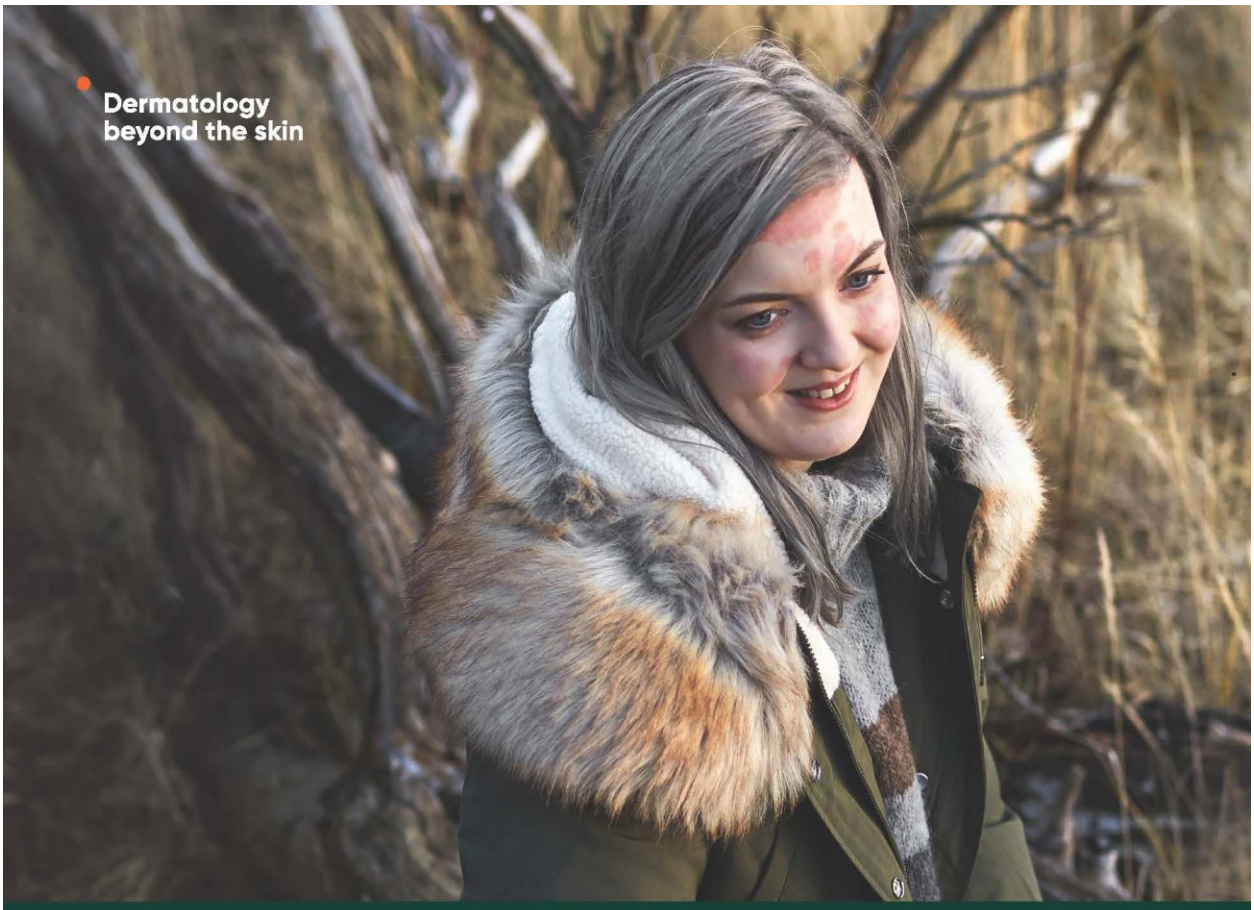
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The Fifth Thule Expedition

FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



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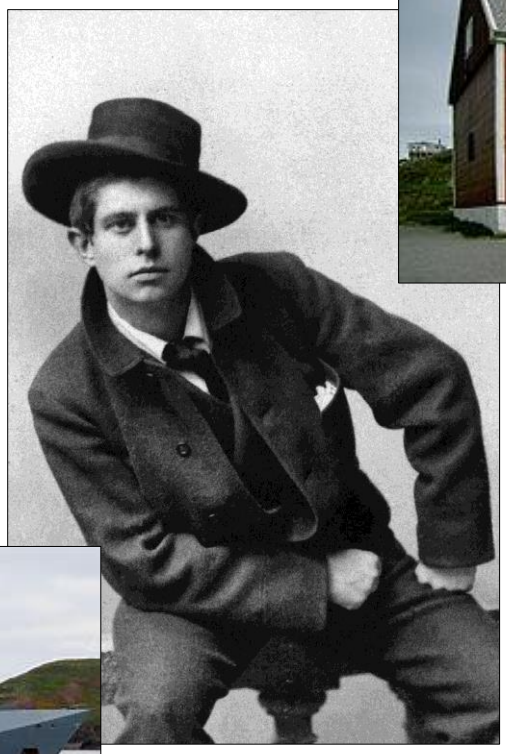
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39th DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Nanaimo, B.C.
May 21-24, 2020
Postponed

THE 5th THULE EXPEDITION

The Man





The Museum
Ilulissat, Greenland
formerly Jacobshaven

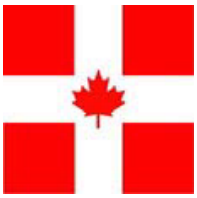
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Knud Rasmussen

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39th Danish Canadian Conference (Postponed)
Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. May 21-24, 2020

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Knud Ramussen's Fifth Thule Expedition – Teams of Dog Sleds arriving from Southampton Island.
Photo by Therkel Mathiassen: courtesy of The Arctic Institute, Copenhagen.
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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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Nanaimo	1996	Niels Jorgensen	
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PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



May 21-24, 2020

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the national Danish Canadian Conference, being held in Nanaimo, B.C.

This annual event offers participants a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Denmark's rich cultural heritage. This occasion also provides a chance to recognize the tremendous contributions that Danish Canadians have made, and continue to make, to our nation.

I would like to thank the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for organizing this conference and for promoting Danish culture and history. Events such as this one remind us that diversity is our greatest strength.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive conference.

Yours sincerely,

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

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



Du 21 au 24 mai 2020

Chères amies, chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à celles et ceux qui assistant à la Conférence dano-canadienne nationale se déroulant à Nanaimo, en Colombie-Britannique.

Cet événement offre ayx participants une excellente occasion d'en apprendre davantage sur le riche patrimoine culturel du Danemark et de souligner les remarquables contributions de l'explorateur danois Knud Rasmussen à nos connaissances sur l'Arctique canadien. Il s'agit aussi d'une occasion de soulignet les rôles importants que les Canadiens d'origine danoise continuent de jouer dans toutes les sphères d'activités.

Je tiens à remercier la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada d'avoir organisé cette conférence et de promouvoir la culture et l'histoire danoises. Ce sont des événements comme celui-ci qui nous rappellent que la diversité est notre plus grande force.

Je vous souhaite une conférence des plus fructueuses.

Cordialement,

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

THE
AMBASSADOR

Ottawa, February 2020

Warm greetings: to the annual conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. The Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Clu in Nanaimo is hosting the conference and has chosen the theme *Vikings on the Island: We Came, We Saw, We Stayed.*

The focus of the conference is well chosen. Vikings have traveled to North America, more precisley to L'Anse aux Meadows at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of the Island of Newfoundland. The remains of a Viking settlement is evidence of the first European Presence in North America. The Viking settlement is, by some, believed to have been a temporary settlement before the expedition travelled on to Greenland. Many years later, Danes still went on expeditions. These expeditions have contributed to the foundation of a long and shared history between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark. This is also why last year's conference marked the 400 years of the expedition of the Danish explorer Jens Munk, and why we in 2021 will mark and celebrate the 100 years of Knud Rasmussen's 5th Thule expedition.

Canada and Denmark do however share much more than a history of the great expeditions. We share a common geographical area – The Arctic. The Arctic is an important part of our culture. In relation to the Arctic, we also face similar challenges. Climate change being one of them. It is therefore of great importance that Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark work even closer together addressing climate challenges in the best possible way.

We are already quite good at working together, not just Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark, but all Nordic countries. This cooperation has led to the joint Nordic cultural initiative "Nordic Bridges" supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. "Nordic Bridges" is a coast-to-coast-to-coast project that throughout 2021 will bring cultural events to Canada and enhance the strong foundation for Canadian and Nordic cooperation. The project is also a possibility to expand existing programs and build new bridges focusing on the Nordic region based on four key pillars: artistic innovation, accessibility and inclusion, indigenous people's perspective and resilience.

The daily work of you and the Danish Canadian Clubs continues to be important for the success of these projects and for promoting the heritage of Danes in Canada as well as building important bridges between our two countries and cultures. You strengthen and encourage the strong bond and relations between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark. You have an important role, both in the past, in the present and in the future – because *you came, you saw, and you stayed.* I am looking forward to our continued cooperation.

Hanne Fugl Eskjær
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

BRITISH COLUMBIA



A MESSAGE FROM

PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I extend my warmest greetings to all readers of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's 2020 Heritage Book.

Each year, this Heritage Book presents a collection of articles, images, and biographies that highlight the legacy of Danes in Canada. British Columbia is proud to be among Canada's most diverse and inclusive provinces, and publications such as this offer wonderful opportunities to engage with the traditions, histories, and values that make up our unique cultural identity. By learning about early Danish community members, celebrating important events from our past, and sharing the stories that each of us cherish, we deepen our understanding and enrich the lives of all British Columbians.

I want to thank the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club and Danish Federation member organizations throughout BC for their contributions to enhancing the vibrant prosperity that makes our province strong. The resources and supports that these organizations provide are integral to ensuring our communities remain active and inviting for everyone who calls BC home.

I have no doubt that the 2020 edition will be one to remember. Enjoy the book!

HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Welcome to Nanaimo!

On behalf of Council, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone attending the 2020 Federation of Danish Associations in Canada 39th Annual General Meeting and Conference to the City of Nanaimo and recognize we are located on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation people.

It is an honour to have our community chosen to host this event with a Federation whose purpose, is to bring together all existing Danish organizations in Canada in the preservation of your heritage.

While your stay with us will be brief, we trust it will be enjoyable. I invite you to explore the natural highlights and scenic beauty of our mountains and ocean-side setting which contributes to the character of our community and the unique lifestyle some call "island living". While at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, located in the core of downtown, we hope you visit the specialized shops, enjoy the many restaurants, wander through our museums or just take a leisurely walk on the seawall path that winds along the waterfront from Cameron Island to the Nanaimo Yacht Club.

I invite you to visit us again in the near future when you can enjoy the full extent of our hospitality and the many points of interest that our beautiful city has to offer.

Best wishes to everyone for a successful and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

Leonard Krog
MAYOR

CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET, NANAIMO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V9R 5J6
TELEPHONE (250) 755-4400 • WEBSITE: WWW.NANAIMO.CA • FAX (250) 754-8263

Vancouver Island

Danish - Canadian - Club

Member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Dear Friends,

This Spring, our *Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club* was all set to host the 2020 *Federation of Danish Associations in Canada* annual Conference and AGM here in beautiful Nanaimo, Vancouver Island's "Harbour City". Our diligent Host Committee had worked hard to have all of the arrangements in place for a fantastic event so it was a big disappointment for everyone when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Federation Board to cancel this event.

Following the cancellation, the Federation Board asked our club if we would be willing to host this event on May 27 through 30 in 2021 and we responded positively to that request which makes the cancellation simply a postponement. We are hopeful that the pandemic situation will ease in time to allow a "go ahead" early in the New Year in order to provide time to re-initiate our well laid plans for next May.

Keep your fingers crossed, Be Kind, Be Calm and Stay Safe!

Sincerely,

Tommy Anders Hedekær

President

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,
0 Canada,
We stand on guard
for thee.
God keep our land
glorious and free!
0 Canada,
we stand on guard for thee,
0 Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.

Canada

"0 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.





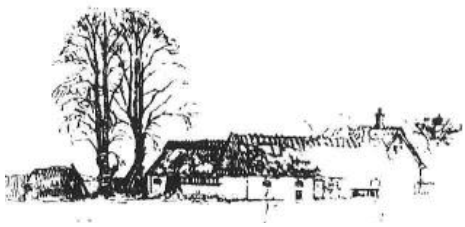
DENMARK
DANMARK

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



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

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36. 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 thirty-six 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 practical *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 Udvandrer-arkivet, 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.

The Danish Federation is a strong supporter of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. At the Danish 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, 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, Calabogie, Orford and Halifax.



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

Annual Report

2019 – 2020

I herewith present the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. In many respects it has been an unusual year. The Coronavirus, Covid-19, took hold in Canada in mid-March and brought the country to an unprecedented standstill with the closing of schools, factories, businesses and non-essential stores and services. The various levels of government took extraordinary steps to assist people who were laid off, either for the duration of the pandemic or permanently. Numerous people, particularly in long-term-care facilities, died from the pandemic. People were advised to stay at home and only venture out when essential, wearing face masks and practising social distancing. Travel across Canada was restricted and, in some cases, not possible. The 2020 Conference Organizers in Nanaimo as well as the Danish Federation were advised by the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo that the hotel was temporarily closing due to the pandemic. This notice meant the cancellation in May of both the Annual National Danish Conference and the Heritage Seminar. As a result, the 2020 Annual General Meeting was then scheduled to be held in September using teleconferencing technology.

A warm welcome: to Barb Nault, Winnipeg, who has joined our Board. Regarding membership of the Danish Federation, we regret to report that the Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia has voted to disband. The Community Centre was created in 1962 as an umbrella organization for Danish organizations on the Lower Mainland, with the purpose of building a community centre. It did succeed in acquiring a hall, but its purpose altered with the creation of the Danish Federation, and its Pacific Region, as well as by the formation of the Danish House Society in 1996. The Community Centre leaves a rich legacy and endowment.

The successful Conference in Winnipeg, hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba, was held at the Fort Garry Hotel. The main organizing committee consisted of Karl Sorensen, Susan Person, Barb Nault, Otto Christensen and Helle Wilson. We celebrated the 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's expedition to find the Northwest Passage and participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony by Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler at the opening of a Jens Munk exhibition at The Forks. We also celebrated the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog at Winnipeg City Hall.

The Annual General Meeting was chaired by Ed Kuhlman. Re-elected to the executive were Rolf Christensen, Ed Kuhlman, Sune Overgaard and Aase Christensen as respectively president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. The president thanked Ed Kuhlman for producing an excellent Heritage Book and Aase Christensen for compiling the useful Directory of Danish Organizations. In conjunction with the conference the Danish Canadian Museum held its Annual General Meeting and hosted a fundraising event.

Immediately following the Conference, the Danish Federation held a one-week Danish Heritage Seminar at the Fort Garry Hotel. The 28 participants rated it excellent. The headmaster was Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen of Vancouver, who had chosen the theme Wanderlust.

The Jens Munk Committee, chaired by Carl Sorensen, has been very busy during the past year with the selling of copies of *The Journal of Jens Munk*, distributing it to our members, plus sending complimentary copies to 42 libraries, museums and archives. The reprint of this book was made possible by the committee and a generous grant from the Danish Embassy. Several members of the committee have delivered very interesting presentations about Jens Munk. A Facebook page was created by Otto Christensen where Jens Munk's journey could be followed. Otto also assisted in organizing an exciting July 2020 trip to Churchill. Thank you to all members of the Jens Munk Committee and the many organizations across Canada, for promoting the awareness of Jens Munk's expedition by creating displays and writing about it.

In January 2020 the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation established a Knud Rasmussen Committee, with members in Canada and Denmark. Two meetings were held at the Danish Embassy, prior to the arrival of the coronavirus. During the summer of 2019, I met with Bent Nielsen, Ph.D., director of the Arctic Institute in Copenhagen, and also with Mr. Knud Michelsen, an author of several books about Knud Rasmussen. They both expressed a willingness to serve on a Knud Rasmussen committee. Knud Michelsen committed to writing a book, in English, to help publicize The Fifth Thule Expedition across Canada in 1921-24. This summer Knud Michelsen finished writing the book, which has been edited by Karen Andersen of Surrey, B.C. The next step is selecting photographs and maps and then acquiring a publisher. Other future plans include speaking engagements, articles and exhibitions.

In October 2018 I visited the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton. Thanks to Svend B. Nielsen of Edmonton, the Archives now have a complete set of our Heritage Books. Unfortunately, the Archives did not have any documentation about Dickson and the Danish Canadian Museum. In September 2019, in agreement with Museum President Svend E. Nielsen, I sent the Archives copies of the Museum's Annual Reports covering the years 2000 to 2019. I will strive to donate the Annual Reports from 1992 to 1999 at a later date.

Significant anniversaries are being celebrated. The Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, celebrates 85 years; Sunset Villa was founded 70 years ago; The Danish Club of Ottawa celebrates 45 years; The Dickson Store Museum was started in 1985. Sunset Mindepark was founded in 1990 and the New Denmark Seniors Complex was started in 1995. Congratulations!

In conclusion, let me mention the passing of Solvejg Nielsen. Solvejg did so much for the Danish Federation and will be sadly missed. To the Board of Directors, thank you for your dedication and continued support. A huge thank you to all Member Organizations - keep up the excellent work! You are all contributing to maintaining and promoting our rich Danish heritage.

Rolf Buschardt Christensen
President
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

THE DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY "DANIA"

Our objectives are to:

Promote friendly social and cultural activities;

Provide suitable meeting places for various cultural functions;

Keep in contact with Danish and Scandinavian Clubs in the Edmonton area, in Alberta, across Canada and in Denmark.

Lis Walker—President | Konrad Christensen—Vice President | Robert Day—Treasurer
Annette Mortensen—Secretary | Lisa Christensen—Communication Director
Pastor Lasse Hultberg—Heritage Director | Jenna Montgomery—Heritage Director

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‘It is the Eskimos that Own My Heart’

Knud Rasmussen and the Fifth Thule Expedition

Kenn Harper

While still a young man, with most of his life’s work ahead of him, Knud Rasmussen published the outline of the project that would eventually be the pinnacle of his career. In Danish in *Geografisk Tidsskrift,* then in English to achieve as wide as possible an audience in *The Geographical Journal* in March 1910, he outlined his plans to visit as many Inuit[1] groups in Canada as he could reach from a base that he anticipated would be in the area of Fury and Hecla Strait in the isolated northern reaches of Foxe Basin. He hoped to commence his journey the following summer. That naïve plan was overly ambitious – it would be another decade before he embarked on what would be known as the Fifth Thule Expedition.

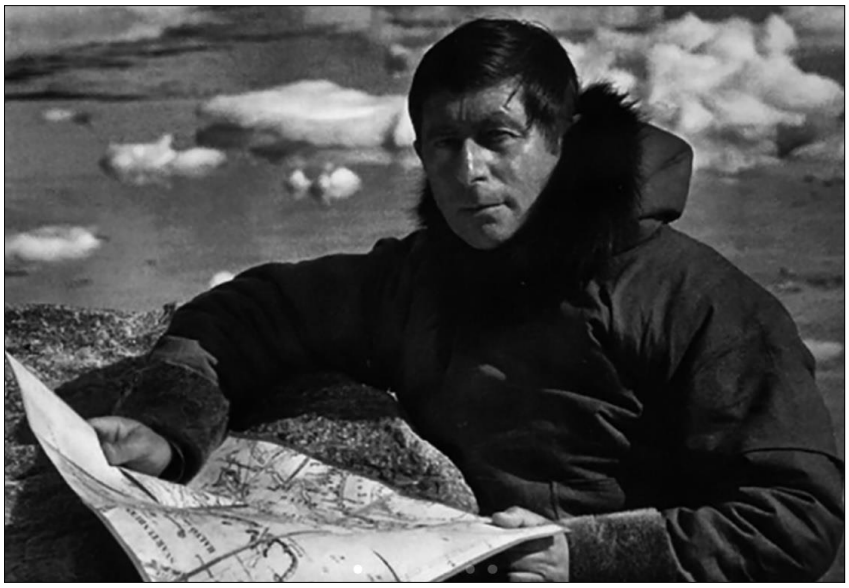
Knud Rasmussen was born in 1879 in Ilulissat, an administrative centre in Disko Bay on the West Greenland coast. His father was a pastor, his mother a housewife of part-Inuit ancestry. He grew up there among Inuit, listening to their stories, their legends, and learning their travel methods, in particular travel by dog sled. He first drove a dog team at the age of eight. From infancy he spoke Kalaallisut, the language of the Greenlandic Inuit. At the age of twelve he was sent to Denmark to further his education. After graduating from college he worked as a journalist in Copenhagen.

In 1902 Rasmussen joined Ludvig Mylius-Erichsen’s “Literary Expedition” to Northern Greenland (1902-1904), where he finally met the Inughuit – the people known to science and exploration as the Polar Eskimos – the isolated and mysterious Inuit of the far north, of whom he had heard so much in his boyhood. In 1909 he was back to Northern Greenland on another expedition helping the Greenland Church Cause found North Star Mission, the first Christian mission to the Inughuit. On that expedition, he met Doctor Hans Peder Steensby, a geographer and ethnologist with a burning interest in determining the origins of Eskimo culture. He theorized that it was not originally a maritime culture, but that it had developed in the interior of

[1] I use *Inuit* to designate “Eskimos” in Canada and Greenland, although for Greenland I also use the word *Kalaallit* (*Kalaaleq* in the singular) for West Greenlanders. I use *Inughuit* to refer to the people of the Thule district in northern Greenland. I use *Eskimo* and *Eskimos* to refer to Alaskans, who are of two groups, Inupiat and Yupiit, and also to refer to the culture in general terms and when discussing archaeology and cultural origins.

northern Canada near Great Slave Lake, and that only later had it spread to the coast. Steensby had published his theories as early as 1905 and they fascinated young Knud Rasmussen. He determined that he would continue the studies that Steensby had begun and find the evidence to prove his theories. To do this he proposed to visit and investigate Inuit groups in Northern Canada, and this was the plan that he published in the geographical journals. It was an ambitious goal and he soon realized that he would need major financial backing and a reputation as an explorer that he had not yet established.

Coincidentally, 1909 was also the year in which a veteran American explorer, Robert Peary, announced that he had achieved his life's goal, the attainment of the North Pole. He would be coming no more to northern Greenland. The Inughuit had come to depend first on whalers and later on Peary to supply them a variety of trade goods including guns and ammunition. With Peary's announcement, Rasmussen realized that the Inughuit would face hard times with little access to trade goods, yet the Danish government was uninterested in establishing a presence in the region. Rasmussen saw an opportunity to fill that void. In 1910 he founded the world's northernmost trading post near the site of the mission in North Star Bay and named it Thule, a Greek word used classically to refer to the extreme north. The Inughuit had their own name for this location; they called it Uummannaq – "the one shaped like a heart." His closest friend, Peter Freuchen, became post manager.



Knud Rasmussen

This was a trading post unlike any other. Rasmussen would use it as a base for a number of expeditions that he would lead, to explore the region, complete its mapping, and collect the traditional knowledge of the Inughuit – their legends, their songs, their beliefs. From the outset it was necessary that the trade be profitable, for the profits from commerce would finance the exploration and scientific work. This group of Inughuit, a small group numbering slightly in excess of 200, then, unknowingly became the only tribal group in history to finance scientific research into their own culture.

Rasmussen established a committee to oversee his activities; it was comprised of Mr. Ib Nyeboe, an engineer; Christian Erichsen, a businessman; and Christian Rasmussen, his father. Eventually, he also established a scientific committee, consisting of five scientists, which included his mentor, Steensby.

Four so-called Thule expeditions followed. The first, in 1912, led by Rasmussen and with Peter Freuchen as cartographer, accompanied by two Inughuit dog-drivers, Uvdloriaq and Inukitsoq, travelled from the Thule station over the inland ice to north-eastern Greenland and proved the non-existence of Peary Channel. Rasmussen published the results as *Grønland langs Polarhavet* in 1919; it appeared in English as *Greenland by the Polar Sea* two years later. The Second Thule Expedition (1916-1918) was also led by Rasmussen; he was accompanied by the young geologist and cartographer Lauge Koch, a Swedish botanist Thorild Wulff, three Inughuit (Ajako, Nasaitsordluarsuk, and Inukitsoq) and one West Greenlander. South of Thule, some members of that expedition mapped the coasts of Melville Bay. North of Thule, they investigated and mapped the coast of farthest northern Greenland, filling in the blanks to the area reached on the previous expedition. The expedition was a success from a cartographic point of view, but unfortunately, the West Greenlander, Hendrik Olsen, and Thorild Wulff perished.

Although Rasmussen planned the Third Thule Expedition (1919), he did not personally participate in it. The Fourth Thule Expedition, also in 1919, was a trip from Copenhagen to Ammassalik on Greenland's isolated east coast, from there to Thule, then south to Egedesminde at the southern end of Disko Bay. Rasmussen studied folklore and collected myths and legends. It resulted in the publication of a three-volume work, *Myter og Sagn fra Grønland* between 1921 and 1925. Parts of it were published in English as *Eskimo Folk-tales* in 1921.

In addition to publishing the results of his adventures and ethnographic researches in popular form in both English and Danish, Rasmussen also published in academic journals. Even before the Thule expeditions, he had published *Nye Mennesker* in Danish in 1905, a record of his experiences on the Literary Expedition. An English version, *The People of the Polar North,* was published in London in 1908. It appeared in Kalaallisut as *Avángarnisalerssârutit* the following year, ensuring that Rasmussen's reputation as explorer and author would be known in his homeland as well as in Denmark and internationally. Indeed, during this same period he helped to establish an association that resulted in several books being published in Kalaallisut. He was the author of some of them. He was patiently and methodically building the reputation that he would need to allow him to achieve his long-held goal.

Finally in 1921 Rasmussen was ready to realize his ambitious dream, the Fifth Thule Expedition. Officially its title was Danish Ethnographical Expedition to Arctic North America, 1921 – 24. He expressed its lofty purpose in simple terms – to investigate "the great primary problem of the origin of the Eskimo race."[2] It was time to find out if Steensby's theories held water. In the process, Rasmussen would investigate and document the folklore and religion of the Inuit encountered – what he called their "intellectual culture."

