaker was Pastor Birgitte Saltorp of the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver, who spoke about women getting the vote in Denmark in 1915. After lunch Kjeld Christensen, president of Dania Home spoke about the new Dania Home which had just been built in

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Burnaby, adjacent to the Danish Lutheran Church. The Grand Opening of the new Dania Home would be taking place on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The last afternoon presentation was by Scott Larsen, regional editor for *Den Danske Pioneer*, who recounted the fate of the Danes aboard the *Titanic*. The Scandinavian Cultural Society's Nordic Spirit Heritage Photo Exhibit – Early Danish Immigrants to British Columbia was on display throughout the day Friday and Saturday in the Hyack Room. It was impressive to see how Danes had been involved in their own community as well as in life in B.C. in general.



*Scott Larsen, regional editor for Den Danske Pioneer presents "Danes on the RMS Titanic"*



*Honorary Consul John Petersen, Ann-Britt Everett & Federation Pres. Rolf Christensen*

The day concluded with a festive banquet in the Hyack Ballroom, where we were joined by Danish Consul John Petersen, who also said a few words. Besides dinner and dancing there were performances by the Tivoli Singers as well as the Scandinavian Dancers. The lights were then turned down for dancing to the Silver Stars Band.

Sunday morning the bus left the Inn at the Quay at 9 o'clock for breakfast at the Danish Lutheran Church, followed by Church Service by Pastor Birgitte Saltorp. A bus then took the delegates from across Canada to the Scandinavian Centre for lunch, consisting of smørrebrød, beer and snaps. There were

thank yous to Ed Kuhlman and his organizing committee and to Ed Kuhlman for editing the Heritage Book. The volunteers were thanked as were the delegates from across Canada. The lunch culminated with handing over of the fane and mailbox to Montreal, who will host the conference in 2016. The successful conference ended with a bus tour of beautiful Vancouver.



*Scandinavian Folk Dancers*



*Danish House Organizing Committee*

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*L to R: Rolf Christensen, Kjeld Kejser, Johanne Olsen, MLA Judy Darcy, and Back: Larry Jacobsen*



*Larry Jacobsen and Inger Iwaasa present My Story A Matriarch's Memoirs*



*President Rolf Christensen presents Certificates of Appreciation to Helge Juel Christensen and Lili Nielsen*



*Emmy Wegner and Annelise Pedersen*



*Conference delegates from British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario, Johanne Olsen of West Vancouver adjusting her glasses.*

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*Photos: Conference Participants listening to Speakers' Presentations*



*Steen Jochumsen, Svend B. Nielsen, Lili Nielsen, Anette Jochumsen*

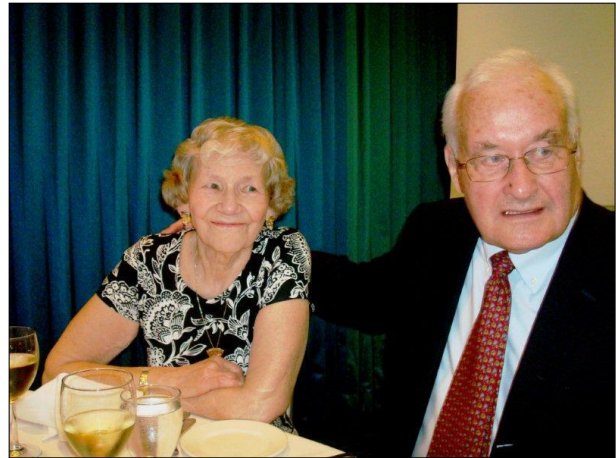
CONFERENCES & SEMINARS



*Tivoli Singers & Scandinavian Dancers Entertain at Saturday Evening Banquet*



*Helle & Sune Overgaard*



*Margaret & Stan Chester*



*Saturday Evening Banquet after dinner but before start of Dancing to "Silver Stars" Band*



*Rolf & Vita Christensen*

*Thank You to Photographer Steve Morck  
who supplied these excellent photos!*

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS



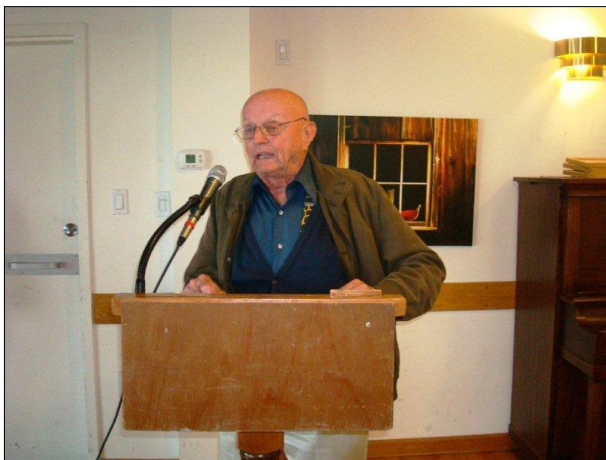
*Calgary delegates L to R: John Steffensen, Lil Steffensen, Steve Morck, Anette Jochumsen, Steen Jochumsen, Jens Laursen, and Suzanne Laursen*



*Emmy Wegner, Nelly Pedersen & Lil Steffensen*



*Tarja Yrjola and Jarl Christensen*



*Henrik Langer invites delegates to Montreal in 2016*



*Luncheon at Scandinavian Centre, home of Danish House*


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*Sunday Lunch at the Scandinavian Centre  
Smørrebrød, Beer & Akvavit*



*L to R - Sandwich Ladies: Karen Andersen, Linda Larsen,  
Linda Kuhlman, & Caterer, Tina Taylor*

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**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
 DANISH - CANADIAN - CLUB**

MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

**From our location on beautiful Vancouver Island  
 we send our best wishes to the organizers and participants  
 of this year's Conference**

FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA  
Danish Canadian Conference 2016  
Hosted by The Danish Club of Montreal



**STEP INTO THE FUTURE:** MAY 26 - 29 WITH THE THEME OF RENEWAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

**WELCOME RECEPTION:** MAY 26, 17.00 - 21.00. HOTEL NELLIGAN

**CLOSING NIGHT DINNER:** MAY 28, 18.30 - 24.00 WITH DANCE & ENTERTAINMENT AT VIEUX PORT SALLES DES RECEPTIONS

Conference Presentations feature The Danish Canadian Museum's new web site. Montreal's new Champlain Bridge sustainable by Danish design. Montreal's centre of entertainment innovatively renewed from a poor area. Panel discussion on how Canada's Danish community can renew and sustain.



# Reports from the Member Organizations

Given at the Annual General Meeting, New Westminster, B.C., May 23, 2015

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At the Danish Federation's Board of Directors Meeting in Red Deer in 2002, it was decided that the reports given at the Annual General Meetings by the Danish Federation's Member Organizations should be published in the following year's Heritage Book. Below are the 2015 reports from the member organizations:

## 2. Danish Canadian Society Inc. of Montreal

Again this year, Janet and Peter Nissen opened their grounds and greenhouses in Napierville for *Sankt Hans Aften*. All the tables were filled with members and their guests enjoying a bring-your-own-food-and-drink picnic. Many brought plenty, so there were platters being sent back and forth throughout the meal.

After coffee and dessert the witch was sent off to Bloksbjerg and everyone enjoyed the bonfire while singing all the Danish songs in our song book. Thank you to Janet and Peter for their continued hospitality.

June 1<sup>st</sup> and Canada Day brought sunshine and a pleasant temperature. The parade was well attended by an army of Vikings and their families all dressed in Viking costumes. Our Viking ship, "Vineland" and its Vikings are popular and on occasion slowed the parade down so the spectators could get a closer look or an impromptu fight with a "real" Viking. A huge thank you goes to Vagn Nissen for pulling the float with his truck. Bjørg and Svend organized the "after-parade" lunch at their home and we were able to enjoy our lunch outside in the garden. Thank you to the Bergs for organizing a most enjoyable get-together.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, members, former members and friends enjoyed a beautiful dinner at the Legion in N.D.G. Authentic Danish food prepared by friends and members was served. Thank you to every one – especially to Nis Jessen, who has become our in-house expert in preparing pork roast with crackling.

Thank you: to our generous florists for the beautiful flowers; and thank you to those who brought door prizes. It was a delightful afternoon. Thank you to all who prepared the food, who helped set the tables and to clean up after the party.

The Christmas Party in December brought a full house. As usual Bjørg and Svend got the party off to a great start by serving *gløgg* and Christmas cookies. Thank you for serving and providing the *gløgg* and the cookies. The traditional Christmas dinner of roast pork, caramelized potatoes and red cabbage was served and of course followed by *ris a l'amande* with cherry sauce.

Entertainment was provided by Derek Yapple-Schobert, who also accompanied us while we danced around the Christmas tree, singing every single Danish Christmas song we could think of.

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The *Julestue* was organized and conducted by Jessica Christensen and the children had fun creating many different Christmas decorations.

The Danish Christmas Service was held at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church and was well attended. The service was conducted by Anne Jørgensen and Pastor Samuel King-Kabu. The organist again this year was Wilhelmina Tiemersma.

The first couple of events of 2015 were in January with two afternoon folk dance sessions with live music and folk dance instructions. Even though both events took place during a snowstorm enough members and friends came so that we were able to have two full quadrilles.

*Fastelavn* was celebrated in style with a potluck lunch and an array of desserts. Almost everyone was dressed up in costumes from pretty butterflies and clowns to Super Heroes and all had a good time. Young and young-at-heart used their imagination to decorate *fastelavnsris* and in the end the *fastelavns* barrel got a beating until all the candy spilled and a *Fastelavns* King and Queen were crowned.

In closing I would like to thank members and friends and the members of the board, who gave so generously of their time and energy to help prepare food, set up tables and most important help with cleaning up after the events. Your help is greatly appreciated.

*Respectfully submitted and presented by Ole Larsen, President*

### 3. The Danish Club of Montreal

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Danish Club of Montreal from June 2014 to May 2015. Last May, we hosted a club lunch at the Royal Canadian Legion for Ambassador Abrahamsen to meet our members. The Ambassador made a power point presentation during the lunch followed by an interactive Q & A (Questions and Answers). We had a good turnout of approximate 50 attendees.

In June, we convened at the Nissen's lovely country property where we celebrated St. Hans Aften together with members of the Danish Canadian Society and parishioners of St. Ansgars Church with a large dinner and the sending off of the witch by fire.

Later in June, we hosted an evening of Opera performance with free admission at the St. Ansgars Lutheran Church.



The five performers were from the Royal Danish Opera in Copenhagen in their own production company, the Nordic Singers. We packed the church with 150 people in the audience due to the promotion to the Danish and other Nordic Clubs, and to academic and music people at the local Universities. The budget for the Nordic Singers was sponsored by the Danish Club of Montreal, Kren Clausen, Henrik Langer, a contribution from the Danish Canadian Society and a free will offering at the Church during the intermission. It was a great success and we look forward to host the same event this coming August.

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Our annual Canada Day Parade in Montreal was once again the center of attention as close to 30 Vikings roamed the street with spears in hand and horns on head, alongside the Vinland, our Viking Ship Float, where younger Viking toddlers with their parents and older generation Vikings, sat aboard, waving to the thousands of people in the crowds. In good Viking spirit, we captured some good looking women in the crowds and welcomed them up on-board our float with the husbands chasing after. Afterward, a very lovely late afternoon smorgasbord lunch was hosted at the home of Svend and Bjorg Berg in Beaconsfield.

Our annual soccer tournament was a great success at Ovide Park with games played against the Norwegian Club at the beginning of the summer and at the end of the summer. A large picnic was held afterward with many Danish delicacies and Beer and Snaps. We happily won both games in the tournament. This summer we look forward to the Danish Norwegian tournament and we are adding for the first time an additional tournament named the Danish Intra-Country Tournament where we will have three Danish teams named after Jylland, Fyn and Sjælland. It is anticipated this will generate greater participation from our Danish community both as players and spectators with the element of competitive spirit between the three regions.

Our annual Morten's Goose Dinner was held at the Atwater Club. While there were only 40 people in attendance this year compared to 70 the year before, the level of excitement, joy, good spirit, speeches and most of all, the dancing, was non-stop and at points during the night, there were only empty chairs at the tables, as all people were up dancing to the music of our much and long adored DJ, YOUSEF.

Our AGM was held in November and all Board Directors were re-elected, except our Treasurer who did not run for re-election due to other commitments. A new Treasurer was elected. The financial highlights in the President's report indicated a 15.9% growth from the year before in combined membership and monthly lunch revenues. Total revenues including events were at 19.2% growth over the year before and at 77.5% growth since the year 2011 when I was elected.

Our annual Christmas lunch was held at the Royal Canadian Legion with approximately 80 people in attendance. Danish carols were sung with Derek Yapple as piano accompanist, an Opera Singer performed with a piano accompanist, and Thomas Leslie played the piano accompanying himself as he sang lovely classical songs.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Scandinavian Dinner Dance (targeted to all Nordic Clubs in Montreal Area) in January has been postponed to the summer as our Norwegian organizer partners were not available due to other commitments.

Our Valentines Lunch was held at the Royal Canadian Legion where we had a large turnout and we had a live classical music performance during the lunch.

At our monthly lunch in April, we were grateful for the effort and commitment of Steve Morck from the Danish Canadian National Museum to fly in to make a presentation about the Museum at our lunch. The evening before, we had a lovely dinner with Steve at the Restaurant Bonaparte in Old Montreal where ideas, thoughts and questions about the Museum could be discussed.

There were seven of us at the dinner including our Club Board Directors, a guest, and the Pastor from St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church. The lunch presentation was successful with a meaningful Q & A with the audience and some donation cheques were presented for the Museum to Steve for his return trip. It is anticipated that more of these presentations at other clubs across the country will stimulate interest and enable support for the future growth of the Museum.

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As you may know, we have held monthly lunches since the year 1922 and our tradition is open-face sandwiches with beer and snaps. Unfortunately, this year we will be losing Rosa Christensen as our caterer of 40+ years. She is retiring to Ontario. Alternative suppliers for the sandwiches have been identified.

The Danish Club of Montreal looks forward to hosting the National Conference 2016 next year with the local charm and culture that Montreal has to offer. I look forward to seeing you all in Montreal next year.

*Submitted by Kren Clausen, President, and presented by Gordon Petersen*

### 4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

Greetings! It had been a usual year up until mid-March. At that time members of the Club billeted 22 young girls and boys and three teachers from Denmark for two days, before their journey ended in Montreal. They were all from an “Efterskole” on Fyn. From correspondence from them we know they very much enjoyed their trip to Canada, although it was brief.

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Club celebrated Queen Margrethe’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and the Club’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. One hundred and twenty-five people were present, including the Danish Ambassador, as well as two guests from Montreal, one from The Danish Club, Montreal and the other from the Danish Canadian Society, Montreal. We also had three guests from the Nordic Society in Ottawa.

Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen gave a first-rate speech, talking about the Queen and her reign on the Danish throne since 1972, when she was only 32 years old. In general he spoke about the empowerment of women in society today. He mentioned how in 1915, one hundred years ago, women and domestics in Denmark were finally given the right to vote. A great achievement! It was a memorable party with lots of dancing to the Johnny Vegas All Star Band, one of the best in Ottawa. The party was our big event of the year and the most expensive ever.



Regarding our history, the Danish Club of Ottawa, founded at a Danish Constitution Day celebration in June 1975, is a social club with about a dozen activities per year. There are about ten core activities, and some years one to three additional events. The two major undertakings are the Queen’s Birthday Party in April and the very successful Christmas Bazaar in November. Over the forty years the Club has supported various local charities; sent Canadian students to Denmark; hosted several groups from Denmark; hosted three National Danish Canadian Conferences; participated in the multicultural festival Homelands; and was once featured at Ottawa’s annual winter festival Winterlude where a replica of Nyhavn was built.

And not least, members of the Club were instrumental in the founding of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada as well as the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past 40 years!

*Respectfully submitted and presented by Vita Christensen, Vice-President*

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### 5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto

Greetings from the members of the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto! In Toronto we continue to start our week with inspiration from a good church service and follow up by trying to provide activities in the week ahead that cover a large age range and various interest levels. The newest we offer is the opportunity to do yoga under the direction of Rikke Krabbenhoft.

Let us go back to last May when we had sixteen members make the trip to the well-organized conference held in Ottawa. Keeping interest in Danish Clubs and Danish churches alive is important and so it is good to see that interest continues. May was also the month where our Kitchen Renovation Fund was paid in full by many generous donations from our congregation and a final large donation from the family of former church members. That day was acknowledged by a Sunday celebration and a tour of our new kitchens.

In September, Rikke Krabbenhoft got her work permit and could now officially be our church organist and enhance the music programme. This Fall Pastor Kenneth started a Bible Study Group where a small group of 14 met to discuss The Parables. Two bazaars, thanks to our many volunteers, result in a profit of over \$28,000 for our church. The many eye-catching booths including the Silent Auction and those great Danish open-faced sandwiches help us reach such a good total.

In Toronto, especially this year, we have run into the same problem many Danish groups are encountering. Our members are getting older, not able to do all they did in their younger days and are reluctant to venture out during our cold, icy winters. At our AGM we found that our average Sunday attendance had dropped from 55 to 47 and this in spite of a very dedicated group, mainly our board under the direction of Sune Overgaard, who always do more than their share needed to make everything run smoothly.



Various ways are being tried to counteract the drop in attendance. Pastor Kenneth provides a Sunday sheet about the service with a reminder of the name of the Sunday so the elderly can follow in the hymn book if hearing is not as good as it used to be. The organist has arranged for various musicians to take part in the services once per month. The lunches following the services have been upgraded thanks to our hard working kitchen crew.

At our AGM as well the requirements for Incorporation were presented and will result in further meetings. The wonderful news was shared that a church member had left at least \$350,000 to our church for renovations.

We continue to hope our various weekday events will increase Sunday attendance. The Golden Age Club works hard on providing interesting entertainment- Fashion Shows, travel shows about Costa Rica, bus trips to places such as Niagara on the Lake. The Church Café celebrates birthdays, enjoys the fellowship and a game of cards. The Folk Dancers meet on Fridays and share their dances on special occasions. Danskskolen meets some Saturdays and the Film Club meets on other Saturdays.

The number of children who come to Children's Hour is also declining but 14 met Palm Sunday, decorated, made lunch, sang songs and told about needy families around the world. They were

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very proud of the \$1175.00 they collected for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. All in all, our pastor and members are working well together and enjoying the services and fellowship in the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto.

*Submitted and presented by Liselotte Østergaard*

### **6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto**

The Danish Women's Association was started in Toronto by Ninna Folb and Kirsten Glasser, two Danish immigrants who met at the Beach area in Toronto in 1979. They were both married to non-Danes, so their objective was to get together and speak Danish and share their connection with their home country. This was before the Internet and Skype. Ninna and Kirsten started contacting other Danish women, networking started and within 6 months they were 10 women who met regularly for dinner every month.

Two years later, the group counted forty members and on February 2, 1989, a meeting was held at the Copenhagen Room on Bloor Street and DWA was founded as an official club, with the objective to keep unity amongst the Danes in Toronto and welcome Danish emigrants.

The club is still going strong after 36 years; we are forty-two members, many from the Greater Toronto Area, but not many new emigrants. We meet on the third Thursday of every month, for dinner, a chat and a drink and we have a strict rule about only speaking Danish.

The events take place either in private homes, with pot luck dinners, in restaurants, or as for example a few months ago where we met in a Toronto Jazz restaurant, to enjoy a special concert in memory of Jeff Healey, a well-known Canadian musician.

Over the years we have celebrated St. Hands with bonfire at the Beach of Lake Ontario, Picnics at Toronto Island, Lunches and "Grundlovsdag" celebrations at Sunset Villa in Puslinch and Christmas Celebrations in private homes and restaurants. Husbands, children and friends are always invited to those events.

We are at the moment six members on the committee, who for the next two years will meet and plan the events and send out a newsletter. Every two years at our general meeting in January, we vote for a new committee.

Our members' fee is \$25 per year and some of that money goes to pay for special events.

*Submitted by Mette Uffe, President, and presented by Eva Terp*

### **9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch**

Another year has gone by quickly. The long and cold winter is just a faint memory and we are busy getting the park and other facilities ready for the new season, welcoming and encouraging our members to get together and continue with the celebration of Danish traditions.

Last year we had successful constitution day celebrations; the bonfire at St. Hans was a definite hit and the witch was sent to Bloksbjerg in style. The Bob tournament along with the beef BBQ, the pork roast, and bingo were well attended. Less successful was the children's Christmas party; too few participants to make it happen.

As our facilities age, the amount of maintenance and necessary upgrades continue to increase. We are fortunate to have members that are willing to do most of the work. The jobs that are too

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big or require the strength and agility, no longer possessed by our aging group of volunteers, are tendered out.

Sunset Villa, being located in a rural area, draws its water from wells on the property. The time and cost involved with continuous testing and treating of the water supply for the residents and the restaurant have been necessary but expensive undertakings during the last few years.

After much discussion the workshop is now located in one of the older apartments. This is a temporary location that provides easy and safe access; it is on the same level as the gift shop and has direct access to the open area where people gather for picnics and Constitution Day celebration.



The use of an apartment for the ladies auxiliary group is not easily accepted by some of the members, however, at the present time this is the only workable solution. It is recognized that the group is an important revenue generator and that their contribution helps to keep Danish culture and traditions alive. It is a worthwhile effort that deserves the support of the membership. A study group has been formed to see if a better and permanent solution can be found.

This year will mark another milestone for our association. It will be the 60th anniversary for celebrating constitution day at Sunset Villa. We are honoured by the attendance of our Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen and Anne Marie Dalgaard from Danes Worldwide. We are presently adding the finishing touches to a program intended to make this an interesting and memorable day.

*Respectfully submitted by John Hansen, President, and presented by Gert M. Andersen*

### **10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch**

Sunset Mindepark Urn Cemetery at Puslinch Ontario was started in 1992 by a group of Danes in the Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener/Waterloo area and was located on 1.5 acre of land bought from Sunset Villa Association for one dollar, as final resting place for Danish Immigrants to Canada. It is incorporated as a Canadian Non-Profit Corporation and is operated and maintained by a voluntary board of nine people.

The Mindepark has proved to be a good idea, as it has urn interments from as far away places as Winnipeg, Montreal, Illinois, Chicago, Alabama and of course from all over Ontario. It now occupies 1.036 hectares and has 273 Niches and 349 in-ground plots, all for double urns, for a total of 622 urn spaces. Of these there are still 45 Niches and 50 plots available. When needed, additional Niche walls and Urn beds can be added.

Sunset Mindepark is totally maintained by a group of senior Danish immigrants who when weather permits, meet every Friday morning, to trim, rake cut grass, plant, etc. This permits the

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cemetery to offer very reasonable rates and yet it has become a most tranquil and beautiful final resting place, visited by many.

Her fandt vi vort virke,  
her er vore hjem.  
Vi rejser dette minde,  
Midt iblandt dem.



*On behalf of the Board, respectfully submitted by Soren Sondergaard, President, and presented by Helle Overgaard*

### **11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby**



We send spring greetings to all from the Church Congregation in Grimsby. It has been a long and cold winter, but we did not choose to just hibernate, we have been busy.

In October, due to increasing demands of time from his work, Peter Kjær and I traded places on the church council. Thank you Peter for your hard work during your year and a half as chairperson.

Our Thanksgiving Anniversary dinner was, as usual, a success, with lots of good food and fellowship and again we were happy to have the Girl Guides/Pathfinders from Grimsby help us out with serving and clean up.

Our Christmas Bazaar was the culmination of a lot of hard work, but at the end of the day we felt good about the results. Thank you to all those willing hands and hardworking volunteers.

Our Lucia Christmas Party in mid-December is something we all look forward to. The special service, with the lit Christmas tree, the children's participation, the singing and dancing around the tree and the visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus a.k.a. Tage and Margrethe Friis handing out goodies to the children, fills the church to the rafters.

When it comes to the Nine Readings we again make it a family event and encourage all young and old to come and participate.

Our Julestue, Friendship Club and Parish Circle are all day-time activities, as many of us are retired, have the time and prefer not to drive in the dark. The same goes for our Danish Christmas Eve service. Movie nights are still every second Wednesday evening, and all are well attended.

As usual the Christmas Day Church Service in the morning is in English. In keeping with Danish traditions we celebrated "Fastelavn" in February and had fun watching the children, in their colourful costumes, breaking the barrel. In March we had another Frikadelle Bingo after the Sunday service.

Pastor Lars does not take a lot of Sundays off, but when he cannot be here to preach for us, we are so fortunate to be able to call on Pastor Dechert to help us out.

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On a sad note, we lost two of our long-time well-like members of our congregation this winter. In January, Aage Gade Jensen passed away after a long illness and in March we lost Henny Berg Nielsen after a long illness. Henny was one of the original founding members of our church and worked diligently for many years as chairperson on the church council. They will be missed.

*Submitted by Edith Wulff, President, and presented by Gert Andersen*

### **12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John's Church, Waterloo**

Since our last meeting in May of 2014, we have had 10 church services. Our services are on the third Sunday of each month, September through June. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, we had our All Saints Day service, where we remembered our deceased members and close family, both in Canada and Denmark. We lit a candle and placed a red rose at the front of the church, for each person who passed away during the past year. In 2014 we had four persons.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual meeting following the church service. The attendance for 2014/2015 has been approximately 400 at our 10 services.

The highlight for 2015 will be our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We will begin the celebration with church service at 3 pm, followed by a dinner at Luther Manor. The dinner will be catered and the cost will be \$30.00 per person, everyone is welcome. On behalf of the Danish Congregation at St. John's Lutheran Church we thank Pastor Lars for all his support.

*Submitted by Esther Garde Pedersen and presented by Gert Andersen*

### **16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary**

Greetings from the shareholders, members and staff from the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary! Since the 2014 Federation Report, the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary has continued to be active and is continuing on the road to recovery from the past fiscal year which was adversely affected by the 2013 flood.



The club hosted a Casino on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> under the stewardship of Jens Lehmann and his many volunteers. Funds from this casino are critical to the club so that we can continue to award scholarships, donate to charities such as the Danish Lutheran Church, Danish Canadian National Museum and provide funds to the club for necessary maintenance items.



The annual shareholder meeting was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. There were 69 attendees at the meeting, which I understand was one of the largest attendances in recent memory. We hope this interest and trend will continue for future AGM's so that board and management can get input and direction from the shareholders.

At this AGM, I was elected President of the club for a one year term; replacing Ben Kromand, who remained on the board for a year term to provide procedural direction.

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One issue at the AGM was how to get more participation from the members to ensure the club continues to be a viable entity. As a result we hosted two "Got Ideas" meetings in 2015. We are currently reviewing the input from these meetings.

Club Social activities included: Stampede Breakfast, the 39th annual Viking Stag, Children's Halloween and Christmas parties, a Grey Cup party, Christmas dinners, sold out New Year's Gala, the 28th Annual Great Dames Gala, "Bombshell Ball, a sold out event that raised \$ 22,000 plus for the Women's Emergency Shelter, Valentines Party, Katten af Tønden, Hawaiian parties, Mother's Day Brunch, and again we are streaming the Eurovision contest on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. As always, the success of these events relies on many volunteers, the board of directors, our social director Bente Dalberg, and participation by members plus the dedicated DCC management and staff. We currently have about 1,420 members, 1430 shareholders of which 294 are active members.

*Respectfully submitted and presented by John Steffensen, President*

### **20. The Naver Club, Calgary**

The Calgary Naver club was in the works in 1957, but by the time all the paper work was in order the first meeting was held on February the 5<sup>th</sup> 1958. In August 2014 we lost one of the founding members George Hansen. He was a great inspiration for a lot of the members. At the current time we are 45 members that meet the first Thursday of the month in the Danish Canadian Club at 7 PM for our monthly meeting. We always start the meeting by singing the Danish and the Canadian Anthems. We have a sandwich at 8 PM and sing a song for the member who celebrates his birthday that month and was so kind to bring a bottle of SNAPS for the rest of the guys to sample.

In April we hold our AGM where the tradition is to have Gule Ærter (yellow Pea Soup) for supper, always a great meal and a good turnout.

In June there is normally a Father's Day campout. In 2014 it was held in Rosebud at the High Eagle R.V. Resort where there were seven units which were able to make it.

In July we celebrate the Calgary Stampede. We no longer help with making a float for the parade. The Danish Canadian Club just sold the float due to lack of interest in building a float. But we host a Stampede breakfast for the Naver members, their families and guests from Denmark, this event is normally held at one of the member's acreages. In 2014 about 80 people came out for the flap jacks.

In August the Danish Canadian Club is closed for vacation and repairs, so the Monthly meeting does not take place. One of the members will normally host an evening BBQ for the members and guests from Denmark. In 2014 about 70 people came out for that great evening.

Mortens Aften in November is another great evening that we host in the Danish Canadian Club. In 2014 about 53 people joined us for the dinner and dance.

In December we hold our Jule Frokost. That evening is always well attended. We have a full house. If you are looking for more info about the Naver Club Organisation you can check out [www.naverne-cuk.dk](http://www.naverne-cuk.dk)

Med Kno på Bordet. (With knuckles on the table)

*Submitted and presented by Jens Laursen*

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### 21. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada

The Royal Danish Guards Association, Western Canada currently has 21 members, spread out over the western provinces, but with the majority in Alberta. Unfortunately we have seen a slow decline over the last ten years as the older generation passes on without being replaced by new members as there is no or very little immigration of Danish Guards to Canada.

We hold two main functions each year. In the summer a family will host a Garden Party or as some call it "Garder Party". The Guards with family and friends will arrive early afternoon over a cup of Danish coffee where many good stories are shared. As the day progresses, the coffee is replaced by cold beer or a glass of wine which usually make the stories even better. The younger crowd will usually entertain themselves with different lawn games or a local tour by the host. In the evening the BBQs are fired up and we sit down to a lovely pot luck meal before we head home after a day full of memories and great food.



In the fall we hold our Annual General Meeting at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. The official meeting is followed by a luncheon of sild, frikadeller and other delicious Danish food. One or two Akvavits have been known to be consumed as well. The luncheon part is enjoyed in the company of our spouses, families and invited friends.

On October 18, 2014, we celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Subsequently, we met at the Military Museum of Calgary for morning coffee and pastries, followed by a quick AGM prior to attending a very interesting tour of the Military Museum. In the afternoon we celebrated at the Danish Canadian Club with a typical Danish Smorgasbord.

We wish everyone who is attending the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's Annual General Meeting a great weekend, where new friendships are made and old ones are rekindled.

*Submitted by Jens Lind, President, and presented by Steen Jacobsen.*

### 23. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson

Following are reflections of the 2014 year at the Danish Canadian National Museum from the perspective of a director and summer volunteer. Details of events, finances, planning and future direction are referenced in the reports presented at the Museum's Annual General Meeting.

In stark contrast to the successes of the 2013 season, last year was filled with various difficulties. The permanent and seasonal staffs are to be commended for their efforts in responding to and working through the unforeseen difficulties. Weather was a major factor throughout the season. A late spring and cool weather seemed to discourage visitors. The three hailstorms and violent weather caused damage to buildings and grounds. Repairs continue into this season. There were approximately 20% fewer visitors to the museum in 2014. Total donations decreased by almost \$40,000, with few clubs and groups across the country contributing. The number of individual donors was low compared to a membership of approximately 500. The operating deficit was approximately \$52,000.

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On a positive, brighter note, the annual events such as Æbleskiver Day and Viking Days were enjoyed by many. The popularity of Viking Days was reflected in the event being expanded to two full days.

Following much discussion and exploration of possibilities for the future, a partnership was established in June with Urban Matters, a company skilled in assisting community and non-profit organizations to effectively plan, develop and use their resources in the best possible manner. Specific to the museum,

collaborative planning and work is continuing in these areas: a site master plan, cafe and museum renovation and possible expansion, and fundraising strategies. The current financial crisis of the museum has influenced the direction of the work of this partnership; DCNM is most fortunate to have the support and expertise of Urban Matters.

There has been increased co-operation with other museums and attractions that are neighbours to the museum, in developing marketing strategies and plans. Additional advertising and marketing through social media and the museum website will be undertaken.

I wish to conclude with a challenge: How can you become more involved in the life and workings of the museum, as an individual or as a member of a club or organization? We welcome you as a visitor to this very special place. If that is not possible, your support in telling others about the museum, or in financial contributions, is most appreciated. Together we can “inspire, engage and educate about Danish Canadians”.

*Respectfully submitted by Sonja Myroon, and presented by Gordon Petersen*

### **24. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club**

Danes and Wannabe Danes in Central Alberta had a steady year in 2014 with overall membership holding at about 55 and attendance at all of our functions holding steady as well. Those functions included:

Campouts on the May and September long weekends

Food booth at July 1 Heritage Days in Red Deer

Golf Tournament

Harvest Party

Volunteer Appreciation Supper

Julehygge.

In addition we assisted the Danish Canadian National Museum for a couple of their events by providing our portable food booth and some volunteers. As we do every year, we were able to provide two one thousand dollar bursaries to deserving students.



Danish lessons were a bit irregular this year as our teacher, Pernille Nielsen, recovered from her knee surgery, however, seven students continue to improve, as they “*snakker dansk*”.

*Submitted by Joanne Nielsen*

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### **25. The Danish Canadian Society “Dania”, Edmonton**

Dania was off to a rough start this year as we had issues constituting our Board. We were not able to constitute our Board at our AGM in October. Jens Woller stepped down as President after many years of appreciated service and I was elected President by acclamation. After much convincing and arm-twisting, we constituted our Board a few weeks later and now have representation from each different age group – from the 20s to 60s. Our membership numbers are also a bit down, around 200.

We continued with our usual annual activities. Our Fall Dance (180 attendees) and Winter Dance (168 attendees) were late night parties starting with pickled herring, smørrebrød and snaps followed by dancing. We held our Children's Christmas Party where we served æbleskiver and gløgg and the children did crafts and danced around the Christmas tree in anticipation of Santa's visit. We had fantastic weather for our June Campout, where we held our Horse Shoe Tournament and celebrated St. Hans Aften, first burning the witch and then cooking snobrød on the campfire.

Dania is also a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton, where the Scandinavian countries work together on both a food and a cultural pavilion for the Heritage Days Festival. The Scandinavian Pavilion is one of 63 pavilions representing over 85 cultures with 300,000 attendees over the August long weekend.

Next year we are going to try something different and move our “Winter Dance” to the spring in 2016. We are finding a number of our regular members head south for the winter now and often as our dances are a family affair with multi-generations coming out together, we have lost a group of our core supporters. Besides, it seems there is either a blizzard or it is minus 40, as January in Edmonton is often not pleasant. We are counting on some cabin fever to make it a good party.

*Submitted by Lisa Christensen, President, and presented by Helge Christensen*

### **27. The Danish-Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia**

I am pleased to report that the activities of the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of B.C., (DCCC), in 2014 were similar to what they have been for the past several years.

In June 2014, we jointly awarded with the Danish House Society, (DHS), ten \$1,000 scholarships to the same number of deserving students. The presentations were made at the June Kroaften at the Scandinavian Centre. In the same year our two boards agreed to increase the amount of each of the ten scholarship awards from \$1,000 to \$1,200 for 2015 and future years.

In June we also celebrated the Gundlovsfest – Danish Constitution Day - on the grounds of the Scandinavian Centre. We had an excellent turnout with people bringing their picnic baskets to a cozy tables and chairs setting. There was a short speech providing some history for the commemoration of the Danish Constitution. Music, followed by a performance and participatory folk dancing led by the Scandinavian Dancers, and having the lawn available for games for the kids of all ages, made it a very nice day.

In November the DCCC awarded grants for the maximum amount possible to various Danish organizations. Applications for these grants must be received by October 30th.

In December the DCCC and DHS, organized “Christmas by the Fireside” which was held at the Scandinavian Centre. Again, this was a very successful event, with adults and children both

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enjoying the Lucia girls, the performance of the “nisser”, Christmas carols around the Christmas tree, the arrival of Santa Clause with bags of goodies for the children, crafts for the children, and finally, refreshments including gløgg, æbleskiver and pastry for everyone.

In closing: Our next event in 2015 will be on June 7<sup>th</sup>, when we will celebrate the Grundlovsfest, which again will be held at the Scandinavian Community Centre.

*Submitted by Margit Hansson, President, and presented by Jannet Tricarico*

### **28. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver**

Lodge 328 has 85 members at present. The monthly meetings are still well attended. We average between 37 and 45 members, and the Sandwiches (smørrebrød) after the meetings probably have something to do with that!

In July and August, we don't have meetings, but we have a picnic, which Manfred Hoff has let us have at his place for a number of years, together with the Sisterhood.

In November, we have our yearly Bingo, Dinner/Dance together with the Sisterhood at the Scandinavian Center with over 130 people attending, thanks to the “Silver Star Band” playing good music.



In December, the Brotherhood donated money to the Danish Churches in Burnaby and Surrey, to two food banks and also to the Ladies Auxiliary at Dania Home.

In February, we had a Valentine Party, together with a Bowling Tournament with 77 bowlers from Seattle, Eugene, Tacoma and Toronto, and 132 guests for the Dinner and Dance.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, three members of the Brotherhood went to the Pacific North West District Convention in Seattle. All the Sisterhood and Brotherhood Lodges in Oregon, Washington and B.C. have a convention each year. For the Bowling and Valentine party we won an Award for the best social party.

In closing, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Brotherhood had its 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It's probably the oldest Danish Club in Vancouver, being founded in 1931.

*Submitted and presented by Bent Ostergaard*

### **29. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest**

Greetings: from The Royal Danish Guard's Association, Pacific Northwest. The President is Kenneth Olsen from Seattle. The monthly meeting is held at “Garderstuen” at Knud and Doris Nielsen's. Queen Margrethe's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday dinner was held in Nanaimo, hosted by Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club.

On a sad note, member Hank Petersen has passed away. Jack Larsen was asked to become an Associate Member, Jack is well known in the Danish Community and is a member of the Church Board and Dania Society's Board.

*Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen*

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### 30. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver

In 2014 we celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our present church building. Needless to say we had a special church service with lunch and speeches and entertainment. DSUK Secretary General Margith Pedersen visited and brought greetings from Denmark.

Another significant event was the finalization of Marie and Vigo Larsen's estate in Denmark, where our church was one of the beneficiaries. This resulted in a generous inheritance, which is designated to improvements to the church, and not the daily upkeep.

Our church continues to be very active, with alternating services in Danish and English plus some combined Danish/English services. There is a continued good use of our church hall with many activities. Our social calendar is busy with our various auxiliaries putting on Spring Tea, 'Fastelavn', our yearly 'Frikadelle contest', bazaars, rummage sales, Christmas workshop, Ste Lucia Girls processional to mention a few. This in addition to the weekly Bible Study and Hawaiian Dancing! Our New Auxiliary feeds us on many Open House evenings and at other times during the year, as well as making 'nisser' and all kinds of delicious foods for the bazaars.



Pastor Birgitte Saltorp started a monthly 'Danish Komsammen' where she (in Danish) will talk about Danish personalities through the ages, and we talk, sing and have coffee. During 2014 the subjects have been as diverse as the entertainer Osvald Helmuth, the cook Kirsten Hüttemeier, and the poet Frank Jaeger, to name a few. Our summer trip was to the convent in Mission with a beautiful drive home through the lower Fraser Valley.

Our church is based on volunteers, and many people come for the Spring and Fall work-parties, starting off with coffee and homemade buns before nine in the morning and then working till around noon and getting 'smørrebrød' (open faced sandwiches) as a reward.

Our Youth Choir is a delightful addition to the Sunday services.

One of the first things we did after we received the above inheritance was to having the outside of the church painted. Our church is built in the traditional Danish village style, and I think you will be pleased with the result, when you come and join us for breakfast followed by the church service on Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you all there.

*Submitted by Jorgen Rohweder, President, and presented by Solvejg Nielsen*

### 32. Danish House Society, Burnaby

The Danish House Society (DHS) has been honoured to serve as the host organization for this year's Conference and for me personally it has been a great experience organizing the Conference, assembling and editing the Heritage Book and also a rewarding experience with regards to meeting the delegates from around the country and making new friends.

For the Danish House, 2014 was another great year with membership holding steady and our very popular Kro Aften monthly pub nights, where members get to enjoy a fine selection of

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open-faced sandwiches together with aquavit and Carlsberg beer to wash it all down, more often than not a sellout. At the June Kro Aften, the DHS together with the Danish-Canadian Community Centre awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to a very deserving group of young people and will award another ten scholarships again in June of this year.

Other events during the year included: the annual European Festival, Midsummer Festival on June 21st and 22nd, a big summer party where we enjoyed two great days together with the other co-owners of our Scandinavian Centre entertaining the approximately 9,000 guests that attended, and the big summer cap off, the Danish House Family BBQ in August. And then it was on to the Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction in October and finally Christmas by the Fireside held jointly with our Danish-Canadian Community Centre friends. All of these events are being repeated in 2015 and are generously supported by the members of our society and non-members as well.

On behalf of the Danish House Board, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer wherever your travels may take you and here's hoping that the weather co-operates.

*Respectfully submitted and presented by Ed Kuhlman, President*

### **33. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey**

Greetings from Granly! All activities are held at Granly Church and Hall, or parsonage.

The Wednesday Club: showing Danish movies.

Study Group: meets twice monthly - Danish author Kim Leine's book "Profeterne i Evighedsfjorden", which won the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2013.

Bible Study: conducted in the Parsonage next door, meets twice monthly.



Weekly Sunday Church Service and special church services, alternate in Danish and English.

Other activities include: A Spring Dinner as well as a Fall Dinner, where we are usually entertained by the Tivoli Singers; Sankt Hans' bonfire in June, with our famous warm potato salad and wieners, followed by speeches and sing-along; Julestue and our Christmas Bazaar arranged by the Ladies Auxiliary.

All our events are well attended. Our Pastor, Claus Franck, conducts all church related activities and is also a major voice in the choir. He is in the middle of his second term at Granly and we are very happy to have him. Best wishes for a great conference!

*Submitted by Manfred Hoff and presented by Emmy Wegner*

### **34. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver**

Our Lodge holds ten meetings a year and at each meeting we have a special theme. We issue four local newsletters a year – Spring – Summer – Fall – Winter – publicizing upcoming events and with lots of other interesting news – 95% are sent by e-mail and only 5% by regular mail, so that had helps cut down postal expenses.

Our Website [www.danishsisterhood.ca](http://www.danishsisterhood.ca) (please check it out) contains a Photo-Gallery with pictures taken at all our events.

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In May 2014 – since our last report at the Conference in Ottawa - we took part in ‘Flag Day’ at the Danish Church in commemoration of Denmark’s liberation in 1945. We also promoted the Danish Sisterhood at the Alexandra Multicultural Festival.

In June, we celebrated our Lodge’s 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary and at the same time honoured our members’ round birthdays and anniversaries with a special dinner.

‘Grundlovsdag’ (Constitution Day) was held with a picnic at the Scandinavian Center for members, their families, and our Pet Club members. Our Pet Club is a small fundraiser for our Lodge and a different way to connect members through their pets. We now have 14 life-time Pet Members. We also participated in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, where in the Danish tent we promoted the DS and sold many of our Danish items.

Though we do not hold meetings in July or August, we held a Summer Picnic with a BBQ pig on the grill and invited the Brotherhood Lodge #328. It was a fun day in warm sunshine.

After the summer holiday, we started our meetings again in September with a regular business meeting and did the nomination for next year’s officers.

At our meeting in October, we worked on our Arts and Craft items for our upcoming Bazaar and prepared for the Bingo party.



In November, we participated in the combined Brotherhood/Sisterhood Andespil/Bingo, where the Sisters made and sold over 400 Danish Open-faced sandwiches. We also held our Bazaar and sold many of our arts and craft items and all our homemade bake-goods, which was sold out within 2 hours.

Our yearly and very festive Christmas party was held in December with a typical Danish dinner, followed by many ‘Julesange’ and our ‘Julegaver’ exchange – (nobody goes home empty handed) and with our raffle we were able to donate \$200.00 to our favorite charity. We also did the installation of the nominated and elected officers.

The first meeting in January 2015 was filled with various paperwork and duties assigned, and we reviewed our Bylaws. We allocated our chosen yearly donations (\$500) to various organizations. Some members were awarded with their 25<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Pins.

Our theme for February was ‘Valentine’ and we played Bingo and handed out gifts. Our yearly financial statement, a revised Membership List, and the new Officers Duty List was handed out. Membership fees were collected and sent, to both the PNW District and to National, as well as our yearly memberships to the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and the Danish Canadian National Museum in Alberta.

We were also very grateful that we received a Grant from Danish-Canadian Community Centre, as with that, our annual financial statement looks good.

We participated in the yearly PNW District bowling tournament in Vancouver with lots of gutter balls and many spares and strikes. This year there were 15 teams, including teams from Lodges in both Washington and Oregon. The banquet after the trophies were handed out, consisted of a Danish buffet with lots of beer and snaps, and ended with a Valentine Party and Dance and many prizes. It was a great event, and wonderful to meet so many of our Sisters and Brothers again.

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In March, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with 'goodies' and it was a fun evening as we all were wearing something green and had prizes for the best costumes.

In April, our Easter meeting was a regular business meeting that ended with a raffle and Easter gifts.

In May, we participated in the PNW District yearly Convention held in Seattle, WA. This year the Danish Canadian Conference was held here in New Westminster, B.C., sponsored by the Danish House and we sent our delegate.

So in conclusion, being part of the Sisterhood Lodge #179 is never dull and keeps us on our toes. Our goal is to motivate our present members and to attract new members to join our Lodge and at the same time learn to understand and enjoy our heritage and Danish traditions, but I hope you can see from our report, that we have a lively and productive lodge, however as most organizations we strive for more new members to join us.

*Respectfully submitted and presented by Jannet Tricarico, President*

### **36. Danish Social Club of Victoria**

It has been a great year for our Danish Social Club of Victoria. Our membership has increased to 110 members. We average approximately 70 people at our regular functions, except our Christmas dinner, where we usually are over 100 people.

The Board of Directors decided last year that we should try to have entertainment at every meeting, and that has turned out to be a success.

Our members have let us know that they appreciate our efforts and we even have received many "thank you notes" from our members, either by phone or e-mail. That is very encouraging for our Directors.



We now face some new challenges for 2015. Henny Andersen has decided to retire and we have to try to come up with a replacement, which is going to be very difficult. Henny Andersen has prepared meals for the Danish Social Club of Victoria for many years. We might have to change some of our plans on some of the functions and we ask for our members understanding. One thing I can promise you, is that the Board will do everything in its power to make every function, as Danish as possible.

Otherwise, the future looks bright and we are optimistic for 2015. The majority of our Board members are staying on, so we will continue with our motto "To Have Fun" in 2015.

*Respectfully submitted by Jørgen Kierkegaard, President, and presented by Bendix Andersen*

## Regional Reports from the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

### Ontario Region

The Ontario Region holds two meetings a year – a board meeting in the spring and an annual general meeting in the fall. We always meet at 2 pm on a Saturday. There are eleven member organizations.