This was a scientific expedition, in which four Danes participated. Peter Freuchen, who had spent most of the previous decade as resident trader at Thule and who spoke fluently the language of the Inughuit, a dialect related to Canadian Inuit dialects, acted as surveyor and naturalist. Therkel Mathiassen was archaeologist, Kaj Birket-Smith served as ethnologist, and Helge Bangsted was his assistant. (Another Dane, the photographer Leo Hansen, joined

[2] Rasmussen, Knud. *Across Arctic America: Narrative of the Fifth Thule Expedition*. New York: G. Putnam's Sons, 1927, vii

Rasmussen in the central Canadian Arctic for the expedition's final phase). Rasmussen himself was the leader and folklorist. A Kalaaleq (West Greenlander), Jacob Olsen, was secretary and interpreter to the Danes who could not speak an Inuit dialect. Six Inughuit also participated.[3]

They established their headquarters – *Blæsebælgen* or "the bellows" – on a small, windy island in Foxe Basin that they named Danish Island. It would be their base for almost three years. From there, the scientists travelled north, south and west to document the land, its wildlife and, most of all, its people.

In February of 1922, Rasmussen was travelling by sled with his Inughuit companions along the shores of Foxe Basin, north of Lyon Inlet. They were about to make camp for the night when suddenly a team of fifteen white dogs pulling a long sled carrying six men appeared out of the darkness. Sighting the party of strangers, a small man with a long beard, his face rimed with frost, leapt from the sled and ran towards Rasmussen. This was Aua, a shaman of whom Rasmussen had heard much. Because he spoke Kalaallisut fluently, Rasmussen was able to understand the dialects he encountered in northern Canada. So he was able to learn much about the customs of the people he called the Iglulik Eskimos (a sub-group of the Aivilingmiut) from Aua, his garrulous wife Orulo, and the others who shared their camp. Indeed Aua and Orulo are the central characters in the lengthy report that Rasmussen wrote under the title, *Intellectual Culture of the Iglulik Eskimos*.

Aua commanded respect among his people. As a result, other Inuit in the district were happy to co-operate with Rasmussen and his colleagues. Inuit love to name strangers in their midst – sometimes because they find it difficult to pronounce their real names, and sometimes just for fun. Very early in the Fifth Thule Expedition, all the Danes and the one West Greenlander had been given Inuktitut names. Rasmussen, known in West Greenland as Kununnguaq and in the Thule District as Kunupaluk, became known to Canadian Inuit as Kunu, Kunut, or Kunuuti. Peter Freuchen, whom the people of northern Greenland knew as Piitarsuaq (big Peter) kept that name, but was also sometimes simply called Piita. The Inuit also called Jacob Olsen by his first name, modifying it to Jaakku. Kaj Birket-Smith was Qakulluk, the Inuktitut word for fulmar, said to be because of the bird-like appearance of his face. Helge Bangsted was called Sikkisaq, for reasons unknown. Therkel Mathiassen was known as Tikili or Tikilik, an attempt to pronounce his first name.

In February of 1922 Birket-Smith and Bangsted travelled to Baker Lake, where Rasmussen and Qaavigarsuaq joined them three months later. From there all four travelled up the Kazan River to Yathkyed Lake (Hikuligjuaq) where they spent a month. This journey was critical to the research that Rasmussen, focusing on the intellectual culture, and Birket-Smith, focusing on the material culture, were carrying out to test Steensby's theory on the inland origins of the Eskimo, which held that the original Eskimo culture developed in the northern interior of Canada, but that the people had moved to the central Arctic coast, either following the caribou or driven out by Indians. They then spread west to Alaska and east to Greenland. In Alaska a new maritime culture evolved and migrated eastward across the top of North America and into Greenland.

[3] Arqioq (born 1891), his wife Arnannguaq (born 1896), Nasaitdlorssuarssuk, also known as the 'Bo'sun' or Porsimat (born 1897), his wife Aqatsaq (born 1905), Qaavigarssuaq, also known as Miteq, (born 1901), and Arnarulunnguaq (born 1895); all birth dates are approximate.



Sleds from Southhampton Island arrive
Photo by Therkel Mathiassen, courtesy of The Arctic Institute, Copenhagen
Photo ID 147234 of 1923 0223.

But, they believed, one group of Eskimos had never made it to the central Arctic coast. Neither did they make it to the Hudson Bay coast for the tundra west of the bay barred their passage. These people had remained inland in the barren grounds west of Hudson Bay, and their descendants were still there, the very people Rasmussen was now meeting. Rasmussen dubbed them the "Caribou Eskimos." He and Birket-Smith believed that they preserved the culture of the original Eskimos. Only recently had this group had any contact with Inuit on the coast.

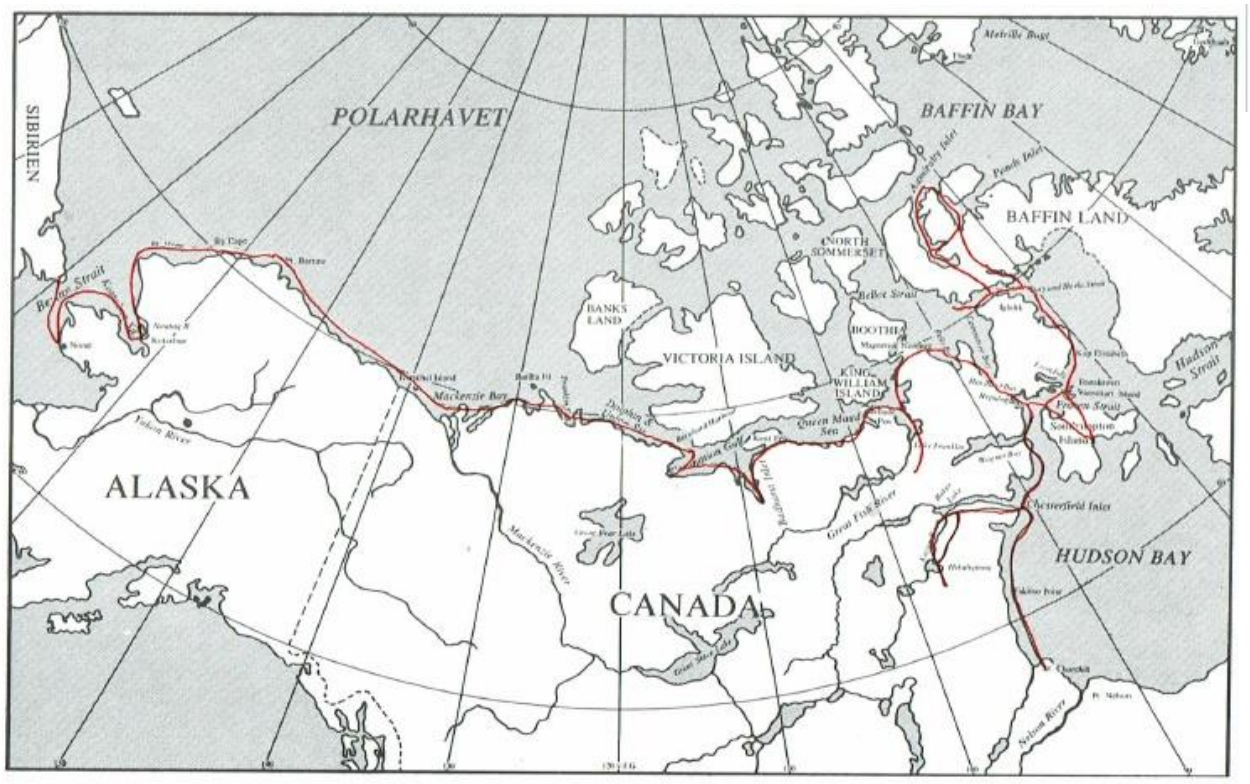
After visiting the Caribou Inuit (which Steensby had never done) Rasmussen and Birket-Smith found no reason to disagree with Steensby's theory. But in fact, they were wrong, and there were many reasons to dispute the theory. Birket-Smith had studied the historical record, which did not indicate that there were any Inuit living inland before the nineteenth century, and simply ignored it. Rasmussen had relied on his collection of folklore; much of it differed considerably from that of the coast-dwellers, but there were also many similarities, which he chose to attribute to modern borrowings from the coast. Both men had succumbed to the temptation to use their data to prove Steensby's theory and to ignore those aspects that didn't fit, rather than approaching the subject like an open book and letting the data shape a theory.

Ironically, it was their colleague, Therkel Mathiassen, who challenged Rasmussen's and Birket-Smith's theories on the basis of his archaeological digs. He showed that the Eskimo culture had its origins in Alaska, from where it subsequently spread eastward across Canada and to Greenland. All subsequent research has borne out that conclusion.

It is ironic, then, that Rasmussen's conclusions on the subject of Eskimo origins, which have been described as "his most cherished research," were wrong, but that we are still enormously indebted to him and his colleagues for our knowledge of the traditional pre-Christian customs

and beliefs of Inuit in Canada. In 1929 Birket-Smith published a two-part work, *The Caribou Eskimos, Material and Social Life and Their Cultural Position*. The following year Rasmussen published *Intellectual Culture of the Caribou Eskimos* and *Iglulik and Caribou Eskimo Texts*. They complemented his 1929 publication, *Intellectual Culture of the Iglulik Eskimos.* Rasmussen would also publish *The Netsilik Eskimos: Social Life and Spiritual* Culture (1931) and *Intellectual Life of the Copper Eskimos* (1932). His studies, *The Mackenzie Eskimos* (1942) and *The Alaskan Eskimos* (1952), were edited and published posthumously. Mathiassen also published the lengthy results of his own archaeological work and his analysis of Rasmussen's collections from the Northwest Passage. All of these were issued as volumes of the *Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition*, a series of incomparable works which comprise about 5,500 pages.

Before the Fifth Thule Expedition, there was no reliable information on the beliefs and culture of the inland societies of Inuit, the people called Caribou Eskimos. Without Birket-Smith's studies, we would know almost nothing of the material culture of these people; without Rasmussen's work we would know little of their religion, nor of the beliefs of other Inuit of the northern



Map showing the itinerary of the journey by dog sled along the Arctic Ocean
From Knud Rasmussen's 1932 book Den Store Slæderejse.

Hudson Bay coast, the Aivilingmiut and their sub-group the Iglulingmiut, and the Inuit farther west on the central Arctic coast, the Mackenzie Delta, and, to a lesser extent, the north coast of Alaska.

Rasmussen described himself in the list of expedition personnel as a "folklorist." He had the soul of a poet and revelled in collecting the life stories and legends of the Inuit. He was at his best

when recording their religious beliefs and the practices of the shamans. From Aua he learned, "We fear the weather spirit of earth that we must fight against to wrest our food from land and sea… We fear dearth and hunger in the cold snow huts. We fear Takannakapsaaluk, the great woman down at the bottom of the sea, that rules over all the beasts of the sea….We fear what we see about us, and we fear all the invisible things that are likewise about us, all that we have heard of in our forefathers' stories and myths."[4] When Rasmussen travelled inland to Lake Hikuligjuaq to learn from the inland Inuit, Igjugaarjuk, a powerful shaman, explained to him that true wisdom could only be found "far away from people, out in the great solitude, and it is not found in play but only through suffering. Solitude and suffering open the human mind…"[5]

The Fifth Thule Expedition was also extremely productive in the field of archaeology. The expedition's sole archaeologist, Therkel Mathiassen, accompanied by Jacob Olsen, spent the summer of 1922 excavating at Repulse Bay, then continued his work on Southampton Island. In 1923 he travelled with Canadian Inuit to Pond Inlet on northeastern Baffin Island, where he excavated throughout the summer, departing in the fall via St. John's to Denmark. His work proved the existence of a culture first excavated at Thule on the Second Thule Expedition, a precursor to modern Inuit culture. This was a prehistoric culture that developed in Alaska and spread rapidly eastward across the top of North America, reaching Greenland by the twelfth century. Mathiassen summarized it in three words as a "pronouncedly coast culture." He called it the Naujan Culture after the Inuktitut word for Repulse Bay; Peter Freuchen prevailed upon the curator of the National Museum of Denmark to overrule Mathiassen and have it named the Thule Culture. Mathiassen contributed a massive volume, *Archaeology of the Central Eskimos* (1927), to the expedition reports. It served also as his doctoral dissertation at the University of Copenhagen. This work established his reputation and laid the groundwork for future Eskimo archaeology.

Freuchen and Mathiassen each explored the geography of Melville Peninsula and the parts of Baffin Island immediately to its north. In the winter of 1922-23 Freuchen froze a foot, which resulted in the amputation of a number of toes. That did not, however, prevent him from travelling. He and all but two of the Inughuit would return to Greenland via Pond Inlet and Admiralty Inlet. Kaj Birket-Smith and Helge Bangsted returned home via Churchill and Winnipeg.

On March 11, 1923 Knud Rasmussen started on his great sled journey westward. He was accompanied by two Inughuit. Qaavigarsuaq, also known as Miteq, was young and unmarried, and reputed to be the son of Bob Bartlett, captain of Peary's ship *Roosevelt*. Arnarulunnguaq served as seamstress and general assistant, and as Rasmussen's occasional bedmate. Her husband, Iggiannguaq, had been expected to take part in the expedition, but died of influenza before ever leaving Greenland.

The purpose of this grand undertaking was to visit the rest of the Inuit of the far northern reaches of Canada, including all those along the Arctic coast and the Mackenzie Delta, and continue onward along the north coast of Alaska to Bering Strait.

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[4] *Rasmussen, Knud: Intellectual Culture of the Iglulik Eskimos, Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-24, Vol. VII, No. 1.* Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, 1929, 55-56.

[5] Rasmussen, Knud: *Intellectual Culture of the Caribou Eskimos, Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-24, Vol. VII, No. 2. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, 1929, 55.*

The party spent the first summer among the Netsilingmiut, at that time a very isolated group, the least influenced by white contact of any group that Rasmussen encountered on his three-year odyssey. Among this group he met a shaman named Orpingalik who was particularly well-versed in his tribe's traditions. A competent hunter and skilful archer, he was also the best kayak-man in the district, adept at pursuing caribou herds crossing rivers and lakes. But above all, Orpingalik was a poet. Rasmussen noted that he was always singing. Orpingalik described his songs as his breath, that they were his "companions in solitude." When asked how many songs he had composed, the shaman replied, "How many songs I have I cannot tell you. I keep no count of such things. There are so many occasions in one's life when a joy or a sorrow is felt in such a way that the desire comes to sing; and so I only know that I have many songs. All my being is song, and I sing as I draw breath."[6]

Rasmussen interrupted his time among the Netsilingmiut for a brief visit to the Ukkusiksalingmiut at the mouth of the Back River, people whom he described as "the most elegant, the most handsome and the most hospitable people I met on my long journey."

He and his party travelled light, carrying only emergency rations and a supply of trade goods to use in acquiring ethnographical specimens from the Inuit. In fact, it is as a result of the collecting efforts of Rasmussen on the great sled journey, as well as Birket-Smith's and Mathiassen's work, that the largest collection of material culture from Canadian Inuit is located not in Canada but in Copenhagen. The collection is so large that it necessitated a physical expansion of the museum's buildings.



Miteq (Edderfuglen), Knud Rasmussen, photographer Leo Hansen and Arnarulunguaq arriving in Alaska
Photo from Knud Rasmussen's 1932 book Den Store Slæderejse

By November, Rasmussen and his party were at Kent Peninsula in the territory of the Copper Inuit, where they were joined by Leo Hansen, a Danish photographer who had arrived from Alaska and would travel with them for the rest of their route westward. They remained among the Umingmaktormiut (People of the Muskox) at Kent Peninsula until mid-January. From there it was on to Tree River, Bernard Harbour and eventually the old American whaling centre of Herschel Island. They travelled by boat as far as Kotzebue and reached Nome on the last day of August 1924. This westernmost

[6] *Rasmussen, Knud: The Netsilik Eskimos: Social Life and Spiritual Culture, Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-24, Vol. VIII, No. 1 and 2.* Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, 1929, 15-16.

community in North America was a crossroads for Eskimos from many parts of Alaska, and Rasmussen was able to collect much folklore there.

Without a visa from Soviet authorities to enter Siberian territory, Rasmussen took a chance, chartered a schooner and crossed Bering Strait, hoping to continue his researches among the small Yupik Eskimo population there. But, without a permit, he was allowed to stay only one night and part of the next day. He interviewed a number of Chukchi tribespeople, and the few Eskimos that he encountered.

When he stepped ashore in Nome the following day, he was presented with a telegram. His Soviet visa had been granted. But it was too late in the season to return to Siberia. He spent a few days in Nome, interviewing Eskimos there, before travelling to Washington, D.C., then home. And with that, the Fifth Thule Expedition was at an end.

Or at least the physical part was over, but much remained to be done. Rasmussen once said, "One can never finish exploring a people."[7] Indeed he described the expedition as "a great and rich experience," and added, "I think that there are more tasks for me in the future, but they can only be poor in comparison with the Fifth Thule Expedition…. My field of work has been and will continue to be north of the Arctic Circle… for it is the Eskimos that own my heart."[8]

As noted earlier, Rasmussen wrote many volumes of the expedition's published reports. These are a treasure-trove of information on the myths, legends, beliefs, and life-stories of the people he met. His Danish colleagues also contributed their own reports to the collection. Jacob Olsen published an account of his experiences in Greenlandic. Rasmussen also wrote a popular account of his incredible journey in Danish, the two-volume *Fra Grønland til Stillehavet* (1925). An abbreviated version appeared in English in 1927 as *Across Arctic America,* and in Danish five years later as *Den Store Slæderejse.*

Rasmussen was the last of the old-style dog-sled explorers. He knew it. He once stated, "From my heart I bless the fate that allowed me to be born at a time when Arctic exploration by dog sledge was not yet a thing of the past."[9] In elaborating on that theme, he said, "It was my privilege, as one born in Greenland, and speaking the Eskimo language as my native tongue, to know these people in an intimate way… From the very nature of things, I was endowed with attributes for Polar work which outlanders have to acquire through painful experience. My playmates were native Greenlanders; from the earliest boyhood I played and worked with the hunters, so that even the hardships of the most strenuous sledge-trips became pleasant routine for me."[10]

And, with modesty, in the introduction to *Across Arctic America,* he proclaimed, "The Eskimo is the hero of this book. His history, his present culture, his daily hardships, and his spiritual life

[7] Rasmussen, Knud, *Across Arctic America*. op. cit., xiii.
[8] Rasmussen quoted in Bown, Stephen R. *White Eskimo: Knud Rasmussen's Fearless Journey into the Heart of the Arctic*. Madeira Park, B.C.: Douglas and McIntyre, 2015, 263.
[9] Rasmussen, Knud, *Across Arctic America*, London, op. cit., v.
[10] Ibid: vi.

constitute the theme and the narrative. Only in form of telling, and as a means of binding together the various incidents is it even a record of my long trip by dog sledge."[11]

Rasmussen continued to write. Two more Thule expeditions followed. On the last, to Ammassalik and Scoresbysund in East Greenland, he took ill and was evacuated to Denmark where he died on December 21, 1933 at the age of 54.

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[11] Ibid: vii.

Rev. Rasmus Jensen Died February 20, 1620

Otto Christensen, Gimli

Pastor Rasmus Jensen did not have a choice. It was his duty to accompany the expedition to find the Northwest Passage, north of Canada to China. Little did he know, though, that this would be his last journey. The expedition encountered a disastrous winter during which he and all but three persons, died. The captain of the expedition, Jens Munk, meticulously recorded the events during the 16-month journey. In his journal Munk mentions most of these 64 persons by name along with the day they died and were buried. Only Munk himself and two others survived.

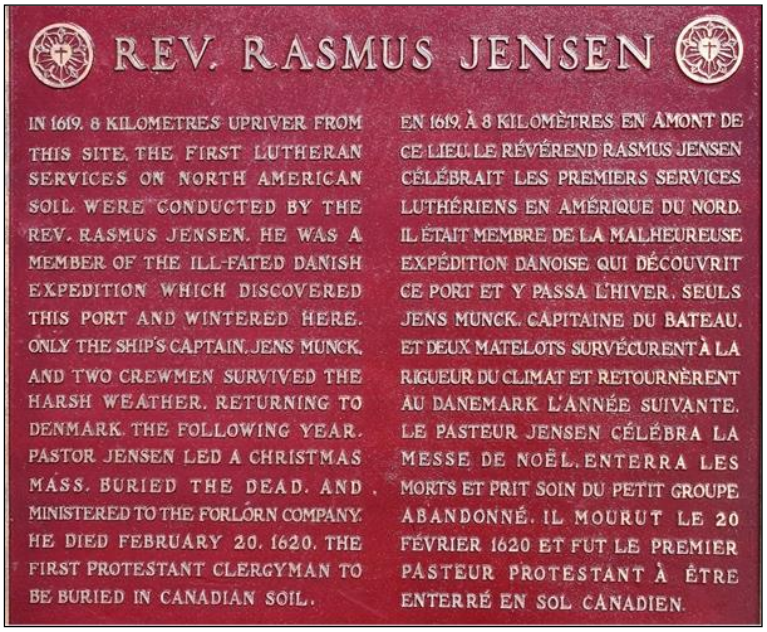


Commerorative Plaque and Cairn
Rev. Rasmus Jensen
Cape Merry, Churchill, Manitoba
Photo of author from visit in 2015

It was the dreaded disease, scurvy, that got them; in the case of Pastor Rasmus Jensen, it first confined him to his berth on board *The Unicorn.* Then, six weeks later, it took his life - in the evening of February 20, 1620. The location was "Munkenes Winterhauen" - near today's Churchill, Manitoba. He was buried the next day. Most likely the captain himself read the scripture and led the prayers as his body was lowered into the shallow frozen earth. Munk wrote in his journal: *"the pastor, Mr. Rasmus Jensen, died in the evening, after a long illness that had confined him to his berth for much of the time"*.[i] Twenty others had already died by then.

Rasmus Jensen's story is part of the expedition's narrative. It set out with high hopes; but experienced unimaginable pain and loss. The goal of the expedition was to find a northern sea route to China and The East - the fabled Northwest Passage. It had already taken a huge toll in human casualties. In 1610 Henry Hudson was but one of many who succumbed. Hudson is remembered because he was the captain. In the case of crew members, they generally just died anonymously, and 'history' forgot them quickly. Not so with the Jens Munk Expedition. Captain Munk felt personally responsible for each individual. He had a fine ability to view life from the bottom up and understand another person's situation; a man whose faith was practical. His

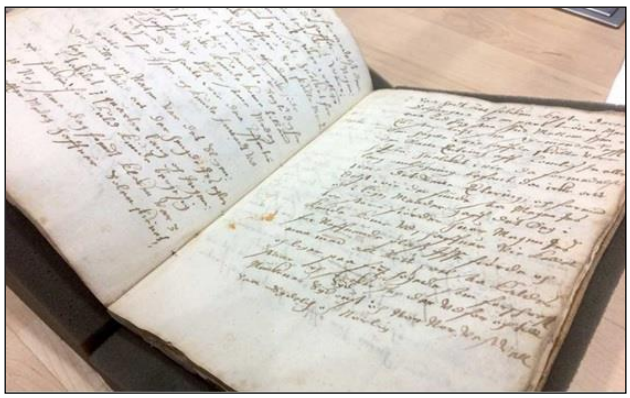
handwritten journal, which he later had published in 1624 as *Navigatio Septentrionalis*, reveals the tragedy of the expedition, but also how each individual was cared for and properly buried by fellow crew members - who in turn would soon be next.



In the years leading up to this expedition Denmark was thriving in commerce and industry. The young "King Christian the 4th of Denmark-Norway" was full of ambition; and he loved to build castles, chapels, churches, towns and an empire. During his reign the number of ships in the Danish navy more than tripled. Altogether 276 ships of various types have been identified in the navy of Christian IV. Moreover, he hired clerics to live on board the ships and conduct services for the crew. It was in this way Rasmus Jensen came to "Munkenes Winterhauen" in 1619.

In Denmark King Christian IV proclaimed himself to be the champion of the Christian faith, although in reality it was more a matter of having subservient people in his kingdom. He saw to it that church discipline was administered, and morality enforced; he cracked down on 'infidelity, sorcery and witchcraft' and is known for ordering more witch burnings than any other Danish king. At the same time, the King lived in debauchery and had several mistresses.

Rasmus Jensen was schooled in orthodoxy, the movement that followed in the wake of the Protestant Reformation, established by the then King throughout Denmark in 1536. Rather than the Pope in Rome, the King of Denmark was now the head of the Church. As well, all property formerly owned by the Church was confiscated and became state property, owned by the Crown.



Jens Munk's Journal - Royal Library, Copenhagen

Like other pastors Rasmus Jensen was on a salary[ii]. Navy-chaplains received 100 Rixdollars a year (half of Captain Munk's salary). Besides a salary the clergy also received gifts from the crew/congregation, often gifts of money for special services. Navy chaplains were employed as assistants to the resident pastor in the parish of "*Holmen*" - a special parish created in 1617 for the purpose of serving those working in the royal shipyards of

Copenhagen. The Church of Holmen was officially dedicated in the fall of 1619 - but was probably already in use when Munk's expedition left Copenhagen earlier that year. Pastor Rasmus was likely involved in the farewell service on May 9th - perhaps receiving a special commission/blessing for the journey.

When chaplains were 'at home' their duty was to conduct Sunday services for the workers in the shipyards, and to give catechism classes to the young people on Saturdays….. and "further be of assistance" to the resident pastor (Hans Mikkelsen Aalborg) at "*Holmen*". It was their duty to go to sea whenever they were ordered to do so. For a sea journey they were given an allowance to buy 'bread and wine' for communion. Once on board they held Services on Sundays and Wednesdays as well as a daily morning and evening devotion.

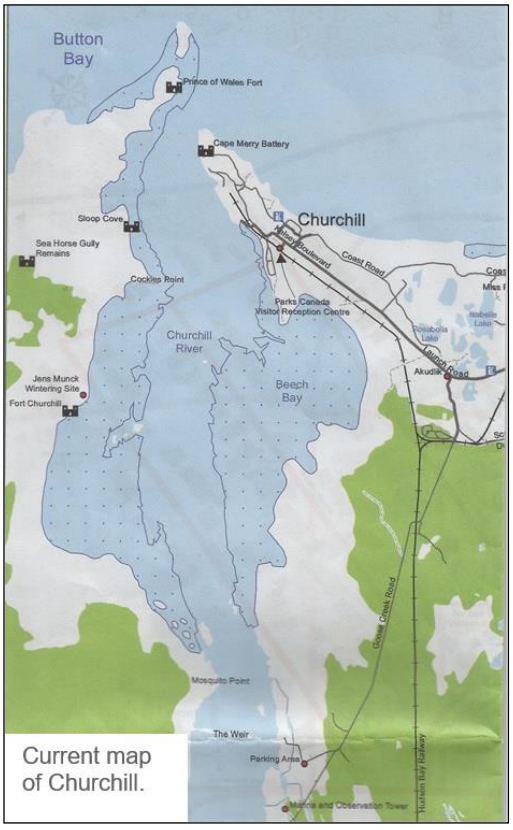
From administrative records[iii] it appears Rasmus Jensen was from Aarhus and ordained on October 25, 1618 by Hans Poulsen Resen - bishop of the Zealand Diocese (Sjællands Stift). In the period 1610-70 as many as 81 navy-chaplains were added to the parish of *Holmen*.

Very little is known about the personal life of Pastor Rasmus Jensen; except what Munk wrote in his journal. Here are some excerpts:

July 26: As there was nothing we could do to alleviate our distress; we commended the whole matter into the hands of God and prayed devoutly to Him for help and guidance. We also gave something for the poor, each according to his means.

Dec 24: We celebrated the Holy Christmas Day solemnly, as is a Christian's duty, with a goodly sermon and a mass. After the sermon we gave the pastor an offertory, as is the ancient custom, each according to his means. There was not much money among the men, but they gave what they had. So many of them gave, white fox skins, that the pastor had enough of them to line his coat. A life long enough to wear it was not granted him, however.

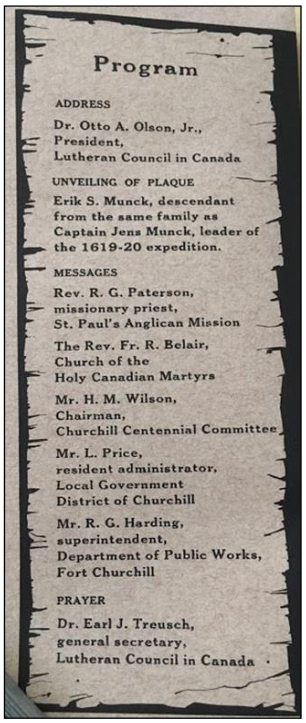
Jan 10: On the tenth, Mr. Rasmus Jensen, the pastor, and Mr. Casper Caspersen, the surgeon, took to their beds after having been ill for some time. That same day my head cook perished. And then a violent illness spread among the men, growing worse each day. It was a peculiar malady, in which the sick men were usually attacked by dysentery about three weeks before they died.



Jan 23: On the same day the pastor sat up in his berth and preached a sermon, the last one he was ever to deliver in this world.

March 27: I opened the surgeon's chest to examine its contents in detail, for as we no longer had a surgeon, I had to do whatever I could myself. And then I discovered what a serious oversight had been made in not providing a list that would tell us what the medicines were good for, and how they were to be used. I would also stake my life on the opinion that even the surgeon did not know how those medicines were to be used, for all the labels were written in Latin, and whenever he wished to read one, he had to call the pastor to translate it for him.

*Further: On the cover of the handwritten journal there are a few scribbled notes. One is in reference to Rasmus Jensen: "The 14th … Mr. Rasmus has said …the world has been standing less than six thousand years …Master Gordon says that the world has been standing more than six thousand years, and…" Moreover, in the translation Jens Munk is referred to as Priest and not Pastor.


Program

ADDRESS

Dr. Otto A. Olson, Jr.,
President,
Lutheran Council in Canada

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE

Erik S. Munck, descendant from the same family as Captain Jens Munck, leader of the 1619-20 expedition.

MESSAGES

Rev. R. G. Paterson,
missionary priest,
St. Paul's Anglican Mission

The Rev. Fr. R. Belair,
Church of the
Holy Canadian Martyrs

Mr. H. M. Wilson,
Chairman,
Churchill Centennial Committee

Mr. L. Price,
resident administrator,
Local Government
District of Churchill

Mr. R. G. Harding,
superintendent,
Department of Public Works,
Fort Churchill

PRAYER

Dr. Earl J. Treusch,
general secretary,
Lutheran Council in Canada

From all this a picture emerges. Pastor Rasmus was competent in Latin; delivered sermons - sometimes by reading from a collection of sermons (probably Martin Luther's sermons); he conducted liturgical services (mass), prayers and burials. It seems he was well liked and respected by the other crew members and considered himself part of the team. Perhaps he can be described as 'traditional' in his approach to religious thinking and understanding.

In 1967 as a Canada Centennial project the Lutheran Council in Canada undertook to honour Rev. Rasmus Jensen by installing a commemorative plaque at Churchill, Manitoba. Local dignitaries with invited guests from the Lutheran Council, the First Nation community, and representatives of the Jens Munk family[iv] participated. In 1991 the plaque was refurbished, and this time placed on a cairn on Cape Merry.



The obverse of this Canadian centennial medal alludes to the arrival of Lutheranism in Canada with Rev. Rasmus Jensen and the Danish expedition, with the foot of the cross rising out of Churchill, Manitoba (Lutheran Council in Canada, 1967).

Lutherans in North America have thus come to know Rev. Rasmus Jensen better than people in the "old Country". In Denmark he is virtually unknown.

The Lutheran Book of Worship, ©1978 proclaimed: every February 20th as a day to commemorate Rev. Rasmus Jensen. The following is a suggested special prayer for the day:

> *Most gracious God, we thank you for your servants Rasmus Jensen and all other ministers who have accompanied Christians travelling to distant, desolate, or perilous places, seeking to minister to those they accompanied and to those they met, sharing their*

hardships in the name of him who humbled himself to share ours, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Four-hundred years have passed since Pastor Rasmus died in that distant, desolate, and perilous place. Lutherans have remembered him as part of their presence in the Americas. He is the first protestant clergyman to be buried in Canadian soil - a Lutheran. While Rasmus Jensen's place in history is not due to merit or accomplishment, observing his death has nevertheless provided a window into the suffering and misery they all experienced on this tragic expedition. There were 64 expedition members who died in this grueling way. How important it was to give each a proper burial is evident by reading Munk's last will and testament written on June 4, 1620:



1967 Installation of plaque commemorating: Rev. Rasmus Jensen
From left: Dr. Earl Treusch, L. Price, Erik S. Munck and Jørgen S. Munck.

In as much as I no longer have any hope of living in this world I request for the sake of God if any Christian people should happen to come upon this place that they bury my poor body in the ground, along with the others who may be found here, receiving their reward from God in Heaven. And further that this, my journa, may be forwarded to my gracious Lord King (every word found herein is altogether truthful) in order that my poor wife and children may obtain some benefit from my great distress and miserable death. Herewith farewell to all the world and my soul into the hands of the Almighty etc…… - *Jens Munck*

However, Munk realized four days later that he was still alive and so were two others. By July 19th the three had gained enough strength to embark on a return trip in the smaller of the two ships, *The Lamprey*. They made it back over the North Atlantic in 64 days and made landfall near Bergen, Norway - more dead than alive. It was not a heroes' welcome that greeted them, but criticism and finger pointing. The aftermath was just a continuation of their misfortune.

The larger ship, *The Unicorn*, had been abandoned in 'Munkenes Winterhauen'. The Dene, who all winter had observed 'the strangers' from a distance now felt safe to come closer and check out the ship that was left behind. Unfortunately, this resulted in further suffering and death. In the ship's hold there were barrels of gunpowder. These ignited and caused the whole ship to explode in flames, and tragically several more people died. The Dene came to regard 'The River of Strangers' (Monoteousipi[v] or Mistayseebee[vi]) as a place to avoid over the next centuries. They would rather travel great distances than use a river that had caused so much suffering for their people.

"Time has no beginnings and hist'ry has no bounds" goes a well-known Canadian song. It makes the important point that we are our history, and from this we make our choices for the future. It is

quite appropriate that February 20th is observed as Rasmus Jensen Day -- better still if we make it a day to remember, not only one person, but the many that events and circumstances then and now have placed in distant, desolate, and perilous places - both physically and spiritually. In this way we are reminded that for all humanity it is our duty without reserve to practice compassion and care.

---

[i] All 'Munk quotes' are taken from 'Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620', W. A. Kenyon, reprinted 2019 by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.
[ii] Kong Kristian den fjerde og hans mænd på Bremerholm
- Kapitel IV G page 413-415, Kbh., Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1889, Hans Daniel Lind (1847-1924)
[iii] Fortegnelse over Præster, ordinerede af Biskop Hans Poulsen Resen 1615—1638. By Bjørn Kornerup
[iv] Photos: courtesy of Kari Munck Purvis.
[v] p. 57 James F. Kenney, The founding of Churchill, 1932
[vi] p. 435, The Churchill River, Frederick J. Alcock, Source: Geographical Review, Vol. 2, No. 6 (Dec. 1916)

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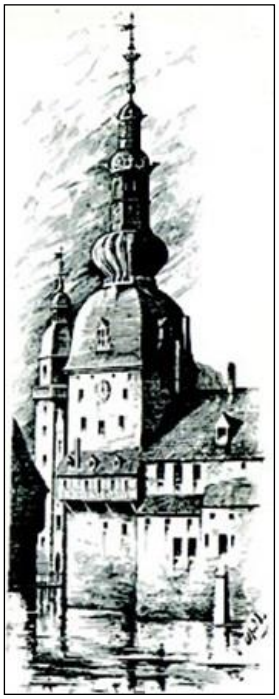
Jón Ólafsson / Rasmus Jensen Destiny and Freedom of Choice

Otto Christensen, Gimli



From the Cover of Jón Ólafsson's Memoirs

Jón Ólafsson came from the farm Svarthamar in Iceland. He left Iceland in 1615 as a 22-year-old to 'explore the world'. First, he went to England, and then to Copenhagen where he became a guard or artilleryman in the court of King Christian IV of Denmark-Norway. His first assignment was to go on a naval expedition, the goal of which was to catch pirates, above all the Spanish 'Mendoza's Brothers' who were plundering ships and settlements from Iceland to Norway. This brought Jón Ólafsson to the Faroe Islands and the White Sea on the Northwest coast of Russia. Next, he went with the King to Flekkerø in Norway. On both of these voyages Jón Ólafsson encountered Danish Royal Navy Captain Jens Munk.

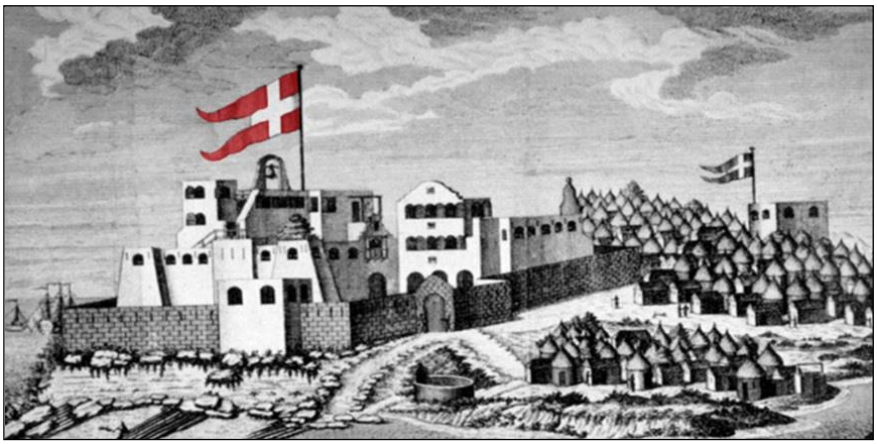


Blåtårn, part of the King's residence

The following year when Jens Munk was selecting a crew for his expedition to search for a Northern sea route to China and the Far East, Jón Ólafsson was offered a position. However, Jón Ólafsson did not accept right away. The next morning Jón came back and told Munk that he would not be going since "in the night, while I slept, that journey had been forbidden to me"[1]. This is quite characteristic of Jón, taking guidance from his dreams (as well as those of others).

In sharp contrast to Jón Ólafsson's career and lifestyle, Rasmus Jensen from Aarhus, studied theology in Copenhagen and was ordained a ship's chaplain in 1617. As an 'officer' he was

[1] The Life of the Icelander Jón Ólafsson, Traveller to India. Written by HIM and COMPLETED about 1661 A.D. with a CONTINUATION, by ANOTHER HAND, up to his DEATH in 1679. Translated: from the Icelandic edition of SIGFÚS BLÖNDAL by Bertha S. Philpotts. Hakluyt Society, London 1923. page 148

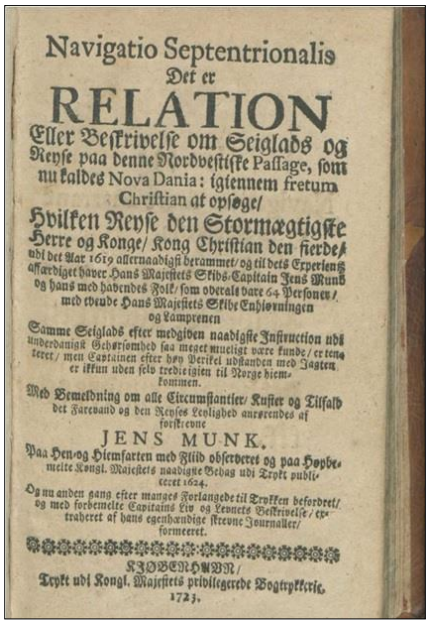


Tranquebar (Danish Trankebar), on the east coast of the Indian sub-continent, was a Danish trading station and colony 1620-1845

mandated to be the chaplain on Munk's 1619 expedition. Thus, he was one of the 64 men in the two ships which set out from Copenhagen with great fanfare on May 9, 1619.

We know something about both men, who came to mirror each other in a profound way. Rasmus Jensen is portrayed well and favourably in the writings of Jens Munk, who kept a journal and later published it - giving a public account of the last voyage and death of Rasmus Jensen. Jón Ólafsson on the other hand has left us with a self-portrait. In his writings Jón Ólafsson not only describes events and the many people he met, but shares quite liberally his own thoughts and feelings. In fact, Jón's writings are one of the main sources of information about an ordinary persons' life in the early 1600s in Copenhagen, other than official documents from that time. Unfortunately, Jón only wrote his memoirs in his 80s, after he returned to Iceland; consequently he often gets the chronology of events mixed up.

In other words, here is an interesting case of two men who had very different approaches to participating in Munk's expedition to find the Northwest Passage. Interestingly, both Jón and Rasmus became prisoners during the winter of 1619-1620. Rasmus Jensen and the rest of the crew on Munk's Expedition found themselves trapped by frost and ice in Hudson Bay, near today's Churchill, Manitoba. It was a prison with no walls or guards, yet they could not escape, the whole crew was confined to an area where they were unfamiliar with the environment, and where they lacked survival skills as well as proper clothing and equipment.



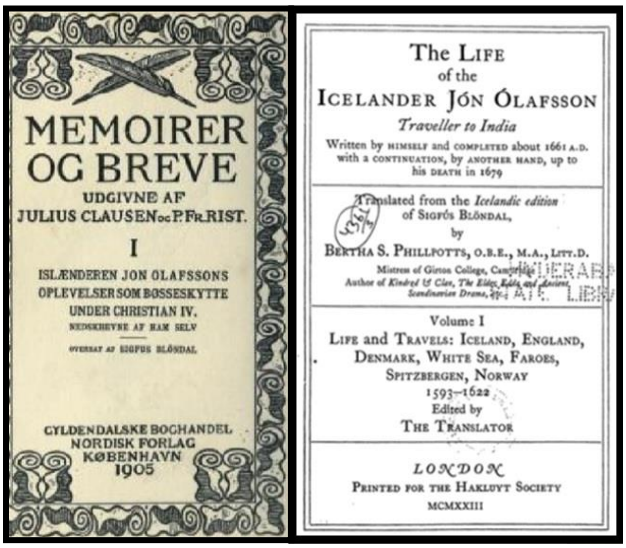
Navigatio Septentrionalis
Det er
RELATION
Eller Beſtrivelſe om Seiglads og Reyſe paa denne Nordveſtiſke Paſſage, ſom nu kaldes Nova Dania: igiennem fretum Chriſtian at opſøge/
Hvilken Reyſe den Stormægtigſte Herre og Konge/ Kong Chriſtian den fierde/ udi det Aar 1619 allernaadigſt bestammet/ og til dets Experientz affærdiget haver Hans Majeſtets Skibs-Capitain Jens Munk og hans med habendes Folk/ ſom vdcrals vare 64 Perſonen/ med thrude Hans Majeſtets Skibe Enhiorningen og Lamprenen
Samme Seiglads efter medgiven naadigſte Inſtruction udi underdanigſt Gehorſomhed ſaa meget mueligt vare kunde/ er tenereret/ men Captainen efter hoy Perikel udſanden med Jagten er ikkun uden ſelv tredie igien til Norge hiemkommen.
Med Bemeldning om alle Circumſtantier/ Kuſter og Tilfald det Farevand og den Reyſes Leeligheder anvrendes af forſtrevne
JENS MUNK.
Paa Hen- og Hiemſarten med Flid obſerveret og paa Høyberomelte Kongl. Majeſtets naadigſte Behag udi Trykt publiceret 1624.
Og nu anden gang efter mangen Forlangende til Trykken befordret/ og med forbemelte Capitains Liv og Levnets Beſtrivelſe/ extraheret af hans egenhandige ſtreyne Journaller/ formeeret.
KIOBENHAVN/
Trykt udi Kongl. Majeſtets priviligerede Bogtrykkerie,
1723.

Jens Munk's Journal Navigatio Septentrionalis, 1624

Jón Ólafsson, who stayed in Copenhagen, was also a prisoner. First in the Arsenal, and then in the infamous Blue Tower (Blåtårn); a prison from which many a prisoner never again saw the light of day. In his memoirs Jón describes at length how this all happened and how he was unfairly treated by the Captain of the Guard, Duke Adolph Frederik Grabow[2]. His imprisonment and trial reveals much about the legal system in Denmark at the time. Eventually Jón was pardoned by the King himself and Duke Grabow was held accountable for his misuse of power.

[2] Ibid. Page 168-202

After his release Jón Ólafsson was an artillery man on a ship that took King Christian IV to Bergen and in 1622 Jón Ólafsson went to India where the Danish East-India Company had just established the trading station, Dansborg, later known as Tranquebar. This was only the second voyage to the new trading station. Jón's account therefore gives valuable information about life, business and culture in the colony. Unfortunately, while he was there his hands were maimed when the cannon he was firing exploded.


MEMOIRER OG BREVE
UDGIVNE AF JULIUS CLAUSEN OG P. FR. RIST.
I
ISLÆNDEREN JON OLAFSSONS OPLEVELSER SOM BOSSESKYTTE UNDER CHRISTIAN IV.
NEDSKREVNE AF HAM SELV
OVERSAT AF SIGFÚS BLÖNDAL
GYLDENDALSKE BOGHANDEL NORDISK FORLAG
KØBENHAVN
1905

The Life of the Icelander Jón Ólafsson
Traveller to India
Written by himself and completed about 1661 A.D. with a continuation, by another hand, up to his death in 1679
Translated from the *Icelandic edition* of Sigfús Blöndal, by
Bertha S. Phillpotts, O.B.E., M.A., Litt.D.
Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge
Author of *Kindred & Clan*, *The Edda, Saga and Ancient Scandinavian Drama*, etc.
Volume I
Life and Travels: Iceland, England, Denmark, White Sea, Faroes, Spitzbergen, Norway
1593–1622
Edited by
The Translator
LONDON
Printed for the Hakluyt Society
MCMXXIII

Jón Ólafsson was stationed in Tranquebar on the coast of India until 1625 and then returned to Europe after what he called 'terrifying experiences' at sea. In addition he describes Copenhagen at the time of the Danish entry into the Thirty Years War. Finally, he returned home to Iceland. According to 'trustworthy Icelander Sæmund Eyólfsson[3], when Jón saw the glaciers of Iceland rise from the sea, as he stood on the deck, he was beside himself with joy, leapt into the air, and cried out, "In spite of all, Iceland is the best country the sun shines on." In Iceland he became involved in the defence arrangements implemented after the Turkish Raids in 1627 on Iceland's Eastern Firths and Vestmann Islands.

Jón Ólafsson's autobiography concludes with a passage by an unknown writer: "He was entertaining and cheerful and could talk of many things. He was a competent tailor and had also a good understanding of doctoring; had some skill in the art of verse and was well informed in many subjects, but was perpetually in difficulty with his farm. His son Ólaf, dealt in doctoring, like his father." After a long and exciting life Jón Ólafsson passed away at 86 years of age.

> "This above all: to thine own self be true,
> And it must follow, as the night the day,
> Thou canst not then be false to any man."
>
> (From *Hamlet Prince of Denmark*, by William Shakespeare - first published 1603.)

Rasmus Jensen, on the other hand, died in his winter prison. He dutifully conducted services and devotions as long as his health permitted him to do so; but on February 20, 1620 he succumbed to the dreaded sailors' disease scurvy. He was buried in the frozen soil of the winter harbour. Only Captain Munk and two others managed to survive the winter-imprisonment and make it back to Denmark. Rasmus Jensen thus became the first protestant clergyman to be buried in Canadian soil. In Churchill, Manitoba, the Lutheran Council of Canada has installed a plaque paying tribute to the Rev. Rasmus Jensen, who achieved his 'fame' in a sad and tragic way.

Jón Ólafsson and Rasmus Jensen were two men who led very different lives. Each is remembered in his own way. Who can say what is more honorable: to live a long life of adventure or to die being loyal to the duty given? History passes no judgement; just remembers them as the people they were.

[3] Ibid. page xxiv

Translating Munk's Journal

The Rev. Willy Olesen

The road we travel in life, whether by land, sea or air, varies a great deal, because there are many decisions which influence our choices. These might be financial, safety, timing or just circumstance. Growing up during and after the Second World War affected many of my decisions. So did the fact that I grew up on a small farm. After the war my older brothers went to Norway and in a way I naturally followed them, working on farms, looking after the cows. Living in Norway opened my eyes to a new and better life. There were many things that were similar; but also things that were better than in Denmark. Some things were different, for instance, the workday was much shorter than on farms in Denmark. As well, the Norwegians sailed and fished a great deal in order to make a living. It was also in Norway that I first heard of Jens Munk.

At some point after returning to Denmark after working in Norway, my brother and I visited Egon, who was our neighbour and my brother's good friend. Egon had a brother in Canada. One day Egon and my brother Christian decided to immigrate to Canada, which they did. And then, how did I end up immigrating to Canada? Well, I decided to visit Christian and Egon. Or rather, my plan was to immigrate to Canada and work there for a year or two, after which time I would return to Denmark. My brother had now lived in Canada for four years and was working for a farmer in Dickson, Alberta, by the name of Thorvald Jorgensen.

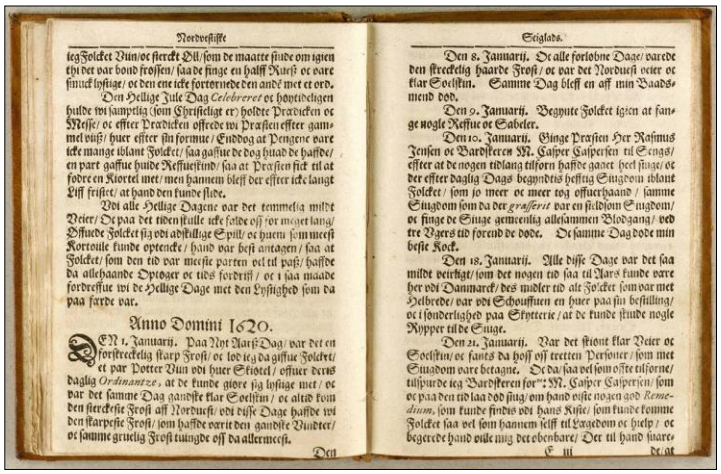
In 1957 my companion and I flew to Edmonton, where Christian picked us up at the airport and drove us to the Bible School in Camrose, where he was studying. Here again I followed my brother's example, working in the summer and studying during the winter. I discovered I could work in construction in the summer and earn enough money to go to school in the winter. I did this for twelve years, in the end studying theology and getting a degree in divinity.

In 1968 I visited Denmark to attend my parents' Golden Anniversary. It was my second visit after coming to Canada eleven years earlier. At the time I was also trying to come up with a subject for my thesis at the Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. As we flew over Hudson Bay on a clear night, I was reminded of Jens Munk and his expedition. And that gave me the idea for a thesis. While in Denmark I went to the Royal Library in Copenhagen, there I acquired a photocopy of the book with Jens Munk's ship's log, and also a microfilm of the journal. Both are now in the archives of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. The book was in Danish, typeset with gothic letters. I was able to read it as I had been taught to read the gothic alphabet in school.

Languages change over time and so does the style of writing as well as the spelling. The passing of time will also submerge and alter the spirit of the text. Moreover, the logbook was sprinkled with some Latin, which was not uncommon at the time. Indeed, the title of the journal is *Navigatio Septentrionalis*, Latin for Navigating North or Navigating Northern Waters. I

attempted not just to translate the words, but also to reproduce the spirit of that time, when Christian IV was king.