The present Board of Directors consists of a president, an amazing secretary/treasurer, Liselotte Ostergaard, and a director, Lis Søndergaard, as well as the past president, Gert Andersen. Besides the regular meetings, the Board of Directors get together for ‘en bid smørrebrød’ in time to plan for each upcoming board meeting.



The Danish Churches in Toronto and Grimsby take turns with Sunset Villa hosting the meetings. We are fortunate to have Rolf and Vita Christensen take an active part in all our regular meetings. We try to time the meetings to coincide with the churches’ special events, for instance the Queen’s Birthday in the spring at the Toronto Church or as this year, the Celebration of Spring at the Grimsby Church. That always guarantees a wonderful meal in good company to end the day. At the last spring meeting, 28 delegates with guests were present.

The agenda is pretty much standard. However, we have two added features; an item called ‘cultural input’ and a lottery.

The lottery brings in a nice amount of money every time; at the last board meeting in Grimsby, \$568 dollars was raised, the largest amount ever. The prizes are donated by members – especially Rolf – and they are always worthwhile spending a few dollars on. The money is evenly divided between the Museum, the Federation and the Ontario Region. The Region has often donated its share to the Museum.

Before the spring meeting this year, the board of directors had discussed donating some of our modest bank holdings to a worthwhile charity, while our lottery earnings (\$200) would still go to the museum. We discussed reaching outside the Danish community and Lis Søndergaard suggested that the people of Nepal could use some help, which reminded me of a project in progress, undertaken by a local young Danish woman, Inger Lauridsen, and her friend in Denmark. I presented the project to the meeting and without any hesitation Ole Jensen moved, seconded by Søren Søndergaard, that half of our bank balance, namely \$350, should be donated to this purpose.

As it happens, I know Inger quite well. She was visiting Nepal in 2010 and was inspired to try to make a difference for the children of a small village, Phujel in the Gorkha area north of Katmandu. The recent earthquakes have devastated the village and the project, a school that was begun in 2013, will probably have to be started all over again. We all felt that this was worthwhile supporting. We are hoping Inger will be able to be our guest speaker for the ‘Cultural Input’ section at our fall meeting.

Like at these Conferences, the social aspect is really the most important. We get together to discuss and exchange concerns and ideas and to socialize – and it seems to be working well.

*Respectfully submitted and presented by Eva Terp, President*

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### Alberta Region

The past couple of years have seen significant changes to the structure and purpose of the Alberta Region. It began with a discussion at the June 2012 meeting centered on the topic:

*“Why is there a need for the Alberta Region to exist and what are the expectations of and benefit to member organizations?”*

From this discussion came a desire to formally incorporate the Alberta Region with the eventual purpose to apply for a casino license under the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Being eligible for a casino license(s) would generate approximately \$75,000 in funding every two years. These funds could then be used by member associations for various projects or events.



Photo: June meeting of the Alberta Region at the Danish Canadian National Museum.

Front row: (L to R) Anne Holst, Calgary; Ellen Bonde, Red Deer; Sonja Myroon, Edmonton

2nd row: Pernille Nielsen, Red Deer; Lisa Christensen, Edmonton

3rd row: Jens Woller, Edmonton; Pernille Jakobsen, Calgary

Back row: John Steffensen, Calgary, Larry Kjearsgaard, Red Deer

The first step was incorporation. Thanks mainly to the expertise of treasurer, Ellen Bonde, new Objects and By-laws were drawn up, approved by the membership and eventually approved by the Alberta Corporate Registry on September 19, 2014. One of the requirements was expanding our executive (Board) to six members. In addition, our name officially became: Alberta Association of Danish Canadian Organizations. The purpose for our organization is laid out in the Objects and By-laws as follows:

- provide a Provincial association for Danish Canadian organizations in Alberta;
- promote preservation and understanding of Danish Canadian traditions and cultural heritage;
- promote contacts, and exchange ideas and experiences among member organizations;
- promote communication and cooperation among member organizations;
- promote cultural and social activities;
- provide administrative and financial support to member organizations.

The next step (applying for a casino license) cannot occur until we have been incorporated for two years. (September 19, 2016). In the meantime a committee is looking into the logistics of applying for the license and exactly how any monies realized will be dispersed to member organizations.

*Submitted by Larry Kjearsgaard, President*

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### Pacific Region

In the Pacific Region we have two meetings a year. The meeting in March is the Annual General Meeting held usually in a private home in the Greater Vancouver Area.

We meet at 11:30am with 16 to 18 people attending. Each Representative gives a short report from their organization. Elections are held for the positions of President, Secretary/Treasurer and one Member, all for a period of one year. After the meeting we have a festive Danish lunch.

In September, our meeting is always on Vancouver Island.

We are present with our Flag, at Flag Day at Vancouver's Danish Lutheran Church, the first Sunday in May every year.


*Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen, President*



Alastair Smith  
Président  
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# Danish Heritage Seminar at Harrison Hot Springs

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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The theme of the Danish Heritage Seminar at Harrison Hot Springs was ‘Danish entrepreneurs through 150 years’. The theme was chosen by Vancouver Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, who as headmaster carried the heavy load. During the Seminar the participants heard and saw how Danish entrepreneurs had changed Denmark, and in turn the world.

The Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa is situated at the bottom of Harrison Lake, with a view of snow-capped mountains. The resort is furnished with indoor natural mineral hot spring pools which have healing qualities.

The lectures covered a wide variety of topics. The lecture about the Industrial Awakening in Denmark covered the industrial revolution, led by C.F. Tietgen and others. Carl Jacobsen developed better beer through research. This showed the way which gradually helped transform Denmark into an innovative industrial nation.

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A session dealt with engineers and architects, where Pastor Birgitte spoke about bridges, wind turbines and opera houses. Then there is the whole Information Technology sector with Skype and other innovations. The lectures were accompanied by PowerPoint presentations.

Another lecture dealt with Danish products on the world market. These products included hearing aids, toy blocks, pharmaceuticals and health products. These products show how Denmark is coping with globalization, having to compete with Germany, the United States and China – among others. Other sessions dealt with shoes, fashions and bracelets, where Denmark competes on quality and design.

On Thursday the participants were divided into groups and each group dealt with questions focused on why and how Danish entrepreneurs had made a difference and changed Denmark, and sometimes the world. Later each group would report on its discussion and views.



*Johanne Olsen and Pastor Birgitte*



*Henrik Langer & Aase Christensen*



*Birgit Bakgaard, Anna Orens,  
Margrethe Hiebert and Jytte Bishop*



*Lili and Alf Gregerson*

As well, Johanne Olsen of West Vancouver spoke about being an entrepreneur in Vancouver. During her career she started several exquisite stores, such as House of Denmark, Boutique Tivoli; Dana Interiors in the Brentwood Mall, and Dan Interiors in the Park Royal Shopping Centre.

Rolf Christensen recounted the rise of the Møller family in Denmark, creating one of the largest shipping companies in the world, starting with Captain Peter Mærsk-Møller, and then A.P. Møller and ending with Mærsk McKinney Møller.

The Seminar was held from Monday, May 25 to Friday, May 29, 2015. The location at the foot of beautiful Harrison Lake was superb - and the food was plentiful. One evening the participants threw a party and entertained each other with songs, games and a lottery. The fellowship among the participants developed quickly, and they agreed that they had had a lot of fun. One evening they dressed up elegantly and ate in the stately Copper Room. Needless to say, time had also been set aside to enjoy the hot pools!

# Danish Heritage Seminar

**Lis Bang with Niels Bang, Kirsten Roy and Vibeke Sandberg**

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It is difficult to pick the best experience during our stay at Harrison Hot Springs, attending the Danish Heritage Seminar with the title “Danish Entrepreneurs – How they changed Denmark”. But I will try. The Seminar was well planned, with lots of free time to admire the area. One cannot omit the beautiful surroundings!

Birgitte Saltorp’s lectures were very interesting. The ones that stand out for me were the ones about J.C. Jacobsen and his son Carl Jacobsen, who started the Carlsberg Brewery. We were told about their personal lives as well as about the scientific methods used in their brewery. The biggest surprise for me was to learn that “Skype” was co-founded by a Dane, Janus Friis, who first sold it in 2005 to e-Bay for \$2.6 billion, and then later, it was resold to Microsoft in 2011 for \$8.5 billion.

The story about C.F. Tietgen, who founded Privatbanken, was very interesting. He was a cabinetmaker’s son, and in spite of having only basic education, he managed to start several big Danish companies. All in all it was revealing to learn about so many Danish entrepreneurs: H.C. Ørsted, Arne Jacobsen, Jørn Utzon, Kaj Bojesen and the list goes on!

Rolf Christensen recounted the very interesting story of A.P. Møller and Mærsk McKinney Møller. The lecture included a very nice print-out about the large shipping company.



*Kirsten, Jytte Bishop, Niels, Lis and Vibeke*

We also had a lot of fun, and warm fellowship. There was a great atmosphere. I so much enjoyed the singing of the beautiful psalms and songs. The most fun however, was the evening when the participants were responsible for the entertainment. So much creativity and fun!

Niels Bang wrote: Regarding Danish entrepreneurs, I knew most about the old ones; what surprised me was that so many new ones have emerged in Art and Crafts and IT. Interesting that the Danes can still compete on the world market! I thought that Birgitte Saltorp’s presentations were very professional and well prepared. I enjoyed them. All in all, a worthwhile Seminar!

Kirsten Roy wrote: “Our annual Heritage Seminar at Harrison Hot Springs was certainly well worth attending! Birgitte Saltorp has a wealth of knowledge. We learned a lot. I enjoyed the knowledge gained! The comradeship! The singing!

Vibeke Sandberg wrote: I just love to hear about people who have a vision and who are able to carry out that vision, making this world a better place!



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# Ansgar Lutheran Church installs Pastor Hultberg

**Kirsten Olsen, President, Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church**

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In the past year we have seen several changes at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Our Pastor who had served us for the past seven years, Pastor Carl Gustav Christensen, and his wife, Kirsten, returned to Denmark. Pastor Gus was called as a pastor in the parish of Frederiks in the diocese of Viborg. We were saddened to see them leave, but happy that they obtained the call he wished for.



Pastor Jørgen Flensted-Jensen served as an interim pastor for four months. We have a confirmation class of four this year. Pastor Jørgen involved the confirmands in both our Kyndelmisse Service and the Service at Fastelavn. Jørgen and Kirsten also shared some of their exciting experiences from their time in Africa, Brussels and Canada at a couple of Højskoleaftner.

In a festive Service on Sunday, March 6, 2016, Pastor Lasse Hultberg was installed at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church by Pastor Charlotte Berg of Calgary. Two of our former pastors, Lars and Liselotte Basbøll, Calgary, also joined us in welcoming Pastor Lasse Hultberg, his wife Frederikke, and their three boys Cordelius, Ambrosius and Thaddæus. Pastor Lasse is from Copenhagen. He has served a large parish in the suburb of Ballerup for the past four and a half years. Besides a theology degree, he has a master's degree in art history; both from the University of Copenhagen. Frederikke Hultberg is from the island of Fyn. We look forward to working with Pastor Lasse for the next five years, or more.



Again this year we took part in a Service at the National Museum in Dickson. It was an outdoors service in front of the church on the museum grounds, followed by a picnic and entertainment. During the year we had several fundraising events, which all require work from volunteers. Busy hands also helped renovate the parsonage, getting it ready for the new pastor and his family.

In the summer we were part of a concert arrangement with children's choirs who performed in five of the churches on "Church Street", where we are located. The youngest children's choir Kikimasu performed in our church for audiences who rotated between the neighbouring churches. It was an event that opened our church to an audience who was interested in hearing about our sanctuary and interested to hear who we are.

# Grand Opening of the new Dania Home

**Kjeld Christensen, President of Dania Home**

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The Grand Opening of the new Dania Home in Burnaby, British Columbia, took place on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, on a warm and sunny summer day. The ceremony took place in the parking lot in front of the main entrance, where tents and chairs had been set up. Extra large red balloons swaying in the breeze added to the festivities. Taking the microphone at the podium, everyone was bid welcome. The talented Tivoli Singers then sang the stirring Canadian and Danish national anthems.



*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Dania Home*

## ORGANIZATIONS



This was followed by remarks and congratulations from Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North, Raj Chouhan, MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds, Mayor Derek Corrigan, City of Burnaby, Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen and Irene Sheppard, the Executive Director, Residential Care and Assisted Living, Fraser Health. Attending from Denmark were Anne Marie Dalgaard, Secretary General of Danes Worldwide, as well as Carina Kjær Busk, leader of Danish Lessons Online, Danes Worldwide.

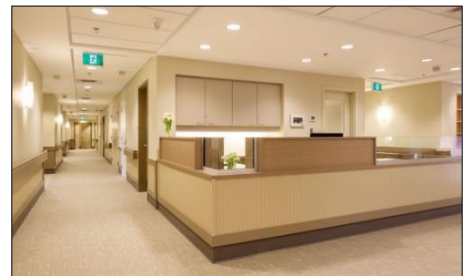
The Grand Opening culminated with an official ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by refreshments and delicacies inside. With this new and modern facility Dania Home is providing first class care to those who need it, regardless of ethnic origin. The Home is not only the pride of the Danish community, but also of Burnaby and British Columbia.

The plans for the new Dania Home were first discussed almost fifteen years ago, and after many years of planning, meetings with architects, tweaking designs, adding or even dropping things we could not afford, the plans were finally approved. The process was made possible and made easier by a supportive board of directors, a dedicated building committee and also by Dania's efficient Executive Director and staff.



The new Danish Home continues the commitment made about 75 years ago, when Danish Consul L.L. Jessen and a group of visionaries initiated the first home for seniors in British Columbia. Consul Jessen had seen how retired and worn out workers often ended up, without care, in squalor in cheap hotels in downtown Vancouver. Consul Jessen had visited Old Age Homes in Denmark and realized that there was a great need for similar facilities in British Columbia.

The dream of a Home became a reality in February 1941 when a committee was elected at the Danish Lutheran Church's annual meeting. Our Society was officially formed by Consul Jessen and others, who within an impressively short time raised money and purchased an old farm house on a property in Burnaby, which at the time seemed like a long distance outside of Vancouver. The farm house was renovated and the official opening of the Home took place on July 23, 1944. In 1947 a new West Wing was added. Later it was enlarged again. Eventually it was torn down and a new proper care facility was built. Now yet another new building has been inaugurated, replacing the previous one which has now been demolished.



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Our initial plan was to build the new Dania Home where the old Dania Home was located. However, that was a no go, as Fraser Health told us to look after the current residents until they could be moved into the new residence. That gave us no choice but to build next to the old Dania Home. To make room for the new Dania Home, Dania Lodge along Norland Avenue was demolished in early 2013.

In August 2013 a lot of heavy equipment was brought onto the site. Excavations began in mid-September. When the serious digging started some extremely large boulders were uncovered. They were so large they slowed down the work for a few days. It was decided to keep some of the boulders for future landscaping.

The ground breaking ceremony was held on October 4, 2013 at 2 p.m. It was attended by Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan, MLAs Richard Lee and Raj Chouhan and MP Kennedy Stewart as well as others. Many photographs were taken on this historic day.



Through rain and sleet in the winter of 2013- 2014 the workers braved the weather and kept on building. Before long, on-lookers began to see the footprint of what was to come.

Moreover, in the Danish tradition, we had to have a Rejsegilde. This roof raising ceremony was held on April 25, 2014 at three o'clock in the afternoon. At this ceremony flags and a wreath were raised to the rafters.



As mentioned, the planning of the new home started many years ago. Time after time there were delays and many of us got impatient. Then two years ago VanMar Construction laid out a time line for the construction phase, and after that I am pleased to report, VanMar kept to the agreed to schedule and the building was completed on time and on budget.

The budget for the new Dania Home was over \$20 million, so a sizable undertaking for Dania. Fortunately, we already owned the land. The Home is funded by Fraser Health, with the government of British Columbia, providing a per diem for each resident. The residents pay according to their means,

80% of their after-tax income. The budget was approved by Fraser Health only after the plans were changed from 68 rooms to 102 rooms, since the residents provide an important income stream and 68 rooms was not enough to make the project viable, 102 rooms will. The purchase of the additional 34 beds was built into the budget. At the moment Dania is conducting a fundraising campaign to replace the 68 beds which were brought over from the old Dania Home.

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*Burnaby Mayor,  
Derek Corrigan*

Hats off to VanMar Construction and their quality controls all through the process! All involved were on top of their game. Architect Brian Dust worked patiently with us all along through the many changes. Jack Clerkson kept an eye on everything including time lines and budget.

A special tip of the hat to Bob Fawdry who was the site superintendent! Nothing was too much trouble for Bob and he always had a big smile. He was also very cooperative when we first suggested that some of the big boulders could be used for a Kæmpehøj. The dolmen is now a great eye catcher as you drive onto the Dania site. We tried to teach Bob and the others to say Kæmpehøj, but we had to give up!



*MLA Raj Chouhan*



*MLA Richard Lee awards  
Certificate of Congratulations to  
Kjeld Christensen*

After two years of demolishing, excavating, building, furnishing, installing, decorating and landscaping, the building was ready to receive its old and its new residents. The residents of the old Dania Home started moving into the newly completed building along Norland Avenue on March 3, 2015. Soon after all our residents had moved in, Fraser Health quickly filled the 30 additional rooms available in the new and larger building. The new Dania Home is larger and has 102 rooms on two floors. A total of 200 residents now live in three buildings on the six acre Dania Home grounds. The two other buildings, not pictured here, are Dania Manor and the Carl Mortensen Manor.



It was a very proud day when the first residents were moved into the brand new shiny neighbourhoods, as each corridor is called. There are two floors, each with three corridors. Each of the six neighbourhoods has seventeen rooms. Residents are able to stay in their neighbourhood for bathing, activities, lounging and meals. Staff is designated to the same neighbourhood on a permanent basis to allow residents to get to know their care givers. All rooms are based on single occupancy, but there are some adjoining rooms to accommodate couples.

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The six neighbourhoods are Jessen, Mortensen, Andersen, Justesen, Nielsen and Christensen. The Jessen neighbourhood is named for Danish Consul L.L. Jessen, who initiated the first Home. The Mortensen neighbourhood is named for an early supporter and donor. Karl Andersen was a businessman in Prince George who visited Dania each year and left a sizable inheritance. Peter Justesen was a successful businessman who also left a substantial bequest. The Nielsen neighbourhood is named for Hans Nielsen, who farmed in the Fraser Valley close to Chilliwack. For years he donated thousands of dollars to both Dania Home and the Danish Church; recent donations were substantial. Solvejg Nielsen's name was also suggested, as she has been a friend of Dania for many years. The president of Dania phoned Solvejg regarding the Nielsen neighbourhood and she was quite honoured that the Nielsen name was being considered for one of the neighbourhoods. The sixth neighbourhood was named for Poul B. Christensen, who was extremely active within the Danish community, serving as president of Dania Home and prior to that president of the Danish Church when it was moved and built next door on Kincaid Street.

The building smells new, and consists of comfortable rooms and cozy lounges, corridors with slip-resistant floor coverings, kitchens where everything works as advertised, and elevators which run smoothly. The decorating committee, led by Else Vea, did a wonderful job selecting fabrics, colours and patterns. The color schemes are soothing and friendly. What a joy it is to have finally moved into such lovely surroundings!

Throughout the undertaking Executive Director Margaret Douglas-Matthews and her management staff were continuously busy making decisions about an endless number of details for the new building. They also had to cope with preparations for a government Accreditation Survey, which is a very time consuming exercise. Dania Home again passed the survey with flying colors achieving Exemplary Standing which is good for four years. Accreditation Canada certifies that Dania Home and its contractors meet national standards of quality for health services. The volunteer Board of Directors takes great pride in the quality of care and services provided at Dania Home.



*Margaret Douglas- Matthews  
with Kjeld Christensen*

In short, the Grand Opening was a perfect day! It was also a memorable day! We are all very proud of our brand new Dania Home.



## ORGANIZATIONS





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Eva Terp  
Tel: 416 493 1594; Email: [terpeva@bell.net](mailto:terpeva@bell.net)

# Museum Moments

## 2013-2014-2015

**Ann Manson**

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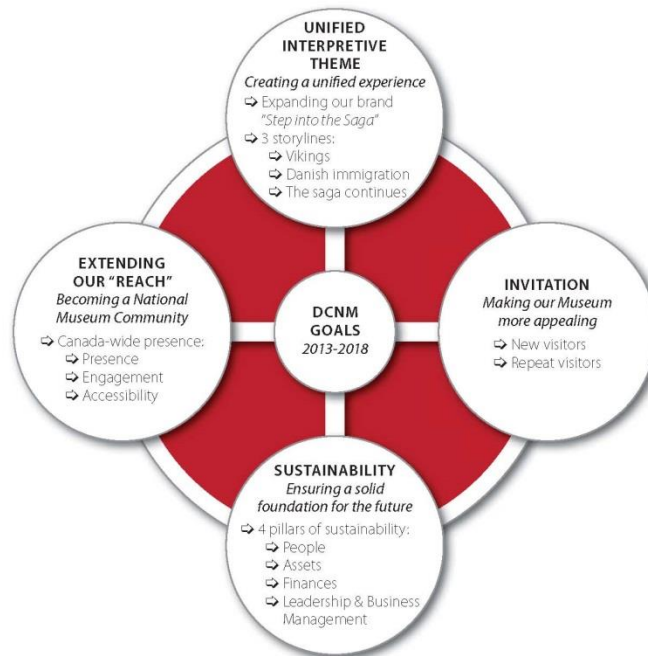
The past three seasons for the Danish Canadian Museum have provided challenges and opportunities in three broad areas: visions and plans, funding, and site improvements.

### VISIONS AND PLANS

The Board of Directors recognized that long term plans would help determine ways to grow the Museum to become a truly national museum: one for all Danes in Canada.

Much time, during 2013 and early 2014, was spent writing, editing, discussing and finalizing items for the Strategic Plan such as:

Goals



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And affirming

- The Mission Statement: ‘To inspire, engage, and educate about Danish Canadians’
- The Vision Statement: ‘The Danish Canadian Museum is the nucleus for Danish Canadian heritage’
- The Central Theme: ‘The Danish Canadian story: a saga stretching for centuries across continents’

Based on needs identified in the approved Strategic Plan and knowing that external help was required the Board engaged Urban Matters’ personnel from its Kamloops and Edmonton offices to assess the situation during the 2014 Retreat, collect information about business operations, and make recommendations. That resulted in the Sustainability Report delivered in July 2015 and reviewed at the Retreat. Among the recommendations acted on:

- Hire an Executive Director
- Update the website and include a ‘virtual’ museum on the website, so that Danes across Canada and around the world would be able to ‘tour’ the grounds and buildings on the site, as well as have access to the over **5000 artifacts** at the Museum.

In February 2016 the website [www.thedanishcanadianmuseum.com] updated by Montreal and Toronto based ConvergeNet was launched. Avant-Garde Consulting Inc. in Vancouver facilitated the search for an Executive Director who should be hired by April 2016. Funding resources for the ‘virtual’ Museum portion of the website are being researched and implemented.

### FUNDING

The Board recognized that in order to be sustainable and not fold, as has happened to many, many, small museums in the past few years there needed to be more secure funding. The Museum is fortunate to have many ongoing generous donors and benefactors who give either money or time. Governments, both provincial and federal, offer grants but grant money and conditions can change from year to year.

Both the Strategic Plan and Sustainability Report recommended investigating additional funding resources such as partnerships and sponsorships. To do this required the expertise and time of someone other than a Museum Director, so the Board approved a search for an Executive Director to meet this outcome.

### SITE

The Museum’s site presents a range of visitor experiences; some of which are:

- The Naust, which holds the replica Viking ship *Freydis Joanna* commissioned by the Museum and built in Roskilde
- The lake

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- The Verbena Dormitory which houses displays and many artifacts as well as the Saga Café and Gift Shop
- The pioneer vegetable garden
- The Nielsen CPR house.

In the past three years improvements and changes have enhanced visitors' understanding and enjoyment of Danish Canadian heritage:

- Naust
  - 2013 construction started
  - 2014 completed
  - 2015 flooring finished
- Lake
  - 2015 improved with the help of Olds College
  - 2016 deepened
- Paths
  - 2015 extended through the woods to the Thomsen Pioneer Cabin and Nielsen CPR House
- A flowerbed landscaped to the north of the deck off the Saga Café
  - This also repaired or 'hid' the disruption created by installing a new septic tank.

Each of the past three years has created opportunities for changes or improvements or developments in visioning and planning, funding, and on the site. Exciting and interesting things are happening because many Directors, staff, donors, volunteers, and members have and continue to support the Danish Canadian Museum. *Mange tak til alle.*

**In 2017 the Museum celebrates its Silver—25<sup>th</sup>—Anniversary!**

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## ORGANIZATIONS

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The Danish  
Canadian Museum



### EVENTS 2016

- May 6 Opening Day
- May 8 Mother's Day Lunch
- May 26 – 29 Federation National Conference
- May 27 Museum Day at the Conference
- June 19 Father's Day Pit-roast
- July 1 Canada Day
- July 3 Danish Service and Old Fashioned Picnic  
with Danish Marching Band (from Denmark)
- July 10 Æbleskiver N' Jam
- August 20 – 21 Viking Days
- August 20 Feast with the Vikings
- September 5 End of Summer Season
- Volunteer Appreciation Supper at the Museum
- November 5 Julestue [Danish Bazaar]  
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# Dickson Store Museum

## Antonia Nissen, President's Report, March 2016

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The New Year is well under way at our Community Museum. We have new board members who are ready and willing to help. The Annual Meeting was well attended and we received a lot of support from our members.



We are looking at projects that were left over from last year, like hail damage, and at new projects that we are taking on. The big thing is to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in style. We discussed it with the membership at the Annual Meeting and at our first Board Meeting. We are going to focus on our fall supper and putting on a play in November. Our manager, Sharon Lightbown, is putting together an exhibit that will be displayed for two years. We are also pursuing funding to do the upgrades to our site

that are necessary to be an Accredited Visitor Information Center. Keeping up the site is a priority for us. We want to keep our site as hospitable as possible, providing a comfortable attractive location for the local community as well as tourists.

We are only able to get funding for a provincial casino every three years. The next one would be in the winter of 2017. This year we will have to be very careful with funds. Hopefully we will be able to get the Community Initiative Project Grant to help with outside renovations. We have been discussing other ways of increasing revenue. We will move the donation box to a more visible location. We are looking for more local consigners for the gift shop. We are talking about having a fundraiser in the winter. All of our fundraisers are in the fall. But something before the season starts would help with the initial months of payroll before the grants come in.

Last August and September we had a table at the Spruce View Country Market promoting our fall events. This was a good opportunity to connect with the community. We plan to do this more often and possibly to sell there some items from the gift shop.

Hopefully lots of university students will be looking for jobs this summer. Having a full staff during the season will allow Sharon Lightbown to get on with other projects. We appreciate all she has done in the last years to fulfil our mandate. She has kept our programs up to provincial standards, involves the surrounding community in exhibitions and events of interest to them, and she uses our collection to deliver educational programs to a diverse audience. With her help we have a well known profile in many media. Thank you, Sharon!

Thank you also to all our volunteers and members who help us really make things happen in this community. We would appreciate any ideas you many have to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and also any ideas to increase revenue. It is always a privilege to be a part of this endeavour!

# Scandinavian Cultural Society

## Presenting and Preserving Scandinavian Heritage

**Carolyn Thauberger, SCS Treasurer**

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The Scandinavian Cultural Society (SCS) is a group of people with a common interest in preserving, presenting, and supporting Scandinavian heritage and culture in British Columbia. The Society is an independent organization which uses the Scandinavian Community Centre in Burnaby as its main meeting and event venue. In 2015 the Society celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year as an organization.



*MLA Richard Lee presents Poul Erik Rasmussen with Certificate of Appreciation to the Society*

The SCS began in 1985-86 as a group of Scandinavian-Canadians, invited by the City of Vancouver's Centennial Celebrations Committee, to prepare cultural events for BC's 1986 Centennial celebrations. Arad Nobell was President of this Scandinavian Festival Society. The major celebration event was the organization of a joint Midsummer Festival to which the public was invited. There was food and music and dancing and flowers in our hair. A midsummer pole was erected with ceremony and we danced and sang around it. We burned a paper 'witch'. A Viking Village was set up, complete with long house and marauding Vikings given to sword play and kidnapping. The celebrators themselves had such a wonderful time that the group formalized its structure and began to offer an ongoing program of Scandinavian cultural activities for the community. The Scandinavian Cultural Society had begun. Thirty years later we are still having fun!

The SCS continued to organize yearly Midsummer Festivals by itself, but once the Scandinavian Community Centre was established and as the festival grew in size, that event was turned over to the Community Centre to organize. The SCS then focused on less sprawling events. Our earlier activities were more Scandinavian (Danish, Norwegian, Swedish) but we now include other Nordic countries, having added Finland, Iceland, and sometimes others. In a typical year, the approximately 60 current members of the SCS organize around 20 cultural events across areas of Nordic endeavour that include arts and crafts, history and politics, literature and thought, music and dance, film and video, fashion and design, genealogy, and children's events. There have even been occasional forays into sport and Viking ship building!

Most of our major events relate to Nordic countries as a group rather than to one country individually. For more than two decades the SCS has been offering artists, and lately photographers and artisan crafters, an opportunity to show and sell their works in our two day Nordic Art and Photography Show. We like to see how Nordic heritage and themes may be expressed in modern Canadian creative work. We also want to offer our community's artists an

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opportunity to display and sell their work. For many it is a chance to showcase their talent to an audience that admires and purchases from them year after year. For others it is a first step into the professional or semi-professional arena. Over the last two years we have alternated our Art Show with another large show on Scandinavian Design. The first one featured Danish Modern furniture and household design and the second displayed Nordic Textile and Costume and included a modern clothing fashion show with a Nordic Sweater Parade. We are pleased to fulfill our organization's mandate to support and promote an interest in Nordic Culture and heritage in our broader community.



*Nordic Design 2014: Arne Møller and Bent Østergaard admire a restored Nimbus motorcycle from Denmark*

These larger shows use an organizational plan that involves collaboration across Nordic communities. Each country or cultural group is invited to prepare and present its own portion of the display. In the case of the Danish Modern show each country furnished a "room". This plan allows a huge event to be produced with limited effort from any particular individual or group. The SCS sets the basic structure of the event, pays for that, and sees that its components get produced. These overarching events draw our community together and spread information across country groups so that Norwegians learn about Swedish clothing design and the reverse. Again, we believe this helps fulfill our vision by strengthening cultural ties within our Nordic community.

This year we added a Saami component and an Old Norse group to our design show. We are hoping to get a permanent Saami interest group started. Our organization's goals are not met only by putting on events; we also need to support the development of other groups who share our interests and who might enrich our knowledge of Nordic heritage and culture.

Our programming changes constantly to meet our communities' needs. For years we organized a yearly Literary Festival of fine talks, debates, and dramatic readings presented by a collection of local and more distant writers. One year we featured Hans Christian Andersen and were astonished to learn that recent DNA assessment had proven him to be the son of the Danish crown prince! But however interesting we made the shows, Literacy Festival attendance gradually fell. In response, we changed from a two-day focused event into scattered individual offerings, perhaps in combination with another show. Our talk on the book *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga* was presented by one of the co-editors, Dr. Elisabeth Ward from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma Washington. We set the event during our Leif Erikson Day festival and advertised both inside and outside our community. The hall was full, with perhaps a third general public. We had changed our focus slightly to match what the community preferred and were again successful in reaching an interested audience.

We also attempt to collect and preserve our shared Nordic history in BC. For nine years we have arranged an annual Nordic Spirit heritage images show where we gather and present about 300 previously unpublished photos on some aspect of Scandinavian settlement in BC. Usually these shows were developed by country, e.g., *Danes in BC*. This project has meant massive work on the part of many people, and it required a huge expense in copying, restoring, arranging, adding

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text, and printing and framing over one hundred 13 by 17 inch frames with several photos in each. After each show our framed photo sets were made available for loan, and we have shared them free of charge with the Nordic Museum in Seattle and other museums in BC or Canada. One show even went to Iceland. We have sold or loaned some of our older framed image sets to local rest homes such as Icelandic Harbour, Swedish Rest Home, and Finnish Manor where they currently hang and are hoping to find a similar home for our Danish collection. We use samples from our collection to enhance other local events such as the 2015 Danish Canadian National Conference in New Westminster. We have collected nearly 3,000 archival photos with text and are almost finished with our heritage images thrust. We would like to make the images permanently available through an archive or by publishing them in some way. Hard copy books seem out of date and none of us are comfortable with copyright concerns if we use an electronic publication method. So we are still thinking.

One particularly interesting Nordic Spirit Series show gathered audio recordings of our members' experiences at home during WWII either in the Nordic countries or in Canada. These were fascinating tales! One Canadian informant told how the RCMP in Saskatchewan collected the 22 rifles from his father and other Finnish farmers in case the weapons should suddenly be used against Canada. There went the farm chickens' protection from skunks.



Fortunately the guns proved too difficult to store and were returned shortly. Another man told of a world-class show jumping training stable next to his farm in Norway where the second-place European show jumping champion horse resided. The Germans were requisitioning all but one horse from each farmer to draw heavy German supply wagons. Fine show horses would not have stood up to this work. To save them, the stable owner released all of her horses, hazing them down the country road. Local farmers saw and recognized the horses and each captured one for himself. The fine horses spent the war safely eating grass and pulling occasional buggies and carts for farmers' wives. After the war they were quietly returned to their show stable. We have over sixty such tales. They present a unique perspective on an important historical event for Nordic people.

Occasionally we focus on a particular country. Our Leif Erikson Festival in early October celebrates a different Nordic Country each year. This past year it was Denmark's turn. We focused on its history and current political thought, and on the contributions to Canadian life of immigrants from that country. We honoured the retiring Danish Honorary Consul in BC and met and heard from the new one. Representatives from the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta, talked about their virtual museum plans and about their Viking ship. It was a fine way to honour the ancient Viking spirit of discovery.

Over our thirty years there have been innumerable single evening or afternoon concerts, dances, talks, discussions, workshops, and film or video events. Many have had a Danish connection. In recent years we have presented the film *Under the Clouds of War: Growing up in Occupied Denmark and Norway* (produced by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle). Prof. Mads Bunch, UBC visiting lecturer from Denmark, made several presentations including showing the film

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*Karen Blixen—Out of this World* followed by an in-depth discussion on Blixen's life and work. People who had been Blixen's neighbours in Denmark contributed their perspective on this famous *Out of Africa* author. We like to offer the widest possible range of events and topics.



*A Norwegian ship captain's cozy den, 2014*

Our organizational structure is simple—a small board of active people makes decisions at monthly meetings to which every SCS member is welcome. Usually five or six board members and one or two regular members attend. We plan major events years ahead and other events we throw together in two weeks as chance offers a traveling speaker or musical group. Leadership and vision come from our presidents. Our first was Susan Jensen followed by Knud Elgaard, Marie Johansen, Ken Jensen, Robert Asgeirsson, Henri Lahti and Poul Erik Rasmussen. Most have remained for several terms, as is true of our board members. We tend to specialize our tasks according to our interests and expertise, and what needed skills we cannot find on the board we hire.

Several approaches to organization support our work. Partnerships and collaborations are perhaps the most important of these. I referred earlier to sharing major event organization by having each country group do a part. Our Genealogy Interest Group uses an ongoing collaboration. It operates together with the British Columbia Genealogical Society. The group welcomes new members and visitors – anyone with an interest in Nordic family history. They meet once a month at the Centre and are often part of our outreach projects because of their public popularity. Country experts share research advice without charge, and offer assistance both to beginners and researchers searching for family in North America and in Nordic countries. Our experts may even help identify and date family artefacts as they recently did with some 150 year old folk costumes. On many occasions the group has located lost relatives following an online request from Europe or elsewhere. It is rewarding work.

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Partnerships help us maximize our funds and encourage community connections so we often provide partial funds for an event and help to organize it along with partner groups who contribute in similar fashion. The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Vancouver are regular partners. We partially fund their visiting musicians or dance instructors from Nordic countries, and we work together to organize the event, sharing profits (when there are any).

Outreach is useful to gather support. The SCS is often asked to represent the Scandinavian Community Centre or to present its own interests to the public such as at the Burnaby European Festival. We try to bring a fiddler, a folk costume, a craft demo, or our genealogists to create a lively interactive display. The genealogists bring their computers and will help you discover your ancestor right there. This could get really interesting if everyone is looking, and your family

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turns out to have some black sheep you didn't know about. This sort of thing can happen to a descendent of Vikings!

Our Opening Receptions are major social and public relations opportunities with perhaps 80 to 100 people attending each. There are opening remarks on the show and its purpose, dignitary greetings from politicians and consuls, introduction of featured people, a lively free concert usually provided by one or the other of our community folk orchestras, and free coffee and snacks with a Scandinavian flavour. This part of our event often draws news coverage enhancing our image.



*SCS President, Poul Erik Rasmussen (Danish), selecting heritage photos for a large exhibition*

We are most grateful for the approximately \$10,000 in direct financial support we currently receive from British Columbia Gaming Commission, the Danish Canadian Community Centre, and the City of Burnaby through its Festivals Burnaby program. This is less than the expenses we normally go through in a year, so we have become careful financial planners. Our

events are not usually expensive. Rent is normally our biggest budget item and much work is donated. We use either free admission or admission by donation so all can attend. Partnerships and collaboration, volunteers and donations, and careful financial planning work for us!

It is not our money but our powerful volunteer base that makes the SCS able to put on events. Our members think of great ideas, more great ideas than we can possibly support. Together we come up with ways to do those events that require the least amount of money and for which we have enough volunteers to do the work. When we have an event that is going to require volunteer power, we send out an Email blast. Nobody replies, but a dozen people show up to help only half of whom are SCS members. Perhaps it is the free and strong Scandinavian coffee, but we like to believe our volunteers come because they feel they are helping preserve and share our Nordic heritage. We are not just a club; we are a community. We have a powerful community volunteer base. During our events we overhear such phrases as, "when we were setting up our show..." Clearly, people feel it is "their" show, and it is, even when they are not SCS members. In the end it is our community of people attending who make our work successful. It has been a pleasure to help organize events for them for 30 years!



*Norwegian Language School children open the 2014 Leif Erikson Day Festival*

# Fifty Years of Danish Services At St. John's in Waterloo

**Gert M. Andersen**

**Based on records kept by the congregation and interviews with Esther Garde Pedersen**

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Large numbers of Danes came to Canada during the two decades following the Second World War. Many settled in South Western Ontario. Those who lived in the larger cities were quick to organize social clubs and to arrange Danish Church Services, with the support of The Danish Church Abroad. The Danes of Waterloo County and surrounding area organized “The Danish Club of Waterloo County,” but the community was too small to realize the dream of having its own church.

Danish church services were held in the neighboring cities of London, Hamilton, St. Catharines and Toronto, services at which the Danes from the Kitchener-Waterloo area were certainly welcome. But each one of those neighbouring cities was too far to travel to every Sunday, and it did nothing to satisfy a longing for a church of their own. This was especially true prior to the opening of Highway 401, around 1961.



A group of the more enterprising local Danes contacted Pastor Overgaard Thomsen, the DKU (Dansk Kirke I Udlandet, Danish Church Abroad) pastor in Toronto, about the possibility of officiating at church services in Waterloo. He responded by saying, “When you find a place to worship, I will be there”. The Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Pastor Conrad, was then approached with a request for physical space in the Church. He also responded positively, saying, “If you have a Danish Pastor, you are welcome to use the chapel for your monthly service”.

The first service was held at St John's on September 12, 1965. Esther and Chris Pedersen soon emerged as the people to contact regarding church events. In December 1966, Esther and Chris Pedersen officially assumed the leadership role, a position they held together, until June 2004 when, sadly Chris passed away. Esther has cheerfully continued on with the leadership role and all its duties till the present day. The congregation can always count on Esther to be there and to be in charge, coordinating the times and events with the Pastor and organist and maintaining communication with the parishioners. In fact, she herself has the enviable record of having missed only four church services in the 50 years the congregation has existed.

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The financial arrangement, in the beginning, was simple. St. John's received the collection and paid all the expenses, except the Pastor's salary, which was paid by the DKU. In the early years, the donations were sometimes sparse, and often did not amount to a reasonable fee for the use of the facilities plus a small travel allowance for the pastor. On more than one occasion, Esther and Chris covered the shortfall from their own pockets.

The congregation officially became part of the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby in 1991, and began sharing a Pastor with Grimsby at that time. Later in 2001, the arrangement with St. John's was amended. From that date onward, the money from the collection went to the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby which then paid the organist, and in lieu of paying rent made a donation to St. John's twice per year. This arrangement continues to the present day.

Church services are held on the third Sunday of each month, but are suspended during July and August. In the early years, fifty people would normally attend Sunday services but this number has slowly decreased and is now closer to twenty.

After each church service the congregation usually meets in an adjoining room for coffee and fellowship. The Pastor entertains by telling stories or describing events from his earlier professional or personal life. Sometimes the talk is about new trends and directions of daily life in Denmark or perhaps just every day events of interest to Danes. Esther is always the Master of Ceremonies.



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Over the years the Danish Congregation at St. Johns has welcomed and been well served by twenty-one Danish pastors representing DKU and by Pastor Jens Kjær who, although he was Danish, received his ordination in Canada. Throughout the years they have officiated over sixty christenings, eight confirmations, two weddings and sadly, also forty-four funerals.

During all this time there have been only three different organists. The present organist, Peter West began as a young man in 1975 and continues to play for the congregation to this day.

On the fine Sunday afternoon of September 20, 2015 a large group of Danish-Canadians came together in Waterloo, at St. John's Lutheran Church, to celebrate 50 years of church services in the Danish language. Everyone of Danish descent had been invited to come to church for the special Sunday service followed by a festive dinner to mark the occasion.

The service commenced with a procession into the church lead by Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen of The Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby, who officiated. He was followed in the procession and also aided in the service by Pastor Fred Ludolph of St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo, and Pastor Kenneth Berg from The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto.

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Following the service, the fifty- two attendees went to the adjoining “Luther Manor” for fellowship. The pleasant weather lured many into the garden, enjoying punch, appetizers and conversation before moving inside for the evening meal.

The lounge was beautifully decorated, spirits were high and everyone was in a festive mood. The evening menu of roast and all the fixings proved excellent.

Esther Garde Pedersen graciously welcomed everyone, while Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen was Master of Ceremonies. Greetings from past Pastors, Danish Churches and Danish Clubs across Canada were read.



*Pastor Kenneth Berg, Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen, Esther Garde Pedersen and Pastor Fred Ludolph*



*Esther is now satisfied that the tables are set to her standard*

Rolf Christensen, of Ottawa, the President of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada thanked the congregation for its long time membership in the Federation and its ongoing support for the aims and values of the Federation. He made mention also of the congregation's place in the larger community of Danes in Southern Ontario, in Canada and worldwide through the work of individual congregation members at Sunset Villa, Sunset Mindepark, the Ontario Region of the Federation and also the National Federation. He was eloquent in his praise of the leadership of Ester Garde Pedersen, whose work has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the congregation.

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Sune Overgaard of Toronto, the son of the Very Reverend Poul Overgaard Thomsen, brought a very personal touch to the evening with reminisces about by-gone days. He expressed gratitude for the ongoing relationship between the Waterloo congregation and the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto, and gave many good wishes for the future. Along with greetings from the Toronto congregation, he brought a marvelous gift, the gift of fellowship. The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto offered to arrange transportation for the entire Waterloo congregation to attend one of the Toronto Church's special events on a selected date in the spring.

In retrospect, Sune remembers noticing, at the conclusion of the September 20<sup>th</sup> service, that the black carrying case, in which the Waterloo congregation houses its hymn books, is in fact an artefact from the earliest days of the relationship between the Toronto and Waterloo congregations. The carrying case was originally used by the Overgaard Thomsen family to carry supplies for the family's Sunday picnics before being assigned to the nobler duty of housing hymn books for the use of the Waterloo congregation.

The anniversary celebration was a grand event indeed, with heartfelt singing of traditional Danish songs and sharing of memories of the past fifty years. Everyone left feeling truly blessed to have been part of such a warm wonderful event.

The Waterloo Congregation has been very pleased with the pastors who have served over the course of the fifty years and it is with deep gratitude, that they thank Denmark and the DSUK for their many years of support and their continued willingness to support the church as long as it is needed. The small group of parishioners benefitting from this arrangement hopes that the need will remain far into the future.




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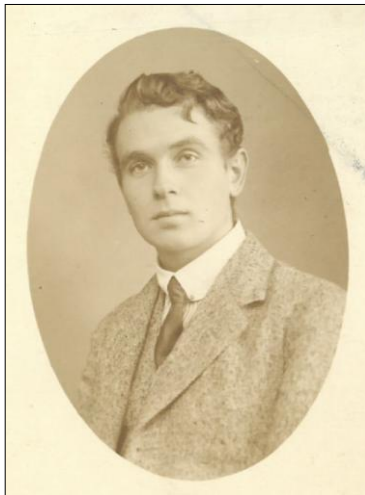
# Biographies

## Aage Bugge 1896-1979

### Some friendships between Greenland and Canada

#### Knud Eyvin Bugge

My father, Aage Bugge, was born in Nanortalik, Greenland, on February 19, 1896, where his father was “kolonibestyrelser”, i.e. manager of trade and the public administration. Aage Bugge was the son of Konrad Bugge and Hedevig Bugge, née Clausen. During the Second World War my father became acquainted with Canada and Canadians, and friendships developed. The story of these – at that time totally unforeseen – relationships exemplifies how an otherwise devastating situation may here and there generate some unexpected, positive results.



*Aage Bugge at graduation*

After having received private, primary education at home, my father acquired his secondary education at a boarding school in Denmark, while his parents remained in Greenland. At the time this was the usual practice regarding overseas stationed personnel. On July 4, 1925, my father married my mother, Anna Valborg Margrethe Jensen. At the University of Copenhagen my father graduated in theology and immediately after returned to Greenland, where he worked as a Minister for a few years, after which he was appointed principal of the teacher and pastor-training college at Godthaab (now Nuuk), the administrative centre of the island. In 1934 he was appointed Dean of Greenland. After having retired he settled in Denmark, where he taught the Greenlandic (Eskimo) language to the young, newly appointed pastors and teachers, who were to serve in Greenland. During these years he also finalized the edition of his linguistic life-work, a Danish-Greenlandic dictionary<sup>1</sup>.

In 1940 we were four children in Godthaab, Greenland, who had attained the usual age of Secondary School pupils. It was high time for us to go to Denmark. All necessary arrangements had been made. However, world events crushed these plans. In April 1940 Denmark was occupied by the German Wehrmacht, and travelling to Denmark became impossible. In May the United States took over the military protection of the island and furthermore took on the task of

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delivering the vital provisions needed by the population. In Godthab two consulates were established, one American and one Canadian. During the following two months, May and June, my father won two new friends, Mr. Kirkwood, the Canadian consul, and the Anglican bishop Archibald Fleming, bishop of the Canadian Arctic.

In the summer of 1940 nine Danish children all in all living in Greenland were ready for Secondary Schooling, four from Godthaab and five from other towns. As a transfer to Denmark was now impossible, negotiations were initiated with the purpose of exploring possibilities of schooling for these children in USA and Canada. A committee of four officials made the necessary inquiries.

Members of the committee were the governor of Greenland, the two consuls and my father, who as dean was head of church and school. My parents decided that I should attend school in Toronto, where our young Danish house assistant had an aunt and uncle, Maria and Viggo Petersen, in whose house I probably could find a home. For my father the conclusive factor was, as he said: "I want him (i.e. me) to speak British English!" On that background a personal friendship quickly developed between my father and the Canadian consul, Mr. Kirkwood.

My father's second Canadian friend was Archibald Fleming, the Anglican bishop of the Canadian Arctic, who wished to visit his Danish counterpart in Greenland. In June he arrived at Godthaab on the *Nascopie* on the way back from his yearly tour of inspection. In the church he spoke to a massive audience. After a short introduction in English, his speech was delivered in the native Eskimo language of the Canadian Arctic. His positive intention was obvious, but nobody understood what he said! Well, there was one –but one only – who understood, namely a Greenlandic pastor, who for a number of years had worked on the East coast of Greenland<sup>2</sup>.

In spite of this failure in communication – of which I believe the bishop remained unaware – friendly relations were established. The bishop's secretary, a young, tall and charming chaplain, presented me with a small snow-hut (Eskimo: *igloo*) made of whalebone. I was delighted. And my father informed Bishop Fleming of the plans concerning allocation of the four Danish school-children to Toronto. The bishop promised "to keep an eye on them". He kept his promise. Every January of our four-year stay in Toronto, we were invited to the bishop's residence, where hot chocolate and cakes was served, and the bishop was satisfactorily informed of our safety and progress.

After these church-related events my father was once again involved in the planning of the educational future of the nine children. Mr. Kirkwood informed my father generally about Canada; and specifically about the well organized school system of Ontario. As mentioned above it had been decided that I should have my schooling in Toronto. Of the remaining three pupils from Godthaab two girls were my cousins. It was obvious that we could support each other by living in the same city. Their parents, therefore, chose Toronto. The fourth, a girl, who was a close friend of my cousins, quite understandably also opted for Toronto. Our Canadian destination was settled. The parents of the five from other towns all chose a location in the USA.

The committee assigned to my father the task of finding suitable homes for the children. The committee deemed it important that the guardians chosen were of Danish origin in order to ensure that the children did not forget their Danish language, while they were away. For that purpose my father was to contact not only the school authorities, but also the pastors of the

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Danish congregations. In late April of the following year, 1941, my parents and I went by ship to Philadelphia and from there by train to New York and Toronto. While staying in New York my father had a meeting with the Danish ambassador in Washington, Henrik Kauffmann. Here it was decided that the children – in order to facilitate the necessary supervision – should not be spread out over the continent but live in relatively few local areas near the newly established Greenland Office<sup>3</sup> in New York. Four of us were already destined for Toronto. For two of the remaining five my father had found a home near Philadelphia. For the last three placements were found a little later in the northern part of New York State.

In July all nine of us had been installed. I am not aware of which arrangement had been made with the American Immigration Authorities. As far as Canada is concerned, the four of us residing in Toronto were granted permission to stay for the duration of the war. Our temporary status was, therefore, that we were “war-guests”. Once a year we were summoned to appear at a certain office in downtown Toronto. I have later learned that this system was called “controlled immigration”.

At the Toronto Union Station we were met by the Petersen family, where I was to stay, and by Bishop Fleming. In his journal my father summed up the events of our arrival in Toronto. He describes how we were kindly received and continues:

“Left Eyvin with the Petersens in the evening. Our dear boy had now been installed in a house with a kind family, but in a foreign country. A strange day! At noon we saw the depressing news of “Hood”, which was sunk between Iceland and Greenland. Sad, how the war draws closer and closer. Toronto, through which the bishop drove us, is a beautiful city adorned by green trees and several colleges and churches.”



*Aage Bugge was the last pastor to travel by kayak*

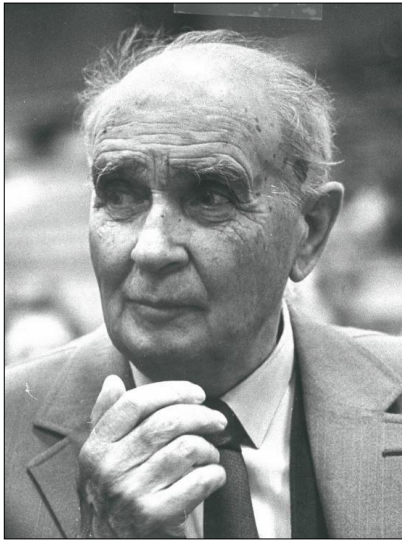
When my father uses the expression “strange day”, it must refer to an oscillation between impressions of opposite character: Kind family – foreign country; sad war-news – beautiful city, i.e. positive-negative, negative-positive. When he writes that they *saw* the news of the sinking of the British battleship “Hood”, then it means that they had seen the news on the posters of newspapers. At that time there was not yet any television. His impression of Toronto as a beautiful city is no coincidence. Bishop Fleming lived in the charming central area of “Queens Park”, where not only the parliament of Ontario, but also the University of Toronto and its many colleges are situated.

The following day my father had a meeting with Pastor W.W. Bondo, Minister at the Danish Lutheran church. He was willing to assist my father finding homes for the three girls. One was installed in the Northern part of the city with Ejner and Annie Jensen. The medical doctor Max Wilhelmsson and his wife Elly preferred to have the youngest girl. Dr. Wilhelmsson furthermore offered to take on the medical supervision of the four of us. Finding a home for the third girl

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proved to be a little more difficult. However, after Pastor Bondo had driven us around to a great number of homes, and we had sipped several litres of tea, we were successful in finding a home for her as well.

In Toronto the summer-holidays spanned over two and a half months, from the end of June until the first week of September. For the four of us coming from Greenland this was just excellent. It provided the possibility of going home during the holidays, which was also the original intention. It is likely that this possibility had contributed to overcome the reluctance of some parents in



*Aage Bugge on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday*

Greenland to send their children away to a foreign country. But once again world events shattered our small private designs. The first time was in 1940, when the Germans invaded Denmark and made it impossible for us to go to school in Denmark. The second time was in December 1941, when the United States entered the war. From then on private travel between the US and Greenland was out of the question. We had to stay, where we were.

This development could, of course, not be foreseen in the summer of 1941. What was quite clear was, however, that school was still in progress. My parents therefore decided that I might as well begin school during the last weeks before the commencement of the holidays. One of the first days of June my parents and I visited Frankland Public School (situated near the Petersen-residence) in order to make the necessary arrangements. I was admitted into the school under the

condition that I by myself learned English. The principal formulated this condition: “He must catch the flying word in the schoolyard”. “The flying word” used about oral communication is borrowed from classical Greek, from the poems of Homer. The fact that my father in his journal has recorded these words very concisely indicates that he immediately has recognized the quotation. A significant personal and cultural link between two cultures!

During the following three weeks my mother and I lived with the Petersens, while my father was away finding housing for three of the five children, who were to attend school in the USA, and for whom a home had not yet been found. For two of them accommodation had already been found. In my father’s journal it is recorded that during the first weeks of July he had completed the emplacement of all the nine school-children from Greenland. At that juncture it was decided to take a holiday. For us this was an unusual step to take. Officials working in Greenland had the right to one year’s leave in Denmark for every fifth year of service. At all other times they were in principle working. Naturally there were busy and less busy periods. The summer time, when most of the inhabited coastline was ice free, was the busiest time of all. In contrast, the winter was rather peaceful.

Now we were to have the unique experience of having a short holiday in mid-summer! The questions of how and where were solved by a secretary at Church House, the administrative centre of the Anglican diocese in Toronto. Her father owned a summer cottage at Eagle Lake near the town of South River approximately 300 km to the north of Toronto. We rented the cottage. The three weeks spent at Eagle Lake was an unforgettable experience for all of us. Small

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wonder that the secretary, Miss Bessie Quirt, entered the galaxy of my father's helpful Canadian friends! Also for me she was remarkable, because she was the only person I had ever met, who spelled her name with a Q!

During those weeks my father through talks with our neighbours and by extensive reading, eagerly absorbed historical and current knowledge about Canada. In other words, he gained a useful supplement to the knowledge he had previously absorbed at home by consulting the encyclopaedia *Salmonsens Leksikon*. In this extensive publication (30 volumes of about 900 pages each), which I have inherited, we find a thorough article about "Kanada", spelled with a K in the pre-war usual, Danish manner. As was his custom my father had in the margin with a pencil indicated which sections, he found particularly interesting. Here he has marked off the last concluding sections on "Communication" and "History".<sup>4</sup>

My father had asked Miss Quirt which books, he should buy for his holiday-reading. She recommended some novels and the historically based narrative by Franklin Davey McDowell: *The Champlain Road* (1940). The novels provided, as expected, several hours of valued entertainment. Good and well, as long as it lasted. *The Champlain Road*, however, made a lasting impression. It relates the dramatic events in mid 17<sup>th</sup> century taking place on the coast of the Georgian Bay, not far from where we were going. In 1650 the Iroquois Indians totally destroyed the French Fort Ste. Marie situated near Midland, Ontario. The fort was the Western outpost not only of the Jesuit mission among the Hurons, but also of the French-Canadian colonial empire.



*Trevor Lloyd*  
*Born in London 1906*  
*Died in Ottawa 1995*

In Mid-August we returned to Toronto. On the way we visited an Indian reservation, at a place called Rama. We talked to a few of the inhabitants and my father bought me a small birch bark canoe, which still adorns one of my shelves. One afternoon in Toronto we visited consul Kirkwood's aged mother. We had tea, and my father told her about Greenland, this strange island, where her son had been posted. On August 18th my parents left by train for New York, from where they returned to Greenland. My two cousins and I stayed in Toronto during the following four years and attended school there until May/June 1945.

On my arrival back in Godthaab I was introduced to the new Canadian consul, Trevor Lloyd, who had been a professor of Geography at the McGill University in Montreal. I discovered that a close friendship had developed between him and my father. They met often and had a lot to talk about. Gradually I understood why. I had some separate meetings with Lloyd, as he prepared a thorough documented account of my academic attainments in Canada thus preparing my re-entrance into the Danish school-system. At one of these meetings he revealed how much he admired my father and appreciated his company. He also explained why. He admired my father's English and said: "Dean Bugge's English is excellent. If he were to stay in an English-speaking country a few years, it would be perfect!" I was able to clarify the background: At Secondary School my father had as one of very few of his contemporaries opted for modern languages instead of the traditional Latin and Greek. This opportunity had become available in accordance with a then new school-law of 1903. Furthermore, in regard to religious affiliation

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Trevor Lloyd was a Quaker. For my father this fact was a very positive surprise. As a theological student he had in the early twenties written a dissertation on the Quakers, and on his bookshelves were still the writings of the founder George Fox. Also on this subject they had a lot to talk about.

After the war my father and Trevor Lloyd kept up contact. Lloyd's daughter, Mona, who as a child had attended Danish primary school in Godthaab, was in about 1960 married to a Danish pastor serving in the Danish Lutheran Church. During the following years Lloyd's repeated visits to Denmark provided new possibilities for meetings between my father and him. These occasional rendezvous continued also after my father had retired. Last time, they met, was in Mona's home sometime in the late seventies.

Trevor Lloyd and my father are now both dead, my father having passed away in 1979. Their friendship was of a deeply personal and long lasting nature. One may wish that such friendships may continue to exist between Canada and Greenland/Denmark.

### NOTES:

1. *Dansk-grønlandsk Ordbog* (1960). 739 pages. His linguistic studies included a comparison between the native languages of Labrador and Greenland, cf. the internal ministerial report *Kulturelle, sproglige og kirkelige forhold i Labrador* (1955) and a visit to Labrador in 1960.

2. In contrast to the situation on the West coast of Greenland the language of the East Greenlandic population is much closer to the language of their Canadian kinsmen. The explanation is that when the Eskimos in prehistoric times immigrated to Greenland from Northern Canada, one branch of the immigrants chose to travel along the North coast and then turn down the East coast. This coast was for centuries – until the arrival of ice-breaking ships and aeroplanes – isolated from the rest of the world due to the mile-wide ice-border along the coast from North to South. The other branch of immigrants, who chose to travel southwards, settled on the mostly ice-free coast of Western Greenland, which from the Middle Ages and onwards was frequently visited by Europeans and from 1721 and onwards colonized by the kingdom of Denmark-Norway. The language of the West Greenlandic Eskimos had on that background developed quickly, deviating from the Canadian Eskimo language, which they originally had in common with the present day East Greenlanders.

3. The supervision taken on by this office was assistance concerning: (a) Payments, (b) Inspection, and (c) Postal service. – The office transferred the necessary monthly payment from our parents to our Canadian guardians covering, for instance, food, clothing and medical bills. Schooling was free of charge. During the first year an inspector from the office arrived in order to insure that we were well, and that the guardians were satisfied with the arrangement. Later we were contacted by the office by means of letters or telephone. Packages and letters between Greenland and Toronto were transmitted through this office. For security reasons, all communications were “Opened by censor”.

4. Another literary source of information had been the novel by Captain Marryat, *The Settlers in Canada*, which he read aloud to me.

# Thor Andreassen - Dairyman

**Kai Lynge**

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Thor (Thorkild) was the fourth child born to Andreas and Ellen Andreassen. Thor was born on May 2, 1933. The family eventually grew to include ten children, three boys and seven girls. At the time of Thor's birth the family lived in Brørup, Jutland, where the father made a living as a livestock dealer. A few years after Thor's birth the family moved to Føvling where he grew up. He remembers vividly the ninth of April, 1940, when the Germans occupied Denmark. Through the living room window he saw the sky darken with German planes overflying Denmark.



Thor adored his mother and he was heartbroken when she died on June 25, 1945 shortly after having given birth to twin girls. Left with all the children the father later remarried.

Times were tough and in order to make a little money, Thor at age 12 worked on nearby farms during the summer. He learned to plow and to handle a team of horses. At age seven he had shown his entrepreneurial spirit by selling Christmas trees. His ability to deal with customers was sharpened by frequently accompanying his father on his livestock dealings. The father had excellent people skills.

At age twelve Thor also began to work as a casual labourer at a nearby dairy. He liked working there and decided that he would pursue a career in the dairy industry. When he turned fourteen he became an apprentice in the Hovborg Co-operative Dairy. Of the four year apprenticeship, two years were spent at Hovborg and two years at Vamdrup Co-operative Dairy. After completing his apprenticeship, Thor at age 18 was a qualified dairy man. The manager of Vamdrup Dairy, impressed by Thor's abilities, gave him the job of lead dairyman in the cheese department.

## **Emigration:**

On many an evening with friends the conversation turned to the topic of future plans. They also talked about possibly immigrating to Canada. These conversations made a deep impression on Thor and he decided to seek an immigrant visa to Canada, although his friends decided not to.

Shortly after applying he received his immigrant visa, where after he proceeded to make travel arrangements. In November 1951 he commenced his journey to Canada, taking the train from Copenhagen to Göteborg, Sweden. On November 17 he boarded the *MS Gripsholm* in Göteborg with 50 dollars in his pocket, in addition to a fine recommendation by the Vamdrup manager.

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The *MS Gripsholm*, built in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1924, was owned by the Swedish American Line and used on the Göteborg-New York City run. The *MS Gripsholm* made history as she was the first ship built for transatlantic express service as a diesel-powered motor ship, rather than as a steamship.

On the *Gripsholm* Thor made the acquaintance of Inga Baisner, a Mormon, on her way to Salt Lake City. Inga gave Thor a Mormon Bible written in Danish. The Bible became a treasure for Thor as he loved reading, and he was not able to read anything in English.



*Family picnic in the dunes on Fanø, 1936*

After a somewhat rough passage across the North Atlantic the *MS Gripsholm* arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax at 8:00 a.m. on December 2, 1951. On the way the ship had docked in Bremerhaven in Germany, to take on Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe that were unable or unwilling to return to their native countries after the Second World War. Some of them had spent years in camps. For most Displaced Persons at that time their embarkation point was Bremerhaven. From there they left for resettlement overseas, in the United States, Canada, Australia, Israel and other destinations.

In Halifax Thor boarded a CNR immigrant train. In Montreal the train stopped long enough for Thor to walk around Montreal to take in the sights. Then it was back on the train. It was not a pleasant journey. It was an immigrant train with wooden benches. Thor was seated in a long wide coach with Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe, who would cook and eat in the coach.

Thor's initial destination in Canada was a dairy farm in Saskatchewan, in the Yorkton area. The farmer met Thor at the station and took him to the farm. Having to sleep in the barn along with another farm hand under very uncomfortable conditions and finding the farm in general and the work in particular unpleasant he decided after a few weeks to quit.

On the way to Saskatchewan the train had stopped in Winnipeg. Here Thor had met members of the Thomsen family – who were from Ribe in Jutland. The Thomsens took him to their home where he had a shower and a good meal. When they took him back to the station they parted with the words: “If you decide to come back to Winnipeg we will help you find a job”.

The parting words were in Thor's mind when he decided to leave Saskatchewan. Spending most of his savings he bought a bus ticket and took off for Winnipeg.

The Thomsens got Thor in contact with Mr. C.H.P. Killick, Dairy Commissioner for Manitoba. Thor's qualifications impressed Mr. Killick, but he told Thor: “Initially you will have to work on a farm until you have learnt enough English to work in a dairy”. So Thor went to work on yet another farm.

### **Entering the Dairy Business:**

When his English had improved he found a dairy job in Brandon. Always looking for a better opportunity he later found a job in the Nepawa creamery. Nepawa turned out to be an almost

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heavenly determined destination for Thor. Here he met Dorothy Forsythe, a secretary in the Land Titles office. The two fell in love and were married in 1953. She was 19 and he was 20.

The following year, 1954, Thor was appointed supervisor at the Portage creamery, a privately owned creamery in Portage la Prairie. While still connected with the creamery Thor attended a three month course in dairy operation at the University of Manitoba. After completing the course, Thor became superintendent of the creamery. The manager of the creamery, although officially in charge, left all management decisions and activities to Thor. Doing the manager's job but without the pay, Thor let it be known in the industry that he was looking for another opportunity.

### **Moving to Alberta:**

After some time a phone call came from Alberta. The owners of the Jasper Dairy in Edmonton called. During a visit to the Andreassens in Portage they were impressed by Thor's abilities and offered him the position of superintendent of the Jasper Dairy. He accepted the offer after having discussed it with Dorothy.

In late October 1956 the Andreassens and their two daughters, born in Portage, left Portage for Edmonton. When Thor took up his new position he was appalled by the condition of the dairy, inside as well as outside, and he wondered if he had made the right decision. But he was there and decided to face the challenge of improving the place. He later learned that the City Health Department was about to close the dairy unless the operation was improved.

Thor immediately began to work long hours to improve the dairy. Later that year he hired a Danish dairy man, Kai Jorgensen, who had recently come to Edmonton. Thor who had been appointed manager and Kai spent countless hours on improving the dairy and its operation. The two became close friends and the friendship continued after Kai left Edmonton.

With the improvements the dairy began to make a profit. The award of a contract to supply milk to the Armed Forces significantly boosted the business, as did a contract to supply milk to the Safeway supermarket chain.



*Thor and his sisters are left to right: Asta, Kamma, Signe, Thor, Inger, Eva, Louise.*

Then in 1963 the two brothers who owned the dairy decided to sell. After securing the necessary financing Thor and a partner bought the dairy. Thor continued as manager and his associate assumed the position of silent partner. Then an opportunity arose to sell the site at 119 St. and 104 Ave. where the dairy was located. The sale was completed and a new dairy was built at 11135 – 151 St. NW. The new plant began operations in 1964.

A phone call in 1965 from Safeway inquired if some Safeway officials could come to see the new plant. The answer was affirmative. Following the visit, Thor went to Oakland to talk with

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the Safeway head office to see if he could expand his business with Safeway. At a point during the talks the Safeway dairy boss asked: "Do you want to sell?" The reason for the question was that Safeway wanted to sell milk they produced themselves. Only dairies had licence to sell milk. A licence only allowed a dairy to sell milk in the area in which it was located.

A sale was completed and Safeway took over the dairy on September 19, 1966. Safeway had asked Thor to continue as manager, which he did.

Thor wanted to supply milk to other Safeway stores outside Edmonton. Following this notion he sent a truck with milk to a Safeway store in Calgary. This prompted a call from the Dairy Control Board: "You better come and see us". When he went to the Board, the chairman said: "You are selling milk in Calgary without a licence". "Yes", answered Thor, "I want to supply milk to our Calgary stores as well as those in Edmonton". To which the chairman replied: "Well, you have already sold in Calgary, so you may as well continue".



*With Dot at his retirement*

The success of this initiative prompted Thor to supply milk to other Safeway stores in the province. This happened without any hassle.

The business was going well and 1971 saw Thor promoted to District Manager in charge of the dairies in Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg as well as those in Seattle, Portland, Salt Lake City and Butte. Company policy, however, required District Managers to live in the Oakland area close to head office. The Andreassens therefore moved to Oakland in 1972. The job of District Manager required much travel and Thor missed many family suppers.

After coping with the travel for three years Thor approached his boss and explained that the extensive travel was very hard on his family and that he could do a good job of managing the Canadian operations if he lived in Canada.

The boss understood the situation and was positively disposed. A memo went up to the Safeway management recommending that Thor be in charge of the Canadian operations and that he be allowed to reside in Canada. Thus the Andreassens came back to Alberta in 1975 with Thor as president of Lucerne Foods, the new name for the Canadian dairy and meat operations.

For a while Safeway tried to get a foothold in the Toronto area. This led Thor to acquire two small dairies in Ontario for Safeway. But competition was tough in the Toronto area and after some time Safeway decided to retract. The Ontario dairies were sold off.

In 1986 New York financiers became majority stockholders in Safeway and the corporate environment changed. Thor had enjoyed the full confidence of the previous management and had been free to manage the Canadian operations to the best of his ability, but with the new management detailed instructions as how to run the business were issued regularly. This took the enjoyment and sense of accomplishment out of the job. After coping with the new corporate environment for four years, Thor decided in 1990 to retire.

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### **Thor, the Man:**

Thor's professional forte was his unceasing quest for quality. He realized early that in order to improve the quality of his products he needed to get better quality milk from the farmers. He therefore spent much time with farmers helping them to improve on quality. He also worked with experts on dairy quality in order to glean information that could help him improve his operations.

Thor also took a great interest in the training and development of his employees. Thus he was proud when someone who had worked and trained under him became successful in the industry.

Thor's abilities were recognized throughout the industry, and by the government. After his retirement from Lucerne the Federal Government asked him to help improve dairy production and processing in Third World countries. As an expert and consultant on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency he travelled extensively for a period of four years.

Thor served for twelve years on the executive of the National Dairy Council, retiring as an honorary member in 1992. That same year, in further recognition of his ability, Thor was appointed to the Alberta Dairy Control Board, serving for ten years. The Board regulates the milk industry in Alberta.

Thor knew how to work hard, but he also knew how to have a good time. Members of the former Scandinavian Businessmen's Club remember with pleasure BBQs held at the Andreassen home during the time when Thor was a member and president of the Board. The steaks were supreme and after the meal Thor would get his accordion and lead the singing.

Music has played a very important role in Thor's life. Growing up in a family where everyone sang and played instruments was a strong influence in his younger years and throughout his life. His mother, Ellen, loved to sing and had a beautiful voice. He remembers her saying, "Don't forget, where there is good music and song there can be no harm." In his early days in Canada he joined the Barbershop Singers in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, and continued singing with them when the family moved to Edmonton. He was also asked to join the Edmonton Opera Society. He practiced with them for a short time, but was unable to continue due to work commitments. His love of music and singing has stayed with him. He is still known as a beautiful singer today. He enjoys getting together with family and friends to sing and play the accordion.



*Thor and his children Ellen, Signe and Peter*

### **The Family:**


Thor and Dorothy raised three children, Ellen and Signe both born in Portage la Prairie and Peter born in Alberta. All three live in Alberta. Upon their return from Oakland the Andreassens purchased an acreage north of Stony Plain. It became the centre for the life of the family for many years.

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Thor and the children were inconsolable when Dorothy passed away on December 31, 2007 after a lengthy illness. With her warm and caring personality Dorothy had been homemaker extraordinaire. She was also an unwavering support for Thor during his career development.

Being alone Thor decided a couple of years ago to move into Stony Plain where he purchased a condominium. While he still kept the acreage, he turned the use of the family home over to his granddaughter Maria.

Now fully retired Thor treasures the time he spends with his children and three grandchildren, Maria, Lukas and Katey. At the end of the interview Thor said, "I want to thank my family, friends and former employees for their friendship and support, making my years in Canada the best I could have wished for!"



# Granly



**Danish Lutheran Church - Surrey, B.C.**

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CANADA

Tel. (604) 581 062  
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*Sunday church services are alternately in  
Danish and English*

Other Activities are:  
*Ladies' Auxiliary,  
Wednesday Club,  
Bible Study and  
Literature Study Group*

WELCOME to  
The Danish Church  
in Vancouver B.C.  
6010 Kincaid Street  
Burnaby B.C.  
V5G 4N3  
Tel.: (604) 298-6112



Church Service every  
Sunday morning. The  
first and third Sunday  
each month in Danish,  
the other Sundays  
in English, unless  
otherwise announced.

We will be happy to send the Church Newsletter every month with information regarding Church Services, Meetings, Movie Nights and much more.  
[www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca)

# Jens Dixen, the Missionary

**Jens Kaack, Calgary**

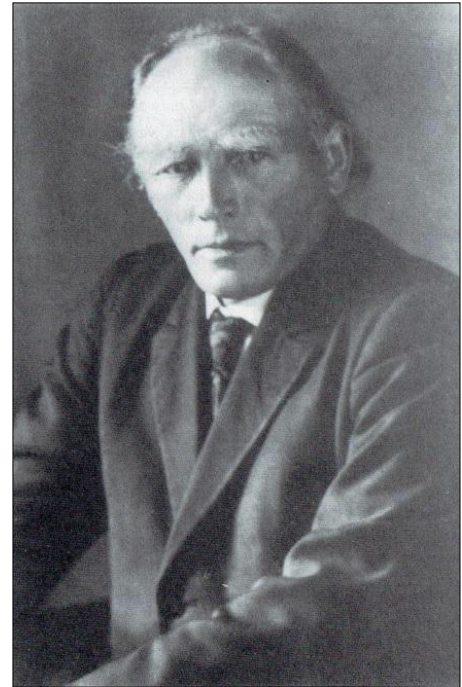
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Jens Dixen was born on April 5, 1858, in Rojbøl, three kilometres south of Jels, Denmark. Those were trying times in North Slesvig with negotiations taking place with Germany, which nevertheless resulted in the War of 1864 where Denmark lost Slesvig and Holstein. It had a big impact on the young Jens. The border was moved just north of Jels. All education was now to be in German. Already at a young age he kept a diary, where he expressed opinions about these historic events, including the joy he felt when North Slesvig came back to Denmark in 1920.

At age ten, he was hired out as a shepherd boy, and he only went to school in the winter time. In 1875, when he was seventeen years old, he immigrated to Denmark; otherwise he would have been drafted into the German army for two years. At the time Germany's relations with France were tense. Jens didn't put down roots in Denmark, as in 1880 he immigrated to America.

His strong Christian faith came from his parents, especially his mother. His mother died when he was fifteen years old. The family was influenced by the Moravian congregation in Christiansfeld (Brødremenigheden). In 1884 in Dows, Iowa, he had a conversion through the Moody Bible Institute. For some years in the 1880s he attended Elk Horn College in Iowa. Later he attended Dana College in Blair, Nebraska.

During the first year in the U.S. he stayed with a cousin, Laust Dixen, in Bangor, Wisconsin. Later, he moved to Latimer by Coulter in Iowa where his uncle Hans lived.



Then in 1888 his father and sister emigrated from Denmark. Jens worked at a gravel pit for about a year, and then he worked for the railway for seven years. In 1887 he started as a tiling contractor digging drainage ditches. He was big and strong and very good at it, so he was making a decent living. In 1891 he was able to buy forty acres of land in Latimer, Iowa, for four hundred dollars. It was swamp land, but due to his knowledge about drainage he was able to turn it into good farmland.

From a young age Jens wanted to serve the Lord. He was what you might call a born missionary. From the time of his conversion in 1884 Jens made it his mission to tell "the old, old story". He would tell the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to his fellow men in public, as well as, in private. At first he gave his testimony at local meetings in churches; but in 1887 he began to conduct

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Evangelist and revival meetings where and whenever he had the opportunity to do so. In the summer, he worked in the ditches during the week. Late Saturday afternoon or evening, he was off on foot. If he had to travel further he took the train to some Danish or Scandinavian settlement to preach several times on Sunday. There was never much time to sleep or rest. He slept on the trains when he travelled. If he arrived at his destinations during the night, he would sleep on a bench in the railway station. On Monday he was back at work digging.

During the winter months, when no tiling was possible Jens would take more extended trips covering days and weeks at a time. Thus he visited every Danish settlement and congregation, either on his own account or by invitation from pastors and congregations, especially in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. He also visited the Danish settlements of Redvers, Saskatchewan and Dickson Alberta, as well as Calgary.

His father died in 1900 in Latimer, Iowa. In 1902 Jens went with his pastor H.P. Hansen from his home church in Coulter, Iowa, up to Kenmare, North Dakota. Land had just come up for homesteading. A man could obtain one quarter section, that is, one hundred and sixty acres for just a small administration fee. They found the land very productive and flat. It was good for farming, so Jens and Pastor Hansen each took a homestead around Kenmare. When they came back to Iowa they told people about the good land and also advertised it in Denmark. Within two years over a thousand Danish families had settled around the Kenmare area.

They built Trinity Lutheran Church, just north of the town of Kenmare, and it is still in operation to this day. They also built Nazareth Lutheran Church in Kenmare, and five other churches in the surrounding area. The years he spent in North Dakota were rich in spiritual harvesting. In every one of the newly founded congregations in North Dakota and Montana, he was a blessing, and he was used as an instrument in God's hands to lead souls to Christ. This was especially true at Trinity Lutheran Church, where a spiritual awakening took place in the spring of 1903. It spread through most of the settlements around that area. Even today you may find his footprints in various congregations. There is a plaque on the wall in Trinity Lutheran Church that was given to this church in October 2013. It was the centennial of the founding of the Lutheran Church in Nigeria through the Sudan Mission. The inscription says, "This award is presented to Jens Dixen



*Trinity Lutheran Church, Kenmare*

for generous contributions to mission work in times of need" from the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Dakota, at the LCC Centenary celebration. There is also an eight foot stone monument across the road where the site of Brorson High School was. He was director and president for seven years. This inscription says, "This is the site of Brorson a Lutheran Folk School 1905-1920 in memory of the work of Jens Dixen 1858-1931 "A burning and a shining light" John 5:35 erected in 1952."

He not only worked as a preacher for the Kingdom of God, but also as a school teacher. In his little home near Coulter, Iowa, he invited a number of boys to come for ten weeks in the winter months. There he taught them the catechism, the Bible and mission history. In this work he sought to lead these boys to Jesus Christ, and if possible, awaken in them a love for, and an interest in, the work of the Kingdom as missionaries or preaching of The Word. Twenty-five of these boys became pastors.

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In North Dakota he continued the same work in his shanty. Here he had quite a number of boys whom he called his “shanty boys”. This work was later transferred to Brorson High School. One of his students, John M. Jensen, who for twenty-five years was the editor of the *Ansgar Lutheran* magazine wrote, “I believe Jens Dixen regarded these years as the richest in his life”. He never studied pedagogy, yet he knew the value of learning by doing. Jens would give each child ten cents at the beginning of the year. They were to put this capital to work and bring in the profit at the end of the year to be used for world missions. There was a boy, Søren in Kenmare, Iowa, who invested five dollars in popcorn and sold it. Then he bought more popcorn, and then he bought flaxseed, planted it in new broken land and made a profit of fifty- five dollars. In 1989 in his article “I Once Knew a Giant” in *Canadian Lutheran* magazine, Pastor Arnfeld C. Morck from Dickson, Alberta, tells the story of the coin he received from Jens. He had bought a piece of tamarack wood. From the wood he made two doubletrees, sold them, bought more tamarack and birch and made more doubletrees and sold them. With the proceeds he bought wheat seed, and rented six acres of land from his dad. Selling the wheat crop brought a net profit of seventy-seven dollars and seventy-four cents.

At Brorson his work was mainly given to lecturing to the students, in church and mission history, biblical lectures and devotional talks, but he never neglected the personal work. One evening he had a talk with a young man about the condition of his soul. He didn’t answer much, but rather spurned the approach. However, Jens became more personal, pleading with him to surrender his heart to God now, because He was calling him. The next day the young man left the school and that part of the country. Jens lost sight of him and partly forgot the conversation. Several years later, Jens, to his great surprise, received a thirty-page letter from the young man who tells a strange story. That evening, after Jens had talked to him in his room at the school, he had gotten out of bed, went outside and started to walk east toward the little village of Norma. He was angry. Two powers were fighting to gain possession of his soul. The evil one gained the upper hand. The next day the young man left the school and went to Canada. There he started a business of his own. He was successful and made good money so that he could even expand his business. But then he took to drinking and things began to go wrong and finally he got into debt. This led to dishonesty and forging checks. He was arrested and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. It was from this place he had written his letter to Jens. At first he fought against men and God. He even tried to take his own life. Since that night Jens had talked to him, only one person, a girl, had talked to him about his soul’s salvation. It was as though an evil spirit was upon him and was driving him towards the abyss. Then one Christmas Eve a different spirit came to him, and reminded him of the evening when he sat with Jens and he had talked to him about God and his soul’s salvation. He came to see the abyss of eternal perdition (total destruction) which frightened him so then he went down on his knees in his cell and began to cry out to God for mercy. On Christmas Day he summoned the prison chaplain and confessed his condition to him. The chaplain prayed with him, and they read The Word of God together. Gradually his eyes were opened to see the power of the blood of Christ to cleanse him from all sin. His sins were forgiven and the prisoner became a free man in



*Brorson High School, Kenmare*

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Christ, a pardoned child of God. After some time had passed, the chaplain succeeded in gaining the permission of the prison authorities to take the prisoner along to a number of meetings in the city, at which, he was given occasion to tell the story of his life and," to show the exceeding riches of God's grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2: 7. It would have been better if this young man had surrendered his heart to God the night Jens first talked to him about it. In truth, the way of the transgressor is hard, and sin is reproach to any nation.

In 1903 Jens made his first missionary trip abroad. He spent the summer in Denmark. He then bought a ticket to South Africa, sailing via the Canary Islands. Arriving in South Africa he visited the Moravian Mission station in Gnadenthal where they were working with the Hottentot people. He spent Christmas there. He travelled through Transvaal and the Cape where he visited the lepers on Robben Island. He also visited the Danish colonies. From there he sailed to New Zealand, travelling through New Zealand and Australia meeting and ministering to Danes. In Newcastle, Australia, he met a man by the name of Thomsen, who had had a farm in South Dakota. He had a conversion, sold his farm and was now looking after the Seamen's mission.

Later when Jens returned to North Dakota, he could see that the land they had settled was the best land for quality wheat. So Jens travelled to the northwest corner of North Dakota and north east Montana where at the time, free homesteading land was offered by the government. So Jens and others advertised for people in Denmark and also other places in the U.S. to come and farm. In 1905 there were already around one hundred Danish families. The colonies were named Daneville and Westby. Jens also took a homestead up there and later also a homestead near Culbertson, Montana. Those two farms were later donated to the Sudan Missions and were rented out with the proceeds going to the mission. Also in 1905 it was decided to build a boarding school. Pastor P.M. Petersen went around to the people to see if there was interest and collected money. When they were finished they had lots of interest and more than the seven thousand dollars which the school would cost. It was called Brorson High School after the Folk High Schools in Denmark. But it was really more an American Bible School. Jens became the first principal and president of the school, which opened in 1905. In 1920 it was necessary to close the school, because of low enrollment due to the First World War. The school had had full enrollment up until then. There was room for about fifty students, some students lived nearby. In 1922 the buildings were sold to Trinity Lutheran Church, and used by the community.

After the end of the 1907 school year Jens went on a speaking tour around North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. When he came home he started a two-year world tour. He took the train to Vancouver and sailed first to Hawaii, where he spent some time, then onto the Fiji Islands. Many people in Australia looked forward to his visit. Most Danes lived in Queensland and its capital Brisbane. They had started to emigrate in the 1870s with encouragement from the Australian State. For a while things were good, but then, after the establishment of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901 many factories were closed, leaving people out of work. In the late 1800s there was a severe drought where no rain fell for four and a half years. That pretty well forced all farmers into bankruptcy and they had to move off the land. There were twelve congregations in Queensland at that time with a large congregation in Brisbane. None of them had a pastor, so attendance declined. The congregations were a mix of Scandinavians. Jens made many visits to the homes and had meetings in the churches. When he returned to the U.S. he encouraged many pastors to move to Australia and also appealed to the Danish Synods to help finance the churches. Before leaving Australia, he spent a few days in

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Sydney at the Seaman Mission. Two Swedish sisters, Alma Rash and Hudda Lederstrom, looked after the mission. At the time there was a Norwegian freighter in the harbour. Jens was having a meeting at the mission, when the Norwegian crew showed up. The meeting went on until midnight.

From Australia he sailed to New Zealand, where he met Einar Høll's family which had fallen on hard times and never really got settled in New Zealand. He encouraged them to come to North Dakota to get a free homestead and start over again. When they arrived in North Dakota, they lived in his house for a short time until they could get settled on a homestead. On the way back to the U.S. he stopped at Sri Lanka and India. He went to Calcutta. This is where the Danish missionary Hans Peter Børresen heard the Lord's voice. Sometime afterwards, Hans Peter Børresen and Norwegian Lars Skrefsrud started the Salthan mission. Jens spent Christmas 1908 at the mission Ebenezer in Santhalishtan. It is mentioned in a book about the mission written by Norwegian writer Johannes Gausdal," that he came walking by foot and spent Christmas there".

From India he sailed up through the Red Sea. At the Suez Canal he got off to visit the Holy Land. He was glad to see all the places that he had read about in the Bible. But he was not impressed by Jerusalem, especially the church of the Holy Sepulchre. He spent some time at the American colony where a hundred and ten people were living in one home. They lived just like the first Christians. They shared everything in common. He also spent some time with the Moravian Mission who ran a hospital for lepers. There he met a young girl, Olga, from North Slesvig. He said that the mission was a light in the darkness. He then travelled to Denmark and spent two months there before heading back to the United States. By then he had spent almost two years travelling the world.



*Johann Ludwig  
Krapf*

In June 1910 he was a delegate for the United Danish Church of America to the world mission conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. That was the year that the Sudan Mission (now Africa Mission) was founded, and they needed start-up capital. Jens sold one of his farms and donated three thousand dollars for the start-up. It was the German explorer, linguist and missionary Johann Ludwig Krapf who had suggested that there should be mission stations across Africa from Lagos in West Africa to Zanzibar on the east coast, to counter the spread of Islam.

Jens met President Anton Petersen, pastor at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Aalborg; Niels Brønnum, a physician who was already in Africa working as a missionary; as well as Margaret Nissen from Dickson, Alberta, who was working as a missionary in northern Nigeria. It was Jens who encouraged the Nissen family to come to Dickson, Alberta. He had met them on one of his trips. There was at that time an interest in the Sudan Mission in America. Pastor Bing L. Petersen and Kilsig, and several people from America worked and served with the Sudan Mission. Ms. Ericksen, Erland Kjær, Ms. Tillisch, Pastor Thomson and Ms. Gibson all served overseas. To this day there is still a strong support for the mission in the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. The Sudan Mission is still going strong. I spoke to Pastor Cole Bentley, who is the pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Kenmare, North Dakota, and he told me that he had been to a church conference in Nigeria in 2014 and he had attended a service with over fifty thousand people in attendance.

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*Christine and Jens*

While in Europe, Jens Dixen stopped in Denmark to marry Christine Krüger from Skanderup. Jens was at this time fifty-two years old and Christine was forty-six. He had always wanted to have a son. Christine's sister and her husband had ten children and he went to inquire whether they could do without one of their children. But unfortunately, they couldn't spare any. They lived in Bastrup, which is north of the old border. But it was different at Niels and Mette Christiansen's home in Grønnebæk (Niels was Christine's brother who also had ten children). Since this was Germany, at the age of eighteen all young men were drafted into the German army for two years. Two of the boys wanted to follow Jens back to America. The oldest was Mathias. He was seventeen years old at the time and when he came to America he studied theology and became a pastor. On June 20, 1923 Pastor Mathias G. Christiansen became pastor at Sharon Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Calgary. His younger brother was Marius Christiansen. He was only fifteen years old at the time and

could not immigrate, so Jens adopted him as a son before he came with him to America. He also studied theology and became a pastor. There were fifty-thousand young Danish men who immigrated to North America during the fifty-six years that North Slesvig was under German rule, and there were about 5,300 young Danish men who lost their lives in the First World War, conscripted into the German army.

Jens, now a married man, returned to America. He again began teaching at the Brorson School and his wife worked in the kitchen at the school. At the same time he was met with opposition, especially from the clergy, because he did not send his two adopted sons to the seminary at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. Instead, they went to Augsburg seminary in Minneapolis, and he had also recommended another young man to attend the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Another way he was getting into trouble was promoting the Sudan Mission in Africa, instead of supporting the mission that the local churches were carrying out among the Native Indians in America. There was also a mission in Japan that the churches had supported. Jens took it very seriously and it is without a doubt that it hurt him a lot. Jens was an individualist who had not received formal higher education and who did not have a degree in theology.



*Jens and Christine  
with Marius*

Jens left on another missionary trip in 1914. He went by train through the Canadian Rockies to Vancouver where he boarded the ship, "Marama" which he had sailed on before. While on the ship he spent his time reading the Bible and writing letters. As part of his mission work, he corresponded with over two hundred people. On the ocean he especially loved the sunsets. It reminded him of the sunsets he had seen where he had grown up in Denmark, and when he spent time in Gradiental at the Moravian Mission in Africa. There was a stopover in Hawaii, and Jens didn't waste any time. He went to the graveyard. He said it was the most beautiful graveyard he had ever seen with trees and flowers. He had another interesting experience in Honolulu. He was standing by the post office just watching people go by when a young man came up to him and asked if he had spoken at the Swedish Seamen's Mission in Sydney, Australia. It turned out that

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this young man was one of the Norwegians who had left the ship in Sydney harbour, when Jens had spoken at the mission. Jens had apparently left a lasting impression on this young man.

Jens was in New Zealand and Australia from June 1914 until June 1915. While he was there he held ninety services in the Danish congregations in Australia, and sixty-five services in the Danish congregations in New Zealand. He also made five hundred and thirty-seven house calls. He travelled over twenty six thousand miles by ship and on land. He walked over a thousand miles on foot and conducted over two hundred services in all.

He always travelled at his own expenses and when he was in New Zealand he took on work in a gravel pit, as he was used to working with a shovel back home. The foreman there was Irish by the name of George. One rainy morning the crew was standing in a shanty above the pit waiting for the weather to clear up. The men were talking about many things. Foreman George and several of the workers were especially interested in, and talked about boxing matches and such sports. Towards noon the weather finally cleared, and the engineer brought the cars where they were to be loaded. They got started on their work again. As the engineer had an injured hand, he asked foreman George to help him to disconnect the gravel cars from the engine. As he tried to do this, his foot slipped and he fell under the cars, which went over him, severing one leg completely, and coming to a stop on the other foot. They were called out of the pit to help. They found poor George a bloody mess and crying in pain, "Oh my neck, oh my back!" They finally managed to get him out and laid him down and gave him a drink of water. Now he began to cry, "Oh my wife, my dear wife!" Then Jens asked him, "What about your soul?" Then he cried out, "Oh my, oh my soul, I am lost". Jens tried his best to tell him about the Saviour who died for our sins. He reminded him of the thief who repented in his last hour on the cross and he was saved, but it was as though he didn't hear a thing. They finally got him into a coach and took him to the city. Jens went along, holding him in his arms, all the while trying to lead his thoughts to Christ on Calvary. But it all seemed in vain. At the station they were met by an ambulance, and a doctor who took George to the hospital where he died the following night. His last words were, "I'm lost". None of the men felt like working anymore that day. Death had spoken its serious language. "Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live". (This verse is related to Hezekiah's illness in 2 Kgs.:20). Jens later stated, "But in just a few days these men talked and joked as before. The devil surely makes it his business to erase all such impressions, that men may continue the wild dance, the mad and thoughtless course in life until they go over the brink into the abyss of eternal perdition."

On the way back from New Zealand and Australia the ship stopped at the Island of Rosotonga in the South Pacific, where some of the passengers were able to leave the ship for a few hours. That is the island where John Williams and Jacob Chalmers from England spent ten years as missionaries. The ship also sailed past the Island of Raiatea where John Williams started as a missionary in 1818. They stopped at Tahiti in French Polynesia, where the crew loaded up the ship with coal and food. They spent two days there. Jens used the time to visit the French Mission. He had met their manager Beugner in Edinburgh. The ship docked in San Francisco where the world fair was in full process, so Jens took that in as well. He had been gone for ten months, but he did not go straight home. On the way, he had meetings in Fresno, California; Eugene, Oregon; Portland, Oregon and Tacoma, Washington, on up through Canada to North Dakota and onto Minnesota and last to Luck, Wisconsin where the United Danish Church convention was taking place. After two months he finally reached his farm in Latimer, Iowa. On

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the way he spoke at meetings in churches, Sunday schools, missions and the places were filled with people eager to hear his message. He also visited people in their homes bringing greetings from New Zealand, Australia and Denmark. He walked most of the time when he visited the people along the way. His wife Christine was in Denmark. She had gone there earlier and was not able to return because of the war. From 1915 until 1921 he spent his time on his farm in Latimer, Iowa. There he dug ditches in the summer, besides looking after his work on the farm, and when the ground was frozen, and he couldn't dig; he spent his time at meetings all over Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and Nebraska. In 1919 his old pastor, I.P. Jensen from North Dakota contacted him. Pastor Jensen was involved in building an old folks home in Minden, Nebraska, and he wanted Jens to be the director. Jens was interested, so Christine and Jens went to Minden in November to help Pastor Jensen get it started. The old folks' home was called "Bethany", and is still today a beautiful facility with rooms for 80 residents.

In April 1921, Jens left San Francisco by ship to sail to New Zealand. But before that, he spent some time with Danes in Ferndale, California. In New Zealand he stayed mostly in Wellington and Palmerston where he visited old friends and had meetings in the churches. He noticed that several of his old friends were gone, and the young people were not coming out to the meetings. Moreover, Jens' health was gradually beginning to deteriorate.