In his Journal Munk spells his last name Munck. But common usage nowadays is Munk. The Journal was published by Henrich Waldkirch in Copenhagen in 1624. The Waldkirch publishing company was basically a printing company, and a large one at that, printing many different kinds of books, including histories, religious books, picture books, government laws as well as regulations.



Nordvestfifte Seiglads.

tegFolcket Vin/oc ſtercket Vil/ſom de maatte ſtude om igien thi det var bond froſſen/ ſaa de finge en halff Nafſ oc vare ſtinckloſtige/ oc den ene icke fortornede den andē met et ord.

Den Hellige Jule Dag *Celebreres* oc høytideligen holde vi ſampttlig ſom Chriſteligt er/ holdte Prædicken oc Meſſe/ oc effter Prædicken offrede vi Præſten effter gammel vijſ/ huer effter ſin formue/ Enndog at Pengene vare icke mange iblant Folcket/ ſaa gaffue de dog huad de hafde/ en part gaffue huide Reffuerēnd/ ſaa at Præſten ſick til at fodre en Kiortel met/ men hannem bleff der effter icke langt Liff friſtet/ at hand den kunde ſlode.

Vdi alle Hellige Dagene var det temmelig milde Veier/ Oc paa det tiden ſkulle icke ſolde oſſ for meget lang/ Offuede Folcket ſig vdi adſkillige Spill/ oc huem ſom meeſt Kortoille kunde optencke/ hand var beſt antagen/ ſaa at Folcket/ ſom den tid var meeſte parten ocl til paſſ/ hafde da allehaande Optoger oc tids fordriff/ oc i ſaa maade fordreffue vi de Hellige Dage met den Lyſtigheed ſom da paa færde var.

Anno Domini 1620.

Den 1. Januarij. Paa Nyt Aarſs Dag/ var det en forſtreckelig ſkarp Froſt/ oc lod icg da giffue Folcket/ et par Potter Vin vdi huer Stiǿtel/ effuer dens daglig *Ordinantze*, at de kunde giore ſig lyſtige met/ oc var det ſamme Dag ganſke klar Solſkin/ oc altid kom den ſtreckeſte Froſt aff Nordueſt/ vdi diſſe Dage hafde vi den ſkarpeſte Froſt/ ſom hafde varit den gandſte Vinder/ oc ſamme gruelig Froſt tuingde oſſ da allermeeſt.

Den 8. Januarij. Oc alle forlobne Dage/ vared den ſtreckelig haarde Froſt/ oc var det Nordueſt veier oc klar Solſkin. Samme Dag bleff en aff min Baads-mend dod.

Den 9. Januarij. Begynte Folcket igien at fange nogle Reffue oc Sabeler.

Den 10. Januarij. Ginge Præſten Her Raſmus Jenſen oc Bardſkeren M. Caſper Caſperſen til Sengs/ effter at de nogen tidlang tilforn hafde gaaet ſyge/ oc der effter daglig Dags begyndtis heftig Stugeom iblant Folcket/ ſom jo meer oc meer tog offuerhaand/ ſamme Stugdom ſom da der *graſſerit* var en ſieldſom Stugdom/ oc ſinge de Stuge gemeenlig alleſammen Blodgang/ ved tre Dages tid forend de dode. De ſamme Dag dode min beſte Kock.

Den 18. Januarij. Alle diſſe Dage var det ſaa milde veirligt/ ſom det nogen tid ſaa til Aars kunde vare her vdi Danmarck/ des mīdler tid alt Folcket ſom var met Helbrede/ var vdi Schouffuen en huer paa ſin beſtilling/ oc i ſonderlighed paa Skytterie/ at de kunde ſtude nogle Rypper til de Stuge.

Den 21. Januarij. Var det ſtiont klar Veier oc Solſkin/ oc ſanis da hoff oſſ tretten Perſoner/ ſom met Stugdom vare betagne. De da/ ſaa vel ſom offte tilforne/ tilſpurde ieg Bardſkeren for"; M. Caſper Caſperſen/ ſom oc paa den tid lad dod ſtug/ om hand viſte nogen god *Remedium*, ſom kunde findes vdi Hans Riſe/ ſom kunde komme Folcket ſaa vel ſom hannem ſelff til Lyxdom oc hielp/ oc begerede hand vilde mig det ebenbare/ Der til hand ſuare/

E iij de/at

Jens Munk's Journal, written in Danish in a gothic font

into German, Dutch and English. But I was not able to access these translations at that time. Somehow I also missed out on Thorkild Hansen's book about Jens Munk, not reading it until my wife, Lene, bought it for me in 1973.

In addition to getting a copy of Jens Munk's Journal I tried to find other information about Munk. I discovered that the Journal had been translated

In short, for my Bachelor of Divinity degree I translated Jens Munk's *Navigatio Septentrionalis* from Danish into English. The Theological Seminary in Saskatoon gratefully accepted my thesis, in which Jens Munk mentions the ship's chaplain several times. In fact the Rev. Rasmus Jensen became the first pastor to conduct a Lutheran Church Service on North American soil. To commemorate Pastor Rasmus Jensen the computer server at the head office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada was named Rasmus.

The following year, 1969, was the 350th anniversary of Jens Munk's expedition in search of the Northwest Passage. Regrettably, there was little, or no attention paid to the anniversary, and none to my translation. Fortunately the 400th anniversary has been publicized, and appropriately commemorated, thanks to the Danish Federation's Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee, which has republished Munk's Journal in English, given presentations, held exhibitions and seen to it that several articles were written about this historic event.

Let me finish my story by saying that when I graduated from the Theological Seminary in 1970, I was the first working pastor in Mackenzie, British Columbia, where I worked on the construction of the pulp mill. In my spare time I organized a congregation and held services in the local school. I did not get paid from the church. Eventually I ran into obstacles and resigned. After a couple of years in a three point parish in Saskatchewan I became a pastor in Fort St. John, British Columbia. I worked there for twenty-four years, before moving to the Lower Mainland. During my time in Fort St. John I built five facilities for seniors and started three non-profit societies. The road I traveled influenced my life and hopefully benefitted others. I hope Jens Munk's quest can inspire others to seek new and exciting roads on their life's journey.

Hans Egede

Pastor and Explorer in Greenland

Trine Juncher Jørgensen, Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, and Christina Petterson

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Located geographically between Europe and North America and culturally influenced from Europe through Denmark, while being descendants of Inuit who originally came from Canada, Greenlanders are endowed with a culture which is a fusion of traditional Inuit culture and a modern 21st century life style.



Statue of Hans Egede in Nuuk, the capital

As Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, Greenlandic society is highly structured with welfare programs, generous social security and free access to higher education. Even though many Greenlanders would prefer full independency, most accept the ties to Denmark as a necessity for Greenland's economic prosperity, and social stability.

With its vast geographic size and its 56,000 inhabitants located in seventeen small towns and approximately sixty settlements, which are all situated along the coast, the population density is very low. There are no connecting roads between the towns and settlements, and transportation is therefore only possible by plane, helicopter or by boat. Nuuk, the capital city with over 18,000 people, has all the necessities of a vibrant, modern city with high-rises, hospitals, schools, a university, cafés, shopping malls and 4G-internet connectivity.

On the other hand if you travel to one of the smaller towns or settlements, you will find a very different Greenland; small bright colored town houses, a single shop and unlimited breathtaking nature all around. Here, you will meet fishermen in their rubber boots carrying large portions of fresh cod or salmon, a hunter in polar bear pants with a rifle on his shoulder or a dog sledge topped with a freshly caught seal. The Inuit culture is indeed alive and well in the smaller communities, even though threatened by all the other possibilities that the global world offers, above all to the younger generation.

Today most Greenlanders are Christians, and there are churches in all towns and settlements.

Many use the church on a regular basis and there are special Greenlandic traditions during worship throughout the year, for instance the very emotional Christmas song from 1852 "Guuterput" which means "Our God."

In the last couple of years Greenland has been in the news several times as it is an island in the Arctic with a high strategic interest for the United States, but also China and Russia.

Greenland is very much a land of contrasts, small in population and huge in size. Moreover, it is inhabited by people who are culturally bestowed with both an Inuit culture and a modern global life style.

Explorer and Pastor



Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, in national Greenlandic costume, Nuuk

In 1721, nearly 300 years ago, the Danish Lutheran pastor, explorer and adventurer Hans Egede set sail and headed for Greenland. Growing up in Norway the young Egede had heard the old stories about *The Norsemen,* a Nordic people who had inhabited Greenland in theMiddle Ages. Egede was intrigued and dreamed about traveling to Greenland to find the descendants of these *Norsemen* and then to convert and baptize them.

Little is known about these Norsemen; sagas about their fate are as good as non-existent. Yet after he arrived in Greenland, Hans Egede found the ruins of two settlements, the Eastern settlement (Østerbygden) and the Western settlement further north (Vesterbygden). Remains of farms, churches and numerous houses were found in various fjords. The Norsemen were large in numbers; yet the people disappeared without a trace around the year 1500.

Hans Egede felt an earnest calling to find the descendants of these old Vikings and he wanted to bring them back to God by introducing the teachings of Martin Luther and to rescue these "*infidels living in ice and darkness"*. Egede strongly believed that the Catholic faith and the teachings of the Pope were wrong.

In order to realize his vision Egede personally went to see the Lutheran King Frederik IV of Denmark in 1719. He presented his ambitious plan to conduct missionary work in this remote corner of the Danish-Norwegian Kingdom. Lo and behold his plan was approved. The King also had another reason for granting Hans Egede permission to colonize Greenland. As the active and lucrative Dutch whaling fleet was very active around Spitsbergen and along the coast of Greenland, the King wanted to ensure that whaling along the coast of Greenland remained in the hands of the Danes.

Consequently on May 12, 1721 the ship *Håbet* (The Hope) sailed from Bergen to Greenland with Hans Egede, his wife Gertrud Rask and their four children Poul, Niels, Kirstine and Petronella. They were accompanied by merchants and colonists from the Bergen-Greenland Company (Bergenskompagniet), in order to support the mission. Back in Norway Egede's family was not amused! They did not understand this heartfelt calling and Egede's mother-in- law was furious!

But Gertrud, Egede's wife, thought this calling to be God's will and the two of them left everything, but their children, behind.

Hans Egede in Greenland

Hans Egede was deeply disappointed when he did not find any traces of *The Norsemen*, in Greenland. But that didn't stop him. Egede and his wife persistently worked on gaining the trust of the Greenlandic people. They tried hard to learn the local language, and raised money for the mission, prayed and worked day and night.

Still, Egede didn't baptize anyone for three years! He was hard-headed and wanted to make sure that the Indigenous people truly believed in Christ before they were baptized. Finally, Egede baptized a sick child in 1724 and he also sent two local boys to Denmark, so that King Frederik IV himself could be introduced to subjects from this remote part of his kingdom. One of the boys was later baptized when he returned to Greenland.



Capital city of Nuuk,
Note: Cemetery in foreground

Egede struggled with teaching the Greenlanders Christianity. He travelled to remote places to teach the locals about Jesus and the gospels. He told them about Martin Luther and the Reformation and the doctrines of the church, but things did not go according to Egede's plan at all. Egede was discouraged and he describes the Indigenous people as "*savages"*. He translated *The Lords Prayer* to make it easier for them to understand, but they didn't know what *our daily bread* meant. The *Lamb of God* didn't make sense to them either, so with the help of his sons Egede translated *daily bread* into *daily meat* and *the Lamb of God* became *the Seal-dog of God*. According to Egede these "*savages"* had their own traditions and they were not eager to give them up. Egede was particularly offended by their trust in *angakuersarnek (*necromancy in English*)*: a traditional kind of spiritual exorcism – communication with the dead. The *angakok* was a kind of shaman who could travel in spirit, he was able to free people from diseases or even other evil spirits, the *angakok* was able to change the weather or make sure the hunt was successful. The Indigenous people also had a tradition for wearing or keeping charms and amulets, such as pieces of hide or claws from birds and polar bears to protect them against harm and to give them strength or courage. Hans Egede was furious and repulsed by these pagan traditions and he refused to baptize Indigenous adults for more than seven years! Egede and the Greenlanders obviously had many misunderstandings; Egede didn't speak the local language very well, yet Egede complained that it was not *his* fault but due to the Indigenous "*stupidity and cold- heartedness"* that his mission did not succeed as he had hoped.

Egede continuously demanded proof that the Greenlanders had the correct Christian faith and knowledge and that they truly and wholeheartedly believed in Christ. Furthermore, Egede demanded years of obvious proof that the locals lived as true Christians, forsaking their old traditions and especially forsaking the *angakok*!

Hans Egede was indeed impressed with how the Greenlanders mastered singing and poetry. Otherwise Egede was not impressed! He found the people to be unsanitary, brutal and they were not shy in any way, the women had tattoos on their faces, fleas and lice were a severe problem and Egede was simply overwhelmed by their strange and foreign customs.

On occasion Egede threatened them with fire and brimstone. He would lose his temper and he preached of Hell and how the devil would torture the Greenlanders for eternity if they didn't repent and change their pagan ways. The few people Egede did baptize the first years of his mission were given Danish names, so their pagan ways would be drowned in their baptism.

More colonists arrive

In 1728 soldiers and more colonists arrived in Greenland sent by the King. Hans Egede had suggested that colonization by good Christian men and women might help spread the gospel in Greenland. But to cut a long story short: Both the Danish men and women were far from picture-perfect examples for the Indigenous people, most of them died shortly after their arrival and so did the livestock that had survived the long journey. Soon the mission ran out of money and supplies. Hans Egede now came up with the idea of raising funds by becoming an alchemist! This was a mistake and Egede almost killed his entire household in fumes and smoke from his experiments. Egede did not produce any gold, while many of the Danish colonists died from scurvy. The rest died from the cold, and damp weather, and the harsh conditions in general.



Student Assembly at Aasiaat High School in Aasiaat Formerly Egedesminde, at the southern end of Disko Bay

In 1733, some new missionaries arrived; but Egede was not impressed! These new missionaries were from the Moravian Brethren and sent by the King to help Egede. But they baptized people without demanding any proof of their heartfelt repentance! The new missionaries taught people about Jesus on the cross, they did not mention the Pope or doctrines like the Trinity; they simply talked about Jesus and his suffering. They staged shows and plays so that the Indigenous people finally understood what Christianity was all about. They sang songs, they cried openly, established choirs and truly taught and lived by example and by their *show it, don't tell it* ways. The new missionaries were not permitted tolive in the main Godthaab Colony and had instead settled outside the Danish mission area. This meant that they had little contact with the drunken mobs and rowdy Danish soldiers. To Egede the Moravian Brethren became a severe threat, a competition he could not handle.

But then a plague broke out. The ship which had brought the new missionaries also brought smallpox. Egede and his wife now worked night and day to fight the epidemic and they had the help and support of a young baptized Greenlander by the name of *Frederik Christian*.

Frederik Christian did not survive the epidemic and Egede's wife Gertrud passed away from exhaustion in 1735. In 1736, after fifteen years in Greenland, Hans Egede returned to Denmark. On his return he received the title of Honorary Bishop and founded a Greenlandic College (Det Grønlandske Seminarium) to train missionaries for Greenland. Egede lived his last years in Denmark with his daughter and son-in-law in Stubbekøbing. He passed away in 1758 and was buried at Nikolaj Kirke in Copenhagen. But no one thought of renewing his burial plot, and so his gravestone was sold at an auction! Later the cemetery was closed.

Back to the future



Village of Uummannaq on the west coast of Greenland

In Greenland, however, Egede is not forgotten. There is a statue of him high on a hill in the capital city of Nuuk. Here Egede overlooks the fjord in the old historic part of the harbour.

Egede published *Det gamle Grønlands Nye perlustration* an illustrated book of Greenland's history and nature. He also published his own maps of Greenland. He was an explorer, an adventurer and a controversial pastor. Egede is now known as the Apostle of Greenland and his persistent, relentless but heartfelt work definitely left its mark.

No doubt that his example will be used by many in 2021 when it is the 300-year anniversary of his arrival in Greenland; both to argue against colonialism and to advocate for Greenlandic independence, but also to focus on Greenlandic history and to advocate for the Greenlandic fellowship with the Kingdom of Denmark.

In 2019 the President of the United States of America made an offer to buy Greenland and so now 300 years after Egede's arrival the connections and ties to Denmark seem even closer and more obvious and urgent than ever.

Growing up in the city of Nuuk, I remember how we all ran up to play at the statue on top of the hill, both admiring and being a little intimidated by this strange stoic man overlooking the harbour. All of us children knew his name; he was the Apostle of Greenland *Hans Egede.*

Epilogue

Hans Egede was a stubborn man, but even he could not do much against the Moravian Brethren once they gained their first convert in 1739, six years after their arrival. Lars Dalager, a merchant at the Danish colony, but a Moravian sympathiser, stated that in the subsequent success of the Moravians, one could see the hand of God. As Susanne has written above, their Christianity was one of feeling, and one of practice. Their converts lived at the settlements and missionaries and

converts called each other brother and sister. Hymns were composed in Greenlandic, which had a big effect on the Indigenous people. Small liturgical gatherings for the converts were frequently practiced, and the Moravian way of life and its community spirit fitted well into the Greenlandic way of life. Indeed, the way of singing in Greenlandic churches today, the very slow polyphonic singing, has its roots in the Moravian music tradition.

When the Moravian Brethren left Greenland in 1901 with the consolidation of the Church in Greenland, they had six mission stations along the west coast of Greenland and had through the past 170 years converted an enormous share of the Greenlandic Christians. The congregations they handed over to the Danish Church had 1,631 members, and this was a low number due to a steady decline in membership in the last decades. This is not a bad result when one considers the meagre beginnings, when three Moravian artisans showed up with little more than the clothes on their back and fire in their hearts. The early Moravian missions were not funded but relied on the self-sustenance of the missionaries in their various locations, which is why they sent out lay-preachers with artisanal know-how. Thus, Christian David, the leader of the first missionaries was a carpenter, and did jobs both at the colony at Godthaab, and helped build the second Danish colony of Christianshaab in Disco Bay. Not until 1770 was a fixed ration of food from Europe guaranteed. Supporting the mission was thus a very ad hoc affair, and meant sending provisions (food, wood, tools, and clothes), gifts, and encouraging letters, but not actual salaries for the missionaries. This makes their efforts and achievements all the more impressive.

So, what remains of the Moravian influence in the Greenlandic church today? I have already mentioned the music and singing. Another related feature are the 69 beautiful hymns in the Greenlandic hymnbook written by Carl Julius Spindler, Moravian missionary to southern Greenland in the second half of the nineteenth century. Finally, I should mention Samuel Kleinschmidt, who was born in Greenland at the Moravian settlement of Lichtenau, and who produced the first Greenlandic grammar and Greenlandic Bible translation based on the original languages, and established a Greenlandic orthography. Although Kleinschmidt left the Moravian Church and joined the Lutheran Church in 1859, his training and sensibilities where thoroughly marked by his Moravian background and training.

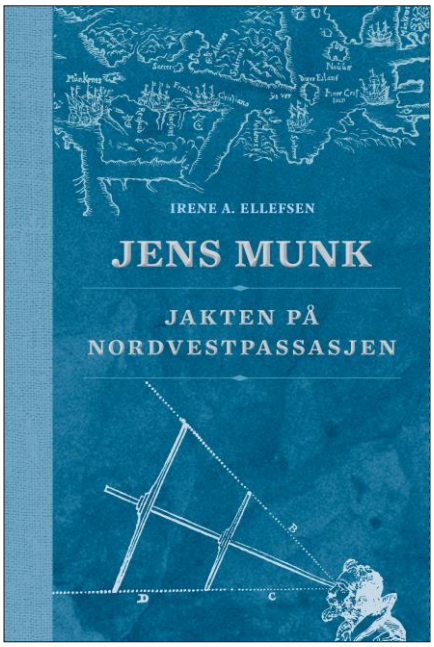
The above article was written by Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, born in Nuuk (when it was called Godthaab), who has a Master of Theology from the University of Copenhagen. Since 2017 she has been Pastor at the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver. The introduction was written by Trine Juncher Jørgensen, a reporter at the Det Grønlandske Mediehus Sermitsiaq AG, while the epilogue was written by Christina Petterson, Ph.D., an author interested in colonialism and the Moravian Brethren.



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Jens Munk
Jakten på Nordvestpassasjen

Vi har en fantastisk sakprosadebutant på utgivelseslista i høst: Irene A. Ellefsen heter hun, og hun har en fantastisk evne til å gjøre historien levende. I fortellingen om Jens Munk har hun vært tro mot fakta og historiske kilder, samtidig som miljøskildringene er skrevet slik at leseren føler seg omgitt av tiden og historien med alle sanser. Her får du innblikk i en del av historien vår på en ny måte. Nysgjerrig? Da kan du kan bestille et gratiskapittel fra boka her: (see link below)



On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's journey we have a new book - released August 2019. It is written by Irene Almkvist Ellefsen, who is the curator of the 'Østfoldmuseene - Fredrikstad Museum', Norway. The book is written in Norwegian, but can easily be enjoyed by people that read, and understand Danish.

Ellefsen writes in the prologue: *In my search for information about Jens Munk one idea gradually came to fruition. I should write a book about him. The learning curve was steep and had many detours. Although Munk is best known for his expedition in search for the Northwest Passage, there were many equally interesting episodes in his life. Step by step I have combed through the written sources.* (p. 12)

The result is a book of 322 pages with an additional 32 pages of illustrations, charts, and maps, written so as to keep the reader's attention to the last page. The book is published by Humanist Forlag AS, Oslo. You can download a chapter of the book for free on their webpage:

https://www.humanistforlag.no/jens-munk-jakten-paa-nordvestpassasjen.6236173-325676.html?fbclid=IwAR0379DMGGgFIe4bXi8xS9 S3c_izP-LmQ-1jmlsgJxNjo8_QuOk_LOaLiDE

I have not been able to find a review of the book on the web. The above description is based on my own reading. I recommend the book to anyone who wants a more fact-based account of Munk's life than what you get from Thorkild Hansen's Book: *Jens Munk* (Copenhagen, 1965). Hansen was an author rather than a historian. In Ellefsen's case it is the other way around. Her book has been well received in Norway, even suggested as a Fathers' Day Gift. It is so new that no other language translation is available. My guess is that it is just a question of time before this lack will be remedied. We'll see.

Otto Christensen, Gimli, Manitoba
Member of the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee,
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

800th Anniversary of Dannebrog

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

On June 15, 2019 the Danish flag celebrated its 800th anniversary. It is thus the oldest continuously-used flag in the world. According to the legend which every Dane knows, the flag fell from the sky during the Battle of Lyndanisse outside Tallinn, Estonia, rousing the Danish warriors and granting King Valdemar the Victorious and his men victory.



Dannebrog ready to land in the stadium at Kongehøjskolen in the town of Aabenraa in Southern Jutland

The anniversary of Dannebrog was celebrated all over Denmark. In in the capital there was a solemn Church Service at the Copenhagen Cathedral, followed by a street party in front of City Hall. In Vordingborg there was a big public celebration attended by Crown Prince Frederik, Vordingborg being King Valdemar's favourite fortress.

In the southern town of Aabenraa Kongehøjskolen, a youth college had arranged for paratroopers from the Skydive 2000 Parachute Club in Vamdrup to land with three flags in the stadium in front of the students. From a height of 1,500 metres the skydivers jumped out, each with a flag. The largest of the flags was almost 100 square metres, making it Denmark's largest Dannebrog. Yes, these large unfurled red and white flags did come from the sky! The nearly 900 students cheered as the flags swooped down from above.

To celebrate the anniversary Queen Margrethe II of Denmark sailed to Estonia on the royal yacht *Dannebrog* and participated in celebrations in Tallinn, marking the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog, the 135th anniversary of the Estonian flag, Estonia's centennial as an independent country as well as Danish-Estonian relations. Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas pointed out that "our national flags originate from the same land." He also pointed out that Denmark is one of the countries which contribute to the NATO Battlegroup in Estonia on a rotating basis.



A commissioner, Amb. Thomas Winkler, Consul Helle Wilson, Karl Sorensen, Jason Schreyer and Mayor Brian Bowman in front of Winnipeg City Hall

The Queen opened a new rose garden in Tallinn's medieval Old Town, which will be known as the Danish Queen's Garden. The queen also laid a wreath at the foot of the War of Independence Victory Column.

In Canada there was a flag raising ceremony outside Winnipeg City Hall, attended by among others Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler and Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman, who addressed the crowd, as did Danish Federation Board Member Karl Sorensen of Winnipeg. In attendance was also Danish Honorary Consul Helle Wilson. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the annual Conference and AGM of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. Once Dannebrog had been raised the participants sang the Danish and Canadian National Anthems. The flags had been drooping as there was no wind. Fittingly, as the Danish National Anthem was sung the wind picked up and all the flags fluttered beautifully in all their glory.

Danish Clubs and Churches across Canada also commemorated the 800th anniversary. In Calgary the anniversary was celebrated at the Danish Lutheran Church, with both Danish and Canadian flags being carried in and representing the Church, the Calgary Danish Canadian Club, the Naver Club and the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada. All in all, the anniversary was truly an occasion to celebrate. And once again it confirmed how Danes love Dannebrog.



Danish organizations with their flags, at the celebration at the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary



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Otto Valdemar Andreasen

Built first private dairy in Saskatchewan

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

At the beginning of March 1906 Otto Andreasen got off an eastbound train at Humboldt, Saskatchewan, to discuss a rather important business proposal with the local Industry Committee of the Humboldt Board of Trade. The Industry Committee informed Andreasen that it would grant him a free town site if he would build a creamery in Humboldt. This sealed the deal and Andreasen gave the Committee his verbal assurance that a creamery would be built in Humboldt as soon as the weather permitted. Before getting back on the Winnipeg-bound train, Andreasen signed a contract to have sixty tons of ice delivered to the creamery once it started operations.