*Cairn at Brorson High School*

Jens sailed from New Zealand to Australia on the ship, "Manaka". They encountered a bad storm, but they arrived safely in Sydney. He stayed at the Seaman Mission. It was like a reunion meeting the Swedish sisters who managed the mission. He took the train up to Warwick, five hundred kilometers north of Sydney. From there he went to Freestone where he spoke at several meetings as he had many friends there.

His health was not good. He was now sixty three years old and could no longer handle the strenuous work of visitations and meetings, so in the middle of October he boarded a ship for San Francisco and arrived home in Latimer, Iowa, in November 1921. His wife Christine had spent her time cooking at the old folks' home in Minden, Nebraska, but she also came home. That was Jens' fourth and last trip to New Zealand and Australia. After he came back to Latimer he took three months off due to his illness. He was diagnosed with diabetes, and he developed high blood pressure. He managed to regulate his diabetes and high blood pressure with diet and rest. He believed that he was immortal until his mission in life was complete.

In 1918 a law came into effect in the state of Iowa that the only official language was English and Jens spoke only Danish at his meetings. He had difficulty sharing the gospel in English, so he continued to speak Danish. Only in the Sunday schools was English spoken. Jens started meetings again. In April 1922 he started fundraising for the Sudan Mission in Kenmare, North Dakota. He raised seven hundred dollars. He also spoke in Wesley, Iowa, and went on a speaking tour through Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. He was starting to get his energy back. In November he raised seven hundred and forty dollars from Australia for the Sudan Mission.

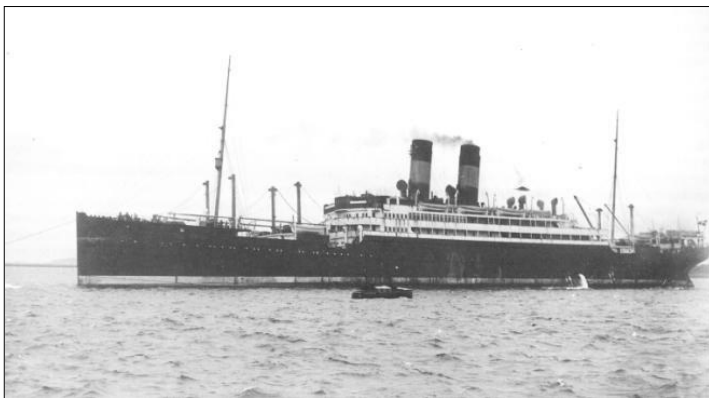
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During the winter months he taught Bible classes at his home church to young people and adults.

In June 1923 Bishop Harald Ostenfeld and Pastor J. Olsen came to Elk Horn, Iowa, to attend the United Danish Church convention. Pastor Olsen was president of the Sudan Mission. At the convention Mathias Christiansen was ordained and his first call was to be the pastor for the Danish congregation in Calgary. He was actually pastor of Calgary, Olds and Edmonton. There he served for over three years. He then resigned and returned to U.S. After the convention Jens travelled with Pastor Olsen to Coulter and Audubon, Iowa, and Omaha where they spoke at several meetings. They travelled to Flaxton, North Dakota, for the annual general meeting at the Lebanon Society. It was a support society for the Sudan Mission in the U.S. They raised eight hundred and thirty-seven dollars and there was a full attendance at the meeting.

In 1924 Jens and Christine started thinking about selling their property as they wanted to spend their last years in Denmark. North Slesvig was now again a part of Denmark, after the plebiscite in 1920. In May 1924 Jens went on a speaking tour throughout Oregon and California. On the way back he attended the convention of the United Church in Fremont, Nebraska. In the fall he spoke at the opening of a new church in Albert Lea, Minnesota. He also spoke in Chicago and several places in Minnesota. Over Christmas some young people came from Dana College to visit him and stayed for several days.

In February 1925 Jens bought tickets to go to Denmark to check out if Christine and he could relocate to Denmark. They actually settled in Denmark in January 1927. Before departing from New York Jens spent four days visiting his old student friend Frederick Lund from Brorson High School, who was now professor at Columbia University in New York. They sailed on the ship, the “*United States*” and arrived in Copenhagen in mid-March. His first stop was Lutheran Mission Bible School north of Hillerød where he brought greetings from the U.S. to a student that was attending the school. The student asked the president if Jens could speak at the evening devotion and the president Frits Larsen reluctantly agreed. The president was not impressed with the appearance of Jens, so he told him he had twenty minutes to speak. But when Jens started to speak, he had them so captivated that the twenty minutes turned into two hours, and Frits Larsen never forgot the encounter. The next four and half month he spent conducting speaking engagements and visiting with friends all around Denmark. He also attended the conventions for the Inner Mission as well as the Moravian Congregation in Christiansfeld.



*SS Frederik VIII,  
Flagship of the Scandinavian America Line*

In July Jens returned to America on the ship “*Frederick VIII*”. According to his diary he spent the last eight days with meetings at a different place every day, so he needed to rest. On board he wrote about how things were in Denmark, comparing its politics and economy to that of America. He wrote about how productive farming was in Iowa and North Dakota. This time he landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He travelled to New Denmark, New Brunswick. He visited one of his former students from

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Brorson Bible School. John M. Jensen was now the Pastor of the Lutheran Church. In 1925 the language in the church was still Danish. He recounts how the first Danes settled in New Denmark in 1872, and how productive the land was with grain, peas and potatoes. Jens wrote that the climate is nice and that the people live longer here.

At the beginning of September Jens was back in Iowa, where he transferred the title of his farm to his adopted son Marius. The farm was only eighty acres and Marius bought another eighty acres right beside it. The deal was that, Marius had to pay two hundred dollars a year to Jens for life. Later in September they had an auction and sold everything. Jens collected about a thousand dollars. After settling his affairs, Jens started a farewell trip. He travelled up to Kenmare, North Dakota, where he had several meetings. He also took in a meeting at the Sudan Mission in Flaxton, North Dakota. Then on to Danaville, Coalridge, Fertile and Westby in the northeastern corner of Montana. These were the settlements he had helped to start and where he owned a farm. His income from that farm went to the Sudan Mission; he called it The Mission Farm.

In the fall of 1925 he travelled up to the hamlet of Dickson Alberta. He was welcomed with open arms. He spoke every evening for a whole week and also took in a silver anniversary. He also promised to come back and stay for the winter and help them out since they didn't have a pastor. He also visited Mathias Christiansen at Sharon Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Calgary. The church had a school called Dana Home and High School. There they helped new immigrants with the English language and to adjust to a new life in Canada. There were a lot of new immigrants from Denmark in those years. On the way back to Iowa, he stopped in Minneapolis, Northfield and Hampton and Coulter. He had seen an enormous amount of people and received a lot of handshakes and well wishes. He stayed in Iowa over Christmas and in January 1926 he went back to Dickson to take over the position as interim pastor until Pastor Bentsen arrived. Jens then travelled back to Denmark and arrived there in June 1926.

In July 1928 he travelled to the United States and Canada for the last time. That was his seventh trip across the ocean. He travelled through Chicago, Minnesota, Iowa up to Kenmare and North Dakota and onto Dickson, where Pastor Bentsen had just resigned. Jens agreed to take on the position as interim pastor. He managed to talk Pastor Paul Nyholm from Des Moines, Iowa, to come to Dickson as they were in need of a pastor. While in Dickson, Jens laid the foundations for starting the dormitory for girls, so they could have a high school out in the country. The dormitory now houses the Danish Canadian National Museum. He also helped lay the groundwork for the Bible Camp at Sylvan Lake now called, Camp Kuriakos, and The Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose. When Pastor Nyholm arrived in the spring he continued the work to get those projects off the ground, and Pastor Nyholm after two years became the first president of CLBI in Camrose. Both Camp Kuriakos and CLBI are still going strong in 2016.

Jens had a bank account back in Iowa of a thousand dollars which he decided to send to Pastor Nyholm to start up the high school in Dickson. That spring of 1929 was his last trip across the ocean. On the way he stopped in Chicago to visit his adopted son Marius, and then onto New York. There were two meetings arranged for him in Salem's church and that was the last time he preached in America. He had been gone for seven months and in that time he had conducted eighty meetings, many visits and served two months as interim pastor in Dickson. He had travelled twenty-four thousand kilometers He arrived in Jels, Denmark, on March 17, 1929.

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I remember my dad telling me that Jens Dixen came to our farm, which at that time was owned by my grandfather. It was just north of Jels in the hamlet of Troldkær. My dad was fifteen or sixteen years old at the time. Jens had wanted to buy a field that belonged to the farm. It was along the lake; a very beautiful place, but already at that time there was talk about conservation, so my grandfather refused to sell him the field. Jens wanted to build a house on that field. He later bought a large house on the outskirts of Jels. The day after he came home, he went to visit Hansen in Hovslund bringing greetings from their children in Dickson. Hansen drove him to Hoptrup Folk High School where he spoke that evening. The next day he visited Bishop Valdemar Ammundsen in Haderslev. He also brought greetings to Sister Ellen at the Hospital from her brother in Ponoka, Alberta.

On April 5, 1929, his birthday, he walked to Roilbøl, where he was born seventy-one years before. His parent's home wasn't there anymore, but there were a few pieces of bricks. He picked one up and took it home. In the afternoon and evening the house was full of people who came to wish him all the very best. He attended several meetings in April and May, but in between he just felt very tired, and he knew the end was near.



*Dixen House now at  
Museum of Danish America*

In June he spoke at the Danish Constitution Day celebration at Jels Voldsted. Some days later he bought a fourteen day train travel pass. He started with a meeting at Genner Strand. From there he went to Copenhagen and then on to the Inner Mission Convention in Odense. Then he went up to Hillrød High School where he spoke to the girls. In Jyderup, Dalmose, Holsteinsberg and Hyllested he brought greetings from America. He also visited the president for the Sudan Mission. He had meetings in Aalborg, Hjørring, Bjergby, Lunderskov, Kolding, Vejle, Herning and Silkeborg. When he arrived at

Skanderborg his train pass had expired and so he ended up paying for his way home. At the train station in Vamdrup he was met by Gustav Dinesen, who was to pick him up. Jens was very tired. That trip turned out to be just too much for him. When he came home he said, "I am tired of travelling, I don't think I will ever take that long a trip again, my body just can't take it any longer."

In July, it was quiet. Jens went to speak at the Girl Scout Camp, KFUK, in Hoptrup, and later at Gammelskole. It is close to Øster Snede, where the strong ones lived. These were Christians who had rebelled against the church back in the beginning of the 1800's. They took their children out of school and they got arrested. They didn't want to exchange the old hymn books for the new.

In August his adopted son Marius came from America to visit him. Marius's dad was very sick in Grønnebæk and so he had a good visit with him. Jens went with Marius to the train station in Sommersted, where he said his last farewell to Marius. He told him, "be a good shepherd and preach Christ".

On October 22, Jens spoke at the Elim Mission House in Odense. They were sponsoring a mission week. Later on Pastor Harold P. Madsen, who was the pastor at Ansgar Church in Odense, wrote an article in the weekly Lutheran paper, where he described what took place. He

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had never met Jens, but had heard from others what a great speaker he was. Pastor Madsen was excited about meeting him but on the other hand, he didn't know what to expect. When he met Jens, Pastor Madsen was not impressed, at least not by his appearance. Jens wore old worn out clothes and was not well groomed. He didn't look like a globetrotter at all. Pastor Madsen was also surprised by his language, as Jens spoke the Sønderjylland dialect mixed with American slang. But when the meeting got started he didn't have anything to worry about. The meeting hall was packed with people and Jens spoke for two hours. The people listened intently. Pastor Madsen never forgot that sermon, "It was like his heart was burning inside of him". Madsen felt bad that he hadn't taken notes. Jens used Psalm 126 for his message. It was his favourite text.

For part of November and December Jens toured again; this time to the north of Jutland, where people also had heard about him. People would come from far away to hear him speak. As he became more and more tired, he could not keep going at that pace anymore. Jens and Christine stayed home over the Christmas holidays, but had many visitors from far and wide.

In late January, 1930, Johannes Schou visited Jens and Christine. He was the man who bought Jens's farm in Kenmare. Jens donated the proceeds from the sale to start the Sudan Mission. Johannes Schou had been visiting family in Kolding, but he also went with Jens to Hjødkær where Jess Mathiesen had moved in the summer of 1929. He had also lived and farmed in Kenmare. He had moved to Denmark because he had cancer and was dying. Jess had sold his farm in Kenmare and had donated the money to the Sudan Mission. Jens knew that it was the last time they would see each other on this earth. Jess died February 6, 1930.



*Jens Dixen's grave site at Jels*

In 1930 Jens slowed down considerably. He taught English at his house. He spent a lot of time in his garden and he wrote letters. He also spoke at a few meetings that summer. After he came home from speaking in December, he wrote in his diary, "I came home at 7 a.m. this morning after having spoken at meetings for eleven days without a break, and I am not even tired."

But people could tell that all was not well with Jens. Between Christmas and New Year he conducted a meeting every day. But in his diary on 1 January he wrote, "Today I have been sick and in bed." On 6 January he wrote that, "This time it is different and serious". On 7 January his old friend Niels Thomsen came to see him. There was a meeting in the mission house that evening and Jens wanted to go. He made it to the meeting and the place was packed with people. He gave a talk about what he had done in his lifetime and said farewell to everyone. That night, January 12, 1931, Jens Dixen quietly passed away in his sleep.

He was buried on January 16, 1931. There had probably never been that many people at a funeral in Jels Kirke. There were three to four-hundred people in attendance. Pastor Larsen gave the eulogy. He used the words from Philippians 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." How appropriate, Jens had always used the apostle Paul as his mentor. Like Paul, Jens developed eternal values in life and told others about Jesus Christ who alone, could help them see life from an eternal perspective. Jens' whole purpose in life was to speak out boldly for Christ, and to

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become more like him. Thus Jens could confidently say that dying would be even better than living, because in death he would be removed from worldly troubles, and he would see Christ face to face. Niels H. Brønnum who was a doctor and missionary with the Sudan Mission spoke from the book of Nehemiah. It was about rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. After the funeral there were refreshments at Smith's Hotel, and several speeches were given in honour of Jens.

For weeks and months there were articles written in different newspapers in Denmark and the United States about Jens Dixen. On June 28, 1946 friends and family in Denmark at the Inner Mission meeting place in Jels Voldsted inaugurated a monument of stones in his memory with an inscription that said, "God's Kingdom pioneer to his fellow immigrants in North and South America, New Zealand, Australia and Denmark". He never did make it to South America, although he had plans to go there. On October 19, 1952 another stone monument was erected where Brorson High School had been just north of Kenmare. It was from friends from all over the United States where he had preached. The inscription was from John 5:35, "A burning and shining light."

At his request Jens' home in Jels was to be used for an old folks' home. It was donated to the municipalities of Jels and Øster Lindet. In 2016 it was still a functioning nursing home. It has been expanded several times. There are thirty-two suites and it is known for its excellent care.



*Jens Dixen Cairn at Jels Voldsted*

The first Director, Ms. Jørgensen, worked there for twenty-nine years and to this day, there have been only three Directors. In the beginning it was more for old people who had no one to look after them. There was no staff. They had to grow their own vegetables and take care of the cleaning and maintenance. Today there is twenty-four hour staffing and many volunteers. My mother lived her last years there. She passed away at Dixen Minde on May 22, 2005. Both my parents are buried in our family plot, a short walk from Jens Dixen's grave.

It is remarkable that not only Dixen Minde still exists, but also in Alberta Camp Kuriakos at Sylvan Lake and CLBI in Camrose are doing well. In October 2015 Pat and I visited Trinity Lutheran just north of Kenmare, this community church also thriving. The only institution that Jens had something to do with that closed was Brorson High School. It closed in 1920. There were just not enough young people at the time. The First World War definitely had something to do with its closure.

The Sudan Mission is still going strong. It is now called the African Mission, and the headquarters are in Denmark. It receives generous support from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

On his gravestone in the Jels Kirke cemetery is the inscription JENS DIXEN and the name of his wife Christine, who died in 1934. On the top of the gravestone is a five-foot granite cross with the name "Jesus" inscribed. How appropriate, because in the end it was not about Jens.

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# Aage Jensen of Saskatchewan

## John Jensen

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Aage Jensen was born in Hundslund, Jutland, Denmark, to Martin and Emma Jensen on January 16, 1927. He is brother to siblings, Lily, born in 1926 in Hundslund, and Johanes (also known as John), born in Maryfield, Saskatchewan, in 1937. Martin Jensen immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1927 and established himself on a farm (SE ¼ 13-10-30) near Maryfield, Saskatchewan. His wife, Emma, accompanied by Lily, Aage and Emma's sister, Katrine, followed in the fall of 1927.



*Aage Jensen when he retired*

Aage grew up and helped with chores on the farm. He attended Maryfield School, completing Grade 7 in 1941, at which time he opted to devote himself to farming full-time. This was common practice for farm boys in those days. His first employment was stooking and threshing in the fall at neighbouring farms, first with Horace Narborough and then, with Elmer Franklin. During the winter, he was employed by Peter Christensen, looking after cattle until early summer of 1942 for \$15 per month plus room and board. He then worked until the end of harvest for his Uncle, Johannes Hansen, who had married Aage's Aunt Katrine.

In 1943, at the age of 16, Aage rented a quarter section of land from Fred Jensen and worked the land with a team of horses until he purchased his first tractor, a 1945 Massey 102 Junior with rubber tires and a three-gang plough in the spring of 1946. This purchase enabled him to farm more land and he purchased a half section of land (S1/2 14-10-30) from Howard Gould for \$1,500 in 1946. The southerly portion of this land, which

bordered on old Saskatchewan Highway 16, included a portion of Stony Creek between two highway bridges. True to its name, the land near the creek was very stony and not arable. Aage broke 100 acres of land in 1946 and seeded it for his first crop in 1947. Aage had purchased his first automobile, a 1920's Ford Model A in 1944, followed by a used Dodge ½ ton truck around 1947. In addition to farming his own land, he also used his tractor to pull tandem binders to cut and bundle ripened grain at his father's farm and that of neighbor, Rennie McAdoo, while Martin and Rennie rode and operated the binders. Aage broke an additional 90 acres in 1948 and the remaining arable land on the east side in 1949 to bring the total amount of crop producing land on the "Gould half" to 260 acres. With the increased acreage under cultivation, he purchased an International Harvester WD6 diesel tractor in 1949. He continued to farm the "Fred Jensen quarter" until 1951, at which time he rented a quarter-section from Joe Lemieux, the station agent at the Maryfield Union Railroad Station.

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After twenty years of heating the house with a wood-burning cook stove, using wood cut and sawn from poplar groves on the farm, the house and workshop were electrified by installing a 32-volt DC power system in 1948. The power source was a set of 16 two-volt glass-clad batteries set on a wooden platform in the basement of the house. A wind generator mounted on top of a 45-foot steel tower charged the batteries whenever there was adequate wind. The old cook stove was replaced with a new propane fueled range and a Coleman fuel oil fired space heater warmed the house. There was also a propane fueled refrigerator placed in the kitchen.

After the 1948 spring seeding was complete, Martin, Emma, Aage and Johnny travelled to Ottawa by train to attend the marriage of Lily Jensen to Frank Kropp on June 5th. Lily had moved to Ottawa in 1946 for employment as secretary for Ed McCullough, CCF M.P. for Moose Mountain constituency.

Aage helped his father build the first phase of a new barn in 1949 to replace the old pole barn with straw-filled walls that had been in use since the early 1930s. The new lean-to shaped barn had concrete floors, manger and gutter and was finished with tongue and groove siding on the east, south and north walls, cedar shingled roof and shiplap on the north wall to accommodate a future hay mow. This was also the year that Martin and Emma celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. A water storage pond and well was dug at the west end of the barn in 1951.



*The Jensen family ca. 1944*

In the fall of 1949, Aage purchased a 1949 Plymouth sedan from Longman Brothers and this vehicle was used for a trip the following summer to Ottawa to visit Frank and Lily Kropp and son, David, who was born on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Aage was accompanied by Martin, Emma, and Johnny, as well as Carrie McAdoo and Fern Longman who were dropped off at in Kingsville and Hamilton, Ontario respectively to visit sisters. Because the new Trans-Canada Highway through Ontario was still under construction, the trip between Manitoba to Windsor was driven on roads in the USA.

Aage left the farm during the winters of 1948/49 and 1949/50 to find work to supplement his farm income. The first such job was at a lumber camp at Jordan River on Vancouver Island. The following winter, accompanied by three friends, Aage drove the Plymouth sedan to Ottawa to visit Frank and Lily and find similar employment logging in the Ottawa Valley. By the time they paid the logging company for room and board and the required axes and saws there was little money left to show for their month of employment. Aage and Gerald Heal took the train to Ottawa in the winter of 1950/51 to visit Frank and Lily and find seasonal employment. In the spring they went to the GM plant in Oshawa and picked up a new 1951 GMC one-ton pickup truck. Driving the new truck home to Maryfield saved vehicle shipping charges.

The family matriarch, Emma, died on October 30, 1951 from a brain aneurysm suffered when trampled by a cow being brought to the barn for milking. Martin retired from farming in 1952 to devote all of his time to his growing Saskatchewan Government Insurance business. He sold the family farm and buildings to Aage, who also purchased the NE1/4 13-10-30. The following year Aage rented the W1/2 13-10-30.

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Saskatchewan Power brought a pole line to the farm yard in 1952, allowing conversion of the 32-volt system to 120/240 AC power. At this time, the new barn was wired for lighting and power outlets. Aage equipped the workshop with oxy-acetylene and arc welding equipment, providing him with the ability to perform much of the machinery repairs and fabrication on-site. He learned how to weld with both systems from books and became very proficient at the art of welding.



*Aage and Lily in their late teens*

Changing agricultural technology brought about the manufacture of new more efficient farm machinery and Aage strongly believed that such acquisitions would increase grain production. He traded in the under-powered Massey 102 on a more powerful and versatile IH Farmall Model M tractor and a deep tillage cultivator in 1951. Before the 1952 harvest began, he invested in a 12' Co-op tractor drawn swather and a Co-op 12' self-propelled combine harvester. This allowed two operators and a truck driver to harvest as much grain as eight men cutting, stooking and threshing grain in the same amount of time. Aage purchased an old IH TD20 crawler type tractor in 1953 and fitted it with a home-built dozer blade and frame manufactured from a scrap steam boiler. This was used to clear trees and trench drainage ditches from sloughs to increase the amount of arable land available for crop production. This was so successful that he replaced the TD20 with a newer more powerful diesel TD6 unit in 1955.

Although Martin had moved his insurance business to office space in Maryfield and was boarding with Guy and Fern Longman, his brother Johnny continued to reside at the farm while attending high school in Maryfield. When school was not in session, Aage engaged Johnny to work on the farm. During the winter of 1952/53, Aage and Johnny built a garden tractor from salvaged auto parts. It was affectionately known as "Mighty Mouse." Although it had a cultivator attachment, it was used more as conveyance for Johnny as it had a road speed of 28 mph and, being classified as a tractor, did not require a licence. In the spring of 1954, Aage and Johnny purchased a 1950 Morris Oxford sedan for shared pleasure use instead of using the farm truck for pleasure driving.

By 1954, the workload had reached the point where there was a need for additional hired help to assist with the farm work and housekeeping. In 1954, Aage engaged Shirley Shank during her summer break from school to make meals and maintain the house. He also hired Shirley's brother, Keith, as well as Cliff Hammond, to do farm work for the summer and fall. During the summer, Aage taught Shirley how to drive using the Morris sedan. Cliff helped Aage build a travel trailer that summer to provide mobile accommodation for the farm workers as they moved from one work location to another. A married couple with two young boys, Chester and Nan Hammond, were hired during the winter of 1954/55 to do farm work and keep house on a full time continuous basis.

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In 1955, Aage salvaged and re-built a Ford Model T coupe into a truck. David Shank, who worked for Aage during the harvest, acquired the truck in the fall in lieu of wages. A Nash Rambler sedan was purchased by Aage in 1956, as the Plymouth was now being used by farm hands and to tow the travel trailer. This gave Johnny exclusive use of the Morris, now that he had finished high school and was employed by Gulf Oil on a seismograph crew doing oil exploration in southeastern Saskatchewan.



*Aerial view of the farmyard*

In 1959, an addition was constructed onto the east side of the original 1927 built two-storey house, to better accommodate Aage and the Hammond family. The addition included a large living/dining room, bedroom and bathroom. The installation of hot and cold running water and a septic system eliminated the need for outdoor privies, which had served as “bathroom” since 1927. The IH WD6 tractor was now ten years old and was traded in on a new, more powerful John Deere Model 730 tractor. That fall, Nan Hammond, accompanied by her two children, travelled to Scotland to visit her relatives. Whether pre-planned or not, she decided to remain in Scotland. This left Aage without a housekeeper and after a search hired Lorraine Petit, a single mother of infant twin girls, another pre-teen girl and two teen-aged sons, to be housekeeper in December of 1960. The house was once again filled with the sounds of family life.

Aage supplemented his farm income by driving a school bus, from 1957 until 1967, taking neighborhood children to and from the school in Maryfield.

Having been in a successful farming business for 26 years, Aage decided to make a career change in 1969. With the Petit boys now on their own, Lorraine gave up her housekeeping employment to move with the girls to her home province of Alberta. Aage sold his land, farm buildings and equipment to Arthur and Denyse Paulsen from Redvers. The Paulsens were family acquaintances, being members of Dannevirke Lutheran Church in Redvers, and have remained

## BIOGRAPHIES

close friends of Aage to this day. After spending some time travelling around North America, Aage took up residence in Fairlight, seven miles west of Maryfield in 1970. Ready to start a new venture, he established a barn and corral cleaning business with a front end loader and a truck mounted manure spreader in 1970. He ran this successful enterprise until 1973, at which time he received an offer from the Sweeting Brothers to purchase the business.

He was now living in a two-bedroom house in Fairlight that he had purchased for \$175 at a rural auction sale. He was the lone bidder as it had started to rain and everyone else, except the auctioneer, had left. Aage reminded the auctioneer that there was a house and lot in Fairlight, which he was interested in purchasing, had been listed in the sale advertisement. The auctioneer asked him for a bid and the rest is history.

The sale of his previous business left Aage with a tidy profit and he entered into a partnership with Gordon Mason to own and operate heavy equipment for land clearing and road construction. The partnership lasted until 1975. Aage continued operating the business on his own, concentrating on land clearing contracts, until 1978. Then, for several years, he worked for Arthur Paulsen on his farm during the summer and enjoyed international travel during the winter, including trips to Hawaii in 1981 and 1983 as well as a trip to New Zealand, Australia and Fiji in 1984. Frank and Lily Kropp accompanied him for part of the latter trip. In the fall of 1980, he had toured the USA and Canada in a newly acquired Buick Regal sedan, accompanied by sometime travel companion, Joy Mason.



*Aage and Brad Metz at Fairway Sales*

At several points during his life, Aage developed a fondness for two-wheel transportation and he purchased his first motorcycle in 1943, a Douglas, two-cylinder, which he rode for two years. In 1978, his desire for the freedom of the open road resurfaced and he purchased a BMW “cruiser.” He kept that motorcycle for approximately four years.

In 1983, Aage went into the construction business, specializing in small buildings and municipal infrastructure. He employed local brothers, Barry and Brad Metz to assist with the work.

By the early 1980s, most rural and smaller village schools in Saskatchewan had closed in favour of busing elementary and high school students to larger schools in the region. The ten-room school in Fairlight was a victim of this cost-saving initiative. Aage was always on the lookout for a new business venture and when the Fairlight school building and two acres of land went up for sale in 1985, he purchased the entire property for \$10,000. Fairlight lacked facilities for retail stores and Aage converted the one-storey school into an indoor shopping mall with a no-frills supermarket, post office, motor vehicle licence and insurance office and other retail spaces. Aage used some of the space to operate a new furniture and appliance store as well as a consignment store under the name of “Fairway Sales.” He would attend auction sales and purchase items that he felt would sell for a profit at the consignment store. Pat Metz (Barry and Brad’s mother) was hired as an accountant and store manager. He also served on the Fairlight Village Council from 1978 until 1993.

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Having attained the age of 66 in 1993, Aage decided to retire from business and sold Fairway Sales to Brad Metz, taking a mortgage to partially finance his retirement. He purchased a large bungalow with an attached two-car garage and workshop on Oxford Street in Virden, Manitoba, approximately 60 km east of Fairlight, Saskatchewan. In late July 2005, Saskatchewan celebrated its Centennial. John and Audreen Jensen visited Aage, accompanied by Augustine Hultquist. The four of them took in the centennial celebrations and “homecoming” activities in Maryfield and Fairlight.

At 78 years of age and with declining health, Aage applied for an apartment at the Princess Lodge, a retirement residence in Virden. As there was a long waiting list for an apartment, Aage sold his Oxford Street bungalow in September 2005, and purchased a 600 sq. ft. one-bedroom bungalow on Wellington Street to occupy until an apartment at the Princess Lodge became available. The seller of the Wellington Street house had agreed to purchase the house back at the same price plus any improvements made by Aage, whenever he moved out. The move to Princess Lodge took place in 2010. Aage still resides there at the time of this writing in 2016, having celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Land Survey System for Western Canada**

The Dominion Land Survey set out a baseline for all land surveying in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and parts of British Columbia in 1869. This line is known as the Principal Meridian, which is a line of longitude located at 97 degrees 27' 28.41" west of Greenwich, England. The Principal Meridian is a north-south line located just west of Winnipeg and there is a cairn on the north side of the Trans Canada Highway indicating where this line crosses the road. The east-west baseline is the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, which is the boundary between Canada and the USA from the Manitoba/Ontario boundary west to the Pacific Ocean.

Rural land is laid out in sections. Each section (640 acres) is one-mile square. A statute mile is 5,280 feet, or 80 chains. Surveyors, at that time, used a chain (exactly 66 feet long) for land measurement, rather than a tape measure. Therefore, all land measurements are multiples of one chain. Each section of land is separated from one or more adjacent sections by road allowances that are one chain wide. Townships are square blocks of land, containing 36 sections, bounded by “range” lines on east and west sides and “township” lines on the north and south. For instance, the farm where I grew up was located on the SE1/4 (160 acres), section 13, township 10, range 30, ie SE1/4 13-10-30, W of 1<sup>st</sup>. This puts our farm approximately 180 miles (30 X 6) west of the principal (or 1<sup>st</sup>) meridian and 60 miles (10 X 6) north of the Canada/USA border. The east fence line of our farm was the line between ranges 29 and 30 and was also the boundary between Saskatchewan and Manitoba. This line continues as the provincial boundary north to beyond Flin Flon, where it intersects with the 2<sup>nd</sup> meridian, which is the boundary north to NWT. If you look on a map, you will see that boundary line south from Flin Flon is stepped at intervals to adjust for the taper. These jogs are known as “correction lines.” The 4th meridian is the boundary between Saskatchewan and Alberta.

For more information on this subject, type “dominion land survey” on your browser and click on the link to “Understanding Western Canada’s Dominion Land Survey System,” a 26-page booklet prepared by Robert B. McKercher and Bertram Wolfe.

JJ

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# Henning Anton Hartmann Stoffregen (1914-1999)

Jette (Stoffregen) Blair, Montreal

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The year 1914 was a historic year in many ways. The last passenger pigeon died in the Cincinnati zoo and the species became extinct. Charlie Chaplin played The Little Tramp, his most famous character. World War I began. Even though Denmark maintained its neutrality, the country lived under constant threat of becoming involved in the war. Less than three months before the war began, in the Frederiksberg borough of Copenhagen, a little boy, Henning, was born.



*Henning Stoffregen -1945*

Henning Anton Hartmann Stoffregen was born on May 7, 1914 to concert pianist Alexander Stoffregen, and his wife, Marie Aagaard. Henning was the middle child, between sisters Birgitte (b. June 13, 1912) and Bente (b. Feb. 16, 1919).

The children lost their mother in the fall of 1919, when she quickly succumbed to liver disease, most likely cancer. Their father had been on a concert tour in Norway when he learned of her death and rushed home, but travel being slow in those days did not arrive in time for the funeral. He was devastated.

The youngest child was only nine months old when her mother died and at that time Marie's good friend, Ane Sofie, discovered that the infant, who lay so still in her crib, suffered from polio. Ane Sofie, called "AS", was head nurse in Øresundshospitalet, a Copenhagen area hospital. In those days a nurse had to do all sorts of things, including physiotherapy.

While carrying on with her career, she spent all her free time working with baby Bente. Her efforts were not in vain. In time Bente gained full mobility and became a concert pianist like her father.

Following his wife's untimely death, Alexander gave up his concert career and began to teach piano in the family home. He was a willing, but not overly nurturing parent, perhaps because he himself had lost his mother at the age of six. Things were difficult for the three motherless children, with a distant father and a housekeeper in charge. Henning especially seemed quite lost without his mother.

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On June 1, 1923 AS decided that the children were more important than her career, so she gave it up and moved into their home to continue working with Bente and run the household. She stayed closer to Bente than the other children, no doubt due to their medical relationship.

Soon after this, in 1924, Alexander established a music conservatory complete with assistant teachers. He was able to remain near his family and further his career as a pedagogue, often teaching up to 12 hours in a day. Among his students were some of the best piano students of the day. Alexander also wrote piano method and technique books which were in wide use until many years after his death.



*Alexander with Henning and his sisters Birgitte and Bente - c. 1920*

In 1932, on Bente's birthday, AS and Alexander were married. This was the same year that young Henning graduated from secondary school, and it would be a pivotal year for the young man.



*1930 - Birgitte and AS with dog  
Henning, sister Bente and Bente Silbye*

Henning was an able student and he wanted to continue his education at university and become a history teacher. His father had other ideas wanting his son to become a doctor. Henning's uncle, Dr. Otto Aagaard, offered to pay the young man's tuition if he would agree to study medicine. A battle of wills ensued, but Henning stood his ground. The end result was that Alexander arranged with an acquaintance of his to take Henning on as an apprentice brick mason, with the hope that the hard work involved would make his son eager to embrace the medical path instead. It did not.

As a mason Henning worked at first mainly in Denmark and Sweden, but gradually took jobs farther afield. He was working in Germany when WWII began. With the outbreak of *hostilities* work in the building trade dried up and upon finding his return to Denmark blocked by the Reich, Henning presented himself at the nearest Danish Legation – in Hamburg – and offered his services (on June 15, 1941). He was hired on the spot due to his extensive language skills, which he had excelled at in school and expanded on during his travels as a mason. He started in the position of secretary at the Consulate, and thus began his diplomatic career.

Henning lived in a series of rented rooms in people's homes in Hamburg. He had to move frequently as one home after another was bombed. Two of the homes were utterly destroyed. At one point he lived in the home of two sisters who, oddly, had the same surname as his.

While at the Legation in Hamburg, Henning played a role in the rescue of a number of people. He helped Danish citizens escape from Germany and visited prisoners in jail or in concentration

## BIOGRAPHIES

camps to try to get them released. Some of the prisoners needing travel documents or false passports had only a very slight connection to Denmark. Nonetheless, documentation was arranged, and then Henning would help them leave for Denmark, sometimes escorting them part way himself.

This did not always go smoothly. On one occasion he was escorting some people out of Germany waiting at the station with them for the arrival of their train. The train was very late, and Henning had a bad feeling, so he began walking along the tracks towards the next station with his companions. They had walked far enough to be just barely out of harm's way when behind them the train station was bombed and destroyed by the allies. This was a close call.

On another occasion, shortly before the German capitulation, Henning left Hamburg with a number of "Danes". They got on a fishing boat heading towards Danish waters. They were discovered and the Germans fired shots at them but did not hit anyone or sink the boat. Everyone made it safely to Denmark – another close call for Henning.



*Bente Silbye - 1945*

Unbeknownst to Henning during his time at the Legation in Germany, his family in Copenhagen had also been active in moving people to safety. In their case, they hid downed British airmen in their home until they could be smuggled safely across to Sweden.

Having safely made it to Denmark in the fishing boat, Henning remained in his homeland, soon returning to Copenhagen. There even when bombing was going on, he would often walk around the city and managed always to escape harm. His sister and his future wife were good friends and were both named Bente. Neither of them would venture out without him believing he had nine lives and that they would be safe as long as they were with him.

Henning was debriefed by Danish authorities on 21 March, 1945. Family lore has it that after the debriefing, as he was passing the corporate headquarters of Shell Oil in the heart of the city, the "Shell House" was bombed by the Allies. The building had been commandeered early in the war with several floors used as Nazi headquarters, and the top floor used to temporarily house Danish prisoners. Due to good intelligence gathered by the Allies, the German headquarters were destroyed, but the Danish prisoners all survived. Henning on the street outside was lucky and got away without a scratch thereby adding to the family lore of his nine lives.

This event had an interesting coincidence: Willy Andersen, who much later became friends with Henning in Montreal, was at the Niels Brock School of Business learning his trade on that day, and witnessed the bombing of the Shell House.

When peace finally came Henning lost no time in proposing to his childhood sweetheart, Bente Silbye, whom he had known since she was born (Henning's step mother, Ane Sofie, was the older sister of Bente's mother, Thyra). He had kept in touch with Bente whenever possible during the war. The pair married in July of 1945, but shortly after the wedding Henning had to leave for Reykjavik, Iceland to serve out his next diplomatic posting.

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Bente Silbye stayed behind in Copenhagen to finish her nurses' training, but joined her new husband in Iceland later that same year. The couple lived for seven years in Reykjavik, where their two eldest children, Jette and Mikael, were born.

For their first two years the young family lived on an upper floor in the spacious Embassy before moving into a rented house nearby. While they were in Reykjavik, they experienced the 1947 eruption of the volcano Hekla. Henning and Bente took their visiting relatives on a guided hike a few months after the worst danger had passed. Even so, Bente's hiking boot went through the crust of the lava flow badly singeing her boot. Fortunately Henning and their guide got her out before her foot suffered the same fate.



*Wedding: July 27, 1945*

Shortly before Mikael's birth, Jette travelled (with an Embassy employee) to Copenhagen to stay with her maternal grandmother for a couple of months while the new parents got settled with her brother. When Henning and Bente were ready for Jette to return, they sent for her. Anda Clausen, an older woman, (who was a friend of grandmother Thyra), travelled with her and became the childrens' nanny for the remainder of their time in Reykjavik.

In 1952 another new diplomatic posting had the family set sail for Athens, Greece, where they lived for five years, and where Marianne the youngest child was born. In the fall and winter of 1955-56, Bente and the rest of the family in turn had serious cases of hepatitis and this illness during pregnancy caused Marianne's birth to be nine weeks premature. While Bente recovered and cared for the baby, school aged Jette and Mikael attended a French International school in Athens, and soon became fluent in French.



*Tatoï, Greece. Henning & Bente with  
Knud and Lissi Kristensen  
and children Jette and Mikael.*

The family met many interesting people in Greece, both visiting Danes and local Greeks. One frequent visitor (and life-long friend) was the Danish sculptor and painter, Grethe Bagge. Anne-Marie "Søs" Nielsen Telmanyi, another artist and daughter of the composer Carl Nielsen, also visited. She had been married to the Hungarian/Danish violin virtuoso, Emil Telmanyi. The Danish author, Dagny Kjærsgaard who lived in Athens with her Greek/Armenian husband (and survivor of the Armenian genocide), Mr. Hagopian, also became close friends of the Stoffregen family.

A young Danish couple, Knud and Lissi Kristensen, became good friends as well. Knud had arrived in Tatoï, Greece, to manage the newly-established dairy there and teach the Greeks to pasteurize milk. They stayed from 1954 to 1959. The dairy was situated close to the modest summer Palace of the Greek king, a good thirty-minute drive north of Athens. Once, when visiting Knud and Lissi, the Stoffregen family was out for a walk in the beautiful Tatoï acreage, when they encountered the teenaged Crown Prince, Constantine, on horseback. Later, when Constantine

## BIOGRAPHIES

was king, he married Princess Anne-Marie of Denmark, the youngest sister of Queen Margrethe.) The Greek king's estate in Tatoï is now a nature conservation area.

While stationed in Greece, Henning and his young family visited Denmark on a regular basis so they could stay in contact with family there. They also had the opportunity to travel to a number of interesting parts of Greece, including the islands of Sifnos, Crete and Myconos, as well as many ancient historic sites.

Just being in their home was fascinating enough. The house they lived in had a huge garden full of interesting trees, such as fig, almond, pistachio and olive. A menagerie lived in the garden as well, mostly chickens, ducks, a turkey, as well as a goat. Wildlife, such as snakes, scorpions, geckos and large spiders, though less friendly, were also to be found in the garden. Tent caterpillars were often travelling through the garden in long "ropes" and if anyone came into direct contact with them, a nasty rash would result. The family's cats and dogs lived mostly in the house; all in all, a rather exciting environment for the older children.

In the corner of the garden was a shed attached to the garage. The feed for the menagerie was stored there. One time Henning was in the shed making room for new bags of feed when he sensed something behind him. It was a large, poisonous snake about to strike at him. Quickly he grabbed a shovel and swung at the snake. A few more strikes and the snake lay dead at his feet. He brought the evidence to the house amid shrieks of terror from Bente. Once again, Henning had prevailed.

In 1957, when Henning's term in Greece was up, he was reassigned by the Danish Foreign Ministry to Copenhagen for four years. During this time finances were tight, partly because the two older children attended private school. Bente worked night shifts as a nurse and Henning took on some extra jobs. They took in the overflow tourists from hotels, for instance. Members of the household were sometimes ousted from their beds in the middle of the night, in order to accommodate the tourists. On New Year's Eve and other busy times, Henning often filled in as a taxi driver.



*Henning & Bente (Copenhagen 1957)  
Children L to R: Jette, Marianne & Mikael*

The next challenge came in April of 1961. Henning, Bente and little Marianne left for Montreal, Canada, while Mikael and Jette stayed behind with family to finish their school year in their respective schools. Two months later they were seen off at Kastrup airport by two sets of grandparents and arrived in Montreal on St. Jean Baptiste Day. At the time, Montreal was Canada's biggest city.

The Danish Consulate General, originally situated on Ste-Catherine Street, was re-located the next year to the new high-rise Standard-Life building on Sherbrooke St. West at the corner of Mountain Street. The consulate was staffed by Consul-General Jørgen Ditlev Scheel, Trade Commissioner Bengt Gjeding-Jørgensen and Vice-Consul Henning Stoffregen, as well as several secretaries. The three men had arrived the same year and when Montreal hosted Expo '67, the two consuls were still at the helm of the consulate.

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Work at the consulate was a rather mixed bag. During his Montreal tenure Henning was involved with, of course, Expo '67 and the Montreal Olympics in 1976, both of which brought lots of excitement as well as much extra work. Dignitaries would arrive, and need to be looked after and shown the sites. The then Crown Princess Margrethe of Denmark and her husband, Prince Henrik, were among these dignitaries, as were many other foreign visitors. This was a pleasant aspect of Henning's work.

Rather less pleasant for Henning was having to help with searching the site of a plane crash North of Montreal (November 29, 1963), or assisting Danish sailors who had missed their boat or been in trouble with the law. Custody battles or marriage breakup were sometimes the order of the day. The kidnapping of a child whose mother was Danish (and the father was not) also had to be tackled.

Of course, there were all the routine official tasks as well, such as translating Danish documents, issuing passports, ship's books that needed to be opened or finished, and a variety of documents that had to be issued when Danish ships docked in Montreal.

When a Danish citizen who had no family in Quebec died, Henning often had to track down family and heirs in Denmark and arrange for the remains to be sent home. Once, in the late 1960's a full funeral urn sat in the Stoffregen home awaiting transport to Denmark on Henning's next trip.

Henning was promoted to Consul in 1964 and in 1982 he was summoned to Copenhagen for an audience with Queen Margrethe II at which time she presented him with the Ridderkors (Danish order of Chivalry), for his meritorious service for Denmark.



*Henning & Bente  
in 1985*

While in Montreal (around 1967) Henning decided that as his children grew older they needed a more stable life and education, and declined further transfers. He stayed in active service as Consul (and Vice-Consul) of Denmark for an unprecedented 23 years, until his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1984, the mandatory retirement age (he could have retired at 65).

A favourite place for Henning to unwind was at the cottage by Chazy Lake, NY, which they purchased in the mid-1960s. In the summer of 1970 Bente and her two daughters had taken the car to visit Jette's in-laws in Port Cartier, QC. They were gone for over a week and Henning was so keen to go to the cottage on the weekend that he took a regional bus from Montreal to Havelock, as far as it would take him, and from there he walked across the Canada-US border at Covey Hill. He made an indelible impression on the border guards there. Then, after he had walked a good distance along the 10-mile long "Plank Road" towards the lake, one of the neighbours recognized him and gave him a ride the rest of the way to Chazy Lake. That same weekend he had a very painful encounter with a nest full of hornets, when the door slammed at the cottage. The nest was above the entry door and he hadn't seen it. Fortunately he was not allergic to their venom.

Upon his retirement Henning and Bente became landed immigrants in Canada, intending to stay in Montreal, where they had made innumerable friends during their 24 years in the country.

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Many of these friends were people that Henning had helped through his work in the Danish Foreign Service.

In his spare time, Henning liked to write poetry for different occasions. Many of the poems featured the love of his life, Bente, and how much he missed her when she was away. While most of his poems were in Danish, there were some in English, and a very few in French and in German. Here is one, rather political, example:

### *Silent partner (?) in Parliament*

-----0-----

*How odd it was to sit and C  
what was shown on the TV  
on dispute between the PM  
and the leader of the O.*

*They seemed so sure of 'emselves to B  
but both excelled in hypocri C  
each party had brought out a file  
on the other one, long as a mile,  
and both appeared both dull and vile.*

*But the strangest sight to see  
was that each addressed the Speaker  
who, in turn, did not reply;  
on His own prerogative  
not to speak though urged to B.*

*Who else should guard the dignity  
of this Country's high assembly?  
Speakers we expect to speak  
when the leaders, paid to lead,  
spend their time with noisy slander.*

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1982 – Marianne's wedding in Kufstein,  
Austria. From left: Anton, Marianne,  
Henning, Jette  
In the foreground facing away: Bente

The children, meanwhile, had grown up and got married. Jette married Tony Blair and stayed in Montreal to raise their three sons. The other two left the city, Mikael moving to the Toronto area and married Ruby To from Hong Kong. Marianne moved to Europe to study and work. She eventually met and married the Austrian Anton Horngacher and settled in Kufstein, Austria. Neither Mikael nor Marianne have children.

In 1985, a year after his retirement, Henning and Bente sold their house in Montreal and moved back to Denmark, settling in Birkerød, North of Copenhagen, where they lived out their days. The transition to life in Denmark was difficult for them both, after having lived abroad for so many years. It was especially difficult for Bente who was very close to her grandchildren.

Henning died on February 2, 1999 and Bente on February 9, 2007.

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The Pacific Region includes representation from the Vancouver Island Danish-Canadian Club of Nanaimo; Danish Social Club of Victoria; Danish Canadian Community Centre; Danish Sisterhood of America, Dogwood Lodge 179; Danish Brotherhood of America, Lodge 328; Danish Lutheran Church, Granly; Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby; Danish House Society; Royal Danish Guards Association; Dania Society & Danish Home Society.



Manfred Hoff, Niels Jensen, President Lodge 328, Allan Holl, P.N.W. President, Peter Jensen, Kjeld Christensen, Hans Jensen, Paul S. Rasmussen, Kjeld Jensen, Kyle J. Andersen, Oluf Folkersen, Bent Østergaard,

# Hans Robert Sejr Jensen

## Bob Jensen and Jette Blair

Bob's parents were original Danish emigrants from Denmark. Bob's father first sailed to Canada on his own in 1928. Two years later, Bob's mother also sailed to Canada where she married Bob's father. Bob was born in Montreal.



*Bob and Ann Jensen in 2013*

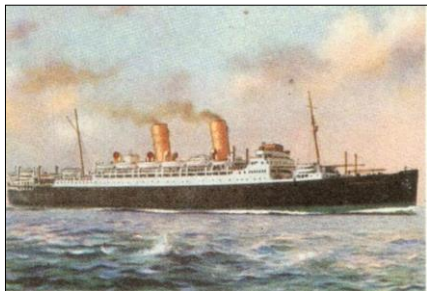
Bob's father was an engineer, trained in Denmark. He also loved cooking and started working in the kitchen of Murray's restaurant in Montreal, a well-known chain restaurant at the time, with restaurants in Toronto and Ottawa as well. A few years later, Bob's mother grew discouraged with the job situation in Montreal, so she returned to Denmark with young Bob in 1935, planning to stay there. This was however rather short-lived as Bob became very ill with whooping cough. The dampness of Denmark was hazardous to his

health. He also needed a special diet prescribed by the doctor, a diet that was hard to come by in Denmark, so they set off for Canada again, this time for good.

They sailed from Denmark to England where they then transferred to a much larger ship, the *Duchess of York*, for the voyage to Canada. The passengers on the ship were separated according to class. Bob and his mother were on the lower deck, as they could not afford better accommodations. Meals were even scheduled at different times for the different classes, but they were not treated poorly. They knew their place in relation to the other people on board and shared a room with another couple. Bob was an adventurous six-year-old who spent much of his time roaming the boat during the voyage.



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The trip took about a week, and for around three days during a terrible storm, the ship tossed and turned in waves that were huge. Much of the ship's furnishings and inventory had to be caged or strapped down. But Bob was one of the lucky ones who did not suffer from sea sickness, so he spent his time exploring the ship while his mother was confined to their cabin.

When Bob and his mother arrived in Canada they again settled in Montreal. At first they lived in the Southern region of the city, an area which was predominantly French-speaking and Roman Catholic. Bob's family were Protestant and as a result were not well accepted because of their religious background, but soon afterwards they moved to the northern part of the city which was mostly English speaking and Irish.

Danes are known for assimilating into local society, more so than some other cultures. They did not develop or confine themselves to small closed communities. Bob and his family rarely ran into fellow Danes, except at church and they fully embraced their new life. There was however an exception; a group of Danish immigrants formed a rather large community in New Brunswick known as New Denmark that went on to develop a large and successful potato industry.



*On the Street in Montreal  
after arriving*



*Young Robert with a  
Danish Cousin*

Bob is extremely proud of being a Danish Canadian and his three children are also proud of their Danish heritage. He ended up marrying a Danish lady, Ann, whose parents were also immigrants to Canada.

Bob grew up watching his father work hard and after his days in the restaurant business ended, he went back to engineering. He enjoyed an extremely successful career and was well-respected which he believes was because of the excellent training he received in Denmark. Bob eventually followed in his father's footsteps, travelling to the western part of Canada to work with him, while Bob was still in his early twenties. Canada is a very large country and provided Bob with many opportunities that took him from the eastern part of the country to the western part, with many stops in between.

Canadians are an accepting people and Canada is a wonderful place to live, but his Danish roots stay with him. Bob and Ann are proud Danish Canadians happy to be connected to both Canada and Denmark.

# Rosa and Tage Christensen

## Rosa was interviewed by Rolf Buschardt Christensen

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For over fifty years Rosa Christensen made Danish open face sandwiches for the Danish community in Montreal. It is probably no exaggeration to say that all Danes in Montreal know who Rosa Christensen is.

Rosa was born in the parish of Nautrup near Sæby on Limfjorden in Jutland on September 13, 1925. She was just over a year old when the family moved to Karebæksminde on Karebæk Fjord on the south west coast of Sjælland. Her father, Niels Peter Larsen, from Jutland, was a mason and her mother Ellen Larsen, née Hansen, was from Sjælland.

After her confirmation Rosa worked as a domestic on a farm in Klinteby. This was during the War. Later she was employed as a cook on the old Harestedgaard Estate, which belonged to Baron Johann Ludvig Hugo Camillo Edgar Alexander von Plessen. The Harestedgaard Estate goes back to 1325. Some of the outer walls are well over one metre in thickness. It was while working at Harestedgaard that she met Tage – at a dance. He lived in Spjellerup and was working as an electrician for an electricity plant.

After Harestedgaard, Rosa attended Haraldsborg Husholdningsskole in Roskilde, one of the largest home economics schools in Denmark at the time.

Rosa then apprenticed in a textile factory in Helsingør, learning to weave. She got her diploma, but she soon gave up as a textile factory is a very noisy place to work.



Rosa and Tage were married on December 26, 1946. At first they lived in Snekkersten south of Helsingør in an apartment with a gardener for half a year. Then they rented a small house, before moving to Herlev near Copenhagen. In Herlev they lived in a flat in proximity to Tage's family. He worked on the island of Amager as an electrician in a factory.

On May 14, 1952, their daughter, Jette, was born in Herlev. Tage had been born on the island of Falster on December 21, 1917.

Tage was content with life in Denmark; but Rosa wanted to try something different. She suggested that they try life in Canada.

In February 1957 Tage, Rosa and little Jette flew from Copenhagen to New York and on to Montreal. At the time most Danish immigrants to Canada arrived by boat, but they didn't want to sail.

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When they arrived in Montreal they lived at first with Martha and Poul Andresen, who they knew from Denmark. That is to say, only for eight days, as the landlord found out and told them to leave. That was also the day that Tage landed a job with Northern Electric. They then moved into a room in the Sonne family's house on Monkland Avenue. They stayed there for the summer. Several months after moving into their own apartment, Tage was laid off – on Christmas Eve. They then lived in a mansion on Summit Circle in Westmount, where Rosa worked as a domestic for the Ross family. Their neighbour was Per Hall, the well-known Danish engineer. Tage was able to get a job with Canadair in 1959. Later he worked for Dominion Engineering, remaining there until he retired in 1982.

They always spoke Danish at home, and in this way Jette learned to speak fluent Danish. In fact, Jette, who came to Canada at age five, wrote letters in Danish to her Mormor, her maternal grandmother in Denmark. Moreover, they went back to Denmark on trips about six times. However, they did buy a TV, primarily to learn English. It was bought on credit.

In 1962 they bought a house in Pierrefonds, which in those days was far from the big city and in many respects a rural area, but quickly becoming a suburb. One condition was that the new house had to have a big garage, as they needed a workshop to produce lamps. Tage made the lamps from wood and Rosa made the shades with string. The lamps were sold to Danish House, a large furniture store in Montreal.

In the evening Tage would often relax by the TV, while Rosa would embroider pull bells, maps, runners and pillows. These were donated to the St. Ansgar Lutheran Church and sold at the popular Christmas Bazaar. Tage and Rosa were members of St. Ansgar Church and the Danish Canadian Society, where they made many friends. For many years Rosa was treasurer of the Church's Ladies' Aid.

At some point in the early 1960s Rosa started delivering smørrebrød to the Christmas Bazaar at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church. This was before 1964, when the church was still on Dorchester Street. Rosa was then approached by Den Danske Klub, Montreal, asking if she would make Danish open face sandwiches for them. The Danish Club had been formed in 1922. It was a men's club and only the cream of the Danish community in Montreal were invited to join. They usually met once a month in a hotel restaurant or bar. When Rosa came into the picture the monthly meetings consisted of about six men on average. Rosa remembers Consul General Ditlev Scheel, Ogilvie department store manager Hagbarth Rasmussen and Colonel Kaj Bjørn. Others she might have met could have been Jan Eisenhardt and Axel Thøgersen. Another person she remembers is Flemming Leicht, primarily because he was the treasurer – and would pay her for the sandwiches.

With Danish sandwiches, beer and snaps attendance grew and The Danish Club was revived. The Club held its monthly luncheons at the prestigious Mount Stephen Club on Drummond Street for about 25 years.

In 1976 Jette married Ian Powrie in the St. Ansgar Lutheran Church on Grand Boulevard. They had two daughters, Kristina and Kelly, who were baptised at St. Ansgar. The daughters are married and they each have a boy and a girl. In 1996 as Tage and Rosa were getting ready to travel to Bermuda on vacation, Tage felt ill and was rushed to the hospital. He died a couple of days later.

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In 2008 Rosa was awarded the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. It was presented at Rideau Hall in Ottawa by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.



*Rosa Christensen receiving award from  
Governor General Michaëlle Jean*

Created in 1996 by the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, the award is presented to individuals and groups whose unpaid, voluntary contributions provide extraordinary help or care to people in the community. Recipients have served over a number of years and normally have not been recognized previously by a national or provincial honour. The award consists of a framed certificate and a lapel pin for everyday wear. The award symbol represents Canadians who selflessly give of their time and energy to others.

When Rosa hears someone is sick and alone, without anyone to care for him or her she will visit, usually with some food. Moreover, she will provide whatever other help is required. When thanked, Rosa will usually say, "Oh that was nothing special." She is modest, but always generous when it comes to others. She is forever busy and she always seems to be in good spirits. In short, she's an inspiration!

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# Knud and Inge Markmann of Winnipeg

By Margrethe Hiebert, Anni Markmann and John Markmann

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Knud and Inge Markmann were heavily involved with the Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg on Young Street in the 1950s and 60s, and since the 80s on Erin Street. They were both very proud of their Danish Heritage and loved to spend time with the many Scandinavians they met over the years.



*Knud and Inge in 1943*

In 1990 our parents received a Volunteer Award in recognition of all their years of selfless volunteering. We are delighted that their memories will live on with the “Markmann Volunteer Award.” From 1992 to the present, the “Markmann Volunteer Award” is given to someone in recognition of their volunteer work.

Inge was born in Rønne on the Island of Bornholm on February 29, 1924. She was the daughter of Katrina and August Møller, and the sixth of nine children.

Knud was born on November 12, 1920, in the small village of Pedersker on the Island of Bornholm to Asta and Kristian, the first of two children. The memory of Inge and Knud Markmann will live on in their children: Jørn-Erik (Edie), Margrethe, Karen Inger (Paul), Helene (Jim), Anni-Jane (David); special nephew Donald (Eileen) and family; eleven grandchildren; and seventeen great-grand children; extended family in Denmark; as well as many dear friends and acquaintances in Canada.

During the Second World War Denmark endured five years of German occupation, from 1940 to 1945. When it was announced on the radio on May 4th that the Germans had surrendered, the Danes celebrated their liberation, all over the country, not least in Copenhagen. But not on the island of Bornholm! Here the Germans refused to surrender.

The German forces in the rest of Denmark had surrender to the British. The Soviet Red Army wanted to liberate Bornholm, but the German forces on Bornholm refused to surrender to the Russians.

The Russians lost their patience and from the air they bombed Rønne and Nexø, while dropping leaflets demanding the Germans surrender or they would be back the next day at 10:00 a.m. to bomb Rønne and Nexø again. Mom recalls those 24 hours before the bombs were dropped the next day. Mom was working at a bakery in town. The owners told their employees including

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Mom to take all the baked goods out of the store and carry them out to the country-side. Mom remembers loading up her bike with as much bread as she could and bicycled out to her Mom's home just outside of town. The bread were given away to anyone she met. Papa in the meantime was working for the Bornholm Railroad and they were moving as many train cars as they could out of the towns to the interior of the Island. The bombs fell and devastated Rønne and Nexø. Many buildings were levelled. Fortunately, the casualties were few. The Russian occupation of Bornholm lasted for about a year.

Mom and Papa met by chance on a train in 1943 while travelling between Nexø and Rønne. After a short engagement, they were married on April 10, 1946. After the war, there were many changes. The Bornholm Railway was going to be closed down and replaced by a bus system. On the railway, Papa was a "Fyrmand" (stoker) and an engineer, and no way was he going to be a bus driver. They heard that Canada was a land full of opportunities.

In the spring of 1951 Papa traveled to Canada by ship and then by train to Winnipeg. Mom followed later in the summer with three small children. John says, "I don't remember the name of the ship Papa came on. But Mom, Moster Birthe and the three of us children came by air. We were scheduled to land in New York, but fog diverted our plane to Corner Brook, Newfoundland. After the weather cleared, our flight continued on to New York. We landed in New York on 20 August 1951, my 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We then boarded a plane to Montreal, where we caught a connecting flight to Winnipeg."



*Inge and Knud in 1990*

It was not easy for immigrants in a new country. The language was different, the food was different, and the weather was a challenge. Rental accommodation for a couple with three small children was not easy to find. Mom took care of the children, looked after house cleaning, and managed to find food to cook the Danish way. She made the best of it.

After working a couple of years at Silverline Furnace Mfg., Papa began his long career with CN Rail as a blacksmith, retiring in 1982. In the 50s Papa also began a second job of creating ornamental iron railings with a Danish partner.

In 1957, Mom with the three children went home to Denmark to stay for 4 to 5 months to decide whether the Canadian life was for her. She was homesick and missed her family. The visit went well, and Mom, loving our father returned to Winnipeg. From a rental to their first house with only running cold water and an outhouse, life was not easy. Later a move to a house with indoor plumbing, welcomed baby girls, Helene and later Anni, (Made in Canada with Danish parts!).

Our parents were proud of their Danish heritage and volunteered many hours at the Scandinavian Pavilion during Folklorama. And of course the Scandinavian Cultural Centre: Papa called Bingo, counted money, cleaned, helped with renovations and maintenance, and sang in the choir. Mom made smørrebrød, and prepared many meals and desserts for various groups (Danish Club, Choir, and the Stamp Collectors Club). The Stamp Collectors Club was established with a few

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*Inge and Knud with their five children:  
Jørn-Erik Markmann, Anni-Jane Markmann,  
Helene Markmann-Hanes, Karen Inger Caissie &  
Anna-Margrethe Hiebert*

members and became a very important hobby and pastime.

Papa mainly collected stamps from Canada and the Scandinavian countries, mostly Denmark. A lot of history can be learned from stamps. Papa was very proud of his many awards, especially the Silver Award for his Collection of Bornholm's History of Stamps. Mom and Papa were always active: gardening, tenting, walking, taking up cross country skiing in their 50s, and started curling (Danish Curling Club) in their 60s. Family gatherings and special occasions were quite often held at the Scandinavian Culture Centre – and catered by Bon Appétit's chef Michael and his staff.

After Margrethe, Karen, and Helene moved to British Columbia our parents traveled west

many times. Often their excursions to the west entailed being tour guides for relatives from Denmark. Mom and Papa loved their train trips to the West Coast. They could sit back, relax, and enjoy the journey without having to deal with the traffic. They were always happy to return to the sunshine in Manitoba. Two months before Papa passed away, he wanted to do one more train trip.

Trips to Denmark increased after Papa retired in 1982 and many relatives enjoyed coming to Canada to see the vastness of this Country. Mom and Papa also enjoyed trips to the southern United States and to the Maritimes.

In 2008, our parents sold their house, and moved into an apartment. After a couple of years they settled into a Seniors Retirement Home. Mom finally got to retire from cooking and cleaning.

However, after all these years of Mom's cooking, Papa was not happy having to have to adjust to someone else's style of cooking and baking. Nevertheless it was a good life at Devonshire House 11 Retirement Home, where they did not have to venture outside on a daily basis.

An earlier biography of Knud and Inge Markmann by Mr. B.C. Christensen of Winnipeg can be found in the 1990 Heritage Book.

Inge Markmann passed away on July 11, 2014, while Knud Markmann passed away on November 23, 2014. They had a good life in Canada for more than 63 years.

Celebrations of Life for Inge and Knud were held, separately, at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre in Winnipeg. It was an occasion to share some wonderful memories, followed by smørrebrød, beer and Akvavit – and a toast, skål, to Inge and Knud. It ended with coffee and Kransekage being served. May they rest in Peace! Hvil i Fred!

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# The Holm Family's Immigration Story

**Jens Karl Holm**

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When I research my father “Poul Holm” on the internet, the following is found: “...a former Danish badminton player. He won five All-England titles and four Danish titles.” To that should be added that he won the World Professional Championship in 1955. If anyone asks me why our family came to Canada, the answer is simple: badminton. This Heritage Book is a wonderful opportunity for me to pay tribute to my father and mother, and to those who played an important role in their story.



*Poul and Ingrid Holm*

In the study of immigration, people write about the “push” and “pull” of the movement of people. This is the story of why my father and mother left Denmark and decided to stay in Canada.

Poul was born in 1920, near Copenhagen – the middle child of Karl and Rigmor Holm. Karl was a businessman who was managing director of the company Holm and Stroyberg (“De Danske Granitbrud”), operating a granite quarry at Vang, Bornholm. My father and his brother worked in the company.

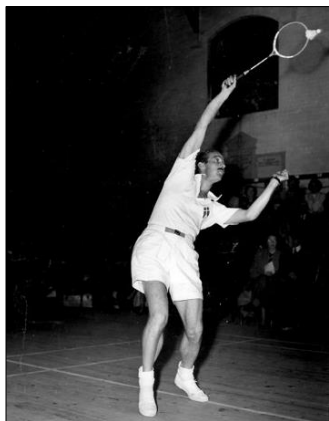


*Wedding Day  
Sept. 18, 1943*

Poul became interested in racquet sports and became especially passionate about badminton – he was quick and agile and had a “flair” for the sport. He became singles, mixed and doubles champion in his club and had his eyes set on being on the Danish National Badminton Team.

It was during this time that Poul met Ingrid. She was born in 1925, the middle child of Emmy and Robert Pehrsson. Her father was a tailor by profession and he encouraged Ingrid to learn the seamstress trade. In 1939 she became an apprentice at Haute Couture at Illum (store) in Copenhagen, near where her father had his tailor shop. The apprentice program lasted for four years and taught her about fabric and design. One day they spotted each other on the train and were mutually intrigued. They attended a number of dances together and decided to become engaged. In September, 1943, they were married at Messiaskirken in Hellerup.

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That same year she began work at Atelier Jallit as a dressmaker. She soon took on the added responsibility of motherhood when, in 1944, their first child, Janne, was born.

Poul decided to join the Gentofte Badminton Club (GBK), which gave him greater exposure to talented players with national experience. He quickly rose in the rankings in the club and was chosen by the Danish National Badminton Organization to join the team playing in the All-England tournament in London. In 1947 he won a gold medal in both men's doubles and mixed doubles. His success with Tonny Ahm in mixed doubles would last for many years in international tournaments.

In 1948 their second child, Jens, was born. Family responsibilities grew and Ingrid found it difficult with Poul away so much participating in badminton tournaments and exhibitions. She was happy to receive the help of family and friends. For Poul it was an advantage to work for his father - it was much easier to ask for time off to pursue his interest in badminton – and soon it would take up an even greater deal of his time.



*Jens and Janne  
Born in Denmark*

In 1949 Poul was ranked as Denmark's number one player. With more success in the All-England tournaments, especially in mixed doubles, Poul was selected to be the captain of the Danish team playing exhibition tournaments in South Africa, North and South Rhodesia. A journalist, A.C. Parker, described Poul this way; "Poul is a showman, but in a likeable way. Wearing a perpetual grin as he covers the court in his lithe, cat-like way, Poul expresses his delight at a good shot, whether made by himself, or an opponent ... his whiplash backhand, beautifully timed and controlled, is perhaps his outstanding asset."

In 1952, along with participating in the All-England Championship, Poul was also asked to be captain of the Danish Thomas Cup team, playing in Malaya. This was an excellent opportunity to test his leadership skills and to gain international experience. Soon, a new opportunity would draw his attention - one that would bring him to Montreal.



*Poul & Ingrid with Edna & Allen  
Fitzpatrick, Canadian friends*

Poul's older brother, Mogens, who had left the family business and sought geological work in Greenland, indicated his desire and intention to return to the family business. Poul saw this as an opportunity to make a major move in his badminton career. The idea of coming to Canada grew out of a tournament in Glasgow where he met players from Canada. Badminton was a popular sport in Montreal, with several major sports clubs. He decided to make an exploratory trip and in Montreal met two people who took him "under their wing" – Edna and Allan Fitzpatrick, who were connected with the M.A.A.A. (Montreal Amateur Athletics Association). With their encouragement, he changed his playing status from amateur to professional and

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was offered a job contract as badminton pro at the club. The time apart from the family was not easy for Ingrid and Poul but he wanted to prove himself in this new job and take the next step in his badminton career.

A new level of achievement for Poul occurred in March of 1955 when Stan Cutts, the World's Professional Badminton Champion from the Montreal Badminton and Squash Club at Atwater, agreed to a championship match. Stan had held the title since 1946 and had successfully defended it since then. During the matches, Poul showed great speed on the court and used a variety of drop shots and quick smashes successfully – techniques that he had developed during his amateur years. It was a significant victory for the newly-hired pro at the M.A.A.A. and a prestigious title to add to his many accomplishments on the court.

When his contract was renewed at the club, Poul discussed with Ingrid the difficulty of living another year apart. They agreed that she would join him with the two children. He returned to Denmark to make arrangements for their trip to Montreal. They arrived at Dorval Airport on November 2, 1956. Edna and Allan Fitzpatrick hosted the Holm family in their own home until Poul and Ingrid could find an apartment. A second son, Michael, was born in July and this convinced the family that staying in Canada was “meant to be.” They committed themselves to the new life in Canada.



*Michael  
Born in Canada*

Ingrid found that life in Canada was difficult at first – she missed her family and friends. She was happy to find support and friendship at the St. Ansgar's Danish Lutheran Church on Dorchester Street. The family was warmly welcomed and made many friends there. Ingrid became actively involved in church activities. In the 1987 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, Ingrid wrote: “St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church has made it possible for me to keep in touch with my national and cultural background. I'll never forget how Mrs. Beck greeted us with love and concern, newly arrived immigrants still hurting from the separation from friends and family. For that I'm truly grateful.”

For Poul, working at the M.A.A.A gave him a lot of satisfaction. He managed the pro shop, organized tournaments and taught players the finer points of the game. One of the young players who had joined the club and was eager to improve his skills was Yves Paré. He wrote about Poul; “c'est vraiment lui qui m'a donné le goût du jeu international.” Allan Fitzpatrick suggested that Yves team up with Jamie Paulson for men's doubles – a teamwork that proved very successful. Poul suggested that Yves would benefit from the experience and techniques of Danish players to perfect his game and provided him with contacts in Denmark. Yves spent four months there and wrote that the experience really helped him develop his backhand and footwork. Yves returned to Montreal and enjoyed great success in Canadian Championships. He played in the Commonwealth Games and participated in the Thomas Cup. Poul, the coach, would have been very proud when Yves was inducted into the Quebec Sports Hall of Fame (Pantheon des Sports) in 2001.

The career of Poul was summarized this way: “One of the truly great players of the post war era, who in versatility, stroke production, and personality, takes his place among the masters. During his wonderful career he has won almost every title in the game, and toured in Europe, Africa and

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Asia.” That was written in 1954. Since he turned pro, Poul became a teacher and promoter of the game. He took his passion for badminton and made it into a career. That was how he was able to immigrate to Canada with his family.

Poul and Ingrid spent the rest of their years in Montreal – Poul working in jobs after retiring from badminton and Ingrid, enjoying part-time work related to fashion and textiles, keeping close ties with the Lutheran Church as their family grew to include grandchildren.

Poul and Ingrid passed away four months apart, he in 1996 and she in 1997. They are buried in the Danish section of Lakeview Memorial Gardens. Their Canadian family is very proud of them.



*Poul & Ingrid with Yves Paré  
Amateur Champion, Montreal*


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# Elmer and Leona Jensen of Standard, Alberta

**Charlotte Wilson and Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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Elmer and Leona Jensen have been married for over 75 years, and both are over 100 years old. They live at the modern and up-to-date Sagewood Seniors Community in Strathmore, Alberta, where they each have a bright room with big windows. The staffs are helpful and friendly, and Mr. and Mrs. Jensen get three meals a day in a large dining room. Family and friends from Standard, the Danish community where they spent all their working life, are close enough so they often have visitors.



Elmer and Leona Jensen met at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, at Elmer's brother's graduation in 1936. His brother, Anker M. Jensen, also grew up in Standard, but stayed in the US and eventually became a pastor in the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, serving congregations in Michigan, Wisconsin and California. Anker passed away in 2006.

After a four-year long-distance relationship Elmer Jensen and Leona, née Jensen, were married in Standard on October 27, 1940. In time they would have four children, all born in Calgary. They are: Jackie Elmer Jensen, born November 12, 1943 (Jackie and Janice Jensen have three children: Christopher, Evie and Elaina all married with children - 8 grandchildren in total); Ellen Ann Jensen, born February 18, 1948. She is married to Jay Jordan; Dallas Robert Jensen, born November 21, 1950; Dallas and Sandy Jensen collectively have four children: Sandy's Amy, Jonathan and Stephanie, and Dallas' Abe with one new grandbaby of Amy's); and Charlotte Kay Jensen, born March 6, 1952. Charlotte and Kirby (deceased) Wilson have two children, Lucas and Lani (Lucas' wife has a baby on the way).

The Danish settlement of Standard, east of Calgary, was founded in 1910. Already in 1909 a delegation of Danish men came from Iowa to look for land in what became Standard. The Canadian Pacific Railway had set aside some 21,000 acres of land for this colony. Appointed land agent was Jens Myrthu. The first settlers started to arrive in 1910.

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Among the early settlers was Mourids Jensen, Elmer's father, who arrived in 1910. But he didn't stay long. He soon left to explore other places, among them California, Illinois and Iowa. In any case, Mourids Jensen came back to Standard in January 1917, this time accompanied by his wife, Ellen, whom he had married in Chicago, and their two sons, Elmer and Anker. Nevertheless, the family left for California in 1922, only to return to Standard in 1924. This time they stayed.

Elmer and his brother Anker attended school in the United States for one year and then worked at that young age in the cutting sheds cutting apricots and peaches for drying. In the fall of 1924, when times got tough, they drove back to Standard in their 1920 Overland Whippet which took over a month. The next year Elmer's sister Leda was born. In the spring of 1925 the Jensen family moved out to the farm that Uncle Thorvald owned. The farm was sold to Mourids Jensen in



1926. As kids Elmer, Anker and Leda had horses which were their only form of transportation. Later the family used the horses for moving and sorting cattle.

If Mourids had doubts about settling in Standard, these concerns were even greater for his wife, as her background was urban, having grown up in Copenhagen and then having lived in Boston and Chicago. At times the primitive conditions and the bleak loneliness of the new land weighed heavily upon her spirit.

Mourids M. Jensen was born on a farm in Denmark between Varde and Grindsted on November 29, 1877. He immigrated to the United States in 1902, settling in Audubon, Iowa. He spent two winters at Elk Horn College. In Chicago Mourids married Ellen Johanne Schack, who was born in Valby on August 13, 1886. Their oldest son was Elmer, who was born Elmer Johannes Jensen in Chicago on October 8, 1914.

Elmer married Leona Marie Hermina Jensen, who was born in Audubon, Iowa, on August 7, 1915. Leona's father, Chris Haahr Jensen, was born in Audubon, Iowa, on October 29, 1890. Meanwhile, Leona's mother, Anna Katherine Hansen, was born in Denmark on January 22, 1891.

Elmer and Leona Jensen started farming the year they were married - in 1940. Elmer's parents, Mourids and Ellen, gave the two newly weds four cows as a wedding gift to start a herd. Shortly after they purchased some Angus cattle from Hans Lavridsen, a neighbour, and thus began their cattle business. Raising Angus cattle became a way of life for Elmer and Leona. As well, they grew wheat, and also had sheep, hogs and chickens.



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Elmer was primarily a cattle breeder. It just evolved from his love of horses and cattle. But it was really his son, Dallas, who was the one who became the breeder of pure bred Angus and red Angus cattle. Mourids Jensen was the first of the older generation to pass away. He died in Standard on June 2, 1955. His wife, Ellen, died in Calgary on January 6, 1972.



Leona's father, Chris Haahr Jensen, died on December 16, 1982. Her mother, Anna Katherine, née Hansen, had already passed away on July 10, 1982.

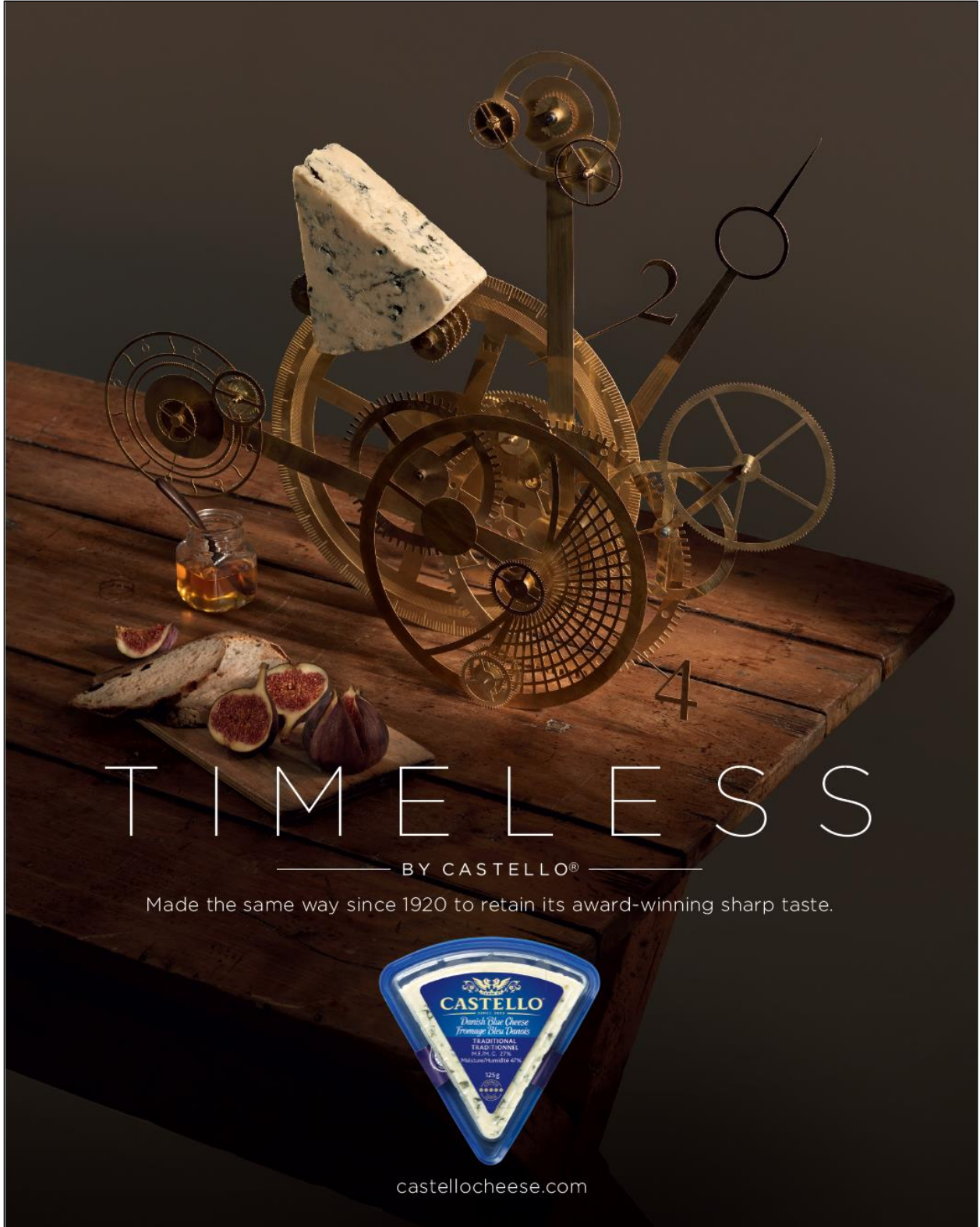
Elmer Jensen has always been a community person interested in the betterment of Standard. In 1979 he became Mayor of Standard and held the position for thirteen years. During those years the town put in a new sewer system, new water system with reservoir and filters, built a new fire hall and village office and put pavement on the main street. In addition the town bought land and developed an industrial sub-division.

The Jensen family attended Nazareth Lutheran Church regularly. Elmer was president of the Church for a number of years. Leona belonged to the church women group, sang in the choir and was a Sunday school teacher. Elmer has also made it clear that the most important decision anyone could make is to invite Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, follow Him and be a friend to our fellow man.

Elmer speaks very good Danish, while Leona understands it better than she speaks it. Their children learned only a few words of Danish, but always enjoyed listening to their grandparents speaking it. While not being born in Denmark, Elmer and Leona visited Denmark twice.

In 1966, the Jensen family received the Master Farm Family Award. It is an award given for good farming, right living and clear thinking as a family unit. Elmer and Leona led busy lives. The farm was a big operation and Leona was a very active book keeper. She was also kept busy as a Sunday school teacher, choir member, and treasurer of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta, in addition to being truck driver, food co-ordinator, homemaker, wife and mother. Elmer too was busy with the Provincial Farm Analysis Group, the Farmers Union of Alberta, and the Lions club and 4-H leadership. At one point he was president of three organizations at the same time! It is something he would not recommend!


BIOGRAPHIES



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# Jørgen Boysen

## Bodil Jelhof Jensen and Rebecca Mancuso

Jørgen Boysen was born in Møgeltønder in 1907, when Schleswig-Holstein was still part of Germany. He vividly recalls going to school and receiving harsh corporal punishment from the teachers for being Danish. When the area was returned to Denmark in 1920, his new experience in the Danish school, where the teachers actually offered to help him, came as a pleasant surprise.

Jørgen's father, Vilhelm Boysen, operated a large sawmill and brickyard. Jørgen underwent a four-year apprenticeship in business, learning all aspects of the trade, from the most elementary job through accounting and management. He was poised to enter his father's business, but it went bankrupt when his father could not pay the taxes levied after the transfer back to Denmark. His father, then fifty-four years of age, immigrated to Canada in 1928 to farm, and Jørgen emigrated two years later, after his Danish military service, ostensibly to look after his father.



*Joan and John Boysen on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, January 1983. Behind their parents are Peter, Katrina, and David.*

When Jørgen came to Montreal by train from Halifax, he was met by Pastor Jensen, who invited him to stay at the Young People's Home. Shortly after a woman came to the home looking for workers. She asked Jørgen, "Can you cook, clean, wait tables, do repairs and paint?" He answered yes to everything and was hired to work at Gallagher's Hotel in Philipsburg. He worked at the Lafayette Hotel for two years when it opened in Philipsburg in 1932, and his father had a small food vending stand near the hotel. One winter Jørgen worked for the Christiansen family in Stanstead, one of three to milk forty-two cows. He worked for ten dollars a month, twelve hours a day, and in the spring, in order to pay him, some of the cattle on the farm were sold. When Jørgen came back to Montreal he took jobs as a butler and chauffeur. He started working in the YMCA's

cafeteria in 1935, first as steward of the food services and later as assistant manager. While he worked at the YMCA, Danes without means were sent to him for a square meal, paid for later by the Danish Canadian Society or often out of his own pocket. His father went to New Scotland, New Brunswick, in the late 1930s to homestead and died there in 1945.

After the outbreak of war, Jørgen, or John, as he now called himself, volunteered for the Canadian army, but was turned down because he was not a British subject. In January 1943 he married Joan Whelan, and two weeks later he was accepted in the army. He was designated an alien; the term was written right into his soldier's service book.

He was sent overseas in 1943, and while he was in England he became a British subject. His

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wife, who had been born in England, had lost her status as a British subject when she married John. Even when John became a British subject, she was still officially Danish, and she had to make a separate application to regain her British citizenship. John was decorated for his service in the war by both the Canadian and Danish governments.

Shortly after Liberation Day, May 5, 1945, John made a trip to Denmark. Dressed in his Canadian uniform, he boarded a streetcar in Copenhagen and asked directions. The conductor was astounded at his perfect Danish and complimented him for having learned Danish so quickly!

John returned to Canada in 1946 and resumed his job at the YMCA. With the housing shortage, he and his wife were forced to live with her mother in her three-room apartment. It was not until the early 1950s that John and Joan were able to move into a wartime house in St. Laurent, originally built for Canadair. By then they had two children, Katrina born in 1947, and Peter, in 1949. They were used to keeping the children quiet - if they got too rambunctious they could expect a broom to be tapped on the ceiling below their apartment. When they first moved into their house, their immediate instinct was to quiet the children, until they remembered there were no neighbours downstairs. Now the order to be quiet could be cancelled. In 1955 the youngest child, David, was born.

John continued in the food service business, moving to the Buffeteria in the Dominion Square Building as manager in the early 1950s. In the 1960s he managed the first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in Quebec. He was elected president of the Montreal chapter of the Canadian Restaurant Association in 1966 and 1967, and spent two exhausting years helping those in the restaurant business coordinate and plan for Expo 67. He served on the board of the National Restaurant Association for nine years.

John joined the Danish Canadian Society soon after its founding in 1935. He was secretary of the society from 1946 to 1951 and president from 1952 to 1954. One memorable party at Victoria Hall drew a crowd of over four hundred. CBC International was to broadcast its Danish programme live from the party, and John advertised the party with the teaser that those attending might be heard in Denmark. John continued to be very active in the Danish community as one of the founders of the Nova Dania Corporation, and he served as its president during the 1960s.

In 1971, faced with retirement, he advanced his birth date to 1917, and applied for a job with Scott Restaurants. He worked at another Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet for the next eleven years. When he finally retired and applied for a pension, his boss discovered his real birth date. He called John up, and John simply asked him if he had any complaints about his work. John's wife passed away in 1986. John continued to reside in the house they bought after the war.

**Editor's Note:** The above biography was first published in the book *Faces of Change. The Danish Community of Montreal* by Rebecca Mancuso and edited by Bodil Jelhof Jensen; published by the Danish Canadian Society of Montreal, 1997. It is reprinted by permission.

**Post Script:** Jørgen (John) Boysen died peacefully on February 20, 2000. He was the cherished husband of the late Joan Whelan and devoted father of Katrina (George Gould), Peter (Harriet), and David (Liz). He was treasured "Poppy" to Kevin, Graham, Philip, Andrea, Lisa, Clark, Kellie and Julie.

# Karen Abaziou

**Bodil Jelhof Jensen and Rebecca Mancuso**

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Born in 1945, Karen Elisabeth Damgaard Jensen was raised in Viborg, Denmark. The maternal side of her family (Damgaard) is well known for innovations in the textile business, and Karen always knew that she wanted to enter this trade. She learned much about the business from her relatives, including her father, who owned a shirt factory. As a young adult, she enrolled in a textile school.



*Karen Abaziou in 1995  
with some of the baby  
items produced by her  
company, Bébé Confort*

Karen entered her first position of authority when her father could no longer operate his business due to ill health. She took over production adapting the machinery to make coats. She had her own ideas, however, so she decided to go somewhere new to "try her wings". She wanted to manufacture textiles for babies.

Karen had three older brothers, one of whom had gone to Montreal, the textile capital of Canada. Knowing that her chances of finding work there were good, she sailed to Montreal in 1969, intending to stay one year. She found work as an assistant foreman in a factory producing pyjamas for babies, but she was disturbed by what she saw. Clothing factories in Montreal were often bleak places — the machinery was outdated, the atmosphere was oppressive and workers were not treated with respect. The poor conditions for workers, compared with those of factory workers in Denmark, left a lasting impression on Karen.

In 1972 Karen, who was by then married with children, began manufacturing baby layettes in her basement. She sold her first batch of Moses baskets to Eaton's and Simpson's — six to each store. She expanded gradually, hiring employees, mostly French-Canadian women, and teaching them the trade. She eventually opened a textile factory, BéBé Confort, in Laval; it now employs twenty-three workers and sends its layettes and other products all over Canada, as well as exporting them to the United States and Mexico.

BeBe Confort is operated according to Karen's philosophy that workers deserve comfortable and healthy work spaces. The factory is clean, well lit and brightly painted. Karen makes sure that all work areas are safe, and she even brings in a masseuse for her seamstresses, who sometimes suffer from job-related arm and shoulder strain. She attributes her management style to her family's influence and to the less hierarchical social structure in Denmark.

In 1985 she was named the Quebec businesswoman of the year by *Le Salon de la Femme*, and in 1986 she received a special citation from the government of Quebec for promoting good work conditions in her factory.

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Karen met her husband six months after her arrival in Canada. She has four children, all of whom, like her, speak Danish, French and English. She became a Canadian citizen in 1985 to incorporate her business. She was so busy after arriving in Canada that she met very few Danes, but she is now a member of the DCS and the Danish Club. She also enjoys helping the St. Ansgar's Danish Ladies' Aid with the Christmas Bazaar.

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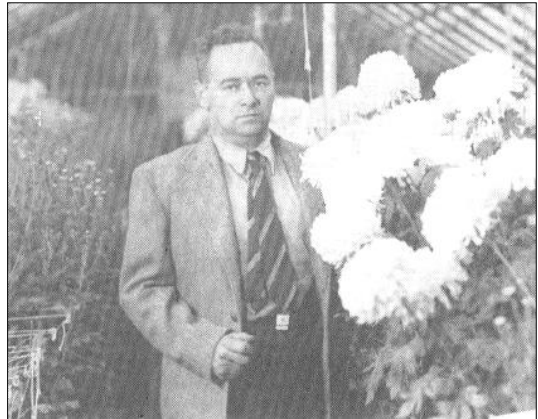
# Helge Leo Egesborg

**Bodil Jelhof Jensen**

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When Helge Leo Egesborg saw an illuminated cross hanging in the air as his ship steamed into Montreal harbour in September 1927, he felt it was a good sign. The cross was actually on top of Mount Royal and no illusion. Born in 1907 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Helge had worked and studied in the Botanical Gardens in Copenhagen for five years, finishing his training at the age of twenty. Unable to find work, he decided to emigrate after reading in the paper that the Danish minister in Montreal would help young people find work.

First he made inquiries at the steamship company as to whether he would be allowed into Canada. Infant polio had withered the muscles in his upper right arm. He had learned to brace the arm and to use it extensively, for example, by putting some fingers of his right hand inside his shirt and working close to his chest, but he was unable to lift his elbow. The steamship agent advised him to book a first-class passage, since these passengers were never put through the rigours of immigration inspection. The ploy worked, and Helge checked into the Queen's Hotel on Windsor Street (now Peel) when his ship docked in 1927. He realized that his funds would not last long living in such luxury, but he had the address of the Danish minister. He tried to ask directions, but as he spoke neither French nor English, people could offer little help except to hail him a taxi, which took him right to the minister on Dorchester. Three days later he started work at ten dollars a week at the White Greenhouses in Longue Pointe on the east end of Montreal Island. White was a landscape gardener and grew tomatoes in his greenhouses.



*Leo Egesborg, early 1950s, in the Longue Pointe Greenhouses*

Initially, Helge was so homesick that he saved every penny he could to return to Denmark. His loneliness was eased as he learned English, and when he had saved enough money, instead of returning to Denmark, he purchased a motorcycle and toured the countryside on Sundays with friends. He started using his middle name Leo rather than Helge since it was easier for non-Danes to pronounce. Egesborg he did not change. His father had changed his family name from Petersen to Egesborg to ensure he got his own mail.

In 1929 Leo met Rachelle Fleurant in an ice-cream parlour on de Maisonneuve, where she worked. Rachelle had been born on July 12, 1912. Her family was French Canadian, her father a stone mason, and when Rachelle was ten he had moved the family to Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where they lived for five years and where Rachelle learned to speak English. As things started to become serious between them, Rachelle warned Leo that he would have to convert from being a

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Lutheran to a Roman Catholic, but Leo was not deterred. The couple was married in 1931 and honeymooned in Denmark, where Rachelle felt a bit left out because she did not then understand Danish. True to his conversion, Leo supported his wife in raising their ten children in the Catholic faith, persuading the boys to attend mass, although in the Danish tradition he himself seldom went to church.



*Serres Longue Pointe, 1996.*

After their honeymoon, Leo continued with his job at White's. In 1934 the bottom fell out of the local tomato market when cheap U.S. imports flooded Montreal. White sold his greenhouses to the Egesborgs with no down payment in return for merely assuming White's debts. It took the Egesborgs over four years to pay those debts. As there was no future in tomatoes and Leo's real interest was flowers, the greenhouses, renamed Longue Pointe, were converted to grow flowers which were sold wholesale.

In 1939 Longue Pointe Greenhouses became a retail florist as well as wholesaler, and the retail store became Rachelle's special concern. Rachelle took their children, who by then numbered five, to the greenhouses to work with Leo and their hired help. She did not want her children raised by someone else, and although they got dirty, they could be washed. Working in the greenhouses meant long hours, starting at six in the morning, and in the high season, going until nine, ten or eleven at night, when there was still the housework to do.

In 1939 the Egesborgs lived in an old house adjacent to the greenhouses, which was very cramped. Rachelle was presented with a choice: the family could either build a new spacious house, which they really needed, or take a trip to Denmark. Rachelle chose the voyage to Denmark, feeling that with the talk of war, it might be a long time before they would be able to see Leo's family again. Leaving the three younger children with Rachelle's mother, Leo and Rachelle sailed with the older two to Copenhagen where they visited Leo's family, including his mother and two brothers. On the return trip, war broke out. For the duration of the war, the Egesborgs had no news of Leo's family, although they sent care packages to them.

The 1930s had been hard years in the florist business, but by 1942 things were picking up. At the beginning of the war the Egesborgs bought the land on which the greenhouses were situated. By then they had added two greenhouses specifically designed for flowers to the original five. Over the years Longue Pointe Greenhouses has raised a wide variety of flowers, both in the greenhouses and in the field, including roses, carnations, glads and mums. Many Danish immigrants worked for the Egesborgs, especially in the 1950s. Leo joined the Montreal Gardeners' and Florists' Club in 1937 and was president in 1957 and 1958.

In 1945 the Egesborgs built their own home on the south side of the greenhouses. They had wanted a self-contained house, but wartime restrictions required them to build a multiple-family dwelling. They settled on a two-storey triplex, the family occupying the entire main floor, with the second floor divided into two units.