Construction of the Humboldt Creamery began at the end of April 1906 and within twenty days the dairy was built, at a total cost of $4,000. It was the first private creamery in the province of Saskatchewan. The creamery was strategically located just south of the railway tracks. Already in June the dairy began operations with Otto Andreasen and Fred Voss as proprietors. During the first six months the creamery produced 32,000 pounds of butter, which increased to 100,000 pounds three years later. The entire process of butter making was carried on under the latest methods and was a great incentive to the dairy farmers in the district. The Creamery grew and at one point had 27 substations or branches. It produced milk, cream, butter and ice cream. For many years Joseph Kunaman was the butter maker and earned many awards for his high quality butter. Otto Andreasen continued to operate the Creamery until 1924, when he sold it to Joseph Caulder.

Granted, Andreasen's success was also due to the fact that settlers were pouring into Saskatchewan, there was a tremendous increase in population, which in turn spurred economic development and growth.

Humboldt was the name chosen for the repair station which the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Line established on the Canadian Prairies in 1875. At the time the only permanent inhabitants in the area were the telegraph operators, linemen and their families as well as members of the North West Mounted Police. Humboldt was named for Baron Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), the German scientist and naturalist. In 1905, with the evolution of the settlement, the name Humboldt was automatically transferred to the Village.

The growth and development of the Humboldt District was largely due to the establishment of the Benedictine monks' St. Peter's Colony. In search of suitable land to establish a new colony, German-American businessmen from Minnesota along with Father Bruno Doerfler, belonging to the Order of Saint Benedict, arrived by team and wagon in Saskatoon via Winnipeg in 1902, to have a look at the area around Humboldt.



Humboldt Creamery Co. Ltd., 1910
Photo: Courtesy of Humboldt Museum

Upon their return to Minnesota the businessmen formed the German American Land Company and in 1903 they purchased 100,000 acres of railroad land in the Humboldt District to sell to settlers who wanted more land than a quarter-section. The company actively encouraged German Catholics living in the United States to homestead in St. Peter's, where they could have their own Roman Catholic Church and eventually build a monastery.

The Canadian Northern railway, busy laying tracks, could provide the necessary means of transportation to the new community. In May 1905, the first passenger train arrived in Humboldt, and the Humboldt District flourished.

The Germans were attracted to Saskatchewan due to the ready availability of inexpensive, good farmland; the lobbying by Canadian immigration authorities and agents; the encouragement to organize large colonies; the promise of exemption from military service;; the successful precedent set by the earliest German settlers; as well as the influence of German American newspapers and writers.

In 1908 the largest real estate transaction in the history of the Humboldt District was the sale by the German American Land Company of 75,000 acres of land to the Luseland Company of Saskatoon. The company had been established in 1904 by Mr. J.F. Luse of St. Paul, Minnesota. Its goal was to establish a German Lutheran colony for families that had initially settled in the American Midwest.

While the Humboldt District was settled primarily by American Germans, the records also indicate that a large number of settlers from neighbouring Manitoba, from Ontario as well as from Britain settled in the surrounding district, but above all in the Town of Humboldt.

In 1905, Humboldt was organized into a school district, and teachers from Ontario were hired. The first classes were held in the Presbyterian Church, which was established in 1905 with the Reverend Jos Hunter, a missionary coming directly from Scotland.



Butter maker Joseph Kunaman, Humboldt Creamery, 1923

As the Village was growing, Mr. J. W. Lowes worked hard to have the Village of Humboldt incorporated as a town. Thanks to his efforts the village did indeed become a town. Mr. Lowes naturally ran for mayor, but was defeated by a slim margin by Otto Andreasen, the Creamery owner, who thus became the first mayor of Humboldt. Mr. J.W. Lowes was a storekeeper and became Humboldt's first postmaster. The Village of Humboldt became the Town of Humboldt on April 1, 1907, by an official provincial proclamation.

The first civic election was held with E.T. Wallace as Returning Officer. After the election E.T. Wallace was appointed the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Humboldt, at a salary of $300. Humboldt celebrated its incorporation as a town with a sports day.

The Humboldt Board of Trade had been established at a meeting at the Windsor Hotel in February 1906, just a month before Andreasen arrived. The hotel, strategically located across from the railway station, had just been opened the previous November. The hotel was heated throughout by steam and it was lighted by *siche* gas. Later in 1906 Otto became the President of the Humboldt Board of Trade. In 1909, while Otto Andreasen was mayor, the town council began providing an annual grant to the Board of Trade to help it promote its activities. The Board established standing committees, which included finance, civic improvements, railway and shipping, entertainment, immigration and advertising, agriculture and industries. Within a few years the Board of Trade erected an office building directly south of the Windsor Hotel.

Contributing to its growth was the fact that Humboldt was a divisional point on the main line of the Canadian Northern Railway. In the coal and steam era, a divisional point would typically include such amenities as a substantial passenger station, freight and baggage sheds, a roundhouse, water tank, coaling and sanding facilities, and repair shops for locomotives and rolling stock. In an age dominated by the railways, the choice of a town as a divisional point was unquestionably decisive in that town's development.

Otto Andreasen was naturally busy with his ever growing creamery. At the same time he had to attend to his duties as Mayor of Humboldt. And there were many things to look after and to initiate. In September 1908 a new two room public school opened, with classes held in the Presbyterian Church. In 1912 the Humboldt Public School, a large brick building, was opened. It offered both elementary school and high school.

In 1909 Humboldt held its first Exhibition and Fair, organized by the newly created Agricultural Society. It was something the Dominion government strongly supported and promoted. To get the ball rolling, the Dominion Government made a free grant of land to Humboldt to be used as a park and fair grounds, providing adequate space for exhibition purposes. Otto Andreasen was naturally elected to the Board of the Agricultural Society. The first Fair was held in September 1909, with the Dominion Minister of Agriculture present.

In 1912 a stately two-storey City Hall was built at the corner of Main Street and Seventh Avenue. At the same time a Powerhouse was built to provide electricity. And to address the continual struggle for water on the Prairies, the construction of a Water Tower was begun in 1914. Interestingly, the exterior design was striking, due to the tower's resemblance to a coastal lighthouse.

The construction of a centrally located Court House was begun in 1914, the year Otto stepped down as Mayor of Humboldt. The two-storey stone and brick building was erected in the Edwardian Classical style, giving the edifice a symmetrical appearance of order and stature. Due to the First World War the Court House was not finished until 1920. But with the Court Humboldt became a judicial centre for the province.

In addition to his Creamery, Otto created a real estate company which could deal with his holdings of other creamery sub-stations. To widen his contacts, Otto became a Mason and he joined the Rotary Club. A highlight on his social calendar was the Shriners Ball, on which occasion he would don tails and white ties while his wife would wear a lovely evening gown.

The Andreasens also had a cottage at Waldsea Lake, not far from Humboldt. There were twenty cottages, a pavilion and a nine-hole golf course. Ellen, the oldest daughter, recalls fondly that the four children loved going to the cottage.

In addition, Ellen warmly remembers Christmas. The Andreasens celebrated Christmas the Danish way on Christmas Eve. The Christmas tree was decorated with small wax candles and the presents were placed neatly under the tree. The lights in the house would be turned off while the candles on the tree were lit. They would then sing Danish Christmas carols and songs. The repertoire also included Silent Night in Danish.

In Humboldt the Andreasens attended the Presbyterian Church in the early days, and later the United Church, which was built kitty corner from the Andreasen house on Livingstone Street.

Sunday nights after the Service the choir members and their friends would often gather at the Andreasen's house for a sing-song.

Otto and his wife, Maja, were very much involved with the community and became solid Canadian citizens. Yet, they never forgot their Danish heritage. Both Otto and Maja had long and strong Danish roots; and both had grown up on a farm.

Otto Valdemar Andreasen was born on the farm Ulsøgaard in Ulsø on the island of Sjælland on August 24, 1872. He was the son of Christian Jørgen Andreasen, born in Seilstrup in 1835. In 1872 he leased a farm in Ulsø where Otto was born. Otto's mother was Johanne Elise Caroline Andreasen, née Wentzel, born in 1840 in Præstø, also on the island of Sjælland.

After Otto finished school and was confirmed he apprenticed as a dairyman on the large Juellinge Estate belonging to Count Frederik Moltke. Here Otto learned about hard work, dedication, discipline and ambition, which was to characterize his life and work. He finished his education by attending an agricultural college near Roskilde.

On June 13, 1898, Otto married Maja Sigrid Ragnhild Elisabeth Møller in Vartov Church in Copenhagen. Maja, born in Bandholm on the island of Lolland on January 25, 1874, was the daughter of Peter Vilhelm Laurits Møller, who had leased the farm Leerbjerggård from the Knuthenborg Estate on the island of Lolland. Peter Møller had been born in Nykøbing, Falster, in 1843. Maja's mother, Marie Møller, née Hørup, had been born in Maribo, about ten kilometres south of Bandholm in 1851.



***SS Parisien**, built 1880, a steamship with funnels and masts with sails*

After their marriage, Otto and Maja settled on a farm near Bandholm, where Otto worked as a livestock breeder. Within the next five years they had four children, Ellen, born in 1898; Astrid, born in 1900; Johanne, called Betten, born in 1901; and Otto junior, born in 1903.

Otto was now 30 years old. He wanted to get ahead, but was constantly told he was too young. Twenty-five years later he told a Danish journalist that he wished he had immigrated to Canada when he was twenty. Canada was much more open and free, no one said you are too young. With his dreams of accomplishing something, Otto and Maja decided to emigrate. The decision was made already before Otto Junior was born.

Otto sailed first, alone, and Maja followed with the four children. Otto, leaving for Canada in January 1903, initially sailed to England and then across the Atlantic from Liverpool to Halifax.

He crossed the Atlantic on the *SS Parisian*, an Allan Line steam ship with sails, which had been launched in 1880. He arrived in Canada on February 2, 1903.

Maja and the four children followed in September 1903. They sailed on the much newer *SS Bavarian*, also owned by the Allan Line, a ship which was only four years old. At first the Andreasens lived in Gladstone, Manitoba, about 150 km west of Winnipeg, where Otto managed a creamery. After two years they moved into Winnipeg where they lived for a year, Otto again managing a creamery. From Winnipeg it was on to Humboldt.



Four men and a woman standing on top of a 1930s flat-bed Ford truck parked in front of the Sask Co-operative Creameries, Regina

The years in Humboldt went by quickly, Otto being kept busy with his growing Creamery and his heavy involvement with the community; then came the First World War, followed by the Post War period. These were also the years when the four Andreasen children grew up and started to leave home.

It was also at this time that a series of mergers began to take place within the agricultural sector. Many farmers joined Wheat Pools and co-ops. Already in 1917 the Government of Saskatchewan had played an aggressive role in helping to amalgamate twenty creameries into the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries. Otto followed the developments closely, weighing what options would be best for his creamery and for himself. This is where Joseph Caulder came into the picture.

One of Otto's fiercest competitors was Joseph Caulder. He was President and General Manager of Saskatchewan Creamery and Ice Cream Co. Ltd. in Moose Jaw. Caulder was from Quebec and had come to the Moose Jaw area to farm. In 1910 Caulder started the Moose Jaw Dairy. Later, as his operation expanded, he changed the name to Saskatchewan Creamery. By 1924 he operated twelve branches, with headquarters in Moose Jaw. Caulder competed aggressively with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, and then in 1927 Caulder was able to merge the two, and he became President and Manager of the amalgamated company under the name Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, with headquarters in Saskatoon. Caulder was a man in a hurry and in 1929 he left Saskatchewan and became President and General Manager of the Dairy Corporation of Canada.

Already in 1924 Andreasen had sold his Humboldt Creamery to Joseph Caulder. Part of the deal was that Otto would move to Saskatoon to become manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries in Saskatoon. Consequently the Andreasen family moved to Saskatoon, where Otto quickly put down roots and joined the beautifully-located Riverside Golf and Country Club as well as the Saskatoon Rotary Club.

In early 1926 Otto was promoted to manager of the Northern Branches of the Caulder Creameries, with his office remaining in Saskatoon. Otto was also on the Saskatoon Board of Directors of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and in May 1926 he was elected Chairman of the Saskatoon Board.

Meanwhile, his wife's health was deteriorating. Although Maja had been suffering for some time from a chronic illness, the end was very sudden and unexpected. Maja Andreasen passed away at the family home at 216 Saskatchewan Crescent, Saskatoon, on November 15, 1926. The ladies of the Eastern Star Lodge were in charge of the funeral arrangements. The funeral was conducted by Rev. John A. Caldwell of Sutherland, the former Presbyterian minister at Humboldt. Maja was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, after a funeral service in a downtown Saskatoon funeral chapel. There were many people at the funeral service and the amount of flowers sent was overwhelming. It goes without saying, Christmas in the Andreasen home that year was a subdued affair.

At a Board Meeting in February 1927 Otto Andreasen, Northern Manager of Caulder's Creameries, was elected Vice-President and appointed Assistant General Manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries. Then in May when the Caulder Creameries and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries merged Joseph Caulder naturally became President and Otto was appointed general manager.

In Humboldt, Otto had been active in the annual Agricultural Exhibition and Fair. It was an occasion to showcase his Creamery products, above all butter. With his connections and ideas, Otto was asked to be the convener of the Entertainment Committee of the 1927 Saskatoon Exhibition.

Otto was now a single father with four children. However, all the children were currently in their late twenties and were well on their way in their various careers. When alone Otto likely longed for some female company. And then it happened. He was smitten by a cute young girl with blue eyes and brown hair who worked in the front office at the Creamery. Her name was Myrle McConkey.

Myrle was born in Sault St. Marie, Michigan, across the river from Sault St. Marie, Ontario, on August 6, 1900. In other words, she was about the same age as his children. When Otto and Myrle decided to get married they wanted to do it in Seattle where her parents lived.

Otto Valdemar Andreasen and Myrle McConkey were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Seattle by the Rev. Dr. Mark Matthews on December 31, 1927. A reception followed at the home of the bride's parents, Charles and Susanne McConkey. On their honeymoon Otto and Myrle went to California, and only returned to Saskatoon at the beginning of February.

Within months of their return, however, Otto and Myrle moved to Regina, from where Otto now worked. The local paper reported that it was difficult for Mr. Andreasen to say goodbye to the staff of 125 employees at the Saskatoon Creamery. But by May Otto and Myrle moved into their new home in Regina. Otto had also come to the attention of Danish Consul General Johannes Bøggild in Montreal and he was asked to serve as Danish Vice-Consul for Saskatchewan, which he did from 1928 to 1932. Similarly it should be noted that Otto was a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, from 1908 to 1932.In 1928 Otto and Myrle took a trip to Denmark. It was the first time Otto visited Denmark since he had left twenty-five

years earlier. In Copenhagen he was interviewed by the newspaper *Morgenbladet*, explaining to the journalist why he immigrated to Canada.

Repeating the commitments he had taken on in Humboldt and in Saskatoon, it didn't take long before Otto was on the executive of the Regina Board of Trade. In 1930 Otto proposed to the Regina Board of Trade the formation of a Saskatchewan Industrial Board to encourage Saskatchewan manufacturing. The motion passed unanimously.

At the same time the Great Depression was now reaching Saskatchewan. The economic downturn which began with the Wall Street Crash in October 1929 would severely affect Saskatchewan. Farm income dropped dramatically; nearly two-thirds of the farm population would become destitute. The province was devastated by swarms of grasshoppers, terrible hailstorms and drought, which destroyed millions of acres of wheat. Saskatchewan became a Dust Bowl. Farmers and many others started to leave Saskatchewan. Among them was Otto Andreasen.



Myrle Andreasen, 1928

A short newspaper article in *The Leader-Post* of April 20, 1932, stated that Otto Andreasen and his wife were leaving Regina for the coast by automobile. The article quoted Otto as saying that he expected to stay in British Columbia until the dust storms ceased. Interestingly it also refers to Otto as the *former* General Manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries. Had he quit or was he laid off? His departure was certainly due to the Great Depression. Sadly he never returned.

As Otto and Myrle actually drove to British Columbia by car, the journey must have been quite eventful considering the state of Canadian highways in 1932, particularly over the various mountain passes.

Otto was 60 years old and could afford to retire. Besides he likely wanted to slow down and enjoy life. After visiting his brother, who according to one source lived in Williams Lake in the interior of the province, the couple settled in Vancouver. Otto and Myrle moved into the Englesea Lodge on Beach Avenue. The handsome five storey brick building was situated on the waterfront of English Bay, just outside Stanley Park. It was a beautiful location with a view of the ocean and the North Shore Mountains. For a time they lived in an apartment on Cardero Street in the West End, before moving into 2058 Beach Avenue, a house right on English Bay, and next to the Englesea Lodge. It was a prime location, where they could enjoy the good life and go for walks in Stanley Park. The Lodge and the house have since been expropriated and torn down to make way for the public-park and beach along the Bay.

In about 1939 Otto and Myrle left Vancouver and moved to Seattle. They settled in the University District where they opened the Knitting Needle, a store they operated until 1951. In

the late fifties they moved north of the city to Shoreline, where they lived in a beautiful house on Ridgefield Road with a magnificent view of the ocean and mountains. They enjoyed living there until it was necessary for Otto to move into a nursing home.

Otto Valdemar Andreasen passed away in a nursing home in Seattle on December 11, 1965. A private service was held in the highly-regarded Bleitz Chapel on Florentia Street in Seattle, where he was cremated. He left behind his wife, Myrle, three daughters, Ellen of Saskatoon, Astrid (Charles Dickson) of Utica, New York, and Johanne (Durward Thomas) of Saskatoon, as well as a son, Otto of Brantford, Ontario, in addition to his brother, Aage Andreasen, of Black Creek, Vancouver Island. Otto was 93 years old.

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Benny Beck

Benny Beck, Sunset Villa Board Member

My name is Benny Beck. I was born in December 1945 in Sandholt Lyndelse, north of Faaborg on the island of Fyn. I was raised on a small working farm, with two younger sisters. I worked on the farm from an early age and spent much of my childhood as the extra hand on the farm. I had my chores to be done both before and after school. Of course this helped the family retain food and money, as there was a need for an extra hand.

I started my carpenter apprenticeship at the age of fifteen. I came home one day and was informed that my dad had arranged this with the local building master. I was to be a bygningsnedker (joiner/carpenter). This was a five-and -a-half year program.



Benny Beck in uniform

However, at eighteen, I was drafted into the military. They allowed me to finish my apprenticeship first, but I needed to report to them when the apprenticeship was completed. At that time, it was mandatory for all males to spend eighteen months in the military. As a recruit, I spent four months in basic training in Haderslev. Once this was completed, I was off to Nymindegab. Here I was selected to be a private driver for the colonel. Doing this job for my service was an easy one compared other positions in the military. I was released from military service in August 1969.

My dream had been to go to Greenland. The American army base at Thule had been hiring Danes to work there. But unfortunately, there were no longer jobs to be had there. As it turned out my Uncle Bent was home on vacation from Canada. Knowing how disappointed I was about Greenland, and feeling the need for more space, he convinced me to travel with him back to Canada for a couple of years. So off I went to the Canadian Embassy to apply for a visa to immigrate to Canada. I promised my family I would return in two years. Visa in hand, I willingly embarked on this new adventure. I was granted my visa on January 4, 1968. So now it was time to start packing, and deciding what I needed to take along.

We left on the Christmas ship on its return voyage, the *MS Bergensfjord*. We left Copenhagen on January 4th and our first stop was Oslo, Norway. We proceeded on to New York City. It took time for me to find my sea legs. I was amazed at the first class of everything on board, from the meals to the space available on board. We landed in New York on January 16, 1970. New York

was huge and massive compared to Danmarks small towns and cities. It was very intimidating, as well as exciting to see such a large city. I was left wondering if all cities were this big.

Onward we went to the train station, to catch a train up to St. Thomas, Ontario. Upon seeing this smaller city, I was reminded of the towns back home. I soon found out traveling in January could be extremely cold, and easily in about four feet of snow. It was very early in the morning when we arrived at St. Thomas. But thanks to Bent's friends we were picked up shortly.

The journey continued to London, Ontario, this time by car. This was the short part of the trip. At last someone spoke a language I could completely communicate in. I was warmly welcomed by all of Bent's friends, and whether they were Canadian or Danes, it did not matter.



Benny, clearing the Camping Ground at Sunset Villa

I was sent to do small jobs, with Bob Andersen, to cover the cost of lodgings. Bob and I spent a lot of time at work talking about business and encouraging me to start on my own. He showed me it was better to work for your self, compared to by the hour. I was very grateful for the start he gave me. He was a painter, but I soon knew this was not a job for me.

Another friend of Bent's was a drywaller, and he needed a partner to work with. The only catch here was that he was Canadian, and only spoke English. I did speak English, only what I had learned all those many years ago at school. But that was the purpose as well, so I no longer had a choice of language. So now I just had to master the language. Even at home English was the language. Hours were spent watching television and reading newspapers, as they became the teacher. I continued to drywall for about the next four years, with different partners.

In the fall of 1969, I meet my future wife. My wife and I were married in January 1971, in London. Anders, our first child, was born that year in July. Our second child Tammy was born the following year, also in July. Two years later, our third child Jacob was born in October.

My last working partner and I started our own contracting company in drywall and insulating. We continued building our business with many long days and hours. We started to talk about buying lots and started to build the houses and cut out the extra labour. We decided it was time to buy building lots, and found this was much cheaper to do in New Brunswick. My business partner and I packed up our families, loaded the cars and moved to New Brunswick. Here we picked up our service lots and started to build. Getting the work done, without extra manpower, we started at dawn and ended late into the night. These long hours and days ended up taking its toll on my marriage.

Now on my own with three young children to raise, it became impossible to continue those long days. I sold my share of the business, and packed up the children and car one more time and moved back to Ontario, where I had support. In January 1978, I found myself, after a few failed attempts, back in London. Here I met up with a Newfoundlander, and we started up our subcontracting company. We subcontracted out our services of drywalling. This business went very well, and I had the support of friends and family with the children.

Bent and I started visiting Sunset Villa. It was on one of these many visits that Harry Rasmussen and others started to construct the Guards Room. This was a place where we could help, so we started to collect leftover materials. We carted them to Sunset Villa to be used in the construction, and we salvaged anything to help save the cost to Sunset Villa. This was the time in my life when I started getting involved with Sunset Villa. Here was a place where I could spend time with my children and fellow countryman, a place with a lot of home feeling. I started to spend my free time at Sunset Villa, just one day at a time.

In August 1978, I was there at a birthday party for one on the seniors who lived in one of the apartments. It was at this party that I met Anna, my second future wife, who was there with her Dad. We spent the weekend getting to know a bit about each other. Then we started meeting at Sunset Villa over weekends, as it was about halfway between London and Toronto, where she lived. We camped up on the hill in the campground, with a combined total of five children (Anders, Tammy and Jacob on my side, and Michelle and Derek on hers). At this time at the campground, there was only our tent trailer, and one other abandoned trailer. We worked hard to clear back brush to help with the bugs.



The blended family

The children were also quite busy building tree forts, catching bugs and frogs, and just running free, being away from the city. Evenings where spent around the camp fire with any one that wanted to join in. It did not take long before others started to move trailers in too.

In the spring of 1979, I packed up the children one more time and moved them to Toronto, so that we could be one family. Now with all five children living under the same roof, life became very busy. But in turn it made life much easier for all of us.

In Toronto I met up with a new business partner and started over, this time with a window and door company. This business carried us through until the time we left Toronto.



Benny and Anna

We still spent all of our weekends at Sunset Villa, and continued to help with various things. I spent time on the Board of Directors in 1980. The trailer park was growing quickly, so more brush was cleared, and with new campers came more hands to lighten the work load. We pooled money and started to install water lines and hydro. Up to this point it was all flashlights, lanterns and outhouses. With the first basic needs met we decided to build the campground washroom, known as the Biffy.

In the fall of 1982, Kristine was born. At the age of two weeks she spent her first weekend at Sunset Villa. The Board at this time had four positions and the rest of us were just Directors. I had won a lottery while I was in New Brunswick and pitched an idea to set up the first lottery at Sunset Villa. All our board meetings were held in a back room of the restaurant, which today is the stock room. Many important things were decided in that little room. From the lottery to dances and we must not forget Constitution Day. The money collected went to our everyday operations but also gave us the chance to pay off the mortgage. At a spring dance we finally burned the mortgage, with great pleasure to all of us who had worked so hard.

Over the years I served on the Board and spent many weekends at Sunset Villa. Anna and I often talked about taking over the restaurant, when it came up for tender. The questions were always the same. What would we do with six children in that small apartment? Who would look after the children while we worked?

In the fall of 1999, the restaurant came up for tender once more. Now with only Kristine and Tammy living at home and both were quite grown up, we decided it was time to either do it or give up that dream. We decided to jump in with both feet. So we packed up our home and the last two children and moved to Sunset Villa. We were off on the next adventure



Kristine, Benny and Anna at Sunset Villa

of our lives. We both resigned from the Board at that time, to avoid any conflict of interest. We entered into this with renewed excitement and fear, as this was not what either of us was trained to do. Our idea was to welcome all in as if they had just come home.

After eighteen years as managers of the restaurant at Sunset Villa, we decided it was time to retire. With great pleasure we left the restaurant to the next generation, our children, Kristine, Jacob and Joanne. Meanwhile the good times at Sunset Villa continue as we still love visiting and enjoying a meal in the restaurant. Moreover I am back on the Board of Directors. Which to me is a great way to spend some time in a place that I always felt was my piece of Denmark in my new country.

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328, Vancouver



The Board of Directors
Front Row Left: Flemming El Nur, Niels Jensen, President Peter Jensen, Kjeld Christensen. Bill Dagoe
Back Row Left: Bent Østergaard, Keld Jensen, Arne Møller, Manfred Hoff

THE PACIFIC REGION

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FOR POSTPONING THE CONFERENCE TO 2021

The Pacific Region includes representation from the Vancouver Island Danish-Canadian Club of Nanaimo; Danish Social Club of Victoria; Danish-Canadian Community Centre of BC; 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; Scandinavian Cultural Society

Ib and Jonna Christensen

From Esbjerg to Halifax

Birgit Ballantyne

I met Ib and Jonna Christensen through the Scandinavian Society on the day, some years ago, when the Danish Viking ship *Freydis Joanna* arrived in Halifax on its way to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. The Maritime Museum in Halifax had agreed that the Society could use a large room with windows out to the ocean where the Society could celebrate the event. The Museum even ran the Danish flag up the flag pole for a couple of days. For me, it was delightful to meet two people from my hometown of Esbjerg in Vestjylland (West Jutland).



Ib and Jonna Christensen

Jonna Lund was born in Esbjerg on January 12, 1955. She came from a family of four, her mother Elva, her father Erik and younger sister Erika. The Lund family lived in Gjesing just outside of Esbjerg, where Elva made curtains for a local store and Erik was a truck driver.

Ib Christensen was born in Esbjerg on March 10, 1950. In the Christensen family Ib was the oldest child followed by his sister Susanne and younger sister Birthe. Ib's mother Ellen stayed at home with the children and her father Tage worked as a truck driver. The two families were friends and the fathers were work colleagues as well. Jonna and Ib have therefore known each other since Joanna was 13 and Ib was 18 years old. Over the years their friendship turned to love and the two eventually married in 1975 and moved to Esbjerg.

By 1988 the Christensen family included two children, Morten 12 and Helle 9, and in that year they all immigrated to Canada, settling in Halifax. That is, the whole family came over at that time, but Ib had already been working in both Denmark and Canada for about four years in his current position. He had held management positions in the export branch of the fishing industry in various companies through his carrier in Esbjerg and his latest job was with the firm 'Manitsoq', the Greenlandic name for 'Sukkertoppen', which exported shrimps to various countries. As it were, the majority of the shrimps now came from Eastern Canada hence the need

for Ib to continuously work between the two countries. During those years Jonna stayed in Esbjerg busy with the children and her job at Bøtkers Tømmerhandel, a lumber yard.

The Manitsoq Company opened up a branch in Halifax in 1989 and Ib became the Director as well as part owner of the Canadian branch. The new branch did extremely well and exported shrimps to the tune of 10,000 tons out of Grace Harbour in Newfoundland and Labrador. However, after only one year of operation the Danish Headquarters decided to close down the Canadian branch and wanted Ib to return to Denmark. However, Ib had other plans. He had settled well in Canada and now knowing the business thoroughly, he instead bought out the Company's share of the branch and became the sole owner.



Morten and Elisa, with Emma and Ayden

The possibility of the whole family moving to Canada had been discussed before and now that Ib had his own company, it was an easy decision to make to sell the part of the household they did not want to take along, and pack and send the rest in a 40 foot container, for a new life in Canada. The family arrived in Halifax in the early summer of 1988 and, after finding a place to live, a tutor in English was hired for the two children. The tutor's final exam for them was to bring them to McDonalds, where they had to order what they wanted to eat all by themselves. By the start of the new school year in September, Morten and Helle were ready to use their new language and learn about their new country, Morten in grade 7 and Helle in grade 4. In the first couple of years they needed some help from their parents to do their homework and the daily joke, when the children came home from school, was that Jonna and Ib would ask them 'what did we get for homework today'?

Jonna stayed at home the first couple of years and between children and house life was busy. Jonna was also busy with knitting and needle work and became a frequent visitor in the Knitting Store, a heaven for people with interest in this field. Her frequent visits there resulted in an offer for a part time job. Jonna also found a group called 'Newcomers', a kind of support group with branches across Canada, and to this day, she still attends that group once a month to talk and share experiences.

The family would quickly learn about the famous Maritime friendliness. When they first arrived in Halifax, the only possessions they had were what they could bring over on the airplane. They had to make do with the bare minimum of comforts, which meant mattresses on the floor for sleeping. The neighbours seemed to know of their arrival and welcomed them. One of the neighbour ladies asked Jonna if they had a TV yet. Jonna explained that it would be about three weeks before their belongings arrived, but the lady insisted that they could not do without a TV for so long and returned a short time later with her husband and a TV, they could borrow.

The business grew and became a great success story. The Christensen family very much enjoyed their life in Canada until the fateful day in 2001 when Ib suffered a stroke on a ferry on his way

home to Halifax. It was only after all passengers had left the ship that the crew noticed a lone car still parked on deck that they started searching for the owner. Ib was found unconscious in his cabin. It was estimated that he had been out for about seven hours before he was found. He was sent to the nearest hospital but sent further to another hospital until he was finally sent to the Halifax hospital, where the doctors early on informed the family that he would likely not survive. But, as the old, Danish folksong goes: "*Jyden han er stærk og sej*" (the Jutlander is strong and tough). Ib survived but had lost all speech and the ability to move. Ib began some hard years with speech and physical therapy and slowly speaking became easier and body movements improved. Most interesting was the fact that he had kept his Danish language through this ordeal, but the English language had totally disappeared from his memory. He had to start English from the ground up again and today, after years of hard work, he speaks it as well as before, however he still visits rehab twice a week. Following the stroke, their business had to go, and a new home had to be found that would give Ib better mobility. As luck will have it their son, Morten, is a house builder by trade and he built a large, wheel chair friendly addition to his own family house, where Ib and Jonna now reside. They take pride in their son's success as a housebuilder, not only in their own home but in the houses surrounding them, which are all build by their son over the years. Jonna is still working, but will partly retire in June and Ib enjoys the company of their dog, Reese, during the day. They are busy with their five grandchildren, Helle and Aric's three and Morten and Elisa's two who are all involved in various sports. Ayden's favorite sport is a little different from the others. As an eleven year old, he is already an experienced race car driver, who is going to Texas with his father where he will participate in four races. Daughter Helle and her husband Aric run a waste disposal business together and I must say, they have the cleanest trucks in town. Helle has also reached a certain distinction in the Danish circles. Her home made rye bread is by far the best I have ever tasted.



Helle and Aric, with Patricia, Madeline and Alan

It was so nice to sit in their Danish home, hear their stories and at the same time enjoy a wonderful Danish *frokostbord* (lunch) with all the traditional delicacies as well as great home baked cakes. Jonna and Ib, thank you for sharing your story.

Paul Sunke Christensen and Hanna, née Jensen

Patricia Kaack, Calgary

Paul Ejvin Sunke Christensen was born on April 13, 1930, in Knubbeløkke, near Nakskov on the Island of Lolland, Denmark. Paul's mother was Olga Benedikte Christensen. His father, Paul Magnus Sunke Christensen, had a small grocery store and sold insurance. Paul's father was a cousin of Pastor Kaj Munk (January 13, 1898 - January 4, 1944). Kaj Munk was a Danish Lutheran pastor who spoke out against the Nazis during the occupation of Denmark and he was eventually martyred outside Silkeborg by the Gestapo.

Paul was the second youngest of four children. He attended Sakskøbing Realskole, which meant he received a good education and would likely do well in life. When Paul was 19 he apprenticed in the office of the Asylum, or *Anstalten*, on the northern edge of Sakskøbing. It was a psychiatric hospital, and its long official name was Maribo Amts Tvangsarbejds, Arbejdsog Plejeanstalt. His manager trained him well in office and accounting skills. He apprenticed there for three years. Many years later when Paul returned to Denmark to visit his family, he also called on his former manager. He thanked him for teaching him so well. When Paul told him of his work in Canada, and how he had influenced him, the manager shed a tear.

One day three lovely young girls from Copenhagen showed up at the hospital, one of them being terribly heart broken. She wanted to visit her former boyfriend, in the hope that he would change his mind and marry her. It happened that there was a dance that evening, so the girls showed up for a fun night. Beautiful young Hanna Jensen from Copenhagen, almost 17 years old, caught Paul's eye. The next day he had a letter in the mail to Hanna, then another, and then another, the last one was on green paper (green for hope). Hanna was young and wanted to travel before getting serious, with a young man, but after a short time Paul was winning her over. Hanna worked in Copenhagen for an insurance company as a key punch operator in the early days of IBM computers. Hanna's father was an entrepreneur in the grocery and furniture business. He died at age 45. At age 37 Hanna's mother became a young widow with four young children. Hanna was the oldest and had three younger brothers. Her mother was fortunate to get a job at The Danish National Bank. It was difficult for her to raise her children alone, but she managed well with diligence. Her mother lived to be 87 years old.

Paul proposed to Hanna Kerstine Jensen in the fall of 1950. She was just 18 years old, having been born on August 7, 1932. Her parents were Agnes Thygesen and Valdemar Grønbech Jensen. Paul had wanted to work on the *MS Jutlandia*, the Danish hospital ship that sailed to Korea. He had applied, but was turned down, as there was no vacancy. He was encouraged to reapply the next time the ship came back to Denmark. Surprisingly, for Paul his future plans took

him far away to another continent with unforeseen adventure and a great future. When Paul was visiting Hanna in Copenhagen her uncle from Hardy, Saskatchewan, was visiting her family. He was conversing with Paul and mentioned that he could sponsor Paul to come and work in Canada. Paul and Hanna were now engaged, so what would be best for them? And what would that world of adventure and work be for Paul? Like most Danes who immigrated to Canada, they came with an open mind and determined to make it work for them, through perseverance and despite hardships.



Paul Christensen, at Mannix

Paul bought passage on the *SS Castel Bianco*, a passenger ship operated by Societa Italiana Transporti Marittimi SpA, better known as SITMAR. Needless to say the crew was Italian. In the late 1940s SITMAR obtained contracts from the International Refugee Organization to transport refugees from European ports to Australia and other immigrant countries. In November 1951, between two runs to Australia, the *Castel Bianco* made a trip to Canada. Passengers could book tickets through the International Refugees Organization. Refugees travelled for free. On this particular run to Canada most of the passengers were indeed refugees, mostly from Eastern Europe. But passage was also made available for about fifty Danish immigrants. For the November 1951 passage from Copenhagen to Halifax the cost for Danish immigrants was 1,000 Danish kroner per person.

In the dining room the passengers would eat at long tables and benches. Many of the passengers did not show up for meals as most of the time they were seasick. It was November and the sea rough, so many stayed in their cabin. One Danish immigrant just couldn't take it, gave away his money and jumped into the sea at they passed through the English Channel at night. With a man overboard the ship stopped, and the ship's searchlights scanned the choppy water. They were unable to find him after a lengthy search, and the ship eventually continued on route to Halifax. Paul too was seasick. And after being served pasta for ten days in a row, he never ate pasta again.

Paul had left Copenhagen on November 5, and arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax on November 15. He then took the train to Hardy, about 130 km south of Regina. Paul was about to experience his first prairie winter in Canada. He went to work at the neighbour's farm shortly after settling. It was very cold that December and on New Year's Eve he felt very lonely. He sat down and wrote a letter to Hanna's mother. He asked her if Hanna could come to Canada now. He was only making sixty dollars a month on the farm, but oh, how he longed for Hanna. Back in Copenhagen there was much talk between Hanna, her mother and her three brothers. Her mother

said to the boys, "this is the way life is". Then she gave Hanna permission to go to Canada. Hanna felt bad leaving her widowed mother, but with her mother's encouragement she began to pack her trunk. She included her Royal Copenhagen porcelain dishes "Blue Flower". Over the few years she had worked at the insurance company, she would purchase these beautiful dishes, one at a time. Due to the currency restrictions at the time she was allowed to bring only $50.00 out of Denmark. She felt that if they ran into trouble and needed money, they had her porcelain as insurance.



Tina, Jay, Jan and Susan
With parents Paul and Hanna

Hanna longed to be with Paul, and thought of their future, at the same time realizing that there was no job waiting for her. She came to Paul with shear trust as their relationship was just beginning. Love would take her thousands of miles, and into an unknown future. It was so hard for Hanna to say goodbye to her family leaving her widowed mother and three younger brothers, not knowing if she would see them again, as many new immigrants did in those years.

In March 1952 Hanna boarded the *SS Stockholm*. Even the ship was a whole new world for the 19-year-old girl. She was so courageous to travel alone. She disembarked at New York City. She made sure her trunk was safely put on the baggage car of the train bound for Regina, Saskatchewan, where she would pick it up. She then ventured into New York for two days exploring the big American city. She ate very little, as she only had that small amount of money. Hanna had wanted to travel, but her trip from Denmark to Canada turned out to be her only trip as a single woman. Little did she know; what lay ahead for her in Western Canada.

Hanna then boarded a Greyhound bus with Regina as her final destination. She spoke very little English. So far away from Denmark, there she found herself exploring a big country from the seat on a bus. In Denmark you could blink your eye, and you were in another town. Sitting on the bus must have been an amazing long adventure. At the end of this long journey Paul would be waiting for her, so she thought.

In the meantime, Paul was quarantined at the farm in Hardy, as there had been an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease with the cows. When Hanna arrived at the train station in Regina, she found her way to a hotel. The attendant noted her lack of English and told her that a Danish couple were staying at the hotel. She met the couple who some years earlier had emigrated from

Denmark. They were farmers from Radville near Regina. Hanna was invited to come to their farm as she couldn't stay with Paul. There she lived for a short period of time, and worked in their home for her board. Hanna was relieved and happy when she and Paul could finally reunite in Regina.

The big day arrived on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1952. Paul and Hanna were married in the little United Church in Hardy. It was actually Paul's 22nd birthday, and Hanna was 19. The young minister and his wife gave them a set of towels, and Hanna thought that was very kind of them. They were the first couple to be married by this young pastor.

Their life together in Regina got off to a good start. Paul found a job selling men's clothing at Simpson Sears. He had taught himself English and his ability to sell to the customers went well. Hanna also worked at Simpson Sears, in another building where the catalogue orders came through. She worked as a key punch operator. So far Hanna's porcelain dishes were not used as insurance. They were able to get by on their two jobs.



Paul and Hanna
With family at 50th wedding anniversary in 2002

Hanna's mother advised Hanna, no babies for three years! Well, well, on December 29, 1952, Jan David Christensen was born in Regina. Now settled into a new world of parenting, new culture, traditions and extremes in weather, Hanna was a happy young mother. Paul had met up with a customer in the men's store. He was also Danish. His wife and Hanna became friends. She was about ten years older than Hanna. She already had children. She kindly gave Hanna a book written in Danish on how to care for a baby. Hanna didn't feel so lonely, and made every effort to fit into a new culture.

Two years later Paul mentioned to Hanna that he wanted to live closer to the Rocky Mountains. He had been reading magazine articles with stunning pictures of the Rocky Mountains, and soon Hanna too admired those beautiful pictures. So in 1954 Paul packed up their belongings and drove in his second-hand car to Medicine Hat, where the car broke down. The immediate problem was that Paul had to get to Calgary, as he had an accounting job waiting there. So Paul had to take a Greyhound bus to get to work. Some days later he was back on the bus to Medicine Hat, as the car was finally repaired. As Hanna was expecting their second child, the doctor told her to travel to Calgary by train. In hindsight, that was fortunate, as she would have ended up in the mess with Paul. In Calgary they rented a basement suite in Mount Pleasant on 29th Ave and

4th St N.W. Hanna was lonely and went to the Danish Club seeking help as a new immigrant. Speaking English was still a challenge for her. Paul was busy working in Calgary for the accountant employer back in Regina. Paul was instructed to work on farmer's income tax returns. And in the evenings he drove a taxi as they needed money to pay for the doctor's bill from when Jan was born in Regina. Hanna still had her porcelain. Unfortunately, this boss took advantage of Paul and he never got paid. It was during this time that Susan was born on September 24, 1954.

Hanna tells that the landlord's wife took care of Jan while she was in the hospital with Susan. She greatly appreciated her generosity and caring spirit. They stayed in Calgary for several months. Their life was to about change once more with great challenges, adventure and prosperity.

In 1955 Paul was hired in Edmonton by the Mannix-O'Sullivan Company. The owners were known as entrepreneurs and philanthropists. The company was founded in 1898. It included heavy construction; engineering; coal mining; oil and gas production and pipelining; railroad construction; maintenance and equipment manufacturing; real estate; and ranching. Little did Paul realize at the time; that he would be working for the Mannix Corporation for nearly forty years.

They moved to Edmonton where they found a simple apartment. One day at work Paul was told that Mannix was looking for an employee who could do accounting. Paul's long career with Mannix was about to take off. Meanwhile Hanna adapted to the new place, and five years later the family grew to five, as Jay Stewart was born in Edmonton on March 15, 1960.

But in 1961 they had to move again, as Paul was being transferred back to Calgary. They found a home in Haysboro South West. Mannix saw great potential in Paul, who had taken studies in Industrial Accounting. Later Mannix helped Paul attend night school so he could graduate as a Chartered Accountant from the University of Calgary.

Life in Calgary didn't last that long as in 1964 Paul was transferred to Montreal. By now Jan was 12, and Susan was 10. They enjoyed the train trip with their dad on the Canadian. Paul's car came along also on a train flat bed. Hanna remained behind with Jay, because on September 10, 1964 Tina Maria was born. When Tina was just fourteen days old, Hanna flew to Montreal with Jay and Tina. There they joined their family in a new adventure, new French neighbourhood and a different culture.

They stayed in Montreal for two years. Paul started to look for, "something greener on the other side of the mountain." Mannix got wind of Paul's dreams and called him back to Calgary, where he became the Vice President of Manalta Coal Mining. Some years later Paul became President of another Mannix corporation.

Back in Calgary in 1966 the Christensen family of six once again had to adjust to a new neighbourhood. They found a home on Stanley Place, and here they raised the four children during their school years. For Hanna through all those years of adjusting, and handling family affairs, she was now happy to call Calgary home. Yet, in 1981 the family purchased two acres in Pinebrook Lower Springbank west of Calgary. Here Paul and Hanna built their dream home.

Paul worked for the Mannix family for nearly forty years. So in 1992 when Paul retired, the Mannix Family held a great retirement party for Paul at The Calgary Golf and Country Club. There were many colleagues and family guests. Since Paul cheered for the Edmonton Oilers and their rivals were the Calgary Flames, as a retirement present he was presented with a hockey jersey especially made for him. The front said Calgary Flames, while the back said the Oilers. Now, how was that for a joke?

Another story Hanna remembered was that one summer Paul, Hanna, and another Danish couple, were to go to the Willmore Wilderness Area on a five day back country horseback trip. Hanna had taken lessons on how to ride a horse. Paul, however, was pressured to finish a project that had to be completed at the Mannix office. The three of them couldn't wait for Paul as they had this trip booked with an outfitter, so off they galloped into the wilderness. Eventually, Paul showed up in a helicopter. Thanks to Mannix, that was the quickest way for Paul to meet his party. This shows you how much Mannix valued Paul. Hanna mentioned that after that trip, Paul said he could have been a Rancher!!

Paul loved to sing and entertain. He was a great soccer player, and he went on some great hunting trips in Alberta as well as to Africa. Together Hanna and Paul travelled to many exciting places around the world.

Hanna, now 87, lives comfortably in a seniors' home in South East Calgary. After 65 years of marriage, Hanna continues to move forward with so many wonderful memories of their life together. Over the years Hanna has found comforting support through Ansgar Danish Church in Edmonton, the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary as well as the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. Like many Danes, Hanna found a community that gave her a sense of belonging and wonderful friends. As for Hanna's porcelain, the set was used, but not as insurance! Hanna's children, their spouses, eight grandchildren, and soon to be a great grandchild are her blessings.

Paul died peacefully on December 27, 2013. Paul came to Canada as a young Danish immigrant with open eyes, ready to work. He was looking for adventure and was eager to discover a new world. He managed setbacks and hard times, like many Danes did, but through perseverance and hard work he succeeded. He accepted his challenges, the good, and the not so good. He used his wealth of gifts, dedication, commitment, ambition and amazing intellect. He was appreciated by his employer, which was shown by the responsibilities he was given. Paul clearly demonstrated how one can successfully make a new life, in a new country.

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Peter Christensen
25 Years at the Calgary Club

On October 18, 2019, the Danish Canadian Club's members, shareholders and staff celebrated the 25th anniversary of Peter Christensen's tenure as General Manager of The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary. The event was a sold out crowd of 160 attendees who were treated to a great meal, along with tributes and stories about Peter from various speakers. Peter's wife, Helle, gave a delightful speech about his dedication to the club, frequently working 16-18 hour days, with support from her, the family and friends.



Peter Christensen was born in Brenderup on the island of Fyn on November 9, 1950. He grew up in Brenderup and apprenticed at Blommenslyst Kro, which had been established as an inn and stagecoach stop west of Odense during the Napoleonic Wars by live-stock dealer Andreas Bluhme. In 1853 it received the royal designation "*kongelig privilegeret kro*". By the time Peter apprenticed there it also included a motel. In 1975 Peter immigrated to Canada. At the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary he met Helle, and they were married in Denmark on August 20, 1983. They have a daughter, Emily. Peter loves hiking, skiing, motorcycle riding, gardening; and has a great sense of humour.

The following is a brief history of Peter's accomplishments as General Manager of the Club during the past twenty-five years. In 1994 the Club was in financial trouble and at that time the board also decided to hire a general manager with proven experience in the restaurant business to get the Club back on a sustainable, profitable basis. The task was to pay off a $600,000 mortgage, pay the bank loans, and the substantial amount of debentures as well as bring in the customers to rent the rooms and food catering services, in addition to use our large building for other events to supplement the use by members for their parties and social events.

Over the intervening years the bank loans were paid, the debentures were redeemed, the mortgage paid off and substantial renovations and repairs were made to the building and equipment. The general manager's salary, which had been paid with IOUs in those initial years, was also paid off. The Club's mortgage was paid off in 2007 and in the subsequent years to date, the Club went through good economic times, but also many challenges with recessions, the 2014 flood and the downturn in the Calgary economy. Under his stewardship the Club has been able to navigate through periods of uncertainty and is one of the largest "not for profit" cultural clubs.

In recognition of his contribution to the success of the Club, Peter was presented with a custom made carving knife from Dennis Olsen and on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Board Room was renamed "Peter's Room". On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, shareholders and members, Thank you, Peter!

D C C

Danish Canadian Club

A Club for all Canadians

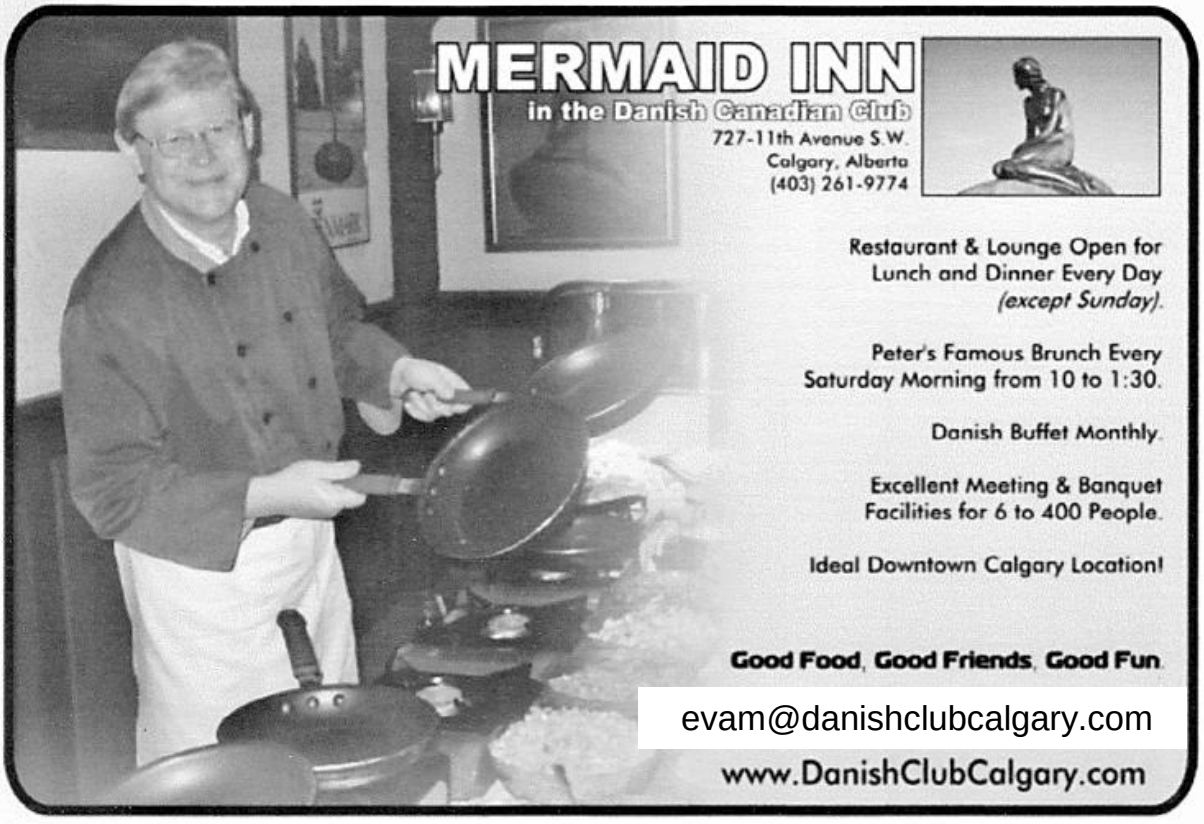
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Ejvind Arne Christiansen

1931-2019

By Mark Bayley, Ejvind's son-in-law

Ejvind Arne Christiansen of Bolton, and formerly Svendborg, passed away at Southlake Regional Hospital in Newmarket, Ontario, on October 12, 2019. He was predeceased by his wife Sonja Christiansen, née Johansen. He leaves his daughters Ann (Josef Schweighofer) of Bolton and Lisa (Mark Bayley) of Bolton, as well as four grandchildren, Josef (Elyse) Schweighofer, Daniel Bayley, Christopher Schweighofer and Matthew Bayley. A Memorial Service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto on October 26, 2019, where Mark Bayley spoke.



Ejvind, at home in Toronto, ca. 1958

My name is Mark Bayley, Ejvind's son-in-law, and married to Lisa. On behalf of our family, I want to thank everyone for coming to the Memorial Service today. I was lucky enough to marry into the Christiansen family and today I would like to share with you a little about Ejvind's life. Ejvind Arne Christiansen was born on July 30, 1931 in Svendborg on the island of Fyn, to Ejnar and Karin Christiansen.