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Leo and Rachelle had ten children, four boys and six girls. The language at home was English until the children started school; indeed the eldest started school speaking only English, but in a matter of weeks she also spoke French. Leo learned French from his children. Rachelle took Danish lessons in the mid-1950s from Mrs. Knudsen, a school teacher who retired and came from Denmark to live with her sister Else Gøtsche, secretary at the Danish consulate for many years. After her lessons, Rachelle corresponded with her in-laws in Danish. The family visited Denmark numerous times, and Rachelle says that after she learned Danish, Copenhagen was like a whole new city for her. The youngest child, Madeleine, born in 1951, credits her own international outlook to the broad horizons fostered within the home. Her parents made a point of giving the children names which could be easily pronounced in French and English, but Madeleine remembers roll call in school, with the teacher stumbling over Egesborg after skimming through the common French names.



*Leo & Rachelle Egesborg with their children, early 1960s  
Left to Right*

*Back row: Leo Paul, Henri, Leo, René, Christian;  
Middle row: Rachelle, Claire, Michelle, Hélène, Pauline;  
Front row: Madeleine and Suzanne*



*Leo and Rachelle Egesborg,  
1960s*

Leo passed away in 1968. His four sons continued to run the business, but the eldest, Leo Paul, passed away in 1996. Of her marriage, Rachelle says she doesn't believe that it could get much better. Leo had a good sense of humour and they often teased one another. She and her husband understood each other and were able to talk to each other frankly, without causing offence.

Today Rachelle still lives in the house she and her husband built in 1945, and her son Christian, one of the three sons operating the business, lives upstairs. Rachelle continues to help out in the greenhouses where the orchids are her special joy. Some of the greenhouses have been converted from glass to plastic with more modern techniques for ventilation. Squarely in the middle of a residential area, the greenhouses are maintained, but cannot be expanded beyond their current size of 45,000 square feet. A third generation of Egesborgs now works in the Longue Pointe

Greenhouses. With thirty-two grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren and counting, the Egesborg name has gained a secure foothold in Quebec. -bjj

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# Jan Eisenhardt

**Bodil Jelhof Jensen**

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“I had a wonderful upbringing,” says Jan Eisenhardt. He was born Øyvind Eisenhardt in Hjørring, Northern Jutland, in 1906, the youngest of five children. His father was a coffee merchant and soon moved the family to Copenhagen, where Jan graduated with *realeksamen* (junior matriculation) from Gregersen School. He received a scholarship to study in France, where he attended the Lycée Clémenceau in Nantes, mastered French and received a baccalaureate, majoring in sports. In his free time he played soccer in a professional league, although payment was usually under the table. He continued his studies in France, receiving a diploma in languages from the University of Rennes.



*Jan Eisenhardt, ca.1950*  
Photo: Courtesy of Rolf B. Christensen

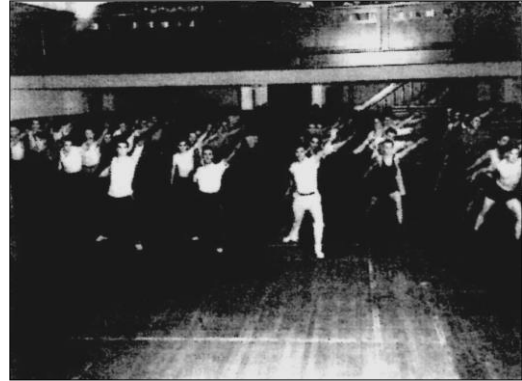
In 1928 he came to Vancouver on a scholarship to the University of British Columbia. The scholarship was not enough to cover his travel expenses to Canada, so he nominally signed on as a cabin boy on an East Asiatic Company ship. The captain took a different view of the matter, and Jan worked his passage for three months, but when he left the ship in Vancouver, he was branded a deserter. With the authorities on his heels, he left Vancouver and worked in the B.C. interior before returning to start his studies in business at U.B.C. To support himself at university, he worked for the City of Vancouver Parks Department, where he made a name for himself with his innovative and inclusive sports programmes. In 1930 he returned to Denmark and studied commerce at the Copenhagen *Handelsskole*. It was his father's wish that he should go into business, but sports for Jan had a much stronger pull. In 1932, when he received an offer of a job from the City of Vancouver as supervisor of recreation, he jumped at the chance.

With the philosophy of a sound mind in a sound body, and that it was better to have a thousand participants run a mile at an average speed than one run it very fast, Jan Eisenhardt set to work. The Depression was making itself felt, and many unemployed young men had drifted to Vancouver. Jan was to occupy their free time, and his goal was to turn gangs into teams. However, the Native Sons of Canada, a rabidly nationalistic group, protested the hiring of a foreigner for such a senior position. When it was learned that he had an outstanding charge of desertion, Jan was arrested by the Canadian immigration authorities, a deportation order was issued and Jan was kept in the Vancouver Immigration Shed to wait for an East Asiatic Company ship to transport him back to Denmark to face the authorities there. Luckily for Jan, no ship called, and during the time he was imprisoned, his friends in Canada, who included the publisher

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of the *Vancouver Sun* and *Province*, worked to get his release. The deportation order was finally stayed on the condition that he became a Canadian citizen, which he did. At this time he changed his name from Øyvind to Ian, a name suggested by the Scottish judge who granted him citizenship. It was later changed to Jan on one of his trips to Denmark.

Jan then resumed his job with Vancouver Parks. His work proved very successful, and in 1934 he became director of physical education for the Province of British Columbia, establishing Pro-Recs throughout the province. With the outbreak of war, he joined the Irish Fusiliers as second lieutenant. Jan had hoped to see action in Europe, but instead the Irish Fusiliers were used to protect Canada's west coast. He was seconded to headquarters in Ottawa, where as director of the Canadian Army Sports Programme, he designed a physical fitness and sports programme for the army with the slogan: "To keep the fighting soldier fighting fit". As part of his job in Ottawa, he had contact with the Soviet embassy, when the Soviets were Western



*Recreation class for men and women, Vancouver, 1934, Jan Eisenhardt is in the front row in white.*

Allies. In 1945, now with the rank of major, he became national director of Physical Fitness Canada. In 1947 he left the army, remaining in the reserves which he had first joined in 1929, and he started work for the United Nations, first as director of staff activities at its headquarters in Lake Success, New York, and then as committee secretary at UNESCO in Paris. Here again he had contact with the Soviets. He had married Barbara Ferdon at the end of the war, and their daughter, Lisa, was born in 1949. She was the first of four children, including one adopted child.



*Major Jan Eisenhardt speaking about fitness at a luncheon with Premier Tommy Douglas in Saskatchewan in 1946.*

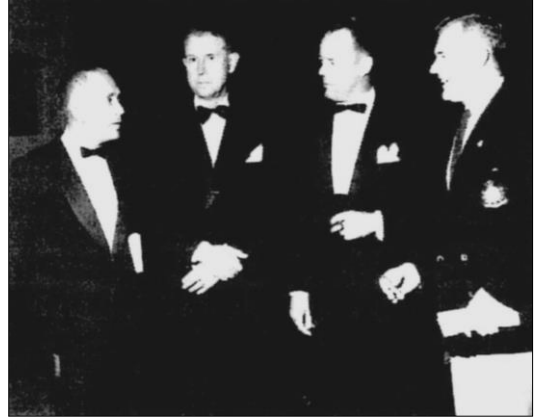
*Photo: Wilf Collier*

In 1950 Jan became director of sports and games with the Department of Indian Affairs. He was responsible for creating a programme which would reduce the isolation of the Indians on reservations and improve their recreational opportunities. He travelled the country and made many contacts, and put together a programme which was both enlightened and uplifting, and should have borne good results. Unfortunately, the minister in charge changed, money was not available, and rather than face his Indian friends empty handed, Jan resigned. Nevertheless, with very limited funding he established the Tom Longboat Medal Competition, so named for one of Canada's finest marathoners.

In 1952 Jan accepted a job in Montreal as recreation director for Canadair, then owned by Sperry Gyroscopic, a U.S. conglomerate manufacturing planes and highly classified arms for NATO. At a salary of \$15,000 a year, Jan was to establish recreation programmes for Canadair's 50,000 employees across Canada. Six months later he was fired.

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Jan Eisenhardt had been deemed a national security risk by the Security Panel. This was a secretive backroom committee, created by the Canadian government, the equivalent of the more public McCarthy hearings in the United States, to root out Communists, real or imagined. As the Canadair director of personnel said, when he handed Jan a cheque for one month's pay, Jan had more enemies in Ottawa than friends. Jan's contact with the Soviets while serving in the Canadian army and working for the United Nations had been enough to put him on the blacklist. Jan tore up the cheque he was offered, and later received eight months' severance pay. But his life was shattered. He felt dirtied and was so downhearted that he contemplated suicide. He had a wife and young family to support; he had been labelled a national security risk and therefore had no prospects for a good job. The incident was so painful that he kept it secret from his family, and he blotted out its memory until his eldest daughter wrote a paper on the subject for her university studies over forty years later. His story became part of the film *The Un-Canadians*, released in 1996.



*Ernst Meinstorp, Danish Consul General in Montreal, John Knox, Danish Ambassador to Canada, Hans Buchardt-Petersen and Jan Eisenhardt, 1960*

In 1953 the Eisenhardts moved north to La Tuque, Quebec, where Jan set up a recreation programme using the facilities owned by the town's pulp-and-paper company, but opening them to the entire community. The next year the Eisenhardts returned to Montreal, where Jan started a fifteen-year career with the Dominion Life Assurance Company. Here, the RCMP came to call, explaining to his new employer the security risk Jan posed. Luckily, Paul Baby, director of the company, knew Jan better than the RCMP. In 1970 Jan became a lecturer at John Abbott College, and then campus administrator. Always fit and young for his age, Jan had conveniently advanced his birth date ten years, and he retired again in 1982. In 1995, his wife Barbara passed away.



*Jan Eisenhardt in 2002*  
*Photo: Courtesy of Rolf B. Christensen*

Although he is very proud to be Canadian — so proud that he insisted that his wife return to Canada from Paris for the birth of their first child in 1949 — Jan has maintained his links with Denmark and has fostered relations between the two countries. He was president of the Danish Club in Vancouver from 1936 to 1937 and of the Danish Club in Montreal from 1960 to 1965. In 1961 he was instrumental in incorporating Canadania, a society whose purpose was to promote the exchange of cultural activities between the people of Canada and Denmark. The incorporation papers were signed by many prominent members of the Danish community in Montreal, and one of the principal Danish backers was *Folketingsmand* (Member of Parliament) Hans Buchardt-Petersen. The organization had two international meetings in Denmark in 1960 and 1961, which were well attended, but it petered out after a few years. Money and resources were simply not available.

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Jan Eisenhardt has led a rich and varied life. His life is all the more remarkable in that the obstacles he faced and surmounted have not embittered him. His candidness and humour and gentlemanly manners, which few cultivate today, endear him to many. -bjj

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# Per and Nina Hall

**Bodil Jelhof Jensen**

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When the Second World War broke out, Per and Nina Hall were in London, England where Per was studying for his doctorate in engineering at the Imperial College of Science. Per born in 1911, and Nina, in 1912, had both graduated in civil engineering from the *Polytekniske Lærestalt* (Technical University of Denmark) in Copenhagen in 1935. They married in 1937.



*Nina and Per Hall, 1990, celebrating Christmas in Saint Sauveur. A traditional Danish Christmas tree with candles and hearts woven from glossy paper stands behind them.*

Per grew up in mid-Zealand on a large farm of more than one thousand acres, with over two hundred milk cows and other farm animals. His father had turned from practising law to farming, but as Per recalls, their bull earned more than most lawyers. The family name is not typically Danish, but stems from Hald, Jutland. In the mid -1700s, when it was fashionable for the military to have Scottish names, the family name was changed to Hall — a short step from the silent terminal “d” in Danish.

Nina grew up on Lindevej in Frederiksberg. Her father, William Mønsted, was director for *Korn og Foderstof* (Corn and Feed Company) and dealt with Per’s father. Per remembers

the Mønsted family coming to the farm for fall hunting, with Nina and her sister in their lacquered shoes — no match for the mud which was everywhere.

With war, the Imperial College stopped its civil research projects, and Per was invited to pursue his studies at the University of Toronto and MIT. The Halls decided to strike out for Canada; they wanted to be in a country that was already committed to the war. With relatives in Toronto and sponsored by Vincent Massey, the Canadian High Commissioner in London, they sailed to New York and took the train to Toronto, arriving on January 19, 1940.

On April 9, 1940, came the news that Denmark had been invaded; on April 11, the Hall’s eldest child, Karen, was born; and on April 12, Per Hall joined the RCAF. He was a commissioned flying officer, but he never got off the ground. As soon as his technical background was discovered, he was transferred to the Aluminium Company of Canada, where he spent the war years working as a technical assistant to the general manager. Per’s principal concern was with the transportation of raw materials for aluminum production.

Per first came to Montreal in June 1940 and was soon off to St. Lawrence Village on the south coast of Newfoundland, reached from Port-au-Basque either by sea or by train via St. John’s.

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Per was sent there to arrange port facilities for the export of fluorspar, required for the production of aluminum. Unfortunately, someone had forgotten that Newfoundland was not part of Canada and that Per was technically an enemy alien and needed a visa. He was interned in Port-au-Basque and could not get off the ship he had travelled on from Canada. The good weather and Per proved too much for the Newfoundland Ranger standing guard, so he and Per went salmon fishing. Clearance for Per arrived after the weekend, but by then, the weekly train to St. John's had left, and after one false start in a small fishing vessel, Per took the three-day ferry to St. Lawrence Village. There, in addition to his professional work, Per played centre forward for the local soccer team, helping it win the Southern Newfoundland Circuit. He modestly described himself as the star of the team.

In February 1941 Per was sent to the U.S. Virgin Islands to make arrangements with the East Asiatic Company to transfer bauxite from shallow draft vessels used in British Guyana to large, deep-sea vessels for onward shipment to Port Alfred (now part of La Baie), the sea port for Arvida, Quebec, and its aluminum plants.

In the fall of 1942, the Halls moved into their home on Summit Circle, which was then rather neglected. Perched high on the mountain, the location was not at the time, because of wartime gasoline rationing, very desirable. But the view, then as now, was spectacular, and it is still the home of the Halls' youngest child, Peter, and his family.

Also in 1942 Per returned to British Guyana to direct efforts to improve navigation on the Demarara River to ship ore from the bauxite mine. Special equipment was developed with which silt in shallow stretches of the navigation channel could be agitated into suspension on a rising tide. The operation was timed to let the river carry the suspended material to deep water, where it would precipitate out when the water was slack. Even the movement of the ships was timed to use the agitation from their propellers to move the silt. The navigable depth of the river was increased by three feet, enabling vessels to carry about 20 per cent more cargo. One constant threat was submarines, even as these improvements were being put into place. The war was in earnest.



*Per Hall with his daughters in 1994 at Cape Cod, where the family was holidaying.*

The Canadian war relief effort for Denmark, the Danish Relief Fund, was organized on the initiative of the Halls' close friends, Nonny and Peter Wright. Peter Wright was employed by the International Labour Organization in Montreal. The fund later benefitted from the support of Henrik de Kauffman, Danish minister in Washington, D.C. About five thousand people from across Canada became members of the Danish Relief Fund, and groups were organized in New Denmark, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, among other places. Pastor Beck was chairman of the fund, Per Hall was manager-director, and the Becks' daughter, Ellen Signe, then in her mid-teens, was his secretary.

At first efforts were concentrated on the Danish merchant marine arriving in harbour and Pastor Emil Nommesen was stationed in Halifax. The Danish Relief Fund raised one hundred thousand dollars and immediately after the war, in consultation with the Danish Red Cross and other

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authorities, the fund acquired 125 tons of materials not available in Denmark, including twenty-five tons of tea and twenty-five tons of coffee, ten tons of hospital cotton and other medical supplies as well as aluminum sheeting for making cookware. Much of the material was donated or bought at discounted prices. The problem was then how to ship the supplies to Denmark.

Per learned that *Skoleskibet* (training ship) *Danmark* was in New York harbour and needed a crew to man her sails on the trip back to Denmark. He wrote to the captain, Knud Hansen, and offered to sign on, provided he could bring his luggage, the 125 tons of relief supplies. The ship needed some ballast so it was a perfect solution. When the goods arrived in New York, the longshoremen were on strike, but they allowed the goods, because of their humanitarian nature, to be loaded from the railway car on a ferry to the *Danmark*, so as not to touch shore. The captain later remarked on the voyage that the ship had never been so stable in the water.

Before Per set out for New York, he had had one task to perform in Saint Sauveur, and that was to top a tree on Mount Saint Sauveur; to mark the beginning of construction of the first alpine ski lift in the area. With four good friends, Per had formed Up-Hill Ltd. Per and Nina preferred cross-country skiing and, after arriving in Montreal in 1940, had spent many weekends in the Laurentians, taking the train between Montreal and points north. But Per's partners in the project wanted to build an alpine ski resort. Up-Hill's first customer on December 6, 1946, paid \$2.50 for an all-day lift ticket. Per recalled that Saint Sauveur was so poor that he and his business associates contributed funds for the food baskets distributed by the village, a far cry from the wealth primarily generated by the ski industry today. The first night skiing began in 1966. In 1976, when the Halls moved to Hong Kong, they sold their interest in what was then Mount Saint Sauveur Ltd.

After climbing and topping the tree on Hill 70 at Saint Sauveur in 1945, Per rushed to Montreal to catch the train for New York. He signed on as the medical doctor and assistant mate with a crew of forty-eight on the *Danmark*. Per had no medical training to speak of, but the ship needed a doctor, at least on paper. The ship passed under the Brooklyn Bridge October 15, 1945. On November 13, it sailed into Copenhagen harbour, after a brief stop in Thorshavn on *Færøerne* (Faeroe Islands) — just before the election to choose between affiliation with Denmark or the United Kingdom — a near shipwreck off the Shetland Islands and a stop at Kristiansand S., Norway.

The problem was then how to distribute the goods, notably the tea and coffee. No one wanted to see these supplies feeding the black market or merely going to the well heeled. A lottery was devised and an additional two million kroner was raised for the Danish Red Cross. Complaints were heard from the stricter Lutherans in Canada about the propriety of the distribution system. For his work in the war, Per received two honours, the *Kong Christian X's Erindringsmedaille for Deltagelse i Krigen 1940-45* (King Christian X Commemorative Medal for Participation in the 1940-45 War) and the *Dansk Røde Kors' Mindetegn for Krigshjælpearbejde 1939-45* (Danish Red Cross Memorial Medal for War Work, 1939-45).

After his trip to Denmark, Per had no doubt that it would be best for the family to stay in Canada, but Nina was still undecided and visited Denmark from June to November 1946 with their two children. When she came back, she too felt Canada presented a better future. The Halls became Canadian citizens in 1952.

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Nina had worked as an engineer with Aluminum Laboratories Ltd. during the war, and in 1946 she worked on the design of the Chalk River nuclear laboratories. The next few years were spent raising the three children, who now included Ingrid, born in 1943, and Peter, born in 1949. Nina joined the Professional Order of Engineers of Quebec in 1951 and became member number 5,000, one of the first women to be admitted to the order. She resumed working as an engineer when Per formed his own company in 1962. In later years when asked about her culinary skills, she told her children that she was a specialist in reinforced concrete, not cooking.

In 1946 Per joined the Foundation Co. of Canada, founded by R.F. Chadwick, as chief design engineer. In 1953 the technical services of the Foundation Company were consolidated to become the Foundation of Canada Engineering Corporation Ltd. (FENCO). Per became vice-president, and in 1958, president.



*Clockwise from the left: Per, Nina and Ingrid Hall at the Restaurant au Lutin near Jarry Park, Montreal in 1960. The restaurant featured a piglet which patrons could feed as it was wheeled around on a cart.*

During the sixteen years Per was with this group he worked on the development of several hundred projects across Canada, many of which were innovative. This included concrete mining headframes for the Johns Mansville Corporation in Asbestos, Quebec; a method for constructing and maintaining solid foundations under buildings in permafrost in Churchill, Manitoba; and planning and designing Inuvik when the Canadian government decided to relocate the existing settlement of Aklavik. The Hugh Flemming Bridge across the Saint John River at Hartland, New Brunswick, was his own design. The bridge consists

of seven parabolic arches which are hollow to reduce their weight. It was selected as the most beautiful bridge in Canada in 1960. Last but not least, the Deas Island Traffic Tunnel under the Fraser River in British Columbia was a joint venture with Christiani & Nielsen, Copenhagen, inventors of the immersed tunnel system of building to which Per and his associates found practical solutions for construction.

In 1962 Per Hall Associates was formed. It was later incorporated and supplemented with Per Hall Consultants Ltd. in 1973 to do work in the Far East. Nina was secretary-treasurer of the firm. Its first big job was the Lafontaine Tunnel in Montreal; Per Hall Associates was one of three engineering firms planning and designing the tunnel and supervising construction. The Deas Tunnel was the prototype for this trench-type tunnel and many other immersed tunnels which were built in drydock and floated into place. The job started in 1963 and was finished in April 1967 in time for Expo 67. Per Hall Associates were the Canadian associated engineers for the Scandinavian Pavilion at Expo 67, responsible for the design of the facility and the supervision of construction.

In 1976 Per and Nina moved to Hong Kong to finish designing and to supervise the building of a mass-transit tunnel under the harbour — the first time a trench-type tunnel was built on a curve. The first train went through the system in 1979, and Per and Nina, then in their mid sixties,

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considered retirement. First they took on another joint venture, a sub-aqueous tunnel in Kaoshiung, Taiwan. Finally in 1983 they retired. After that they divided their time between their homes in France and Saint Sauveur and their summer home on Lake Champlain. Nina Hall died on January 4, 1997.

The Halls were supporters of the Danish community throughout their years in Montreal. In 1940, just after moving to Montreal, Nina first made contact with the Danish church. She had a craving for rye bread, and Pastor Beck came by with a loaf. That was the start of a long friendship, Pastor and Mrs. Beck taking on the role of grandparents to the three Hall children who called them *Bettefar* and *Bettemor*. The three children, Karen, Ingrid and Peter, learned Danish and had close contact with their family in Denmark, although no one else emigrated from Denmark. The children were baptized and confirmed in the Danish church, and Nina served as secretary of St. Ansgar's Church Council in the 1940s. At Peter's baptism, the Halls donated a silver baptismal urn which had been in the family for generations and is still used by St. Ansgar's today. Karen was a member of the young people's group. After graduating from McGill, she became a lab technician. Karen was a hostess at the Scandinavian Pavilion at Expo 67, a position which required full fluency in Danish, French and English. She has remained in Montreal because she found she was too North American for Denmark and too European for North America, except Montreal. Ingrid Hall became a career diplomat with the Canadian Department of External, now Foreign Affairs, and among other postings has been Canadian ambassador to Indonesia. Peter became a lawyer, and is now owner and president of Per Hall Associates Ltd. He works principally as a negotiator on a variety of international contracts involving aerospace, telecommunications and mass-transit projects. He has been on Team Canada in several international events in sailing, including the Olympics. For all of them a traditional Danish Christmas is still the focal point of the season.



*Three generations of the Hall family, 1984:  
Nina and Per Hall standing at the back.  
To their left is Ingrid and to their right, Peter.  
Karen is seated in front to the far left.*

It seems that the Halls were right: a bright future did wait for them in Canada. -bjj

**Editor's Note:** The above biography was first published in the book *Faces of Change. The Danish Community of Montreal* by Rebecca Mancuso and edited by Bodil Jelhof Jensen; published by the Danish Canadian Society of Montreal, 1997. It is reprinted by permission.

# Bodil Jelhof Jensen

## Bodil Jelhof Jensen

Bodil moved from Denmark to Edmonton, Alberta, in 1954 as a pre-schooler. Her parents chose to immigrate to Canada rather than the United States because they expected their children to receive a broader education by learning French and English and because Canada did not have the racial problems of the United States. Danish was fostered in the home, particularly with Bodil's mother reading aloud at lunch the many letters they received from Danish relatives and friends. Her father, Erik Jelhof Jensen, a research engineer, made a point of coming home for lunch, and with neighbourhood schools, the family was often together at mealtime.



*The Jelhof Jensen family in 1954,  
shortly after arriving in Edmonton.*

The family name, Jelhof Jensen, originates with Bodil's paternal grandfather, Jens Jacob Jensen, who found Jelhof in the Copenhagen phone book and decided to give his youngest son the name to distinguish him from the many other Jensens.

Bodil graduated with a BA and MA in Canadian history from the University of Alberta and then joined the Canadian Department of External Affairs. Her posting to the Canadian Embassy in Oslo in the mid - 1970s was a turning point. She had last visited Denmark in 1961, but suddenly she had frequent opportunities to go there. Besides rekindling ties with her family, she also adopted many Norwegian lifestyle customs, including evening workouts cross-country skiing and *kveldsmat* (evening snack). She returned to the University of Alberta to study law, her original ambition, and went to Yellowknife to article. There she met her husband-to-be, Bernard Fontaine, who was then a Crown prosecutor. Bodil lost her first trial to him. Bernard had been a lawyer for seven years — never mind the guilt of the defendant. After five years in Yellowknife and seven in Edmonton, Bodil moved to Montreal in 1991 with her husband and two children.

Bodil likens her move to Quebec to her parents' own immigration experience – with little more than high-school French, accented with English, she has felt the frustration of not understanding the language on the street or television, and the stigma of being singled out as “foreign”. Her image of herself as a Canadian has been challenged, and she credits this to her own active involvement in Danish organizations. The constant division of Canada into French and English negates the place of the eleven million Canadians who are neither French nor English in origin and who are, she feels, pejoratively referred to as ethnics.

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Since moving to Quebec, Bodil has started to translate the published work of her mother, Agnes Jelhof Jensen, from Danish to English. Her translation of the novel *Dilemma* won three awards in Canada and the United States. She was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1996 and wants to resume her practice of law, although she thoroughly enjoys translating.

Bodil has been a director of the DCS since 1992; she has coordinated the language lessons of the society and spear-headed the history project. She says, “It’s hard to escape your roots with a name like Bodil, but I remind people that it’s an old Norse name, meaning fortune in war.” –bjj

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# Vagn Pedersen

## Bodil Jelhof Jensen

When Vagn Pedersen and his brother Finn set off for Canada in 1951, their father had high hopes that they would return to take over his paint company in Copenhagen. Vagn had been sent to the *Polytekniske Lereanstalt* (Technical University of Denmark) in Copenhagen and had graduated in 1950 at the age of twenty-four as a chemical engineer. After doing his twelve-month military service in 1950-51, he set off for Canada with Finn to gain experience in the paint field.



*Vagn Pedersen dancing with his second wife  
Liette Chenier*

Initially they had applied for visas for the United States, but when they were told they might be “drafted” for the war in Korea, they quickly applied for Canadian visas. Vagn had written to paint and varnish companies in Toronto and Montreal, and when a company from Toronto sent back some information, the brothers decided to visit that city. They sailed tourist class on a luxury liner to New York and then took the train to Toronto, each carrying fifty dollars — all the foreign currency the

Danish government allowed emigrants to take at that time. In Toronto, Finn got a job within a week at Canadian Tire and Vagn a job with Lowe Brothers (later Sherwin-Williams) in two weeks. Vagn worked hard and received promotion after promotion.

In 1952 he married Ruth Pither from Ontario. In 1954 Sherwin-Williams offered Vagn a better job in Montreal and the couple moved. Two years later their daughter Karen was born, and in 1957, their son Paul. Vagn got another promotion and finally told his father that he was not going back to Denmark. His brother had returned a couple of years earlier. In 1961 Vagn moved to British Titan (later Tioxide Canada) and worked there until his retirement in 1991 as technical service manager.

Right from the start, Vagn and Finn decided to become Canadians. Vagn did not want to be seen as an immigrant, and, as he and his brother already had a good grounding in English, they spoke only English to each other. Vagn became a Canadian citizen as soon as he qualified, then five years after, becoming a landed immigrant. He changed his name at work to Vaughn Peterson at the suggestion of his employer who wanted something easier to pronounce. His British

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employer in 1961 suggested he revert to his own name as the change had never been legally registered.

Vagn did not try to instill Danish traditions in his children, practising only the Christmas Eve celebration. Although his children visited Denmark, they never stayed long enough to pick up Danish. Vagn was more concerned that they learn French, and in 1961 he was successful in persuading the local French Catholic school board to accept his children even though they were not Catholic. As a result, his children are fluently bilingual. Vagn himself learned French with the support of his employer British Titan.

Ten years after his arrival, Vagn made his first trip back to Denmark. By then he had almost forgotten how to speak Danish, but he re-established family ties in the first of many trips back as his business often took him to Britain. With his second marriage in 1986 to Liette Chenier, a Quebec francophone, his ties to Denmark became even stronger. His wife took Danish lessons, and the couple now visits Denmark annually, where they stay in the cottage they bought in 1991 at *Silkeborgsøerne* (Silkeborg Lakes), not far from many family members.



*Vagn in Viking Float at Canada Day Parade in Montreal*

Vagn joined the Danish Club in the late 1970s. Earlier he had joined the Viking Ski Club and he was a member of the Scandinavian Canadian Club and then of the Danish Canadian Society. For a few years after his retirement he sold Georg Jensen damask tablecloths, coming in contact with many Danish Canadians through that pastime.

When asked about the affinity between Danes and francophones he replied that even the Danish queen married a Frenchman.-bjj

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Photos in this article: Courtesy of Kren Clausen, Danish Club of Montreal

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# Leo and Harriet Israel

**Bodil Jelhof Jensen**

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Leo and Harriet Israel immigrated to Canada in 1957, first settling in Toronto and then moving to Montreal in 1962. They had met in Denmark after the Second World War and married in 1949.

Leo by then was a veteran of two wars. He was born in Copenhagen in 1924, the youngest of six children. His parents were from Manchester, England, and English was the language of the home. Like his father, Leo became a tailor, apprenticing to his uncle. In 1943, after fleeing to Sweden, he joined the *Danske Brigade* (Danish Brigade). For his war work, he was decorated by the Danish government in a ceremony marking the fiftieth anniversary of the rescue of the Jewish Danes. In 1948, Leo fought in Israel's War of Independence and was wounded in action, receiving a medal from the Israeli government.



*L to R: Sigrid Røhmann, Sophie Jepsen, Harriet Israel at the 1994 Seniors' Luncheon in Hudson.*

Harriet was born in Copenhagen in 1926, one of five children. Her father was a clothing manufacturer with over ten employees. His family had moved from Russia to Denmark at the turn of the century. Harriet's mother had come from Russia to Denmark via Sweden. Harriet attended Caroline School, the Jewish school for girls in Copenhagen, and later took secretarial training at the *Købmandsskole* and worked in an office after the war.

Harriet recalls coming home from school during the war and being told by her mother that they would have to go into hiding to escape the *razzia*. The Germans had set the roundup of the Jewish Danes for October 1, 1943, but word had been leaked to the community. Harriet's family fled to their summer cabin in Greve Strand, an area southwest of Copenhagen, which was deserted at that time of the year. Their small house was not winterized in any way, hardly meant for year-round use, and it was cold and damp. The family kept as low a profile as possible, hiding in their house for a week. Everyone in Harriet's family was dark, but her father and younger sister of fourteen were both blue-eyed and blonde. They could therefore pass without being noticed in the general population, and went out to do the shopping and to make inquiries as events unfolded. Her father took a train south to Køge and talked to fishermen, but was unable to secure passage to Sweden. Finally the family took a taxi one night to Kastrup Harbour, where her father paid a fisherman over 4,000 kroner to take them to Sweden. When they arrived at the fisherman's home, they knocked, but to lessen the risk for the fisherman and his family, Harriet and her family waited in a nearby shack. An hour passed before they were taken across the main road, a short but dangerous passage, to board the fishing

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cutter. Hidden deep in the foul-smelling hold, the family made it safely to Sweden. They went to live with family in Göteborg, avoiding the refugee camps.

After the war, Harriet and her family returned to Copenhagen. Loyal employees had moved into the family apartment and maintained it and the summer house in perfect condition. The factory that was once stocked with bolts of cloth had been ransacked – nothing remained of the once-thriving business. For Harriet's father the trauma was too much, and he died in 1946 at the age of fifty-four.

In 1957, when they decided to emigrate, Leo flew to Toronto where the Israels had good friends. With his training as a tailor and designer, he found a job almost immediately in Eaton's as a salesman in the clothing department. He soon advanced to being an adjuster. Harriet joined Leo in Toronto two months later and worked as a saleslady at Robert Simpson's. She quickly improved her school-English on the job.

Their son was born in Toronto in 1962, and that same year they moved to Montreal, where Leo had a good job as a buyer in the clothing industry. In Montreal, Leo learned French and Italian. The Israels were active in the Danish Canadian Society, which tended to be formal in nature such as dinner-dances at the Ritz-Carleton. In 1977 they bought their home in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. In 1980 Leo suffered a heart attack, and he was forced to retire. He passed away in 1995.

Leo loved Canada from the beginning. Harriet found Toronto cold and unwelcoming. Montreal on the other hand was warm and neighbourly. Although she visits Denmark frequently, Montreal is now her home. Her siblings live in Denmark, Israel, Sweden and Norway.

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**Post Script:** On December 2, 2004, Harriet Israel, née Komisartchik, wife of the late Leo Israel, suddenly passed away. She was a most loved mother and mother-in-law of the late Dan and Lyne, née Provencher, and cherished *Farmor* of Mark. She was a dear sister and sister-in-law of Ebba and Celli, Ruth, Lea and Kaj, as well as Gitte and the late Henry. She was buried in the Gan Shalom Section of Kehal Israel Cemetery in Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

### **How Barbara Diehl met Harriet Israel**

Around 1980-81, on a sunny day in Dollard-des-Ormeaux I wore a Swedish T-shirt, when an unknown woman approached me and asked if I was in fact Swedish. As I answered "yes" and she introduced herself as Harriet from Denmark. We talked for a while and exchanged phone numbers.

Sometime later Harriet called and invited my husband, Eric, and I to her house for a "real Scandinavian afternoon coffee" (something she felt was missing in Canada) so we could meet

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her husband Leo as well.

As we were enjoying our coffee and cookies, Harriet told us the story of their escape to Sweden during the war. They had ended up in Göteborg, since an uncle who lived there had found them an apartment.

When I told her I had grown up in that city, in an area named Lunden, Harriet got very interested and when she was told the exact address she screamed, "But that's where we lived too!" Her family had lived in #5B and mine in #5C of the same apartment building. We just could not believe that we had "bumped into" each other so many years later!

I think Leo went to get us something stronger than coffee, so that we could celebrate the occasion with a real "Skål!" Then the penny dropped, as they say. I remembered that my mother had told me about a couple of Danish girls who used to ring our door bell because they wanted to play with the little girl (me, around two years old). They loved to push me in my stroller.

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# How Thor Froslev brought high art to Squamish

Mayor Patricia Heintzman - *The Squamish Reporter*, July 15, 2015

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Thor Froslev, the eccentric owner of the Brackendale Art Gallery, has put the iconic property up for sale, closing a chapter in the cultural life of British Columbia. Squamish Mayor Patricia Heintzman sketches out the life and times of the Great Dane and a social history of the biggest cultural institution of Squamish.



“I always had a circus in my backyard. Jorgen, a neighbourhood kid up the road, was the cannibal in the cage. But you couldn’t really do that so really he was the insect eater, eating spiders out of a jar. Then I had the Andrews Sisters who were three girls living down the street singing together. Then I had lion tamers and so forth, but we didn’t have lions, we had lizards. So I’d take my jacket off and put the lizards inside and put the jacket back on and then, my shtick as an 8 year old was, I’d take my jacket off and have these lizards

crawling over me. I was the animal tamer. And we’d charge people...and then we’d go to the movies in the afternoon with the money we’d made.”

Thor Froslev may not have known where his innate ability to gather like-minded folks would take him, but in many ways he’s still that eight-year-old circus master: entrepreneurial, practical, sharp-eyed, and opportunistic in the best sense of the word, with an almost supernatural gift to get people to do things that support his unrelenting vision. Today, the circus that once played out in a backyard in Kongens Lyngby in Denmark is manifest in one of the West Coast’s most enigmatic cultural icons. And as ringmaster of the Brackendale Art Gallery, Thor continues to live out a whimsical narrative filled with idiosyncratic characters, gifted artists and a building reflective of himself: eclectic with an inimitable charm.

The seeds of what was to become “The BAG”, as its neighbours and patrons affectionately call it, which germinated in the inventive mind of a restless eight-year-old, really took root in Gastown’s bohemian backdrop. In the late 1960s, Gastown was a mainstay of Vancouver’s counterculture rife with artists of all walks and a trove of inspiration for Thor. And it was here that he observed, absorbed and learned about art, music, theatre, business and promotion. In these smoked-fueled coffee houses Thor found the kindred spirits who not only understood his wild ambition to build an art gallery in the woods, but also encouraged and supported him along this journey.

Thor Froslev was born on March 15, 1933 in the village of Sejerslev on the island of Mors, but grew up in Kongens Lyngby, north of Copenhagen. Thor and his first wife Lis emigrated from Denmark to Vancouver in 1957, baby daughter Kaja in tow and an excess of new-world optimism fueling his way. Shortly after their arrival, Thor heard about the new highway along Howe Sound to Squamish. On the family's first drive up the meandering Sea to Sky Highway in 1958 in their grey 1949 Pontiac Streamliner, he knew he'd found his zenith.

"I said to my wife: we're a young couple just arrived here in Canada for a new life. This road just opened, this is meant to be, we should make our start right here," Thor recalls while sitting by the hot glow of the BAG's iconic round fireplace. "I thought about building a motel down near Leskie's crossing [at the south end of Brackendale]. But Lis wasn't convinced. She said to me, 'If you think I flew from Copenhagen to Vancouver and now I'm going to live in this little place you can forget it.'

"Can you believe it?" says Thor with a wink. "We could have bought an acre for about \$250."

But it would take more than 13 years for Thor to return to Brackendale. Lis and Thor stayed in the Lower Mainland and after a short stint as a furniture maker; Thor landed a job as an elevator operator at Gastown's Leckie Shoe Factory on Water Street.



*Street view of Brackendale Art Gallery - Photo by Jannika Kitchen*

He didn't last long as an elevator operator. Not because he wasn't good at the job but because it was the perfect way to meet managers and foreman and soon he'd talked his way on to the shop floor as a shoemaker. Three weeks after he started at the factory, Thor had increased his income threefold from \$30 a week riding the elevators to \$75 as one of the most productive shoemakers on the floor. When

the factory closed in 1959, Thor once again found himself without a job; and after much perseverance he got the job as a longshoreman and moved his family to Tahsis on Vancouver Island.

Hard work on the docks of Tahsis was a great training ground for Thor, but a serious bowel infection from contaminated water in Tahsis resulted in an operation and months of recovery and ultimately led to the family's return to Vancouver and a job on the docks there.

The following decade in Vancouver Thor calls his "long history of hangin' out". Vancouver was the "City of Love and Revolution" in the 60s, a wild flowering fueled by the cultural flow of Americans looking to escape the draft of the Vietnam War that acted as a catalyst for the hippie movement in Vancouver. Gastown, sandwiched between downtown and the seedier parts of the Lower East Side, was its pulsing centre. Thor couldn't get enough of the creative energy that

flowed freely there. He was a sponge; he noticed everything from bowls and cutlery to how to hang art and how to get things done. He saw opportunity in the smallest detail. Gastown in the 60s and 70s was Thor's University, and his coming of age.



“Vancouver was full of creative people in the 60s,” recalls Thor. “I mean I hung out in the Classical Joint from 8 o'clock at night to two in the morning because you'd sit four feet away from John Blair playing piano. And all these musicians who played in the symphony would come in after a concert, and they hadn't changed out of their black tie, and they would wail away and you were hanging with them. It was unbelievable.”

The Classical Joint Coffeehouse, Vancouver's iconic nightspot tucked into a Gastown storefront in 1970 and owned by renowned architect Andreas Nothinger, was a beloved artifact of the hippy era in Vancouver, built more out of a sense of community than commerce. The Classical Joint provided the perfect schooling for this dockworker with art gallery dreams.

But life almost always throws a curve ball. Along with a life changing medical issue of his own, Lis' kidneys failed in 1967 and waiting lists for dialysis in Vancouver and Seattle forced Thor to send Lis [and their children Kaja, 12, and Kayne, 6] back to Denmark for treatment. Thor stayed behind, a decision that haunted him for years; but one he knew in his heart was the right one. Lis died following a kidney transplant in 1971 and the children, as promised, went to live with her sister.

“Know thyself,” says Thor of that distressing decision. “If I went to Denmark I wouldn't be able to do the things I had to do. I knew I wouldn't have the will to do those things if I went back to the regimented European lifestyle where the status quo was what was expected. I knew myself. British Columbia was the land of milk and honey and you could do whatever you had to do by just getting up off your ass and doing it.”



*Brackendale Art Gallery - Photo by Jannika Kitchen*

With this insight and a cathartic moment of introspection and inspiration, Thor began to formulate a plan for his art gallery in the woods, and as he did so, he began to see a fundamental difference in his Danish friends and the creative individuals he was meeting in Gastown.

“When I mentioned my dream of building an art gallery in the woods to my Danish friends they would say ‘ha ha’ ...and that's as far as it went. When I was in a Gastown coffeehouse and I'd say ‘hey, I'm going to open an art gallery theatre teahouse’ they would go ‘oh fantastic, where and how can I help’ and on and on it goes. I could never go back to Denmark because I knew if I did I would never come back to British Columbia and I had this ache in my gut about this art gallery in the woods. I know I made the right decision, the only decision that I could, but it has always haunted me.”

It was during this time as the 60s merged into the 70s that Thor met many like-minded people who would greatly influence his path and ultimately become co-conspirators in his dream.

Artist and entrepreneur Michael Malcolm was his go to guy. “If I had a problem or puzzle Michael was always there to figure out how to get it done.”

Artists Chris Blades, Carl Chaplin, Toby Nilsson, David Lowe, Bob Masse and many other west coast paragons of Vancouver’s thriving art community were partners in crime driving the procession of helpers and supporters, artists and performers that would provide impetus for Thor to finally get his dream under way and grow it into what it is today.

In August 1969, twelve years after he and wife Lis trundled up the newly constructed Sea to Sky Highway, Thor was fishing the Cheakamus River at Brackendale with long time fishing buddy and fellow longshoreman Gary Weir. As usual, Thor was talking about his art gallery dream when Weir interrupted: “I’m sick and tired of you spouting off what it is you’re going to do. When are you going to shit or get off the pot?”

Another fishing buddy, Jack Grundell, had once given Thor similar advice while fly fishing at Dragon Lake near Quesnel: it doesn’t matter where you put your art gallery, as long as you do a good job, they’ll find you. So when Weir reiterated the same sentiments in more colourful longshoreman’s language during that fateful fishing trip to Brackendale, it was freedom to Thor.

“We packed up our fishing gear and headed to Brackendale, right here,” says Thor pointing down to the well-worn fir planks of the art gallery floor. “Right next door there was the Alpine Café and service station and Mr. Boomer was famous for his pumpkin pie. We were having coffee and pie and whipping cream, and I took a bite and looked north out of the window and a sign reads: half-acre commercial property for sale and a phone number. It was just like that. I phoned up the guy and in January 1970 I bought the land. I borrowed \$1,000 from Gary to buy it.”

That was the easy part. Now came the challenge of determining exactly how this vision would unfold. But Thor is a practical guy with an observant eye and he soon began to see vignettes of what was to become the Brackendale Art Gallery in landscapes across the province and beyond. He had one underlying principle always at the heart of his design; it had to be true to the West Coast sense of place.

Shortly after making an offer on the property, he brought his idea to Squamish municipal Council. He arrived at council chambers in his best blue blazer, white turtleneck and a pipe; his moustache trimmed just right, haute couture compared to his standard coveralls and clogs. Mayor Pat Brennan tried to convince Thor to take a lease out on the small A-frame building at Highway 99 and Clarke Drive where the visitor information centre was at the time. Unconvinced, Thor knew he had to be in control. It was his lifesavings and dream after all, and he knew his art gallery had to happen in Brackendale on his own land. Council of the day was suitably impressed with his plan and gave him their blessing...in principle, which is all he needed.

Then came a two-year journey of planning and collecting, says Thor.

“When I bought the land, I sold my place in the city and bought a one-ton flatbed truck. It was

the first thing I bought, it was \$375. But it ran and it was a flatbed...what else do you need?" Some people chase ambulances; Thor chased demolitions. A building demolition on Granville Island or the waterfront in New Westminster and Thor would be there with his flatbed truck. One day a friend called him up and said he'd seen a bunch of 6 by 12 inch beams down by the Fraser River. So Thor went to the Classical Joint, collected a motley crew to load up his truck and took the wood home. He lived at 6<sup>th</sup> and Main Street in Vancouver in a basement suite at the time and he was slowly filling his yard with his construction booty. Someone gave him fifty sheets of ¾ inch marine grade walnut plywood. He loaded and unloaded, again and again.



*Thor Froslev's balancing act - Photo by Karl Teuschl*

"I picked up a lot of free material that way," says Thor as his eyes scan the gallery. "I can look at it right now, throughout the gallery. This building is solid."

It took the better part of two years to collect the supplies...and to get his "wits about him" as he finally confronted the pervasive question of what to build?

"As I went fly fishing around the country, this North American-style barn kept popping up on the landscape. I read somewhere that when you build a house it should reflect the community; it has to be

real to the place. We were driving home from fishing one time and I saw this barn in Dewdney that was 30 by 60 feet. I knocked on the door and asked the people if I could check out their barn because I was going to build one. So I went in there with a 6-foot 2 by 4 [as a measure] and I played house like my sister used to do...this is going to go here, this over there, the fireplace over here. And when I walked out a few hours later, I knew I could do such a building."

"I had Michael Malcolm there all the time and I thought he's usually right...he showed me what was right. So I went home and at his urging I built a model, one inch to a foot. Just make it simple I told myself. And I built the model with posts and beams and a fireplace, just like you see it here."

"I thought about that Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland movie *Babes in Arms* when they make a theatre in a barn; Or *Summer Stock* with Garland, Gene Kelly and Eddie Bracken where they also transform a barn into a theatre. They didn't think about it, they just did it. I mean in the movies they just do it. And that's how I see everything; you just do it...right."

Thor knew he still had challenges to come. Although his crew of free-spirited artists was enthusiastic and well intentioned to a fault, Thor needed specific construction skills to erect his creation. As usual, Thor had a plan.

"One of my good fortunes was that at the Alpine Café next door, at 7 o'clock every morning all

the tradesmen would come and have coffee,” recalls Thor with a mischievous glint in his eye. “So I was there every morning asking how do you do this, and how do you do that, and then I’d go back and tell my crew how to do it. I learned this from Woody Guthrie who would go to music school in the morning and he had his students playing what he’d learned that morning in the afternoon.”

On the advice of Andreas Nothinger, Thor brought his model to architect Hanna Skarpsky. He asked her for a minimal plan and an inventory of the materials he would need to build it. She gave Thor all that and a bill for \$53.

May 15, 1972, Thor drove up the Sea to Sky Highway, revved up his chainsaw and started clearing.

To appreciate Thor’s leap of faith, one must put into context what it meant to bring the eclectic creative people of Gastown and a crazy idea for an art gallery, theatre teahouse to a small B.C. logging town in the early 1970s; Thor knew he had to figure out a way to integrate into the community.