Ejvind and his siblings grew up in the old-age-home operated by his father in Svendborg. Ejvind was the middle child of three and his childhood was fairly typical for a young Danish boy. However that changed suddenly. On a spring day in 1940 Germany invaded Denmark. Ejvind told us stories of soldiers and troop carriers in the streets and how the German army wanted to use his parent's old-age-home as army barracks. Fortunately, that didn't happen. Instead, Ejvind and his family got to stay on the property. They were a very close knit family. The family attended the local Baptist church where Ejvind went to Sunday-School every Sunday.

As a young boy, Ejvind loved to play soccer. He played for the town team and he humbly told us he was the star of the team. In a country filled with blonde hair and blue-eyed kids, Ejvind's nickname on the field and in school was "Blackie" because of this thick black hair.

Well, the war eventually ended and Ejvind grew up to become a handsome young man. He served in the Danish Navy before becoming a tailor. As a tailor, Ejvind made beautiful hand-made suits, and the suits also needed to be pressed. It was during a visit to a local dry cleaner that a young girl caught his eye. Her name was Sonja Johansen. Ejvind managed to garner the courage to ask her out on a date and the rest is history.

Ejvind and Sonja married and began their new life together. At the age of 26 and just a year or so into their marriage, Ejvind got the idea of immigrating to Canada. Sonja agreed and they boarded the *MS Stockholm* and set sail for Halifax in 1957. On the long voyage to Canada, the sea was rough, and we were told that Sonja spent much of the voyage being quite seasick. But during the trip Ejvind was extremely caring and consoling to his young bride. This "care" paid off because nine months after arriving in Canada they were blessed with the birth of their first daughter Ann.

Being new immigrants in a foreign land wasn't easy. Ejvind and Sonja didn't speak the language, but they managed to find an apartment to rent and within days Ejvind found a job as a tailor at Tip Top Tailors in Toronto. Back then Ejvind was earning a whole $1 per day and money was very tight. I recall Ejvind telling me how he'd try to save money by walking to work but that wasn't fun ….as a young Dane, he wasn't used to Canada's cold harsh winters.



Sonja and Ejvind Christiansen

After having said that, the first winter in Canada couldn't have been too bad. After scouting out this new country, Ejvind called Sonja's sister Inger, and her husband Kjeld, asking them to join them in Canada. In August, only six months after arriving, Kjeld and Inger Nielsen with their two boys, Ben and Henry, landed in Canada.

The two families lived together in a few different rented homes in Toronto. With two families living under one roof, it was crowded but Ejvind helped make it fun. As young boys, both Ben and Henry looked forward to Thursdays when the ladies went grocery shopping because that's when they got to play soccer in the upstairs hallway with their Uncle Ejvind.

In the late 60's, Ejvind heard about new homes being built in the boonies - a place in the sticks called "Rexdale". Ejvind and Sonja purchased a home on Bucksburn Road and Kjeld and Inger bought the home next door.

Shortly after moving into their new home on Bucksburn Road, Ejvind received a surprise. Sonja was pregnant and nine months later Lisa was born. Ejvind and Sonja were now blessed with two beautiful girls. Ejvind was a loving and extremely caring dad to both his girls.

Ejvind worked hard to provide for his young family. After working at Tip Top Tailors, he joined the Male Shoppe where he made suits for the Toronto Maple Leafs, including Ron Ellis, Dave Keon and Frank Mahovlich.

Ejvind then moved on to work at Simpsons and, The Bay. While Ejvind had immigrated to Canada as a tailor with no formal business schooling, he rose through ranks to become a head buyer for The Bay's high-end men's fashion. It was a high-pressure role that involved a lot of travel between Montreal and Toronto, but there were a lot of perks, including attending many fashion shows in Paris and Milan. As a buyer for men's fashion, Ejvind was always impeccably dressed in suits, dress shirts, ties, etc. He dressed this way all his life.

He was also funny, in a quiet unassuming, and sometimes mischievous way. I recall Ejvind telling me about a time he was driving in Germany……someone took exception to Ejvind's lane change and began following very closely behind, they arrived at a red light at a busy intersection and a very tall strong German gentlemen got out of this car and marched up to Ejvind's driver's side door and began yelling at Ejvind in German. Now Ejvind wasn't a fighter so with the door locked but his driver side window lowered ever so slightly, Ejvind began to speak ever so slowing in German….take an egg in one hand and a needle in the other, poke a hole in the end of the egg and then you put it to your mouth and suck on it. Ejvind waited a moment as the gentlemen processed what he'd been told, the light then turned green and Ejvind sped away leaving a very confused and somewhat perplexed man standing in the middle of an intersection.

Ejvind was also a great friend to many. He would regularly reach out to try to connect or reconnect with old friends and family. Several years ago Ejvind managed to reconnect with his old friend Mickey, who he had met through work in his early days in Toronto. Ejvind and Mickey were like two peas in a pod. Every Friday they'd meet for lunch at the Mandarin. They'd constantly be joking and laughing. Micky would always introduce Ejvind as his father even though Mickey was several years older. They had a very special friendship that Ejvind treasured.



Ejvind, with Lisa and Ann, 2017

In addition, Ejvind was very talented. He taught himself piano and played piano for the Golden Age Club here in the church for several years, and played by ear, I should add. He also spoke several languages including Danish, English and German as well as a bit of Italian, French and Swedish. Moreover, Ejvind was very generous. When Sonja's brother passed away at a very young age in Denmark, Ejvind flew his wife and their two girls (who are Ann and Lisa's cousins) to Canada for a visit. This was very costly, but very kind. Ejvind also had a great love for food and in particular Danish cooking. Ann loved to cook for him. After Sonja passed in 2003, Ejvind would split his dinner times between Ann and Lisa.

Josef Schweighofer's eulogy for Grandpa (Ann's son)

How will I remember Grandpa? The memories are too many to count. Milkshakes at the Zellers Restaurant, baseball in his backyard, buffet lunches at Frankie Tomatto's or Mandarin, learning magic tricks, and so much more. In the past ten years, I didn't see Grandpa that regularly, although when I came back to visit from Austria, he always had time for a breakfast or lunch at Symposium – to ask me how things were, and if there were any girls yet.

Reflecting on these years and on Grandpa, he was probably closer than ever before. His courage, moving from Denmark to a new place and building something new, is something he definitely also passed on to me. I also may have inherited his humour, and his healthy dose of stubbornness. He passed on these gifts to me, and I am proud and grateful more than I can say to have him as my Grandpa. The greatest gift he gave me was himself, who he was to me. I'm

already looking forward to our first lunch together again, and to look back on life together with him.

Christopher Schweighofer's eulogy for Grandpa (Ann's son)

My whole life I have been close with grandpa so not being by his side in his last few days was difficult. However, these past few weeks I have been able to reflect on some of my favourite memories of grandpa and to be thankful for the memories we have together. I am particularly grateful for all the little moments: the games of rummy, the frikadeller dinners, discussing magic tricks, playing piano for him and seeing him on the sidelines of my ultimate frisbee games (even though he may not have understood the rules).

Over the years I've been able to appreciate his dry humour and sly comments that never failed to make us laugh. I will never forget the bro-hug grandpa gave me, Daniel and Matthew every time we met, proving he was always young at heart. Although you won't be at our birthdays or Christmas dinners, my graduation or my future wedding, I know you will be in our hearts and in heaven, looking down, probably well dressed like always.



Ejvind with grandsons Josef, Daniel, Christopher and Matthew
At Toronto Football Club game, celebrating his 80th birthday

As you have heard in the two above letters, read by the pastor, as both Joe and Christopher are away in Austria, Ejvind was a caring and loving grandpa or "pa" as my boys Dan and Matthew affectionately called him. When our boys were young, he'd play endlessly with them, Daniel with his plastic animal kingdom or Mats with soccer. He deeply loved his grandkids. He even took a magic course so he could entertain his grandkids.

Ejvind was very protective of his grandkids too. Anytime we took the kids downhill skiing, tubing, water skiing or cliff jumping, Pa wouldn't say anything to me, but he'd be constantly asking Lisa if the activity was safe. If the kids did get hurt, we'd always try to hide it.

His friends at the Caledon Senior Centre, where he was a member, and also here at the church in Toronto, tell us: that he was a wonderful man, and the complete gentlemen. He ran the carpet bowling at the Senior Centre and played euchre too. For me, Ejvind was an amazing father-in-law. He welcomed me into his family and made me feel loved.

As for Lisa and Ann, they are so proud of their dad. They will tell you he was so thoughtful, caring, kind, loving and so very talented. If Lisa ever felt uncertain or unsure of something, her dad was always there for her and ready with thoughtful advice. He had a quiet gentle disposition and was always a big kid at heart.

Ejvind lived a blessed life of 88 amazing years and while the last three to four weeks in Ejvind's life were difficult, the time Ann and Lisa got to spend with him was a real blessing. Earlier I spoke about how Ejvind attended Sunday-School as a child. In the hospital Ejvind told us how as a child he regularly prayed and spoke with Jesus. In the last weeks Ejvind shared with Lisa how he was ready to go home to Jesus. He could feel God's presence, his peace and his love and we're so thankful for that. We'll miss him greatly.

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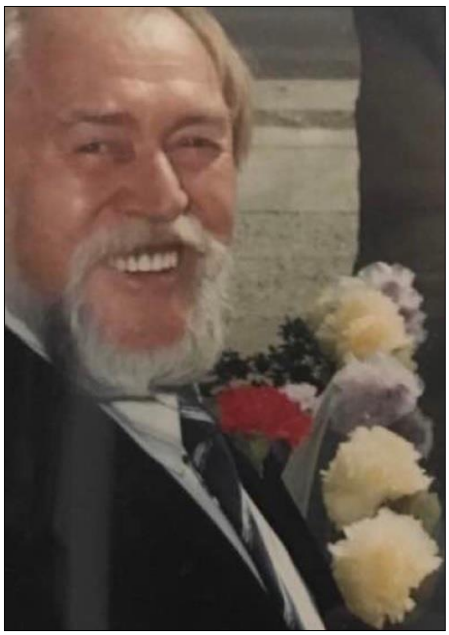


My Danish Heritage

Jennifer Higgins, Sunset Villa Board Member

I have to admit that when I was asked to write this article I was at first hesitant and thought it would be work. But then I became curious. What is my heritage and what does it look like? Where is our family originally from? I then asked my aunts a few questions.

After much discussion back and forth it was confirmed that my Mormor, Ann Holm, who we all lovingly referred to as Granny was born on July 19, 1927 and raised on a farm near Esbjerg. Much later she became a legal secretary. My Grandfather, Kenneth Kronborg Jensen was born on June 8, 1924 and raised in Ringkøbing. I am told they met at a public pool which they both enjoyed visiting weekly.



Kenneth Kronborg Jensen

Not too long after my grandparents met they discovered they both had a love for travel. So despite severe frost they took a fateful boat trip. They had just bought a new boat in Aarhus and decided to go on a trip to Limfjorden. They had only just arrived in Limfjorden when they discovered that they couldn't come ashore because of ice. Out on the water they lost their bearings and simply drifted around at the mercy of the elements. They were lost and managed to stay lost for eight days. Exhausted and starting to accept their fate they were miraculously rescued by a captain on a passing ship. He took them aboard and sailed them to England where they were admitted to hospital. Well, they managed to survive that ordeal! After that, how hard could marriage be…right? The joys of youthful innocence! As with many families of that time, there were numerous interesting stories surrounding their love, their wedding, their wedding day and the arrival of my aunt who was born "prematurely." at seven months. I won't go into too many nitty gritty stories as I can feel my grandmother's disappointed eyes beginning to bore into my soul.

Another of my aunts was born less than a year later and then came my mom. Denmark wasn't the happiest country on earth at that time. Danes were leaving the country for opportunity elsewhere. In 1951 my grandfather happened to see an ad to come to Canada.

My grandmother was pregnant with my mother, but my grandfather decided that they needed to go to Canada, so off he went to find work in Canada. It was a much different time and when he arrived in Canada he was obliged to work on a farm for a year as required by the immigration

regulations at the time. He later worked in construction and at other odd jobs. One of his favorite sayings was that "he came to Canada not speaking the language, but if you wanted to work you just walked up the road and something would present itself". My grandmother, now very pregnant, and two aunts came to Canada a few months after my grandfather. The three siblings arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in 1952.

My grandfather had secured work in Nova Scotia as well as a car, but not a house or an apartment. So they lived in the car in a graveyard until a week or so later they could find a trailer to move into. They bought a radio and listened to it to learn English. For extra income my grandmother picked sugar beets. They didn't stay long in Nova Scotia, but moved to Toronto where my mother was born.

I could go on for hours about all the amazing stories and hardships I heard over the years. Alas, this is my family history and family histories have a habit of being interesting only to the family involved so let us fast forward 27 years and you will find ME! So what does my family history and heritage look like?

I was born in Kitchener as was my sister. We look like Danes aside from the fact that we didn't inherit the lovely long legs of all my aunts (sigh). We did manage to get the blond hair, light eyes, strong square Danish face and a love for black licorice.



Ann Jensen, May 5, 2007

As a young girl, I visited Sunset Villa, the Danish community centre in Puslinch. To this day I still very much think of it as a second home. At Christmas I attended Christmas parties and sang Santa Lucia, but sadly I never got to be a Lucia bride, but *jeg overlevede.*

I joined the Board of Directors of Sunset Villa in September 2018. As a board member I attend monthly meeting to make decisions facing Sunset Villa. I am currently volunteering as the restaurant liaison. I ensure that the restaurant contract is being followed and that the restaurant is happy with the board and the membership. I also volunteer at various events throughout the year.

I am a Registered Practical Nurse. I worked as an RPN for fifteen years, twelve in homecare. When I had children I quit nursing to focus on being a mom. With two small children we don't get out to Sunset Villa nearly as much as I would like to, but I know that they are enjoying its magic the same way I did. Where else is it OK to hoist a fake old woman above a massive bon fire, fill her with fireworks, call her a witch and set her on fire! They too have inherited the blond hair, square jaws and light eyes, but definitely not a love of licorice; I guess something had to come from my husband's side of the family.

We recently visited Copenhagen and I fell deeply in love with the history and the humble people. The men with their strong presence and the women with their makeup-free beautifully flushed faces, both lean from cycling through town to and from work, picking up their children as well as groceries in their cargo bikes. I never realized how much I depend on the brightness of my kids' hair to identify them in a crowd in Canada. In Copenhagen I had to dress them in bright clothing to spot them in Tivoli otherwise they quickly blended in. We travelled up the coast to Helsingør for my birthday; I have been raised being told that the Kronborg Castle was part of my history as our family name was Kronborg.



Jennifer Higgins visits Nyhavn, In Copenhagen

In Denmark my grandfather's middle name was Kronborg and his last name was Jensen. In Denmark there were a lot of people named Jensen, so when my grandmother and grandfather married they decided to go with Kronborg instead of Jensen. When they came to Canada they went back to Jensen as there were not very many named Jensen here and Canadians really lack the accent required to properly pronounce Kronborg. When we were in Denmark I asked my great uncle what affiliation the family had to Kronborg Castle. He choked on his coffee and said, "none at all, your grandfather always had a great sense of humour and liked to tell people that he was a distant relative of the Royal Kronborgs". Well I guess that drained any hope of blue blood in my veins that I had, but we adored the castle's history all the same.

After our trip to Denmark my husband and I took a few tips back to Canada. They are:

1. Work hard for the betterment of your community, even when you don't necessarily get the gratitude you deserve.
2. Be humble.
3. We all have jobs to do; even their homeless are responsible for looking after their government issued tents and not being a nuisance.
4. We have Viking blood; I had heard this a few times while being there. It seems this is how we are expected to live; strong, proud, smart, courageous and responsibly.

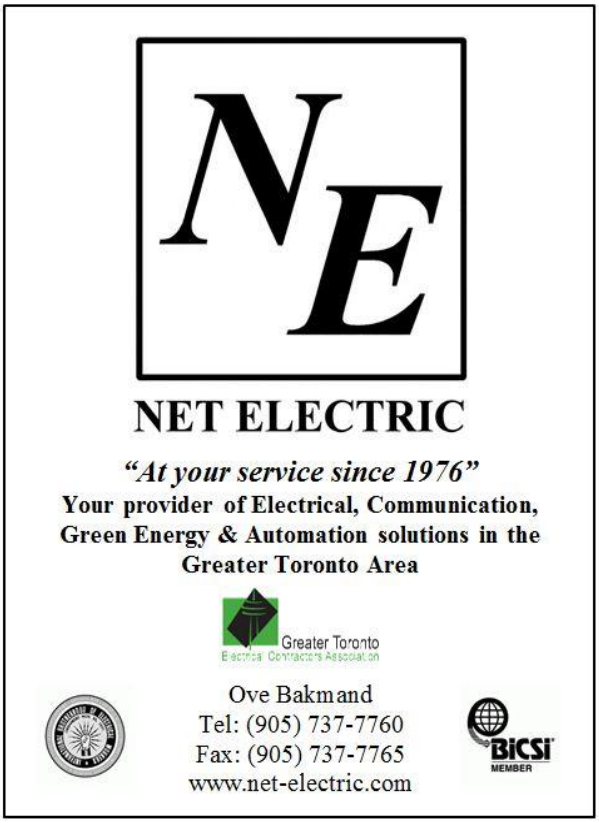
Now as an adult I see and feel the work and love that goes into family. At Christmas preparing an elaborate meal including rice pudding with almonds (Yes, I know most homes only have a single almond, but my grandmother couldn't handle only one person winning the marzipan pig. She put enough almonds and prizes out for everyone; it was quite the spectacle event having adults prove to children that they had in fact found an almond and are not collecting out of turn!). At my aunt's house we still dance around the Christmas tree. As a child I never realized it was

such an effort to drag the tree out into the middle of the room. As our family grew I imagined us falling through the floor as the picture frames shook on the walls and the dog hid under the table.

I hope to bring more traditions into our home in the years to come. I would like to research midsummer and do a little celebration this June 23rd and hopefully continue to do so annually. I would love to return to Denmark and explore a few different areas, maybe return to my grandparent's place of birth to see where they grew up.

Thank you for this trip down memory lane. It made me remember and spurs me to look further into a history that I sometimes forget and to ask questions that I never even knew needed answering. *Tak for din tid. Min familie er min styrke og min svaghed* ~ My family is my strength and my weakness.







Egon and Thea Jacobsen

From Lolland to Coaldale, Fort MacLeod and Lethbridge

Jane and Reginald Norby, Edmonton

Egon Laurist Mathias Jacobsen (originally Jakobsen with a K) was born in Vindeby on the island of Lolland, Denmark, on August 10, 1906. His parents, Niels Peter Jakobsen and Annine Kirstine Jakobsen, née Davidsen, were originally from respectively Købelev and Sandby, both near Vindeby, north of Nakskov.

The family would eventually number eight children in all. As a young man Egon was eager to travel and see the world. In August 1926 when he turned 20, he immigrated to Canada. He spent the first few years working in the oilfields of the Turner Valley in Alberta as well as on farms and ranches around High River, south of Calgary. Later Egon worked on farms in the Bawlf-Camrose area. In 1933 he was able to buy a homestead near Alder Flats, south of Drayton Valley. Unfortunately, in 1934 he was completely hailed out. This was during the Great Depression. So, in 1935 he decided to sell his homestead and return to Denmark, where he could then reconnect with family and friends. In Denmark he worked in land reclamation (surface draining) and helped build sports arenas. He would supplement his income with fishing on his days off. It was during this time that he met his future wife, Thea Andersen.



Egon and Thea Jacobsen were married on November 11, 1939

Thea Hansine Andersen was born March 3, 1916 to her parents Karl Johan Andersen and Anna Andersen, née Hansen. She was born on the family farm in Tokkerup, north of Kettinge on the island of Lolland. Her older brother, Arnold, was her only sibling. As her mother had died when she was only ten years old, she and her brother were tasked to help on the family farm while still attending school. After completing her schooling, she then went on to train to be a cook by working on a variety of area farms as well as at the local seniors' lodge in Kettinge. In 1938, she met Egon at one of the many dances in the area. They were married on November 11 the following year. Egon would always claim that he had 'rescued' Thea from the old folks' home. But she knew better. He was in need of a good cook!

For years Egon and Thea lived in and around Bøtø, Marielyst and Hasselø on the island of Falster. While there Thea worked as a cook in a local hotel. Later Egon and Thea operated their

own small grocery store in Hasselø. Egon enjoyed training hunting dogs and won many awards doing so. Their daughter, Jytte (Judy), was born in January 1940 and after the Nazi Occupation a son, Jimmy, was born in June 1946. However, he passed away less than one week old.

As Egon had always wanted to return to Canada, they made the decision to bid farewell to Denmark and their families as soon as they could after the War. They left Denmark in June 1948, sailing from Sweden to New York City on the Swedish passenger ship *SS Gripsholm*. Their 8-day voyage was rather unpleasant for Thea and Judy due to continuing bouts of seasickness. Upon their arrival at Ellis Island, New York City, they transferred to a train, and headed for Montreal. From there they travelled, again by train, to Coaldale, Alberta. They arrived with only $14 in their pockets which at that time was enough money to buy groceries for a week, with a dollar left over.

They began their new life in Coaldale where they were contracted to work hoeing sugar beets on the George Miller farm six miles south of town. In the spring of 1949, they moved in order to work on the Frank Niedermeier farm southwest of Coaldale for a year. Egon then got a job with the County grading the rural roads in the area. It was at this time that they welcomed the arrival of their second daughter, Jane, who was born in September 1949.



The Jacobsen farm in Coaldale, Alberta, 1956

During their time in the Coaldale area, Egon ran into Thomas O. Andersen whom he had known from his years working in Denmark. Thomas, who had bought a farm with Alfred Christian Wurr in 1942, was farming a quarter section of land 5.5 miles northeast of Coaldale. Unable to operate the farm alone when Alfred passed away, Thomas asked Egon if he would enter into a partnership to farm together under the name of E. Jacobsen and T. Andersen. Consequently, in the fall of 1950 the Jacobsen family moved to the farm and together they operated a mixed farm with milk cows, hogs, turkeys, ducks, chickens and geese as well as crops such as wheat, barley, alfalfa, etc. Later, they raised Black Aberdeen Angus cattle under the name of Dusty Lane Farm (winning the Grand Champion Heifer in Calgary in 1962).

The Jacobsen clan in Canada continued to grow with the arrival of third daughter, Joyce, in December 1951 and a son, Johnny, in June 1955. The farm also expanded with the purchase of another quarter section of irrigated land so as to add sugar beets, beans, and corn. As well, a new house was built in 1959-60. Coaldale social life usually meant entertaining a wide variety of friends and acquaintances on weekends. These get-togethers often included recently arrived Danish families immigrating to Alberta. Then in the spring of 1961 Farmor Annine, at 82, visited from Denmark for a four-month stay. This was her first time flying.

In the spring of 1965, after losses from five consecutive years of hailstorms, Egon and Thea decided to sell their farm and move from irrigation land. Taking all of their livestock with them,

they moved to a dryland farm fifteen miles south of Fort Macleod, just west of Highway #2, three miles southwest of the South Macleod Community Hall. Here they farmed grain and hay and continued to raise Angus cattle. Thea became a member of the community ladies' Beaver Club and was involved in many local activities. Socializing became an almost daily affair with never a dull moment. Egon also raised German Long Hair Pointers. He enjoyed bird hunting, as well as lake and stream fishing when time permitted.

By the spring of 1973, Thomas Andersen having passed away in February 1971, the workload on the farm had become too much for Egon and Thea. They sold the farm and retired to Fort Macleod. Well, Egon retired, but Thea was asked to help cook at the Fort Macleod Auction Mart. In the spring of 1974, she was asked to become a relief cook at the Fort Macleod Hospital where she worked until 1978 when she was asked to become the Matron of the Seniors Pioneer Lodge. She accepted and worked there for five years. It was at that time, at the age of 60, that she took lessons from the Alberta Motor Association and received her driver's license which enabled her to take the residents to their doctor appointments. Thea also became a member of the Royal Purple. She was a lifetime member with 28 years of service and held the position of Honorary Royal Lady for two years. She was also an active member of the United Church Women's Auxiliary. Thea was one of the founding members of the Fort Macleod Welcome Mat where she spent many hours hosting, playing cards and socializing. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, tending to her roses and tulips, crocheting and cross stitching.



Egon and Thea Jacobsen's 40th wedding anniversary, 1979

Egon enjoyed his retirement activities which included lake and reservoir fishing (as he now owned his own boat), playing cards, bingo and main street coffee sessions. Egon and Thea also enjoyed the opportunities to travel throughout southern and central Alberta, southern British Columbia, Montana and Washington. Initially they travelled in their truck with an attached camper and later in their Edson Class C motor home. Many of these trips included touring around visiting Danish relatives and friends. In 1974 they also visited Denmark after an absence of some 26 years. In August 1976, along with Joyce and Johnny they made another trip to Denmark. Upon their arrival, they met up with Jane and Reginald. It was the chance for a reunion of the "greater Jacobsen clan".

Egon and Thea were proud of the fact that all their children went on to obtain university degrees. Judy received her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta, majoring in Home Economics in 1962. She was a high school Home Economics teacher in Olds, Lethbridge and then back in Olds where in 1967 she married Thomas Howe (who had a 30-year career with

the Alberta Wheat Pool). Together they had three children, Lisa, Alan and Colin. Judy passed away in February 1985 and Thomas in October 2011.

Jane got her RN in Nursing in 1970 and an advanced practical obstetrical certification in 1972, at the University of Alberta Hospital specializing in maternity/midwifery. She had a 43-year RN career, two at the St. Albert General and forty-one years at the University of Alberta, Hospital. In August 1972 she married Reginald Norby. His career included being an Agrologist and an administrative officer and lecturer in the ALES Faculty at the University of Alberta. Together they have two children, Carolyn and Keith.

Joyce got her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta in 1973, majoring in Early Childhood Education. She taught in Fort Chipewyan, Worsley, Fort McMurray and Lethbridge.