While fly fishing one day with City of Vancouver detectives Colin McPhail and Bill Young one day, he asked them what they thought would happen when he arrives in Brackendale and starts building an art gallery on the main highway to Whistler. He was worried it would look like an anthill of longhaired hippies had invaded the sleepy logging town. Their advice: go and see the area’s staff sergeant, “hat in hand”, so he knows what’s happening and in so doing, give confidence to the neighbourhood that everything was above board and positive for the community.

“I’d been up here three weeks when I told myself ‘good advice is hard to find’ and I took my briefcase, put my blueprints in it, put my farmer hat on my head, knocked on the door of the RCMP and asked to see the staff sergeant. He invited me in and I took my hat off and put it underneath my arm and I gave him my hand and said who I was and I took over his desk and rolled out my blueprints. This is what I’m doing and thank you very much and the police have never been anything but help in all the time I’ve been here.



*Art Gallery - Photo by Jannika Kitchen*

“When I would go away I’d still have a crew working so I’d phone them [the police] up and say, ‘I’ve got to go see this artist or whatever the case may be, but don’t bother the people there, they’re just building away.’ When I get home I’d call them up and ask how things were while I was away and they’d say ‘fine’. It’s so important to be neighbourly, to get to know the people around you.”

Getting to know the neighbours became a mission for Thor, something he knew was pivotal in the gallery’s success.

Alderman Alma Cunningham and her husband Arnold lived across the street from the BAG at

that time. She ran everything with an iron fist, Thor recalls. You could always hear her talk loudly and clearly. She was a force to be reckoned with so naturally he went over to borrow her wheelbarrow.

“One of the things you do when you’re a neighbour in logistics like this is to act neighbourly,” says Thor. “It is inherent in our culture; you’re programmed to be neighbourly when someone asks to borrow something like a wheelbarrow. A simple thing like that you would automatically say yes to. Nobody would say no. So I went to her first to try out my thesis, and sure enough it worked.”

His next target was Mrs. Wilson who lived up the road and then Mrs. Campbell who lived across the street from Brackendale Elementary School and had a large ladder leaning outside her house.

“So I knocked on her door and asked her if I could possibly borrow her ladder. She said yes and then I didn’t bring it back on purpose because it gave me an opportunity to have Mrs. Campbell approach me at the post office. So of course she did and I apologized profusely and she responded with, ‘don’t worry about it. Bring it by when you have the chance.’ That’s how you get to know your neighbours.”

From the beginning, the BAG seemed to have a magnetic pull on like-minded people; they just seemed to appear and somehow Thor, with his innate sense of what and who was needed, and how to get it, began to attract his new community of “circus performers.”

“Peter Clarke was just hiking by one day,” says Thor, “and he had a camera so I said: ‘I see you walk by here every day with your camera, so if you could take a picture every time you go by so we can see the growth of the building that would be great.’”

They became fast friends as Clarke continued to chronicle the gallery’s progress for many years to come.

Many more photographers and artists found themselves in the BAG’s gravitational pull. They would journey up from the city, stay 3-4 days, work on the gallery and hopefully learn something during their stay. If someone started to sit down on the job, circus master Thor would swoop down on the lollygagger before the inactivity spread.



*Cozy atmosphere - Photo by Jannika Kitchen*

“I would tell them, when you sit down then someone else sits down and then everybody sits down. That’s what’s happening and that can never happen or this will never get built. So if you’re tired and you want some time off, take my truck and drive up to Alice Lake, spend whatever time you need and then come back and get to work and we’re cool. And that’s what they did and we just kept on working.”

Thor continued to work full time on the Vancouver docks while building the gallery. At first Thor and his partner Christine Hether, a School District psychologist lived on site in

an old caravan he had bought for \$65. With the help of friend and poet Drummond Burge, they fixed it up with a stove and made it into a livable wagon that still sits in the garden at the BAG today. Christine was an integral part of the Gallery for over a decade.

That initial phase of the gallery, the one that looks like the barn in Dewdney, soon grew to include a workshop on the south end in 1974, in what is now the main residence, and by the end of the 70s Thor added a proper commercial kitchen between the gallery and the workshop.

So how do you feed all these people?

“You make a daily stew,” says Thor matter-of-factly. “Jerry Napp and I would drive to Pemberton and buy a sheep all skinned. Then we would take it into the gallery, put a big plastic sheet over the table and throw that carcass on there. Jerry was a butcher, and you talk about learning from people who know their stuff, boy he knew his stuff. So we’re cutting it up and all of a sudden there are half a dozen people in the gallery looking at us. It must have been quite a sight. I forgot to close the gallery door. So I told them we were doing an art exhibit on the working man’s capabilities.” Jerry’s butchering was the feature artist, Thor says with a chuckle.

Two years after opening his doors, when his energies should have been focused on his fledgling business, Thor decided to enter politics. He was alderman from 1975 to 1977, and as chairman of Parks and Recreation, was instrumental in getting Squamish its community centre and one of the very first to push for bike lanes.

It was also during this time that Thor’s nephew Kelvin Johnson came to live with him and thus became a fixture at the BAG throughout the 70s and early 80s. When the initial building was finally completed and it was time to open a restaurant it was Kelvin whom Thor turned to.

As fortune would have it, Thor met his current wife, Dorte Jensen, around this time as well. Born in Denmark, her family also immigrated to Canada in 1957. For years her family had been making the journey up Howe Sound from their North Vancouver home to go hiking in the area. A visit to the BAG became a regular part of a Jensen family excursion to the area, particularly when hosting visitors from Denmark.

“One afternoon Dorte was here with a couple of young engineers from Denmark,” Thor recalls of that fateful day. “They came back a few days later for a Valdy concert and, as they were leaving, I ran out to the parking lot and asked for her phone number.”

“We went on a double date with Chris Blades and his girlfriend, and as they say, the rest is history,” Thor says with a smile. Dorte moved to Brackendale in 1982 and they have been married since 1987.



*Dorte and Thor Froslev - Photo by JenniferThuncher*

But to get Dorte, a high school art teacher, to move to Brackendale from North Vancouver, proper living quarters had to be provided. Thor and Kelvin converted a two story workshop into a cozy living space around which Dorte has since cultivated her spectacular garden.

Dorte's mom, Eva, ran a gourmet cooking school in North Vancouver at this time and Thor enrolled Kelvin in Eva's cooking school. With amusement Thor recalls how this young, frizzy black haired boy who chopped like a chef stood out amongst Eva's urban clientele. Kelvin had already worked for Thor for many years, starting out as cook and doing anything else that was needed.

As the 70s progressed into the 80s, many of B.C.'s musical innovators flocked to Brackendale to play at the BAG. Regulars over the past four decades include: Alex Bruhanski, Norm Foote, Roy Forbes, Paul Hann, Dan Hill, Paul Horn, Joe Mock, Anne and Jane Mortifee, the Purcell String Quartet, Rick Scott, Tamahnous Theatre, Shari Ulrich, Gordon White, The Paperboys, John Mann, Barney and Dustin Bentall, and of course Valdy!

Theatre also came to the BAG in the mid 70s. Patty Malcolm English, famed theatre teacher and Michael Malcolm's mother, asked Thor if he had a theatre company "up there in Brackendale". Thor called Mayor Brennan, a man he greatly admired, to ask about the local theatre scene. The Mayor gave Thor a few names —Doreen Ramus, Mrs. Haffey — and thus started the long history of theatre performances at the BAG.



*The Theatre - Photo by Jannika Kitchen*

The first performance was Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest* followed by *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring on the stage that is now the main entrance at the BAG. Thespians of the day, the Cudmores, Hotstons and Prices, still well-known community members in Squamish today, followed up with a black comedy. By the end of the 70s it became evident that a larger stage and more audience space were needed. And as usual, things fell into place, guided skillfully by Thor, the circus master.

"There comes a time when you realize you have to grow," says Thor. "People in the community got wind of what was going on and came out to support it. Cardinal Concrete donated the concrete for the new stage. Nick Candy came by with his backhoe and dug up the area for the foundation. I was looking for big beams and they were tearing down a jail in New Westminster but I missed them. A friend of mine found 40-foot-long beams for sale from a gas station demolition out in Cloverdale. He had six beams stacked up in his chicken coop that he wanted to take down so he wanted to get rid of them. I made him an offer he couldn't refuse. When I saw them, I realized that if I can get those beams, I could go ahead with bearing loads architecture; I can go ahead with the foundation; I can go ahead and build. All I needed was a sum of money."

"I realized the only person who could lend me the money was Dorte. So when she got home from work I jumped in the car and said I need to borrow \$1,100. I need to buy these beams."

It took a few years but a new stage addition that included the balcony, greenroom and light and sound systems was completed in 1986.

Growth at the BAG has continued to evolve naturally over the years. The secret is simple says Thor. You take care of your peers and keep adding on to meet those needs in the community.

It was about this time that Thor got the idea of the casting wall; so many artists and performers

had made their mark in these hallowed walls and there needed to be a way to immortalize them, to honour their perseverance and their creative spirit.

“You think of all the painters and sculptors and musicians that have come through here,” says Thor. “You think of all these talented people. You think about what they go through to get there. I’m not an artist. I wasn’t prepared to put my time in for that, but I really admired the commitment these artists make. It became very essential to me, clear to me that it was more important to say “us” and “we” than “I” and “me”. That became a driving force for me. So I needed to honour that, to honour the artists, the contributors.”

Kelvin was the first person to get his face cast for the BAG’s famous Casting Wall after a workshop given by ceramic artist, Patty Rivard. The process was refined and developed into an honour wall and an ongoing fundraising initiative: for \$100 anyone can get their face on the wall and contribute to the sustainability of the gallery. Over the past three decades more than 215 people’s faces have been cast and now grace the BAG’s outer wall including some of B.C.’s most celebrated artists and environmentalists. It’s a lot of work says Thor, but well worth it, as so many BAG supporters are now immortalized. Look closely at these enigmatic walls and you’ll find Robert Bateman, David Suzuki, Paul Watson, Jim Byrnes, Henry York Mann, George Rammel and Valdy to name just a few of the many community builders, supporters and famous Canadians to be found on the BAG’s Casting Wall.

But the most defining element of Thor and the BAG’s evolution came in the mid 1980s when Thor began a passionate relationship with the feathered visitors who call Brackendale home every winter.



*Dining Area - Photo by Jannika Kitchen*

It was a stormy January in 1986 when Thor learned that a handful of rain-drenched bird enthusiasts had met in a supermarket parking lot to go out to count eagles. He called the organizer and said, “Don’t you know how to get in out of the rain?” Ever since then the BAG has been home to the Brackendale Winter Eagle Festival and Count.

Over the Festival’s 30 years, hundreds of volunteers have been meeting at the Brackendale Art Gallery in the early morning of the first Sunday in January before setting out on foot, raft or kayak, binoculars in hand to 22 different counting areas along the Squamish, Cheakamus and Mamquam Rivers and their tributaries. The main purpose of the count is to take a yearly scientific snapshot, the results of which are sent to the B.C. Wildlife Service for posterity. But the Brackendale Winter Eagle Festival is also about awareness, says Thor, to the greater conservation issues and ecological imperatives that sustain the surrounding ecosystem.

“In the past 30 years, we have seen many changes and events come to pass that have continually reinforced our goal to preserve and enhance the unique natural phenomenon that is the Eagles of Brackendale,” says Thor Froslev with the conviction of a man driven. “Without education and awareness, without the scientific data to understand the environmental and manmade influences on the ecosystem, catastrophic and incremental, without the dedication of so many volunteers and advocates, we would likely not have these special birds in our area and with that loss, there

would likely be no salmon and other wildlife...it's all connected.”

Thor's rapturous bond with the eagles is perhaps best exemplified in the formation of the Brackendale Eagles Provincial Park. When logging threatened the West Side of the Squamish River in 1995, critical habitat for wintering American bald eagles on B.C.'s coast, Thor and good friend Len “Lefty” Goldsmith led the charge for the preservation of this habitat. Buoyed by a world record count of 3,769 eagles in 1994, Thor and Lefty and others successfully persuaded the provincial government to declare the area a provincial wildlife reserve in 1997. Finally, in June 1999, the area officially became The Brackendale Eagles Class-A Provincial Park.

Since the development of the 1,866-acre Provincial Park, Thor has continued to focus on education and awareness to ensure the survival of the area's wintering bald eagles. In 2003, the foundations were laid for the Brackendale Eagle Tower and Aid Station where Thor envisioned a facility for the study and care of these marvelous raptors. Over the years since, Thor and Dorte have provided triage, warmth and safety to eagles, owls, sharp-shinned hawks and a seagull at the BAG's Eagle Aid Station, before having them transported to rescue centres on the Lower Mainland.

Thor's advocacy for his home of Brackendale continues to this day. While the gallery continues to be a vibrant centre for art and ideas, with workshops, concerts, art shows and lectures, it also provides a hub for the residents of the area and the gateway to the village's beloved Brackendale Farmer's Institute Walking Park. This 50-acre park just behind the gallery has been a focus for Thor and Dorte for many years. Although development threatened the park existence, through Thor's dogged determination and leadership to preserve this community amenity it appears the final battle has been won, local government and Squamish First Nation have committed to its preservation assuring the park's survival in perpetuity.

The Brackendale Art Gallery continues to reinvent itself and play an integral role in the cultural tapestry of the Sea to Sky Corridor. Its hallowed walls echo the creative sounds and visual delights of the performers and artists who have enlivened it over the past four decades.

It's amazing what can start as a circus act in the mind of an eight-year-old boy from Kongens Lyngby, Denmark. The secret: dream big, and just do it.

# WELCOME TO ALL AT THE DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE 2016



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# Esther Garde Pedersen presented with Plaque

**Soren Sondergaard, President, Sunset Mindepark**

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It was with great pleasure that the Board and members of Sunset Mindepark on March 5, 2016, presented a Plaque to Esther Pedersen, in gratitude for her many years of voluntary service to Sunset Mindepark, the Danish Immigrant Urn Cemetery, first as one of the founders, and then for many years as treasurer.

In 1988 the Danish community in Ontario started to talk about establishing an Urn Cemetery. Pastor Emilie Esbjørn, of the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto, spearheaded it. One idea was that it would be natural to establish such an urn cemetery on property at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario. After Freddy Frey became President of Sunset Villa, it was agreed that the Association would for one dollar deed one acre of land to Sunset Mindepark. Inquiries were made to Puslinch Township and the Wellington County Health Unit if an Urn Cemetery would be permitted, and the answer was positive.



On June 9, 1989, a meeting at Sunset Villa discussed the possibility of establishing an urn cemetery at Sunset Villa. Present were: Pastor Emilie Esbjørn; Jens Skovhøj from the Toronto Church; Freddy Frey; and Pastor Poul Sundgaard and Martha Larsen from the Grimsby Church. It was agreed to proceed. A lay proposal was prepared by Engineer Knud (Ken) Andersen and his daughter, Lisa, and many others. Applications were made for approval by the various authorities. On December 6, 1990, Sunset Mindepark-Ontario was incorporated and received the Letters Patent. The first Directors were: Fredy Frey, Esther and Chris Pedersen. Later an operating Board was constituted with Fredy Frey as President, Chris Pedersen as Vice President, Esther Pedersen as Treasurer, Martha Larsen as Secretary and Jens Skovhøj as Director. After a lot of planning, with many letters and applications written, on October 7, 1991 “The Certificate of Consent” was received from the Ontario Government.

Esther was instrumental in the planning and preparation of the first set of rules, taking care of the finances for seventeen years, up to 2007. She continued as director until 2010, when she became Director Emeritus on the Sunset Mindepark Board. Sunset Mindepark and the Danish immigrant community owe Esther many thanks and much gratitude for the interest, energy, friendship and love she has given throughout these many years. On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of Sunset Mindepark, Thank You, Esther!

# A Summer in Denmark, 2015

**Lis and Soren Sondergaard, Guelph, Ontario**

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There is a popular Danish song that begins: I Danmark er jeg født, der har jeg hjemme, der har jeg rod, der-fra min verden gaar. Some Danish immigrants in Canada may from time to time wonder, what would it be like to live in Denmark today, after living in Canada for the past 50 years?

A couple of years ago we talked about what it would be like to spend a summer in Denmark, renting a house and setting up a household, inviting family and guests to our house instead of, as usual, us going visiting all the time while in Denmark on vacation. We agreed that it could be interesting, as both of us still have much family and many friends in Denmark, and we have a son with a wife and 3 boys who live in Birkerød north of Copenhagen. As our family and friends are spread out in Denmark, we did not have any specific area in mind, so that is how our search began to find and rent a vacation house for at least 4 months.



We found that for rentals of more than 30 days, it was best to contact the owners directly. Through Lise's sister in Hjarbæk near Viborg, we found a 300 year old renovated, but modern fisherman's house in Kvols, which is on the west side of Hjarbæk fjord, almost directly across from the village of Hjarbæk located on the opposite side of the fjord.

The house was the first house just in from the harbour, which in the early 1900s was still a very active fishing harbour, but is now used primarily as a small boat launch

for local fishermen. The house was used as a food store (Brugsforening) starting in 1870 for a period of about 10 years, and was managed by Ivar Bertelsen and his wife.

Unfortunately, the house was already booked for the month of June, but luckily the owner knew of another rental house in town on a farm where the land has been sold off. The four farm buildings are still there and the owners who live in the original farm house have recently built a super-modern large rental apartment in the loft of the center building.

The windows face towards the south, with Kvols Church, a typical white-washed Danish country church with a red roof, 300 meters away on the high point in town. The church bells toll 150 times at sun up at 8:00 am, and again at sun down at 5:00 pm, all done by programmable computer control, a very quaint and nice daily event.

The village of Kvols is a very interesting place with a history dating back to the Middle Ages, a time when there was plenty of fish and eel in the fjord, and the lowlands around the fjord provided plenty of grass to feed cattle herds. When ready, meaning fattened up, the cattle herds were driven down the historic “Hærvejen”, called “The Oxen Way” by the Germans. It runs all the way down through the middle of Jutland to Hamburg, Germany where the herds were then sold. History tells us that about 50,000 fattened heads of cattle (oxen) went down it, to Germany yearly.



Viborg is also an old historic town that played a large role in medieval Denmark, with the first Church Cathedral, Domkirke, becoming a very important and central governing centre in the long and interesting history that followed its construction. It was built in 1130, just after the end of the Viking era and the conversion of the Danes to Christianity. Viborg was considered the capital of Jutland, and during these early medieval years, the city became instrumental in political as well as religious matters with 5 monasteries in the city.

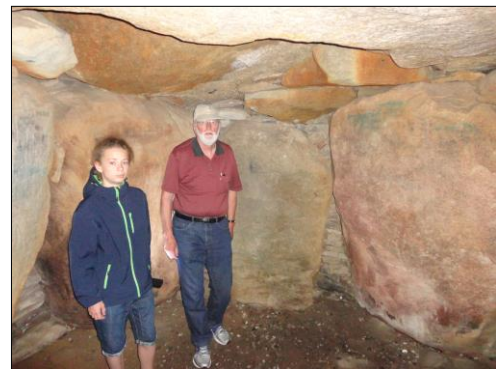
Much more can be said about the history of Northern Jutland, as it goes back to long before the Viking era of 800 to 1100 A.D. Recent archaeological discoveries, near and on the West Coast of Denmark, have revealed remnants of primitive villages from an even earlier hunter-gatherer period when fish, game, fruit and nuts were the primary food.

All in all, a very interesting area in which to spend a summer with a small rented diesel-powered BMW that made possible many day trips to the west coast, including:

The Middle Age Castle of Spøttrup near Skive, in an area of ancient burial mounds near Hobro.

Kongenshus Mindepark, 25 Km southwest of Viborg, an impressive heather covered area, where thousands of years ago large Oak forests grew, but is now a park honoring the pioneers who worked hard to make the heather covered mid-Jutland area into productive agricultural land.

Ørslev Kloster near Virksund, once a most important religious refuge still functioning today as a modern day place of quiet for contemplation.



Of course between visiting family and having visitors over, there were several trips to Viborg’s, Cathedral, (Domkirke), to see the famous Joakim Skovgaard frescoe paintings that depict stories from the Bible, and another trip to attend an evening anniversary concert in the Cathedral, put on by the Danish Air Force Band.

FYI

On another outing we attended a church service at Søndermarks Church in southwest Viborg, a modern church where a group of Ladies have embroidered copies of a frieze showing Hærvejen and mounted it on the Church foyer wall as a beautiful decoration and tourist attraction.



There were also tours to Aarhus for shopping, and a visit to the Old City Museum ( Den Gamle By), a very well done museum area with old buildings from Denmark's past, and to the Moesgaard Museum south of Aarhus where a beautiful large and modern addition has been added.

On one weekend trip to Tarp, which is just south of the border in Germany, to visit friends, we stopped on the way back at Graasten Castle, where they were preparing the Castle and its beautiful Gardens for the summer visit of the Queen and her family.

As for the experience of daily living in Denmark after having spent 50 years in Canada, we can say it was interesting and pleasant. Danes are busy people, but still very helpful.



To be a Danish house keeper (husmor) means to go shopping at Brugsen in Løgstrup, 5 km away, where you can buy rye bread, multigrain bread, liver paste with sky (aspic jelly), Danish salami, cheese and more cheese, local vegetables, cakes, wines, and magazines such as Hendes Verden, Billed Bladet, etc.; we very much enjoyed the variety of items available. Organic food is also available and very popular, more so in the large city areas, and like in Canada it is priced at a premium. The organic "Vildmose" potatoes are very good.

Living in a small village, every day life is very quiet. The young people are away at work and the seniors go out for walks down to the harbour, do garden work, or take a boat out on the fjord to check a net, or they are just visiting. We found that although it was quiet, there were many things to do: art exhibitions, concerts, outings, etc. The larger churches are increasingly being used for concerts; we went to a classical string quartet concert in Viborg Cathedral, a most enjoyable event.

It appears that the Danes are very culture oriented for they attend art exhibits and concerts, large and small, quite diligently. They think highly of Danish artists, singers and actors, and are quick to mention or point out that a particular artist, singer or actor has been in the USA, and then ask if you have heard about them. When the answer is no, they look at you as if to say, "Where have you been and where are you from?"



Denmark values its “Arts,” and is very good at preserving its culture and history, by keeping its museums and its buildings, as well as churches and areas designated as historical, in good repair.

Danish weather is special, it can be very nice one day and then windy and raining the next. The spring had arrived late and was cold so the farm crops had a slow start, but as the weather warmed, the crops picked up and it looked like a good harvest.

It is quite amazing to see what Danish farmers can squeeze out of the land: grain, corn, rapeseed, canola, flax, potatoes, grass, and hay. And they also farm cattle, both dairy and beef, pigs and chickens, and even fish, while all aspects of farm activities are closely regulated and monitored by the EU and the Danish government. Similar to other developed countries, small farms are no longer feasible as they have been bought up by the larger farms that need the fields to suit the large and expensive machinery used.

During the last 50 years the Danish road system has expanded tremendously, with super highways going nearly everywhere, so people can live in the country and easily commute to their work in the cities or towns. It is not uncommon to travel across the country for one hour or more to get to work.

Social life in Denmark has not changed much, as any excuse to celebrate with family and friends is used, the restaurants are busy, and interestingly, a beer is cheaper than a cup of coffee. Local country and city art exhibits, garden exhibits, exercise and church basement groups, and of course senior groups and tours, all seem well attended and supported. Danes travel quite a lot and they love to drive or fly to southern Europe for their annual vacations, must be the Viking ancestry. Interestingly, most Danes do not think twice about spending money on their annual vacation, but are hesitant to drive too far in Denmark itself to visit or do a favour, as both cars and gas are expensive.

We found that Danes in general are now a little more reserved when you first meet them than they were 50 years ago. In the city most just look straight ahead and hurry on, while in the country they may nod good day before again hurrying on. However, after meeting a couple of times it sometimes leads to a short word exchange or some conversation. When it becomes known that we are from Canada it usually generates more interest, and after a couple of meetings, an offer of a beer or a cup of coffee.

One day Søren while out biking visited the small village of Knudby by Hjarbæk fjord north of Kvols. Three senior aged men were sitting in the fishing gear storage shed mending their fish nets. He was bold and asked if they had caught any fish, and the answer was no, but it ended up starting nearly an hour of interesting conversation about local Danish and world affairs.



Lis met our neighbours who have two daughters, 8 and 12, at Kvolsvej. One evening they came to the door and excitedly asked, “Do you want to come with us down to the harbour to see ‘Morild’,” a phosphorescence given off by ocean algae that washes into shore and when disturbed by waves or sticks in the water, gives off light.

FYI

The girls were very excited about showing us this, and it was a very nice thought by them to include us. Later, one of the girls was also very helpful when Lis dropped the cell phone and could not get it going again, one, two, three and it was working again. It was really nice to experience such kind gestures.



On another enjoyable occasion, we were invited to attend, as well as help with the set-up of an annual summer evening party held in the harbour area, for which the whole town brought food, beer, wine, and coffee, and took part in a group sing-along.

Interestingly, when Lis told the local people that she had to drive to Billund airport, (about 100 km), to deliver a departing visitor, and had to go back there the next day to pick up Søren, they said that is so far, and asked why does he not take the bus? Lis never thought about the distance as that would not be far in Canada.

Could we live in Denmark again after more than 50 years in Canada? The answer would be yes, maybe because we both have siblings, family, and friends in Denmark.

The living standard of the two countries is in our opinion very much the same, and the culture of friendliness and political correctness is also quite similar, while medical services and other services for seniors are also much alike. The tax system in Denmark seems to be more complicated and cumbersome, but not necessarily unfair, as Denmark tries to take care of all its citizens making it one of the best countries in the world to live in.



This leaves the weather, where Canada definitely is the winner, and as to size and room Canada definitely has a great advantage. So: "I Danmark er jeg født der har jeg hjemme"

But "Oh Canada" is not bad either.

 <p>Dan's <b>WELDING &amp; FABRICATING</b> EST 1960</p> <p>50 years</p>	<p>3485 Mainway Burlington   ON   L7M 1A9 P: 905-335-8844 F: 905-335-8868 E: <a href="mailto:info@danswelding.com">info@danswelding.com</a> W: <a href="http://www.danswelding.com">www.danswelding.com</a></p>
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# Danish Contributions

**Liselotte Østergaard**

“Danish Contributions” was presented twice in 2015, once at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and once at the Nordic Fair in North York. The information was shared by three people as about 30 participants on stage awaited his or her turn to step forward to hold up posters, Danish figurines, Havarti cheese, jewelry, books etc. Some were even dressed as Vikings, farmers, painters or gardeners. The mentioned songs were also sung in between the readings. Our Folk Dancers participated as well. You are welcome to make use of the presentation in your clubs across Canada and make any changes you feel necessary. Below is the shortened version, presented in June 2015.



*Havarti Cheese*

Narrator: We are glad you are here to enjoy our production entitled Danish Contributions. We, as Danish Canadians, feel we have been a vital part of the growth of this country of Canada and not until we brain storm do we even realize the many areas in which we have affected Canada through the years. We would like to share some of these contributions with you. As well, we will focus on some contributions made by people in Denmark.

Folk dancing and folk costumes are a big part of our preserved traditions and so we are thrilled to have a few of our Danish Folk dancers in their colourful costumes join us today. Their first dance was entitled .....

Before we go on with sharing our contributions we need to go back more than 1,000 years to when the Scandinavians first arrived on the east coast of Canada. Leif Erickson was one of the famous explorers who landed at L'Anse aux Meadows, in Newfoundland. The Vikings arrived in a ship similar to the one held by ..... and in the 1960s ruins were excavated proving the sagas right, that Vikings had been here! Although Vikings are often depicted as rough and aggressive; they were fearless sailors, great explorers and skilled in crafts. Please note the jewelry worn by our mini Vikings as well as the hand-woven cloth with intricate patterns which they are holding. In order to survive, Vikings were often engaged in battles as the boys will now demonstrate.  
SONG: Glory we're the Vikings.



Danish Immigrants arrived in three waves. Those before 1900 were the true pioneers. At that time 160 acres of land could be made available free of charge in Canada. A group of Danes was convinced to go to New Brunswick to farm. However, the agents neglected to tell them the land was heavily forested and they had to clear the land first! The colony was named New Denmark and produced the famous seed potatoes that are now shipped to markets overseas. The first Danish Canadian Museum was established in New Denmark. Later in 1992 the Danish Canadian National Museum was established in Dickson, Alberta, to preserve our history and record our contributions to Canada.

The second wave of Danish immigrants arrived in Canada in the 1920s when the US imposed a quota and diverted the flow to Canada. Danes were welcome in Canada and were so-called Preferred Immigrants. Skilled farmers arrived with a good background in raising cattle and pigs; others tried raising grain on the prairies. At one point, many dairies were managed by Danes, particularly in Alberta. The wives worked from morning until night keeping house and helping outside. Danes also taught gymnastics, including to Canadian troops in the Second World War. SONG: For the Danish Pioneers who set out in bygone years, (Jesus kom dog nær til mig.)

The third wave of Danish immigrants came in the 1950s, consisting of over 20,000 immigrants with many skills. They were not only farmers, but people educated in the trades, carpenters, painters, bakers, gardeners and contractors. Work carried out by Danes was considered quality work.



The people of Denmark have also made substantial contributions to society. It is difficult to know where to begin. Let me just say Lego. No toy is more famous than LEGO, but not everyone is aware it was a Danish invention that was patented in 1958. The unusual name came from the Danish “LEG GODT” which means “play well”. Here are a few interesting statistics. On average every person on earth owns 86 Lego Blocks and in 2012 Lego produced 45.7 billion blocks! That is 5 million blocks per hour! Our children here as well as children around the world spend hours building with Lego.

Carlsberg, the Danish brewing company was founded in 1847 and today produces over 500 different beers including Tuborg and Somersby. Carlsberg beer is enjoyed by many in Canada.

Arla cheese is the largest cheese producer in Scandinavia and 7<sup>th</sup> largest in the world. I’m sure you’re familiar with their Havarti and their Blue Cheese. Arla’s cheese can be found in all large supermarkets in Canada, including Costco.

Look at this large tin! Kjeldsen is famous for their Danish Butter Cookies in the blue tin. Their story started 75 years ago when a couple in Denmark opened a small bakery. In 1966 the cookies were packed in the blue tin to maintain freshness and were shipped all over the world. These small cookies look innocent but contain 40 calories each!

While in the baking department we can’t forget REAL Danish pastry which some of you may have been lucky enough to taste. Many large cities have Danish Bake Shops which feature this delicacy. I am sure that for the lightness apparent in many pastry products these days, both in supermarkets and in Tim Horton’s, we can thank Danes.

Danish cuisine is well known to many and Danes are renowned for their colourful open-faced sandwiches. There are Danish restaurants across Canada. Until 1991, on special occasions, Danes and Canadians alike could visit Toronto's Danish Food Centre and the Copenhagen Room on Bloor Street, but when cheese import quotas were reduced they had to close.

Danes are well known for their china from Bing and Grøndahl and from Royal Copenhagen, two examples can be seen here carried by .....

Danish Fashion Design is a rapidly growing scene with names such as Malene Birger, Blue Willi, and Cretonne Danish Design all found until recently, in Silkeborg, a high end store in Oakville. A few of our fashionable ladies are modeling some Danish outfits for us. The Pandora bracelet you see features some of the famous Danish charms and Pandora has done so well the charms can be purchased in over 90 countries. ECCO shoes are also Danish and currently retail in over 4,000 locations worldwide.

In Furniture Design, designers such as Arne Jacobsen, Hans Wegner and Poul Kjørholm are famous for creating chairs that are simple and as comfortable as possible. Jacobsen is famous for his Egg Chair, Ant Chair, Drop Chair and Swan Chair.

In 2008, the transformed Art Gallery of Ontario featured beautiful contemporary furniture. The AGO joined forces with the Royal Danish Consulate General, Arne Nordtorp to arrange the purchase of over \$1.5 million worth of Danish designed furniture at a discount. The restaurant features cutlery by Georg Jensen and pieces by Holmegaard. Visit the AGO and enjoy the artwork, but also the permanent imprint from Denmark.



*Arne Jacobsen's Egg Chair, 1958*

SONG: My Bonnie, This weekend we want to share with you.

Danes were among the first in Canada to pioneer the concept of homes for seniors. Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia have Danish homes providing subsidized housing, and assisted living, as well as extended care.

Did you know that Christmas Seals have a link to Denmark? In 1903 Danish postmaster Einar Holbøll had the idea of fundraising to combat TB by selling Christmas Seals. Christmas Seals are a major fundraiser for the Canadian Lung Association.

Through the years Danes have also enriched our lives by being musicians or comedians, or by writing stories or being actors. Many in the music world will recognize the name Carl Nielsen. He was a Danish musician, violinist, and conductor, and was one of Denmark's greatest composers. June 9, 2015, was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. In his lifetime he wrote music for over 290 songs and hymns. We would like to share one of his well loved songs with you now. SONG: Den Danske Sang.

Hans Christian Andersen has enthralled children all around the world with his fairy tales. They have been passed on from generation to generation. Most of us are familiar with the The Ugly Duckling, The Princess and the Pea, The Emperor's New Clothes and The Little Mermaid.

## FYI

In 1909 Victor Borge was born and started playing the piano at a very early age. We have spent hours in front of the television laughing at his jokes and enjoying his piano playing.

Denmark has become more and more famous for its film making, its actors, and its actresses. Prizes have been won at the Toronto Film Festival for their short films. You may recognize such Danish names in the industry as Leslie Nielsen, Carly Rae Jepsen and Mads Mikkelsen.

Our Folk Dancers are ready to share another dance with you. This one is called .....

And finally we will share a little about our contributions in technology. The famous brand Bang and Olufsen is a Danish electronics company that designs and manufactures products such as television sets, radios, telephones and audio equipment. In 1990 they opened stores selling directly to the public.

Vestas Windmill Systems is a Danish manufacturer, seller and installer of wind turbines, and is one of the largest in the world. Vestas has installed 48,000 wind turbines in over 70 countries. The turbines generate enough electricity to provide for 21 million people. In Ontario the turbines can be seen, among other places, at Exhibition Place, the Shelburne area, and off the coast of Lake Ontario.



When we think of transportation of goods, Mærsk may come to mind. The company was founded in Denmark in 1904 and is a well known business conglomerate in the transportation and energy sector. Since 1996 it has been the largest shipper of containers in the world.

Denmark is very cognizant of the environment and has influenced Canada with its ideas about recycling, saving electricity and using bikes instead of cars. It is Copenhagen's aim to plant by 2016 so many trees that all living in the city will be assured of seeing at least one tree from their window. Yes, Danes are famous for many things and just recently in the media they were declared the happiest people in the world!

Canada can be proud of the diverse heritage each new wave of immigrants has added to its mosaic and we Danish Canadians are so proud to be a part of this fine country and to have been able to make numerous contributions to Canada through the years.

Our final tribute to the Nordic Fair and to Canada will be in song, (All pick up two flags).  
SONG: (Til pinse når skoven bli'r rigtig grøn), Let us celebrate what Danes have given ....

If you want the words to the songs mentioned contact Liselotte by email at [ostergaard@rogers.com](mailto:ostergaard@rogers.com).

Best Wishes  
For a successful  
Conference in  
Montreal.



Visit us at [danishclubottawa.com](http://danishclubottawa.com)

**Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto**

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Home page: [www.dlctoronto.on.ca](http://www.dlctoronto.on.ca)



Congregation established in 1957.  
Our own Church built in 1966.  
In addition to Sunday services in  
Danish and English our Church is  
home to the Golden Age Club,  
the Danish Folkdancers of Toronto,  
and the Tuesday Church Cafe.

*From 1957 to 2003 a Church of Dansk Kirke i Udlandet (Danish Church Abroad)  
From January 1, 2004 a Church of Danske Sømands- og Udlandskirker  
(Danish Church Abroad / Danish Seamen's Church)*



**DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY INC.**

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Danish Canadians in “La Belle Province” wish participants  
and organizers a successful Conference

# Remembering the Danes On the *RMS TITANIC*

Scott Larsen

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Scott Larsen became an unintended expert on the *RMS TITANIC* in 2010 following extensive research about the 250 plus Scandinavian passengers aboard the largest ship ever built at the time. He wrote a six-part article for the *Danish Pioneer* newspaper and gave eight talks in 2010 and 2015 about this famous ship and passengers. This feature is based on his presentation, ‘Remembering the Danes on the *RMS TITANIC*’, delivered at the annual conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada on May 23, 2015 in New Westminster, B.C.

What more is there to say about the *RMS* (Royal Mail Ship) *TITANIC*? Plenty, in an op-ed piece for the *Vancouver Sun* to mark the centennial sailing and tragic sinking of the then largest passenger ship, it wasn't in the First Class of the rich and famous who had the most interesting stories. Rather, it is the stories of the hundreds of passengers in the Second and renamed steerage or Third Class passengers, including around 260 Scandinavians.

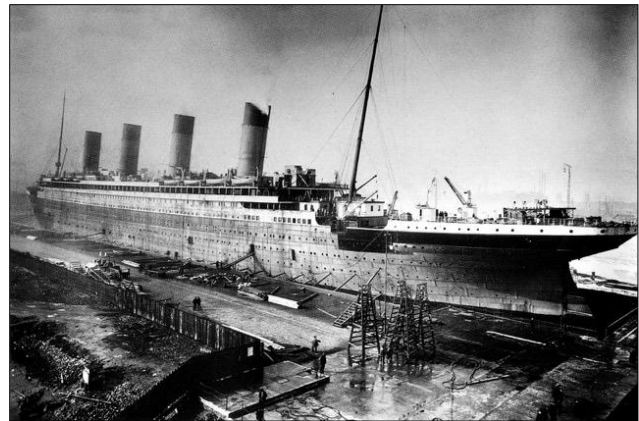
Among the 29 different nationalities represented aboard the ship were 13 Danes and Danish-Americans. None sailed in First Class because the ship's owner, White Star Line, didn't sell First Class tickets in Denmark. The only Scandinavians offered such luxurious passage were a handful of Norwegians and Swedes who could afford those expensive tickets.

This is also what we know:

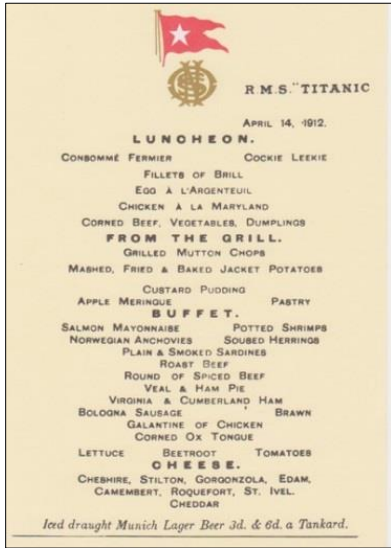
A First Class parlour suite ticket cost \$4,350 in 1912 US dollars. In 2016, that would be \$83,000. But a First Class berth would set you back \$150 or \$2,975 today.

Think you could afford a Second Class ticket? You would have to fork over \$60 or \$1,200 today. Third Class tickets were still expensive to largely immigrants and other travellers. They would have to shell out \$40 for a ticket or between \$298 and \$793 today.

To put the ticket prices into context, a U.S. public school teacher made \$507 annually in 1912. A lumber and wood worker would have made \$530, while a railroad worker earned \$662, but a city minister took home \$1,092.



**RMS TITANIC** under construction at a  
Belfast, Northern Ireland shipyard, circa 1911



First Class Luncheon Menu  
Note the date of the card

Three Danes travelled in Second Class, one Dane was a crewmember — the only Scandinavian working on the *Titanic* — while nine booked passage in Third Class.

They had names like Hans, Claus, and Henrik; Jennie, Carla and Charles; Niels, Svend, and Jacob; Henry, Martin and Einar. Their ages ranged from 17 to 48. Among the 13, eleven were men and two were women. While six left Denmark to come to the New World, seven others were Danes who lived abroad: three in the U.S., two in England, and one each in Argentina, and South Africa.

A Danish uncle living in Portland, Oregon — Niels Peder ‘Rasmus’ Jensen, 48 — was returning to America with his niece and nephew, Carla Jensen, 19, and Svend, 17, both of Esklidstrup, Fyn, Denmark, along with Carla’s fiancé, Hans Jensen, 20, also from Esklidstrup.



Carla Jensen

The other Danish or Danish-Americans were:

Second Class passenger Hans Kristensen Givard, 30, of Argentina; in Third Class, passengers Claus Peter, 41, and Jennie Hansen, 45, the only Danish husband and wife aboard the *Titanic*, from Racine, Wisconsin, and two younger brothers, Henry Hansen, 21, of Copenhagen, and Henrik Juul Hansen, 26, of Holeby, Denmark; crewmember Charles Jensen, 25, the only Scandinavian employed on the *Titanic* as a saloon steward (waiter) in the ship’s Second Class dining room, of Southampton, England; Second Class passenger Jacob Milling, 48, of Ødense; Second Class passenger Martin Ponsell, 24, of Southampton, England; and Third Class passenger Einar Windelov, 21, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Sadly, only two out of the 13 survived: Carla, who escaped wearing her nightgown, and Jennie, the barber’s wife from Racine.



Newspaper Headlines showing an artist’s rendition of the *Titanic* hitting the iceberg

Of the other Danes and Danish-Americans, one Dane was buried in the *Titanic* section of a Halifax, Nova Scotia cemetery — the largest burial site of deceased *Titanic* crewmembers and passengers, — two at sea, and one cremated and returned to Copenhagen and buried in the Assistens Cemetery. Seven were never found.

We all know the story that there weren’t enough lifeboats for the 2,229 passengers and crew. But did you know there is a Danish connection to the lifeboats?

The Engelhardt collapsible lifeboat was a boat with pontoon sides that when folded retained the boat’s length but only half the height than a regular lifeboat. Made by a Danish ship captain,

Vlademar Engelhardt (1853-1931), four of these lifeboats supplemented the other 16 lifeboats — 14 regular lifeboats and two emergency cutters — all secured on the top decks of the ship.



*One of the four Engelhardt collapsible lifeboats  
Photo taken from the SS Carpathian, a Cunard ship  
that managed to save 705 survivors*

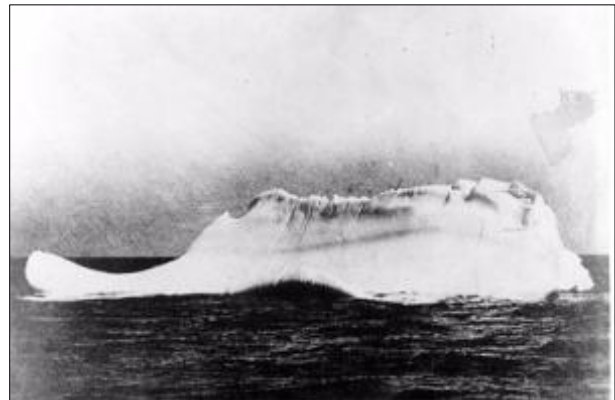
The 14 regular wooden lifeboats could accommodate 65 passengers each; the two cutters with 40 each; and the four Danish Engelhardts with 47 each. If each boat was filled to capacity it meant 1,078 could safely escape the iceberg frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Sadly, most weren't.

The *Titanic* struck the iceberg at 23:40 on the night of April 14, 1912. By 2:20am on the morning of April 15<sup>th</sup>, the ocean liner that was "unsinkable" (according to one advertisement put out by the White Star Line) made its final plunge under the Atlantic waves.

The statistics bear out how woefully inadequate the *Titanic* was when it came to the number of lifeboats. There were only enough room for 52 per cent of all the passengers and crew. If the *Titanic* was filled to capacity (3,547), which it wasn't (2,229), it would have only had enough lifeboats for only one-third of the passengers and crew.

Among the four Danish lifeboats, there was room for 188 passengers, but only 109 passengers and crew of the *Titanic* filled these life savers.

A side story is that there was a coal strike in England which reportedly delayed around 50 passengers in getting to the ship in time before its Southampton sailing, undoubtedly saving many lives. Around 50 others changed their plans, for one reason or another and at the last minute booked passage on the *Titanic*. Tragically most went on to lose their lives. In total, out of the 2,229 passengers and crew only 713 survived resulting in the deaths of 1,517.



*Iceberg purported to be the one the **Titanic** hit on  
April 14, 1912. Same color paint from the ship was  
seen on the ice float by an eye witness.*

First Class had 329 aboard with 199 surviving. That would mean a survival rate of 60.5 per cent — the highest among the three classes and crew — or 39.5 per cent lost (130). Second Class (including three Danes) had 285 passengers with 119 surviving for a 41.7 per cent survival rate. A total of 166 perished (58.3 per cent).

It is the Third Class where the greatest loss of life among the passengers occurred: while 174 of the 710 survived (including two women, one Danish woman and the other a Danish-American woman), the survival rate was only 23.5 per cent. There were 535 who died in this class

(including nine Danes, Danish-Americans and Danes living abroad) with a perish rate of 75.5 per cent.

Ironically (or perhaps not), it was among the crew who suffered the highest number of lives lost: 685 (including one Dane) or 76.5 per cent out of 899. Only 214 (23.4 per cent) survived.



*Carla Jensen years later holding the nightgown she wore the night she escaped from the sinking **Titanic***



*The grave of Jacob Milling  
The only **Titanic** fatality buried in Denmark  
Special thanks to Gitte Lunding of the  
Kulturecentret Assistens for this photo*

Before Carla Jensen was put into a lifeboat, she said a poignant goodbye to her Uncle Niels, brother Svend, and fiancé Hans. When the lifeboat number 16 was lowered from the ship, her Uncle Niels said, “Now, you can wait there (New York City) until we come.” It would be the last time she saw all three. She escaped only wearing her nightgown and a coat.

Carla returned to Denmark, later married, and had a family. Every year on that date, Carla sat up all night thinking about that horrendous night with her nightgown neatly folded nearby. In 1980, her request was fulfilled after she died: she was buried in her *Titanic* nightgown in Ferritslev.

It is said the three most written about subjects in the world are Jesus Christ, the U.S. Civil War, and the *Titanic*. I expect 100 years from now people will still be fascinated by this ship.



One of four commemorative posters Scott Larsen created in 2012 to help pay for his research time around the Scandinavians aboard the RMS TITANIC. He used the famous Edvard Petersen painting of 1890 showing emigrants at Larsen’s Plads, Copenhagen.

*History ALIVE! © Copyright Scott Larsen*

# Danes Worldwide Visits Canada

**Anne Marie Dalgaard**

Danes Worldwide embarked on the “North America Tour 2015” at the end of May. It took us to Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York before we arrived in Canada on June 3rd. Danes Worldwide was represented by Secretary General Anne Marie Dalgaard and Head of Instructional Services Carina Kjær Busk. The visit was organized in co-operation with the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, the Danish Embassy in Canada, the Danish Church in Vancouver, and the Danish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto. Generous support was received from Honorary Consul Ann-Britt Everett, Vancouver.



*Meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Toronto*

popular annual Danes Worldwide Summer School taking place for three weeks in Denmark. Moreover, we were able to “pre-launch” the new “Mini Summer School” program aimed at children aged 6 to 9 and their relatives.

This new initiative is a one-week stay in Denmark for parents or grandparents with their children or grandchildren. The children will be taught Danish while the adults may choose from a range of subjects related to Denmark's language and culture.

We started out on Wednesday June 3 with a presentation to the Danish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with DABGO. The main theme of the meeting was the new Danish legislation allowing dualcitizenship. A group of some 40 Danes and others with an interest in Denmark listened attentively and raised many questions about Danish citizenship.

In addition many of the participants wanted to learn more about Danes Worldwide online Danish classes, the Danish for Beginners program, and the very



*Participants Danish Church Toronto*

The following day, Consul and Trade Commissioner in Toronto, Jess Møller Knudsen, and his spouse Mia invited the Danish business community in the Toronto area to a reception at their residence to celebrate Denmark's Constitution Day on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Many guests had brought their families, so the day was a true celebration. His Excellency, Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen

had come from Ottawa and was the keynote Constitution Day speaker. He highlighted in his speech that 2015 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women and servants receiving the right to vote in Parliamentary elections in Denmark.



*Ambassador Abrahamsen,  
Anne Marie Dalgaard,  
Trade Commissioner  
Jess Møller Knudsen*

It was a wonderful reception with plenty of delicious Danish food, lots of Danish pastries from the Danish Bakery, and even *kransekage*. For Danes Worldwide, the day offered an opportunity to meet with long standing members – and even some of our young students were at the party!

On Friday June 5, we had a very useful meeting with Lena Maul who teaches Danish at the Danish school in Toronto. Ms. Maul explained how the school works, and we had a very constructive exchange of views on instruction methods, attitudes, and priorities in the Canadian and the Danish school systems. In addition to the formal language instruction programs, Danes Worldwide offers educational materials to any teacher instructing a group of Danish students locally.

After this meeting, we had a few hours off. Ulla de Stricker, assistant editor of our member magazine DANES, and the organization's translator, happens to live in Toronto. She had kindly offered to take us on a sightseeing walk in the city centre. It was not your usual tourist experience as we got a good impression of the City Hall and University of Toronto areas and visited the Harbourfront as well as the underground city.

On Saturday June 6, Danes Worldwide was kindly invited to the Danish Lutheran Church, represented by congregation chair Sune Overgaard and pastor Kenneth Berg. We were asked to deliver a speech on Danes Worldwide and on our work in the area of language instruction, our advice and guidance to Danes living abroad and, last but not least, the new Danish legislation allowing dual citizenship. Our presentation was well received, and there were many questions related to Danish language lessons and citizenship. After our presentation, the organizers showed the acclaimed Danish film *Marie Krøyer* by award winning Danish instructor Bille August.



*Sune Overgaard, Chair, Church  
Toronto, Anne Marie Dalgaard and  
Pastor Kenneth Berg*

On Sunday June 7, the annual Sunset Villa Constitution Day celebration was held. 2015 was a special year, as Sunset Villa a retirement community for Danes, celebrated its 60th anniversary. We were honored to be invited to be part of this wonderful celebration, and we wish to extend our sincere thanks to President John Hansen and the Board of Directors of the Sunset Villa Association. The day offered a parade by the Royal Danish Guards' Association, and a keynote speech by H.E. Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen among other notables. The Constitution Day event attracted some 1200 to 1500 guests, including many families, who clearly enjoyed themselves. The weather was gorgeous and contributed to the sense of celebration at the Villa and its beautiful grounds.



*Danish Constitution Day celebrations at Sunset Villa on June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sunset Villa President, John Hansen, on the left of the Top Left Photo.*



After these joyous occasions commemorating the Danish Constitution, we left for Vancouver where new adventures were awaiting. We started on Tuesday, June 9, with the Grand Opening of the new Dania Home in Burnaby. Dania Home is a residence for seniors of Danish descent. The event was attended by hundreds of interested people, many with special ties to Dania Home. All guests were welcomed by Dania President Kjeld Christensen and by other entertaining and interesting speeches, followed by



*Choir at Grand Opening of  
Dania Home*

a wonderful reception with *smørrebrød*, other delicious food, and fresh fruit and sweets. We were impressed by the excellent facilities of Dania Home as well as by the friendliness of the staff. It certainly looked like a place you would want to live later in life.



*Vita and Rolf Christensen  
Anne Marie Dalgaard outside  
Dania Home*

Subsequently we were offered a sightseeing tour by Rolf Buschardt Christensen, President of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, and his lovely wife Vita. The tour provided a closer look at Burnaby and New Westminster, including visits to the Scandinavian Centre, and to The Fraser Cemetery from where we had an amazing view of the Fraser River and Mount Baker in the State of Washington.

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*Participants at Church, Vancouver*

Later in the day, the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver hosted an evening for Danes living in the Vancouver area. After a warm welcome from Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, H.E. Niels Boels Abrahamsen gave a speech about the Embassy and its important work promoting Denmark in Canada. He touched upon currently relevant topics related to civic service, voting in the Danish Parliamentary elections, and more. Danes Worldwide had again been invited to talk about the organization's activities in the area of dual citizenship, advice and

guidance on Danish laws and language classes for Danish children growing up abroad. The presentations led to a great dialogue with the audience in which many questions were raised and answered.

For this evening we wish to thank the many volunteers of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver. They did a great job in preparing delicious *smørrebrød* and food and drinks for our evening. We wish in addition to express warm appreciation to BoConcept, the company kindly co-sponsoring the catering.



*Pastor Birgitte Saltorp*



*Anne Marie Dalgaard with Executive Director of BoConcept, Steen Skaaning and his wife*

On June 10, we paid a visit to COWI North America, headquartered in Vancouver. COWI was the primary sponsor of our North America Tour 2015, and we are immensely grateful for its generous contribution. Without that support we would not have been able to carry out our program for this very fruitful trip.

The day and the trip ended with a dinner at the Vancouver Marina hosted by H.E. Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen and some of his staff. It was a perfect way to end a fantastic trip.

Thank you to all sponsors and co-organizers and to all the friendly and helpful people we met along the way. We hope to welcome many of you as new members of Danes Worldwide. Equally important, we hope someday to be able to return to beautiful Canada and its wonderful people.



*COWI Marketing & Communications Manager Philip Chan and Jeannine Martine, COWI Vice-President, Business Development and Marketing, with Anne Marie Dalgaard and Carina Kjær Busk.*



*Danish Consul Ann-Britt Everett*



*Carina Kjær Busk with Sophie and Philip Møller Knudsen*



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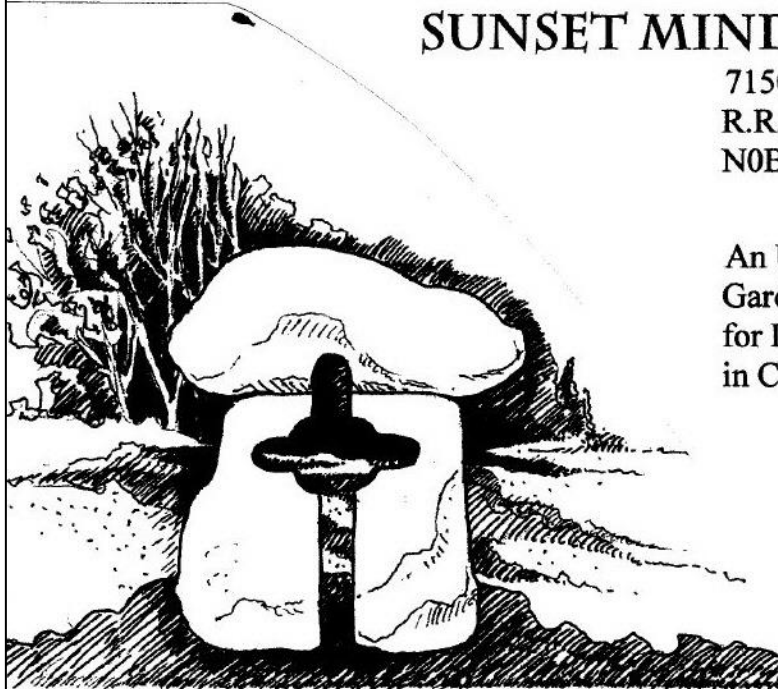
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# Prof. Natalie Van Deusen

## Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta

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2015-16 has been an exciting year of continued growth for the Scandinavian Studies Program in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta.

Last year, we welcomed Dr. John Eason as the new instructor of Norwegian and Swedish. John received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011, and lived and worked in Stockholm, Sweden, before coming to the University of Alberta. He has been an excellent addition to the program, and brings with him a great deal of experience and enthusiasm for modern Scandinavian language, literature, and culture.



John and I have been able to offer a variety of courses on Scandinavian language, literature, and culture from the Viking Age to the present day. This academic year, John is teaching first-year Norwegian and Swedish, second-year Norwegian, as well as a special topics course on ABBA, which has received considerable attention on local media (including on CBC Radio). He will also teach a course on Scandinavian cinema in the spring term.



I have been able to offer first- and second-semester Old Norse, as well as two special topics courses: one on Scandinavian folklore and another on Scandinavian children's literature. We are particularly pleased with the enrollments in these courses. All told, over one hundred students have enrolled in our courses for the 2015-16 academic year. There are currently seven students, who have declared majors in Scandinavian Studies, and ten who are minoring in the program.

Students from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds and with a range of experience in Scandinavian Studies enroll in our courses. The students both John and I have had the pleasure of teaching are highly engaged and interested in the course material, which is reflected in their exams, papers, and presentations. Not only is their work of an overall excellent quality, but also they demonstrate creativity and exceptional commitment to the subject matter. We have a high rate of continuation of students (majors, minors, or otherwise) in Norwegian, Swedish, and Scandinavian Studies, and we look forward to offering them more diverse and interesting courses, which serve the aforementioned purpose of providing a solid foundation of the languages, literatures, and cultures of Scandinavia—past and present.

# Impressions of Denmark After 25 Years

**Pernille Lamontagne, Ottawa**

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Pernille and Gaston Lamontagne and their children Emil and Anna, returned to Ottawa in 2015 after spending two years in Denmark. Pernille left Denmark twenty-seven years ago, but had a chance to live there for a couple of years due to her husband's job and in this way she could observe the changes and what Denmark is like today. Here are her impressions.



In the summer of 2013 my family and I had the opportunity, thanks to Gaston's employment with National Defence, to move to Odense, Denmark, and live there for two years. Since I had lived in Canada for 25 years, it was with lots of excitement and apprehension that we packed all of our belongings and flew to Denmark on August 8, 2013. When we arrived, I felt at home right away. It was as if I had never left. After a quick stop to say hi to the family in Copenhagen, we drove to beautiful Odense and within the week the kids were starting school, even though we lived in a hotel. Anna started in an English International School in Odense while Emil went to Nyborg gymnasium and was in the English International Baccalaureate program. After

one year, Anna decided to switch to a Danish public school in order to get more of a true Danish experience. In that year, Anna was completely immersed in the Danish language and culture. She even joined the Skt. Lucia pageant, went to camp with her class, and was in the school play which was all in Danish. I found that the Danish school system is very relaxed and as a result, the kids are very mature and outspoken, and are involved in many decisions. They are very independent. I had forgotten how liberated the teachers are in Denmark until I met Anna's math teacher for the first time, as he came walking down the hallway in bare socks, jeans and T-shirt. He was a great teacher and mentor, and the kids loved him.

Emil had a great experience at the gymnasium. During his first two weeks in school, all activities were focused on the students getting to know their new environment and each other. This social focus really helped Emil to quickly integrate into the new school and it really created a special bond between all students in the class. They were so inclusive of everyone in all their class activities during the two years. It truly is a successful way of starting high school. Emil enjoyed

going to class with kids from all over Denmark and the world. This international program was very demanding but gave him a great Danish and International experience. The relaxed drinking laws in Denmark probably also played a role in his “awesome” time in a Danish high school.



Both children were involved in local sports clubs. There are many activities to join and they are not very expensive since the government subsidizes youth programs. The soccer and gymnastic programs are excellent and there was even a hockey club in Odense, so Emil was able to continue his passion and we could get our “fix” of hockey. Emil was fortunate enough to play in the U17 Danish finals for Odense and win a silver medal. Since he is a Danish citizen, he was also invited to participate in the Danish National Hockey Program which he continues to do even back in Canada.

Denmark has certainly changed since I grew up in Copenhagen 25 years ago. The biggest difference is all the many newcomers to the country from around the world. The majority of Danes are no longer blond haired and blue eyed. As a result, there is much more diversity within Denmark and it is not uncommon to hear and read signs in other languages just like in Canada. Denmark has become very bilingual over time. Kids in grade one now take English lessons and the youths and adults are all very fluent in English. Many companies operate mainly in English. Renting a house and getting established in Denmark was an interesting affair. Renting a house is not as simple as here. There are a lot of rules which favour the landlord not the tenant, and when you leave the house it has to be in tip top condition.

Getting a drivers licence was also a challenge. Thankfully they found my old licence, but Gaston had to do the written as well as the driving test, and I can assure you it is not like Canada, (We know since our son just did his G1). In Denmark there is a fail rate of 25% on the written test and they have so many parking rules, passing rules, and other rules due to bikes, so it isn't easy for an old Canadian. I have never seen Gaston so relieved as the day he passed the tests! Even though we could drive the car, the family fully embraced using bicycles as the principal means of getting to school, work, parties, etc., all year round in all types of weather. This was probably the biggest difference we experienced between our daily lives in Canada and Denmark.



I found the Danes have not changed. They are still very direct and sarcastic and their love for

## FYI

socializing, partying and “hygge” is the same, which was so good to see and experience again. We really enjoyed how easy it is to travel within Denmark. The roads are all in good shape and the trains and busses so well organised. With the bridges now connecting most of Denmark and Sweden it is easy to get around. I must say that it was still fun to go to Ærø the good old fashion way by ferry, and when you arrive at that beautiful island, it’s like going back in time, like so many of the other small islands in Denmark, with century old houses and old cobblestone streets. Travelling across Europe is also so easy and cheap due to competition, so we took advantage of that opportunity. We managed to visit many European countries and one of our most fond memories was skiing in the Austrian Alps. Definitely recommended!



Denmark is very advanced in technology. Almost everything is done online, (no other choice), or by apps. Data is all linked in a central system based on your personal number and available to all levels of government. It is very impressive, “cool” and efficient once you get used to it.

While in Odense, I was fortunate to find work at the hospital and it was an experience to work in the medical field and see how the medical care is very similar to the Canadian system, but appointments, results, etc., are all communicated electronically. Many appointments get confirmed by a text message - not by a phone call.

I was fortunate that an election was called in Denmark while we were there and I actually had an opportunity to vote. This was my first vote in over 20 years – It was great!

The efficient Danes at Odense Maritime Technology completed their ship design on time and so “unfortunately”, we had to pack up and leave family, the many new friends, and the beautiful city of Odense after two years. It was an amazing experience that we will never forget. I am so thankful that my children had the chance to live in Denmark and experience their Danish roots. As we settle back in Ottawa, we are fortunate to have two beautiful countries to call home!

# Our First Conference

## Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Danish Federation's first national Conference was held at Bosman's Motor Hotel on Howe Street in Vancouver on May 29-30, 1982. Heading the conference organizational committee was Poul B. Christensen, who also chaired the first Annual General Meeting. The conference theme was 'Danish Canadian Priorities'. The Conference included a Church Service at the Danish Lutheran Church on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, followed by lunch at Dania in Burnaby.

Following below is the first Annual Report, given at the Conference in 1982; a year after the Danish Federation had been formed. The Annual Report as well as the post-conference write-up: are reprinted exactly as they were written in 1982. This is the first time they appear in a Heritage Book. While the buzz word these days is diversity, it is interesting to note that back in 1982 it was multiculturalism.



This is a group photo of the delegates at the 1982 Conference. This photograph of the delegates at the first Danish Federation Conference was taken on Saturday, May 29, 1982, outside Bosman's Motor Hotel on Howe Street in Vancouver. The delegates marked with a \* have passed away; that is, thirteen out of twenty-one.

**Back row from the left:** Ole Mølhøj\*, Herbert Jørgensen\*, John Kristensen, Poul B. Christensen\*, Erling Nielsen\*, Herbert Rasmussen\*, Garry Elmberg\*, Svend Møllgaard\*, Les Bonke, Knud Elgaard\*.

**Front row:** unknown lady, Gunnar Kristensen, Lili Nielsen, Robert Brinkman\*, Birgit Nielsen, Esther Machacynski\*, Rolf Christensen, Martha Larsen\*, Mogens Mogensen, Donn Larsen\* and Ulf Jessen\*.



*Federation of Danish Associations in Canada*  
*Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada*  
*Fédération des Associations Danoises du Canada*

**Annual Report**

**1981 - 1982**

It is a pleasure to present the following Annual Report on the affairs of The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for the year 1981-1982. It has been a very good as well as a very busy year; and in many ways it has been an exciting and challenging year.

This was our very first year and I think we are off to an excellent start. We already have fifteen members and we are still growing. As well, financially we are sound, have no debts, but instead, and already, a little money in the bank.

During our first year of existence we also managed to obtain a considerable amount of visibility and mention. Moreover, many individuals as well as organizations have encouraged us in our endeavours, helped us and/or wished us well.

Despite its brief history, our Federation has already become a flagship organization in the Danish Canadian community, representing our community at the national level insofar as ethnocultural and political matters are concerned. Thanks to the broad support from the member-organizations our Federation is establishing itself as a leading voice of the Danish Canadian community.

Having a national umbrella organization such as our Federation has been the dream of many a Dane in Canada. Other ethnic groups have federations; and the Danes in the United States are organized nationally. Indeed, attempts to establish a Danish federation were made in Canada in the 1930s, during the war as well as later. Finally we succeeded. Above all, we succeeded because leaders from the Danish community across Canada had courage, determination and vision. By the sheer force of your enthusiasm and dedication you created a Danish Federation, which until last year had only been a dream among Danes in Canada.

In addition to being our founding year, 1981 also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Multiculturalism. Since 1971, when the federal government proclaimed “a policy of multiculturalism within a bilingual framework as the most suitable means of assuring the cultural freedom of Canadians”, various ethnic groups have taken on increasingly important roles in Canadian society, and have contributed to laying the foundation of a truly multicultural Canada; a Canada where we can maintain and share, with pride, our cultural heritage with other Canadians. What is more humanistic, democratic and just than Multiculturalism? Why didn't other countries think of it first? Let us together do what we can to ensure that Multiculturalism truly becomes one of the foundations of Canadian society, and never just a cliché.

Some concerns, in regard to Multiculturalism, have been voiced in our community. For instance, there is no representative from the Danish community on the 100-man Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism. Moreover, a couple of positions in the Ethnic Archives at the Canada Public Archives remain vacant. Further, it seems that Bilingualism is accorded a higher priority than Multiculturalism, both in terms of concrete action and budget. One positive development was that the B.C. government opened a Cultural Heritage Office, which means that all the provincial governments west of Quebec now officially embrace Multiculturalism. It is evident that the level of commitment and program development in Multiculturalism remains very uneven from one province to another. As well, many Canadians still don't understand what Multiculturalism is all about, while others see it as a threat to Canadian unity. It is indeed essential that all Canadians come to recognize the role all cultural groups have played and continue to play in the development of Canadian society. Here we have a job to do – along with the government, school teachers etc.

One of the biggest threats to not only Multiculturalism but to our own community is assimilation. There is nothing wrong with wanting to integrate quickly into Canadian society. On the contrary! But through Multiculturalism, Canada would like us to contribute more than just our manpower. We are through this policy not only allowed but encouraged to share our culture and in this way make a cultural contribution to Canadian society. Let's do what we can to encourage and inspire Danish ethnocultural groups and support them when we can. Our Federation is certainly one vehicle through which we can do that.

Our Federation was founded just one year ago, on Sunday, June 7, 1981, at a meeting at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario. Thirteen delegates from across Canada attended that founding meeting. The initiative to establish our Federation came from The Danish Club of Ottawa, which had worked on this project for a couple of years, compiling a list of Danish associations in Canada. This was a major task, but assistance was received from various organizations and individuals. The next step was to contact these associations and to present the proposal to them. The proposal to create a Federation was well received. Many people came with encouragement; some added some very good ideas; while other expressed a certain skepticism regarding such a large project – which moreover, had been tried unsuccessfully before. In any case, here was something to talk about. As well, we felt that until you have tried, you cannot tell whether a task is impossible or not.

The proposal to establish a Federation was discussed at Board Meetings and Annual General Meetings, and it was mentioned in Newsletters from Montreal to Vancouver. The next step was to call a founding meeting and carry the ideas into effect.

The Sunset Villa Associations in Puslinch, Ontario, about 85 km west of Toronto, offered to host the founding meeting. Sunset Villa and nine other Danish organizations in Canada sent out a Notice of Meeting, together with an Agenda, Proposals for Bylaws and a little write-up about the proposed Federation. It was sent to 28 Danish associations in Canada, as well as to various other people and organizations who might be interested in the formation of a Danish Federation.

One of the first things we wanted to do after the founding meeting was to tell everybody about the newly formed Federation. Unfortunately, we were severely hampered in our public relations effort due to a six-week postal strike. The postal strike came at a time when we had just picked up momentum. Nevertheless, the establishment of our Federation was duly reported in

*Modersmaalet, Danmarksposten, Scan-Can-News, Kaleidoscope Canada*, as well as in our member organizations' Newsletters. Further, congratulatory letters were received from various people and organizations.

There was also the task of electing Regional Presidents in each of the Regions: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies and Pacific. Meetings in each Region were held for this purpose. Other items of business were also dealt with at these meetings, and various suggestions were forwarded to the Federation's Board of Directors.

As well, we decided to up-date and publish our list of Danish associations in Canada. The list was sent to all members and various other interested parties. It is a major task to keep it up-dated, above all due to the fact that Annual General Meetings and elections are continually taking place.

There has also been a lot of administrative work: printing envelopes and letterheads; typing up and sending out Bylaws and Minutes; writing press releases, ads and articles; answering phone calls and correspondence; sending out information and newsletter; establishing a bank account; trying to get new members; phoning and visiting clubs; looking into incorporating, Danish films, across-Canada-tours, Danish language lessons; and getting a \$4,000 grant from the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, and writing an Evaluation Report.

During the coming year we will have to make a little brochure containing information about our Federation. The brochure will be used for publicity purposes and to tell interested people who and what we are. Moreover, I would like to see us launch a Heritage Project. The Heritage Project should eventually include a library, an archive and a museum. To begin with, I would like to see us compile a history of the Federation's member organizations. We already have some histories on file, which is a start.

About five months after its founding our Federation joined the Council of National Ethnocultural Organizations in Canada. The Council was formed in April 1980. It is an umbrella organization which brings together national ethnic federations. The Council provides a forum for communication among the different ethnic communities, whereby problems and experiences can be shared and joint projects can be undertaken. We hope that our Federation through membership of the Council will become more visible; that we will establish useful contacts and that we will be able to make some kind of contribution in the greater framework of Multiculturalism. We can in part thank the Council for Article 27 in the new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which reads, "This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."

Our Federation should not be seen as a new and yet another Danish organization, or a competing organization, but rather as cooperation among the existing Danish associations. Our Federation is its members; all of us together. Don't ask what the Federation can do for you and your association; instead ask what you can do for the Federation. Together we are something. Together we can become visible and heard. We can take on projects we cannot do alone. These might well be, however, long-term and intangible.

The Federation needs the moral support and the endorsement of the Danish Canadian community, so we can speak with authority and credibility. Together we must ensure that the

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Federation becomes viable, and indeed develops and progresses. In unison we can make a considerable contribution to Canadian society, of which we can be proud. Let's make sure Canadians count us in! Let's make certain we put our community on Canada's map!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many organizations and individuals with whom we have cooperated during the past year. A hearty and personal thanks to the Federation members, as well as to the Federation's Board of Directors. Thank you for your time, dedication, work and spirit of cooperation. As well, a big thank you for your confidence and support!

Rolf Buschardt Christensen  
President  
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada  
May 1982



# The Danish Federation's First Conference

Vancouver, May 29-30, 1982

Rolf Buschardt Christensen - May 1982

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*From left: Svend Møllgaard, Les Bonke, Esther Machacynski, Martha Larsen, Rolf Christensen, Poul B. Christensen and Donn Larsen*

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada held the first national Danish Canadian Conference ever to be held in Canada at the Bosman's Motor Hotel, 1060 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., on May 29-30, 1982. The theme of the Conference was "Danish Canadian Priorities". The aim of the Conference was to discuss and establish the concerns and priorities of the Danish Canadian community.

The delegates at the Conference clearly expressed their desire to see Danish Canadians represented on the many multicultural councils and committees, on equal terms with other ethnic groups. Danish Canadians too want to be consulted when the government makes decisions on ethnic and multicultural matters.

The creation of the Federation was, among other things, a manifestation of our desire to establish closer cooperation among the various Danish Canadian organizations across Canada. It was therefore agreed to exchange newsletters and bulletins, to keep each other informed - and in order to share ideas and experiences. As well, there was a marked interest in exchanging films, books and groups of young people.

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada had been established a year earlier, on June 7, 1981, at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario. Just before the Conference in Vancouver, the New Denmark Historical Society in New Denmark, N.B. and the newspaper *Modersmaalet* joined the Federation. It now consists of seventeen member organizations.

The Conference was organized by the Federation's Pacific Region, whose President, Poul B. Christensen, was elected to chair the Conference. The Pacific Region had also prepared a 70-page Conference Booklet, which contained greetings and messages from, among others, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau; Opposition Leader Joe Clark; the Minister for Multiculturalism Jim Fleming; B.C. Premier William R. Bennett; B.C. Government Services Minister Evan Wolfe; Denmark's Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Vagn Korsbæk; Danish Consul Donn Larsen as well as The Danish Institute in Copenhagen. Copies of the Conference Booklet will now be distributed to various government departments, organizations, libraries etc.



*1982 Conference delegates outside Danish Lutheran Church on 19th Ave., Vancouver.  
On Pastor Jens Arendt's left is Børge Nielsen, President of the Church Council*



*Herbert Rasmussen of Sunset Villa saluting:  
John Kristensen, Lili Nielsen, Svend Møllgaard and Les Bonke*

Poul B. Christensen, The Danish Community Centre of Vancouver; Mogens B. Mogensen, Danish Brotherhood in America, Vancouver Lodge 328; Ulf Jessen, Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest; Svend Møllgaard, Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vancouver; and Gunnar Kristensen, Scandinavian Canadian Friendship Association, Kolding. Present were also many observers, among them, Lili Nielsen, Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton; Garry Elmberg, Danish Community Centre of Vancouver; and Knud Elgaard, Dania Society, Burnaby.

Besides Consul Donn Larsen, who is Honorary Director of the Federation, the delegates included Robert Brinkman, New Denmark Historical Society; Erling Nielsen, Danish Canadian Society, Montreal; Rolf Buschardt Christensen, The Danish Club of Ottawa; Esther Machacynski, Danish Canadian Club of Kingston; Herbert Rasmussen, Sunset Villa; Martha Larsen, Danish Canadian Bowling Club, Hamilton; Herbert Jørgensen, Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada; Les Bonke, Danish Canadian Club, Calgary; John Kristensen, Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton;

Consul Finn K. Petersen, Vancouver, came with greetings Saturday night. As well, B.C. Cultural Heritage Advisor, Enrico A. Diano, gave an excellent talk on multiculturalism.

The Rev. Jens Arendt bid everyone welcome to Vancouver at the Church Service Sunday morning. Lunch was served at Dania Home, the old peoples' home in Burnaby. A guided tour of the home was later given by Dania Society President Knud Elgaard and Mrs. Ellen Troelsen.

Regarding the Federation's Board of Directors, Rolf Buschardt Christensen was re-elected as President, Martha Larsen was re-elected as Secretary and Esther Machacynski was re-elected as Treasurer. The Regional Presidents and Directors are elected in the Regions.



*Les Bonke of Calgary and Poul B. Christensen of Vancouver*



*Herbert Rasmussen, Consul Donn Larsen, Rolf Christensen and Garry Elmberg enjoying some coffee during a break, Donn Larsen had brought some warm fresh Danish pastry!*

The Treasurer was able to present a good healthy financial statement thanks largely to a grant from Secretary of State for Multiculturalism. In his Annual Report the President emphasized the importance of multiculturalism and its significance for each of the individual ethnic groups as well as for society as a whole.

In short it can be said that this Danish Canadian Conference in Vancouver is one of the most important events to have occurred in the Danish Canadian community in Canada. All delegates thought the Conference was a smashing success; and it was decided to meet again next year in Quebec.

The invitation came from The Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, one of the founder-organizations of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.



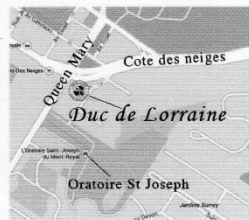
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# Obituaries

## Helen Christiansen of Dickson

1916 – 2015

### Clint Nissen

Anna Helene Christiansen (née Nissen) was born in Øster Løgum, Denmark, on November 17, 1916. She passed away on July 16, 2015 in Red Deer, Alberta at the age of 98. Her memorial service was held in Dickson, Alberta on August 22, 2015 and she was laid to rest in the Dickson Cemetery.



In 1928, Georg and Dorothea Nissen and their eight children left Denmark and immigrated to Canada. Helen was 11 years old.

Their journey across the North Atlantic winter ocean was a rough and cold journey. Helen recalled seeing icebergs while on the ship named the “*United States*”. After arriving in Halifax at Pier 21, they boarded a train to Calgary, then to Innisfail where the family was met by fellow Danes who brought them to Dickson. The family rented land and began farming as they had



in Denmark. Helen attended school in Dickson and learned English. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 1943 Helen Nissen and Gordon Christiansen were united in marriage. They spent many years in partnership, in almost every aspect of their lives. They were blessed with children, Diane, David, and Glenda. They also had a son Glen who died as an infant.

Helen and Gordon were both active in the family general store business. In the late 40s, the family built a butcher shop that Gordon and Helen operated. Helen’s rullepølse and liver paté were staples for the locals, but people also came from far and wide for these Danish staples and the award winning bacon and hams. Helen and Gordon maintained a beautiful property in Dickson, with a large vegetable and fruit garden. Helen was a wonderful hostess, regularly welcoming family and friends into their home. She always had time for a visit and a cup of coffee at the kitchen table by the large window, where she and

## OBITUARIES

Gordon often watched the birds at their feeders. They were both conservationists who showed their love of the outdoors while camping or when staying at the farm on Crooked Creek.

Helen was an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson, singing in the choir, busy in the Ladies Aid and in Sunday school. A summer highlight, every year, was a week or two spent with the family at the Christiansen cabin at the Sylvan Lake Bible Camp. Gordon and Helen held the camp close to their hearts. They often worked at the camp on maintenance and cleanup. They also supplied food for the camp through the Dickson Store for many years.

By the time Helen and Gordon retired, they had expanded the Dickson Store business that included the general store, the butcher shop, the locker, farm supplies and gas by adding the farm fertilizer business. After they retired, they donated the store and locker property to the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson that has developed it into the Dickson Store Museum.

Gordon Christiansen passed away peacefully in March 2009. His obituary is in the 2011 Heritage Book. Helen and family shared this faith statement in her Memorial Service folder:

Wherever He may guide me,  
No one shall turn me back,  
My shepherd beside me,  
And nothing can I lack.  
His wisdom ever waketh,  
His sight is never dim,  
He knows the way He taketh,  
And I will walk with Him.

Auntie Helen would usually meet me with a smile and a laugh and say you are just like your dad.  
We miss you Auntie.

# Carl Frans Lichtenberg

1946 – 2015

**Pia Williams**

---

Carl Frans Lichtenberg was born in the small town of Hørsholm, North of Copenhagen, Denmark, on February 14, 1946. He died on July 14, 2015. He was the beloved husband of Anna Marie Toner-Lichtenberg and dear father of Peter Lichtenberg of Denmark, Pia (and Jeremy) Williams of Stoney Creek, and Eric Lichtenberg of Bond Head.

Frans Lichtenberg of Palmerston was the grandfather of Sivert Lichtenberg and Emily and Nathan Williams. He is fondly remembered by his loving extended family, Marilyn Koch and Bert Knoop, Keith and Jane Toner, Karen Toner and Marlene and Neil Hamilton and his additional grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law Steen and Bente Lichtenberg, Otto and Lizzie Lichtenberg and Bitten Lichtenberg, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of Denmark. He was predeceased by his parents Niels and Eva Lichtenberg, brother Henrik and step-daughter Donna Toner.



Frans was the youngest child of four boys born to Niels and Eva Lichtenberg. Frans' two older brothers, Otto and Steen are still living in Denmark. In his mid- twenties Frans met Annelise, married and together they had a son, Peter. After school Frans obtained an apprenticeship as a computer technician at "Regnecentralen", a semi-official company, which developed and produced computers. He then landed an exciting job as a computer technician at Schrøder, a company which developed and produced small computer programs to measure the result of a blood test automatically. Arriving in Toronto he became an employee at the Canadian subsidiary company of Schrøder. Frans was the first and only one of the children born to Niels and Eva to immigrate to another country. However, before immigrating to Canada, he travelled around Europe and Israel. He immigrated to Canada in his late twenties along with his new wife, Inge, settling in Oakville, Ontario. Frans had two children with Inge, Pia and Eric.

Frans was a visionary. He foresaw that Canada had a bright future for him and his new family. It was a place where he could utilize his skills as a computer engineer. Frans was a teacher of all things. His method was simple, he taught by example. His own parents were adamant that he learn the values of respecting others, as he wished to be respected, and to know the difference

## OBITUARIES

between right and wrong. This was one of his teachings. Frans passed on to his children his love for history and politics, as well as healthy debate. He had passion and fostered and instilled the importance of human rights, and taught all his children to love and be proud that they were both Danish and Canadian. Frans was the biggest supporter and champion of those dear to him.

Frans was often happiest when left to his own devices – whether it was working on his computers (preferably an Apple), web page design, fixing cars, or reading. He loved nothing more than jumping in his car and driving – sometimes for hours – for some much-needed relief and relaxation. More often than not, he would not be gone for long. He admitted that he loved driving so much that he looked for any excuse to go for a spin. His precious Mini Cooper was his most prized possession. Later in life he took up photography as a hobby.

Frans' unforgettable character added life and energy to everything he was involved in. He was proud to be a past President, board member, and a volunteer for Sunset Villa, a member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, various Apple computer groups, the Mini Cooper association, and photography clubs.



However, his happiest time came when he met and married Anna Marie. They were married for seven years and those years were truly some of the happiest and most peaceful of Frans' life. His love and respect for her was undeniable. He would often talk about their adventures and road trips. Above all, Frans was a proud Danish-Canadian. He enjoyed discussing the history of both countries. Now, with his passing, there will be another bright star shining in heaven.

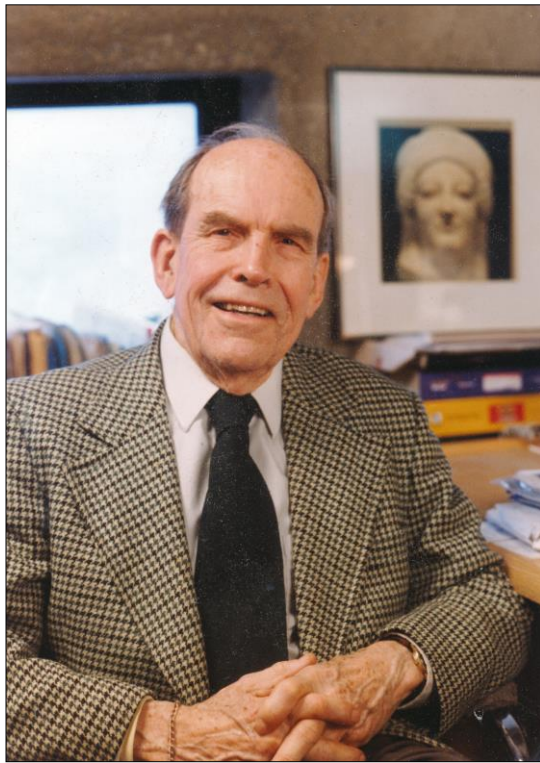
# Hans Møller

1918 – 2015

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

---

Hans Møller was born in Ordrup, north of Copenhagen, on November 10, 1918, the day before the First World War ended. He is the son of ophthalmologist Georg Albrecht Møller (1875-1946) and a nurse, Bodil Brockdorff Thomsen (1889-1974). He died peacefully at his home in Montreal on September 7, 2015, in the presence of his wife, Jane Yaple-Møller and step-son/care-giver Derek Yaple-Schobert.



Hans Møller graduated from Frederiksberg Gymnasium in 1937. He then attended the University of Copenhagen where he studied Danish language and literature, as well as Latin and Greek. While a student he worked part-time at the National Museum. His studies were interrupted by the Nazi Occupation. He became active in the Resistance Movement helping save Jews and secretly transporting hand-grenades and illegal newspapers. At the end of the war he completed the requirements for his doctorate. He also did post-graduate studies on the works of Søren Kierkegaard, the Danish theologian and philosopher.

In 1948 he was hired by the manuscript division at the Royal Danish Library, which includes the manuscripts of Hans Christian Andersen. The position was not full time so he took a part time job making documentary films. He was encouraged in this by the Danish government, which wanted civil servants to branch out and gain experience in other areas. The excellence of his documentary films

brought him a UNESCO scholarship, enabling him to travel to the United States, Canada and Mexico to study documentary film-making.

In 1955 he was offered a job with the National Film Board of Canada, where he worked for nearly fifteen years. In 1969 he became director for the independent company Visual Education Center in Toronto. Not liking all the work required to advertise, and to secure contracts, Hans began to look for a position in library science. In 1974 he became Chief Librarian at the University of Ottawa Library. In 1977 he accepted the position of librarian responsible for undergraduate libraries at McGill University in Montreal, a position he held until 1984. In 1979-

## OBITUARIES

1980 Hans was president of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries. In 1980, Hans had a hand in McGill acquiring Prof. Gregor Malantschuk's large collection of books by and about Søren Kierkegaard.

From 1981 he was professor of Scandinavian Literature at McGill University. Hans advanced to Director of Libraries and was named head of the Library Science Programme. In his position he took a keen interest in McGill's archival collections.

When he retired in 1988, Hans founded the journal *Fontanus*, which he edited for nine years. *Fontanus* was conceived as an annual scholarly journal edited and produced by McGill librarians. The primary purpose was to showcase the University's extensive collection of rare and special material. Hans has presented academic papers at conferences.

In 1954 he published *Komik og humor i Holbergs komedier* and in 1970 the guide *Media for discovery*. In the late 1980s Hans negotiated the funding of a Danish language programme at McGill University, a joint venture between the university and the Danish Ministry of Education. It existed from 1990 to 1993.

For many years Hans was active in the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. He was a frequent contributor to the AASSC Newsletter and served for some years as editor. He sat on the board of the AASSC as Member at Large. It goes without saying that whenever the annual congress was held in Montreal, Hans would organize the event.

Hans was involved with the Canadian Scandinavian Foundation from the mid-1980s onward. In the 1990s he became president and was active in soliciting funds for scholarships to Scandinavia.

In 1991 he was a guest lecturer at the University of Victoria, in British Columbia. In Montreal he often spoke to students at the annual symposiums at Vanier College, recounting his experience rescuing Danish Jews in October 1943. He was an inspiration to students.

At the Federation of Danish Association's first Danish Heritage Seminar at Geneva Park in Orillia, Ontario, in 1989, Hans gave five lectures about Danish history. Hans served on the executive of the Danish Canadian Society in Montreal from 1989 to 1991.

Hans believed that his decision to come to Canada was highly beneficial to his professional development. In post-war Denmark he would have had to wait fifteen years to become eligible for a position as head librarian at a university.

Hans taught Danish to students and to his family. He spoke Danish whenever he could. He expressed the importance of the Danish language to his identity by saying he "could never throw away my language like an old suit."

Left to mourn in Arizona, Denmark, Norway and Ontario are daughters Bodil and Lise; sons Arne (Ulla), Claus (Elisabeth) and Paul (Lorraine); grandchildren Andreas, Erik, Iben, Krista, Line, Mari, Martin (Anette), Siri and Tomas; great-grandchildren Alva, Augusta, Live and Vilfred. Hans bequeathed his body to science at McGill University and plans for a celebration for all of Hans' friends will occur in 2016 in Montreal. Hans spent a life time promoting Denmark. Ære være hans minde!

# Jørgen Kierkegaard

1935 – 2015

## Karen Kierkegaard

---

Jørgen Kierkegaard of Victoria, British Columbia, passed away on November 24, 2015. He was born in Copenhagen on May 17, 1935, the son of Axel and Inger Kierkegaard. He grew up with two brothers, one of whom moved to Australia, while the other stayed in Denmark. At age 16 Jorgen joined the Merchant Marine and went to sea. After a number of years and many countries later, he shifted his interest to hotel management.



It all started as doorman at the Hotel Kong Frederik on Vester Voldgade in the centre of Copenhagen. His work encompassed a variety of services, none more important than serving cigars to the elite. After a few years of service, his eyes caught sight of Karen who was working as a cashier. While working at the hotel, they met a couple from California who later sponsored them and they moved to the United States and were married in California in 1965. Jorgen worked for a management company that gave him many opportunities. During their time in California their two daughters Ann and Kim were born.

Jorgen managed the Disneyland Hotel for ten years, and then it was on to the Las Vegas Jockey Club for two years. In 1977 he was asked to open the new Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Vancouver and stayed there for four years. After the Four Seasons in Vancouver we moved to Santa Rosa in California, where Jorgen restored and opened a very old and beautiful Hotel; we were there for two years. Then it was off to Vancouver Island to manage the Old Oak Bay Hotel for three years.

In 1984 we bought the Esquimalt Restaurant and Deli which we owned for seventeen years. Most people probably remember us from that time. We felt at home in Victoria and settled there.

Jorgen was involved in starting The Danish Social Club of Victoria. Jorgen was the Club's first elected President and served as such from 1997 to 2008 and again from 2012 until his death. We are all very thankful for all the years he gave to The Danish Social Club of Victoria! Ære være hans minde!

# Uwe Bruhn

1931 – 2015

**Ed Kuhlman, son-in-law**

---

Uwe Bruhn passed away peacefully on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. He had been in and out of the hospital since April after heart surgery to put in a pacemaker and replace a valve. His latest stay in the hospital was precipitated by a severe case of dehydration brought on by a hot spell in the weather. He seemed to be well on the way to recovering and was told on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> that he would be going home at the end of the week. Sadly, he had a stroke during the night and passed away in the early afternoon of Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup>.



Uwe was born in Aabenraa, Denmark on March 10, 1931. He had two brothers, one (Christian) 7 years older and a younger brother, (Udo) seven years younger. Uwe had the misfortune of losing his older brother during the War.

Shortly after the war, Uwe, at the young age of 14 years, left home to serve in the merchant marine as a deckhand on ice-breakers. He always had an extreme fascination with and love for the sea and open water, so in many ways he was following his dreams. His goal was to someday be the captain of a large freighter or passenger ship, but would never be able to fulfill that goal as he was according to the doctors color blind.

After serving on the icebreakers he moved onto the *Erria* an East Asiatic Company passenger freighter, on which he served as a cook. The ship travelled to various ports around the world, including Vancouver, where in 1948 he was befriended by a local Danish immigrant, John Larsen, (who had changed his name from Marinus Lauritzen) who brought the 17 year old Uwe home with him for a hot meal. Uwe immediately fell head over heels for John & Bodil Larsen's daughter Lilly Larsen.



*The Erria an East Asiatic Company freighter*

## OBITUARIES

In 1951, Uwe applied for immigrant status and returned to Vancouver so he could marry Lilly Larsen, to whom he was married for 62 years. His first job as a “Canadian” was on whaling boats and several years later after having saved up a tidy sum for a down payment he gave up his career as a merchant seaman and purchased acreage in Coquitlam to go into the mushroom farming business.

Kids soon followed with Linda born in 1954 and Glen in 1956. Unable to get approval to start the mushroom farm, he had begun working as a drywaller with the goal of learning as much about construction as possible, and eventually started his own construction company.

Over the years he continued to work hard and pursued his love of boating, eventually importing a double-ended bare bones hull from Sweden in 1972 which he outfitted with cabins, galley, head, sails, motor and gear. Lilly and Uwe christened the 36 foot motor sailboat, the *Erria*, named of course after the freighter he was serving on when he met Lilly. His success in the construction business, and a scary bout with lung cancer to which he lost a lung in the early 1970s, convinced him to retire as soon as he could afford it and spend as much time as possible on his boat. From 1980 to 1982, Uwe and Lilly sailed down to the Carribean and back to Vancouver after having practiced his sailing skills on local waters and by also circumnavigating Vancouver Island.

Never having forgotten his roots, he visited Denmark as often as possible and also became a member of the Danish Brotherhood in 1972. He served on the Board of Dania Home and the board of the Danish Canadian Community Centre of BC for many years. He also bowled in the Danish Brotherhood & Sisterhood Bowling League and very much enjoyed the annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Pacific Northwest bowling tournaments.

His love of the sea remained with him and virtually every summer he would spend his days fishing and sailing up to and around the waters of Desolation Sound. Sometime after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday he had a bout with pneumonia, which left him somewhat dependent on oxygen bottles and he slowly began to accept that his days on his “mistress” were over. He had begun to investigate moving into the Carl Mortensen Manor at Dania Home but unfortunately circumstances beyond his control took over.

His sense of humour will be sorely missed and so will his determination. Regardless of what life presented him with, he always made the best of it and never complained about his lot in life. His biggest fear was that Lilly would pass away before him. That fear was never realized.

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## INVITATION



May 26, 2016

Dear Members and Friends,

Re: **Catch the Wave in 2017!**  
Bring Your Family and Friends to a Most Memorable Event!

On behalf of The Danish Canadian Museum as host of the 2017 Conference of the Danish Federations of Canada and the Danish Canadian Museum, we are thrilled to invite you to 'Catch the Wave in 2017'! This will be our most memorable conference ever, so be sure to include your family and friends and especially your children and grand children to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Museum!

It will be one of a kind opportunity to share the waves of incursion including the Vikings and celebrate the remarkable legacy of the Danish immigrants to Canada which will be forever preserved at our pastoral wooded site in rural Dickson, Alberta. Our national treasure has been built through the vision and support of an extraordinary group of people from the Federation, Clubs and Museum as well as you.

Plan to enjoy interpretive hosts, a Viking village and battle re-enactments as well as a very special pioneer heritage supper. Our focus in 2017 at the museum will be to celebrate the special talents and skills of the post WWII era of Danish Immigrants who helped build and shape our modern Canada!

I personally look forward to seeing you in 2017 and welcoming your friends and family to experience our 'National Treasure'! Please mark May 25<sup>th</sup> through May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in your Calendar.



Svend E Nielsen,  
President, DCM Board of Directors  
[www.thedanishcanadianmuseum.com](http://www.thedanishcanadianmuseum.com)

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