Johnny received his degree as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1979 and a Master of Science in Applied Parasitology at the University of Calgary in 1994. He opened a Veterinary Clinic in Cochrane, Alberta, and then went on a research development career initially in animal health and currently human health. In July 1982 he married Kim Turner, a registered animal health technician. Together they have three children, Kristi, Joelle and Ryan.

The ‘Jacobsen Clan’ is still growing. As of 2020, there are ten great-grandchildren. They are currently residing in Calgary; Edmonton; Lethbridge; Olds; Brandon, Manitoba; Kelowna, British Columbia; Carefree, Arizona; Northridge, California; and Scottsdale, Arizona. However, in July 1981 the family patriarch in Canada, Egon Jacobsen, passed away. Later his loving wife, Thea, passed away - on December 13, 2007, at the age of 91. She was interned at the Archmount Memorial Gardens in Lethbridge, next to Egon.



Kris Jensen

Dairyman, Peacekeeper and Lumber Inspector

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Kris Jensen of Nanaimo, and formerly of Port Alberni as he will readily tell you, was baptized Anders Kristian Jensen. He was born near Flemløse, a hamlet east of Assens on the island of Fyn on November 23, 1925. His parents were Niels Kristian Jensen and Rasmine Hansine Jensen, née Klausen. His mother was born in Stigmose near Flemløse on February 20, 1904. Unfortunately his mother died of cancer in 1930 when he was only five years old. His father, a truck driver, was not able to take care of Kris and his sister, so they went to live with their Morfar, Anders Klausen, and Mormor, Karen Klausen, née Pedersen. Kris' grandparents lived on a small farm (*husmandssted*) with no electricity and no plumbing. Instead they used oil lamps and had an outhouse which leaned against the barn. They did not have much money and Kris remembers one year getting a pencil for Christmas. After New Year he was proud to show off his new pencil at school. It even had an eraser on the top end.



Kris Jensen in uniform, 1947

Kris' older sister, Karen, was born on August 3, 1924. She lived with her Mormor and Morfar, until she finished her schooling and was confirmed at age 14. She then left home and went to work as a maid. She worked as a domestic until she married and became a wife and mother.

Kris went to school for seven years, from 1933 to 1940. He was good at math, which was his favourite subject. Both his home room teacher and the Pastor in Flemløse thought Kris should continue his schooling. But there was no money for that. In grade seven he also attended confirmation classes and was confirmed in Flemløse Church on March 31, 1940, prior to finishing his public schooling. Traditionally when boys finished grade seven they would find work on neighbouring farms as farm hands. Kris was not interested in cleaning stables and feeding livestock. His uncle, Søren Marius Klausen, who was a dairyman, suggested, which should not come as a surprise, that Kris should apprentice as a butter and cheese maker, as that would provide a good life. Consequently Kris applied to become an apprentice at the creamery in Glamsbjerg, a village about six kilometres from the hamlet of Flemløse. The dairy in Glamsbjerg was owned and managed by Jens Gormsen, and as part of his pay Kris got room and board,

living with the Gormsen family, who treated him like one of their own. Kris was only fourteen years old. Kris learned how to keep the steam up on the big boiler and how to make butter and cheese. To get an all round education it was customary to work in at least two different dairies. So after three years Kris moved on to the Landmandslyst Dairy in Osted, between Roskilde and Ringsted. This was an old established creamery, which had been founded as a co-operative dairy back in 1887. Kris became a very good butter and cheese maker, receiving his certificate as a journeyman on May 1, 1944, during the Nazi Occupation of Denmark.



Austin Utility Vehicle with RAF markings

In May 1944 the German occupation authorities in Denmark demanded that the Danish police protect factories against the growing sabotage, which increasingly reduced vital deliveries to the Reich. The Danish Police refused and in September 1944 the German Army began arresting members of the Danish police in Denmark's main towns. The police force numbered about 10,000 men, and the German Army was able to arrest and later deport 1,960 officers to the Neuengamme concentration camp in Germany. The rest of the Danish police had heard the rumours and quickly went underground, joining the resistance movement. With no police lawlessness increased, but some citizens felt a duty to step forward and act as police. One of them was Kris Jensen. Kris still remembers walking the streets from 10 pm to 2 am, always in pairs. He wore an armband, and carried a big flashlight and a 50 cm garden hose full of sand.

For the rest of the Occupation Kris worked at Borup Mejeri, a dairy in Borup, southwest of Copenhagen. He remembers how at one point it was difficult to get milk into the Solbjerg Dairy in the city of Copenhagen, as the German sentries wouldn't let anyone through the roadblocks, as a way of putting pressure on the Danes in Copenhagen, who had gone on strike in protest against the Germans' oppressive measures. So his employer had a big sign made which said Milk above and Hospital below a Red Cross sign mounted on the delivery wagon. The Germans had great respect for the Red Cross and the milk was allowed through.

From May 1945 to May 1947, Kris worked as a butter maker at Lundby Mejeri, a dairy located between Næstved and Vordingborg. Here he worked until he was called up for military duty.

In May 1947 Kris reported to the Artillery Regiment (*Sjællandske Artilleri Regiment*) in Holbæk, where he went through basic training. That is to say, Kris and his comrades actually stayed at Sofienlundlejren (the Sofienlund Camp), the wooden barracks next door to the Holbæk Base. Sofienlundlejren had been built in Sweden in 1944 for The Danish Brigade in Sweden, which was preparing to land in Denmark when the Liberation of occupied Denmark was at hand. After the Liberation of Denmark the barracks at Sofienlund, Sweden, were dismantled and shipped to Holbæk in Denmark, to be used as a camp for Danish soldiers.

The Artillery Regiment was not able to use the Holbæk Base as the large stately brick building was used as a hospital by the Wehrmacht, the German Army. Some of the German soldiers were there to recuperate while others were chronically ill, severely wounded or dying. It was not possible to transfer them to Germany which had been carpet-bombed by the Allies, so they had to remain in Denmark after the Liberation.



Kris and his bride, Rose Marie Tidemansen, married November 11, 1961 in Port Alberni

Not only the Base was used as a hospital for wounded German soldiers, but also the large school in Holbæk, *Centralskolen*. For the Danish authorities it was a priority to remove German refugees and soldiers from schools so Danish children could get back to school. This meant that some military bases, one of them being Holbæk, would continue to house wounded German soldiers for a fairly long time. It should be noted that the Germans administered these make-shift hospitals themselves, using German doctors and nurses.

Then one day at Sofienlundlejren Kris a saw a lineup in front of an office. He asked the soldiers what the lineup was for. They said it was to volunteer to go to Germany with the Danish Brigade, which was just signing up volunteers. Kris joined the queue and was selected as he had a driver's licence. The fourteen soldiers chosen were then transported from Holbæk on Zealand to Aurich near the Dutch-German border on the back of a military lorry. Kris was part of the first Danish contingents to be sent to Oldenburg in Germany.

The formation of the Danish Brigade in Germany was primarily due to Conservative politician John Christmas Møller, who had fled to Britain in 1942. During his stay in London he promised Britain that Denmark would provide troops to relieve Britain after it had liberated Denmark. When he was appointed Foreign Minister in the Liberation Government he was a strong advocate for the creation of a brigade, as a way to express gratitude to Britain, but also to strengthen Denmark's status as an ally and steer Denmark away from its former policy of neutrality in foreign and security policies, and instead prod Denmark into closer and active Western military cooperation.

After dividing Germany into Occupation Zones, the Allies were keen to bring more countries into the chore of occupying Germany. Britain therefore welcomed the Danish offer to help. Understandably, Denmark did not want to send Danish troops to Schleswig, Holstein or Lauenburg, all of which had formerly been part of the Kingdom of Denmark. It was therefore decided to deploy the Danish troops in Oldenburg, close to the Dutch border. The 4,000 Danish troops consisted of infantry and artillery, under the command of Colonel Ernst von Freiesleben, who reported to the British Army on the Rhine. The Danish headquarters were established at Jever. Kris Jensen was sent to Aurich, where he was quartered at the Aurich Kaserne, or Barracks, which in 1938 had been erected by the German Navy as a school for officers.

In May 1945 the first Allies to reach Aurich Kaserne were the Canadians, who renamed it Maple Leaf Barracks, and used it to billet soldiers, but also to imprison enemy troops. In 1947, the base was turned over to the Danes.

Kris Jensen was issued an Austin Utility Vehicle and became the driver for Captain P.J. Barnum. There were ten drivers in all, some of whom drove tow trucks and ambulances. The men all lived in the barracks, four men to a room. The pay was good, they received two Danish kroner per day. The food was Danish, brought in by truck. Naturally, there was a commissary which sold a variety of items, including duty free cigarettes.



Kris married Barbro Moncur on June 27, 1977

Fraternizing with the German people was allowed in carrying out their work and business. However, Danish soldiers were not allowed to visit German families or visit German night clubs, dance halls, bars or places of entertainment, without permission. Hollywood movies were shown on the base and thus time passed rather quickly. Before Kris knew it, it was April, and he was on his way back to Denmark, this time by train.

On his return to Denmark, he got a job as a butter and cheese maker at Greve Mejeri, south of Copenhagen, where he spent three years, alternating between making butter and keeping steam on the big boiler. But by early 1951, he was twenty-five years old and was keen to see and explore the world. Kris was looking for adventure and wanted to travel. "Amerika" was an attraction, and the easiest way to be allowed to cross the Atlantic was to emigrate. Kris had earlier visited the CPR Office in Copenhagen and he was pleased to find out that immigrating to Canada was no problem at all. However, there was a catch, he would have to work on a farm for a year before he could work at anything else. That did not appeal to him. But that requirement was dropped in 1951.

Until 1945, "admissible" immigrants to Canada were a narrowly defined group, restricted to British subjects; United States citizens; wives, unmarried children and fiancés of legal residents of Canada; and agriculturalists with sufficient means to farm in Canada. In 1950 when the Canadian government created the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, "the admissible classes were further widened to include any European who could satisfy the Minister that he is suitable, having regard to the climatic, social, educational, labour and other conditions or requirements of Canada."

Free to immigrate to Canada, without any obligation to first work on a farm, Kris booked passage on the Polish Ocean Lines' *SS Batory* which sailed on the Gdynia-New York run, with stops at Copenhagen and Halifax. However, at the last-minute Kris had to change his ticket, as the *SS Batory* had run into major problems, resulting in her being taken out of service on this run.

During the Second World War the *SS Batory* had been requisitioned by the Allies and was used by them as a troop transport. In 1946 she was returned to the Polish Ocean Lines. After being refitted and refurbished she was inserted on the Gdynia-New York run. However, beginning in May 1949 and lasting into 1951, the *Batory* was the subject of a series of political incidents relating to the Cold War and problems with certain passengers, including one "Communist" stowaway. In January 1951 American dock workers and repairmen refused to carry out repairs on board the ship. Later that year the *Batory* was blackballed by the Port of New York, and withdrawn from NY until 1956.



Kris receiving his gold watch
When he retired in December 1985

On May 16, 1951, having changed his itinerary, Kris sailed from Esbjerg to Harwich, from where he took the train to London. Kris stayed in London a couple of days, to do some sightseeing, and then headed for Plymouth where he was sailed out to the *SS Europa* by tender, a small boat that held approximately twelve people. The *SS Europa* had been built in 1922 and could accommodate 231 passengers in First Class and 180 in Second Class. The crew was Italian, and the food was good. There were a couple of rough days at sea when the passengers were not allowed outside on the deck. It was too dangerous. Many of the passengers were seasick and stayed in their cabin.

The ship headed straight for Pier 21 in Halifax, where it landed on May 26th. Nearly all the passengers on board the *SS Europa* were immigrants headed for Canada or the United States. In fact, Kris travelled together with mechanic Erwin Siewertsen, his wife, Kirsten, and their four children, Inger Lise, Erik and Bent, who were also from Greve.

From Halifax Kris took the train to Vancouver, where he was met by Immigration officials who took him to the Bloedel, Stewart and Welch hiring office on Hastings Street. Here he was offered a job at the big Somass Division Sawmill which later was taken over by MacMillan-Bloedel. Very generously, the sawmill also paid for his ferry and bus to Port Alberni. He started working on June 3rd, pulling lumber on the big green chain. It was hard work. Kris says, "You try a year of pulling lumber on the Biggy and you can say: Oh yes, I worked in a sawmill."

When Kris began at the Somass Mill he spoke no English. But he went to school to learn English and the sawmill was very supportive of his schooling. Kris recalls how a group of teachers started English classes at City Hall. The teachers went to the Sears and Eaton's department stores and asked for a stack of catalogues, new or old. What mattered were the pictures and photographs. In class the teacher would point at a picture of a hand and say, "hand." The class would then repeat the word a couple of times before going on to the next picture. These were the years when every Saturday afternoon in Port Alberni you could see people walking to City Hall with a catalogue under their arm.

Kris also went to school to learn more about the trade, the different sorts of wood and how to tally lumber. Kris became a stenciller and trimmerman, and later a tallyman. The lumber was primarily for export, to Japan, Australia, Africa and Europe. In October 1959 he was approached by the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau and asked to join them as inspector. He then worked at the same mill for the next 26 years as an inspector. He enjoyed his work and didn't stop until he retired on November 26, 1985.

In Port Alberni Kris met Rose Marie Tidemansen, an X-ray technician, and they married in 1961. Rose was the daughter of Johanne and Tideman Nørgaard Tidemansen. Tideman, in Canada often just called Norgaard, had been born in Næsby, south of Løgstør in Jutland, on April 24, 1893. He had immigrated to Canada in 1925.

Kris and Rose had four children, Carla, Tanya, Glenn and Gregory, who now live respectively in Victoria, Nanaimo and Nanaimo as well as Fort Myers, Florida. Tragically, Kris' wife, Rose, died of cancer in 1974, likely from too much exposure to X-rays without a protective lead apron. Kris has 3 grown grandchildren: Scott Michael Jensen, Alexis Tanya Leak, Natasha Rose Jensen.

In 1977 Kris married Barbro Elisabeth Moncur, née Gronlund, whose background was Swedish. She had four children, which required that Kris and Barbro buy a big house in Port Alberni, where six of the children lived with them. Again tragedy struck - and Kris lost his second wife to an aneurysm in the brain in 1992. Shortly after Kris left Port Alberni and moved to Nanaimo.

In Nanaimo Kris found a good companion, Eileen Wright, née Ward, who had been born in 1940. For about thirty years she worked for the B.C. Ministry of the Environment. Kris and Eileen actually knew each other from Port Alberni. They enjoyed each others company and loved travelling together. Unfortunately after a valiant battle with cancer she died in April 2011.

Over the years Kris was also active in the community. In Port Alberni Kris got involved with the Alberni Valley Senior Citizen Home Society, a six storey high rise on 9th Avenue. Kris served on the Board of Directors for ten years, three as Vice President and four years as President. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Fir Park Village Care Home for eleven years, his responsibility being the building and grounds. From 1965 to 1992 Kris was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Port Alberni, serving for about twenty years as the Church's financial secretary. Naturally he was a member of the Independent Order of Foresters, and between 1953 and 1992 he served in just about all positions within the Order.

In Port Alberni Kris was also a member of the Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 335, which had been founded in April 1951, with prodding from Jens Peter Mortensen from Lodge 328 in Vancouver. Tidemansen became President and Kris became Treasurer. Kris remembers Paul Sorensen who also worked at the mill, Anton K. Andersen who was Secretary as well as Knud Kofoed from Bornholm who later moved to Port Hardy where he owned and operated a building supply company. The Lodge eventually petered out and no longer exists.

After he moved to Nanaimo he joined the Kiwanis Lodge, and was a member until it folded, due to lack of members. Later Kris joined The Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, where he enjoys meeting other Danes. After all these years Kris still speaks fluent Danish. His memory is phenomenal, and he can still sing by heart all the verses of the army song he learned at Sofienlundlejren in Holbæk.

Hans and Else Jørgensen

Homesteading in the Peace River Country

Karin Jørgensen Kossman, Edmonton

Hans Alfred Jørgensen from Faaborg on the island of Fyn took the plunge leaving Denmark for Canada in the summer of 1954 after his blacksmith business in Falsled failed. He had secured a home and a blacksmith position in the tiny hamlet of Deadwood, in the remote North Peace River Country, about 575 km northwest of Edmonton. Shortly before his wife and children were to join him in Canada, a wrench was thrown into his plan. Without proper notice, his boss shut down the shop and appropriated the home he had been promised. In desperation Hans relocated to Grande Prairie, a larger centre south of Deadwood, where he was able to get a job and find a home before his family arrived.



Else and six children leaving Copenhagen, Denmark Dec. 1954
Copenhagen Newspaper Centerfold Photo by Villy Lund

Seven months after Hans had left Denmark his wife and six children arrived. After their horrendous journey across the stormy Atlantic Ocean, on the Norwegian *MS Oslofjord*, Else Marie Jørgensen, née Olsen, stemming from Horne, Fyn, stood on American soil, at the harbour in New York City, with her six children, ages two to sixteen (Poul - 2; Niels - 7; Karin - 8; Rita - 9; Leif - 15; Lis - 16). The motion from the rocking ship had caused severe seasickness throughout the voyage, particularly among the younger ones. On this huge ship, with hundreds of people, it was difficult for Else to keep track of the six children. It must have been an unbelievable anguish for Else. At one point Niels had disappeared! Leif, her eldest son, jumped three steps at a time, up the escalator we had just come down on, retrieving seven-year-old Niels, standing looking bewildered, where he'd been left. As they walked towards us hand in hand, we all breathed a sigh of relief. I, Karin, was the third youngest child of Else and Hans Jørgensen, eightyears old at that time. Here is my story:

At the railway station we settled into the enormous train getting ready to travel to Edmonton. Mom's first challenge began even before the train departed. Trying to ignore a heated argument

between Mom and the nasty train lady, each yelling in their own language, we peered out the train window. Mom was struggling to bring her carefully packed bags of blankets, intended for the comfort of her children, inside the train, in preparation for the long train ride across Canada on the rigid upright seats. Without regard they were at last yanked from her grip by this awful woman and stored away in the baggage compartment. With disgust and anger, rarely seen in Mom, she joined us, as the train began to chug slowly out of the station towards Toronto.



MS Oslofjord *docked in New York City*

During the many days and miles in the soot-covered train Mom was constantly concerned about her children's comfort. Towards the end of the trip she only had mouldy rye bread left to feed us. We never complained, and it wasn't that bad when we were allowed to pick off the mouldy parts. Mom was a very courageous lady, who we all loved dearly, knowing we could always count on her, despite some grumbling along the way. As the train slowed, coasting into the Edmonton train station, we stuck our heads out of the tiny windows. With Danish flags in hand, Mom's arms around us, we all waved frantically. "There's Dad! There's Dad!" we all yelled at once, in Danish of course. The train screeched to a stop. All six of us kids, bounced down the few steps onto the platform. We almost knocked Dad over. Mom, exhausted but elated, walked slowly towards Dad, taking her turn for a hello and a hug. We were safe now.

We arrived by cab at the home of our friends Ella and Emil Hansen and their children. With welcoming arms they opened their home in Edmonton to us. They had immigrated to Canada several years before, making a good life for themselves. Keeping in contact with my parents after they left Faaborg, they encouraged my parents to come to Canada for a better life. This was enough incentive for Dad to uproot his family and follow suit.

With amazing food in our stomachs, soot-free bathed bodies, and a real bed with blankets, fit for a queen, dreamland was not far away. After a healthy breakfast the next day, we were on the move again; this time eight of us. We said goodbye and thank you to the Hansen family for their hospitality. This was now our last stretch of travel before arriving in our new home in Macklinville (now Hillside) just outside Grande Prairie.

With our few belongings the seven of us stood in disbelief staring at what would be our first home in Canada. Welcome to the north! Dad's previously acquired warm outerwear kept him warm, unlike the rest of us. Rita and I, in our matching spring corduroy coats, shivered in the cold, a cold we never could have imagined. I'm sure my other siblings fared no better. It was mid-December and the temperature could easily dip to minus 45 degrees Celsius. My eyes wandered to the front of this shabby house. A three foot layer of snow covered everything. Leif hurried us inside to get warm. Whiffs of black smoke met us at the door, coming from the wood stove. Several cracks between the wall boards let in the the biting frost. I guess it was better

than sleeping outside. As everyone inhaled the irritating smoke, we instantly started coughing. Out of necessity, the door had to be opened but then closed to keep in what little heat we had. Lis and Leif became our drill sergeants, keeping us moving with active games, jumping and running, having fun and not realizing this was another survival tool. Mom provided hot soup. At day's end, we were introduced to floor sleeping, as Mom tucked us into layers of coats and blankets, as we scrunched together for body heat.

Mom was prepared for the severe cold with the numerous skeins of yarn she had brought. Her knitting needles were soon moving in overdrive. I was impressed at how fast she created mitts, hats, scarves and more - out of both despair and necessity. She was a terrific mother, always practical, doing things in the best interest of her children.

I found the house interesting, with a chipped enamel basin to be used for washing dishes, tables, and people. Our first source of water was melted snow. Where's the bathroom? Outside - really? The dreadful toilet was a small wooden building with two stinky holes, located behind the house in a snowbank. It was all about darting in and out, before freezing our derrières. The Eaton's and Simpsons catalogue pages substituted for the nice soft toilet paper we were used to in Denmark.

A stationary hand pump, provided by the community of Macklinville, was operated by human muscle power, whereby a steady flow of cool clear water filled our galvanized bucket. It took two of us younger school-age children to carry the heavy container several blocks back home. At first it was a novelty, but that soon wore off. We were taught to never complain, and we didn't.



Karin in her winter garb
Made by her Mom, 1958

We never went hungry. But at times the meals were very simple. Dad's meager earnings were only enough to cover our basic needs, with very little left to be saved for emergencies. Mom put up with a lot, but she insisted our stove situation was an emergency. The money for a new stove had to come out of Dad's first paycheck, and it did. Now we could all breathe easier plus stay warmer.

On the mile-long walk to school in Grande Prairie we were all thankful for Mom's woolens. We savoured the steady warmth in the school. With no comprehension of the English language, Lis and Leif attended high school, and Rita, Niels and I attended first grade. Lis and Leif found it frustrating, even impossible to follow the Canadian high school curriculum, dropping out soon after enrollment. Discouraged, Lis' dream of graduating and becoming a pharmacist was shattered, while Leif started looking for a job.

We celebrated Christmas with Lis and Leif's Charlie Brown Christmas Tree, decorated with small pieces of precious yarn. To our family's delight, Mom produced a string of Danish flags, along with red and white candles and candle holders for the tree. Two large suitcases, piled on top of each other served as our table, with a festive cloth on top, along with *Julenisser* napkins, set with an improvised variation of utensils and dinnerware. We kneeled at the table, waiting for the traditional rice porridge divided into even portions with only onebowl containing that desired almond. Whoever found this valued treasure would win the *mandelgave* (prize). Our main meal

consisted of more rice and then more rice. There wasn't money for any extras like turkey and vegetables, but I recall there was lots of happiness at the table that night, all eating together once more with our Dad. According to tradition the candles on the Christmas tree were lit. We then sang *Glade Jul, dejlige Jul* (Silent Night, Holy Night) while walking and dancing around the tree. Dad read the Christmas Gospel, Luke, Chapter 2, verses 1-20, from his little Danish Bible, as we all listen quietly and reverently. Gifts of knitted items from Mom were so delightful. For the little money they had, Lis and Leif purchased two sticks of black licorice, which they cut and wrapped, so we each would have a gift of a yummy one inch chunk for *Juleaften* (Christmas Eve) which we received with exuberant joy. Mom was determined to make a traditional Danish Christmas for her family. And she did. It was one Christmas I will never forget.



First day of school, Rita, Niels, Karin and neighbour Ann Ashworth, 1955

Winter was harsh, and despite two minor fires that could have been disastrous, everyone was safe and there was no extensive damage. The snow finally started to melt. Bits of green grass began to appear. The weather was finally tolerable wearing just our green corduroy coats.

Dad then decided to move back to more or less where he had started! Lis was left behind in Grande Prairie as she has secured a job at the hospital. I deeply missed my big sister. The rest of us moved to Manning, north of Deadwood. Some of us kids, with our few belongings, were transported in the back of Karl Kristensen's large stinky farm truck, which he had used to haul grain and livestock. The drive took three hours, after which Karl suddenly slowed down as we rolled down a small hill to see the little community of Manning below, much smaller than Grande Prairie. We straightened our stiff legs. Leif helped us get off the truck and there we stood in front of another shabby house. This would be our humble home for many years to come. Here began yet another chapter of our life in the isolated north of Alberta.

We settled into the same primitive conditions with a lot less space, and with a basic lack of amenities. At least we seemed more prepared for day to day life, and it wasn't freezing cold. From that day and until today, this home was always referred to as "The Shack". Dad created a very sturdy bunkbed, three bunks high, using both his fantastic carpenter and rod iron skills to build something I was so proud of. We slept two per bunk, except when Leif came home on the weekend from his job in Peace River, one hour away. He would often bring a buddy. Those in the top bunk would then have to vacate, moving further down joining others, making room for the two of them. Often eight or more bodies would gather inside our tiny kitchen, where Mom never turned anyone away. Meals could always be stretched with a little more water and flour. We frequently bumped butts, trying to get around each other in such a small space. Lots of laughter helps us cope in many adverse situations. Mom found water at 50 cents per barrel expensive. Dad would get the first pure layer of the morning milk, while the rest was diluted, little by little for each child.

We were ready for our first day of school in Manning. There is even a photograph with neighbour Ann, clutching her fancy binder, while we hold brown shopping bags containing our supplies. We sure were happy. We had to be careful where we walked because there was mud everywhere.

At home there was much excitement when many months after our arrival, the big crates of furniture and bulky items finally arrived from Denmark. Mom was filled with joy until she opened the first of six drawers of the antique chiffonier and with dismay discovered nothing but broken glass. It was quickly revealed that one plate was all that was damaged. There was much happiness that day for all of us as the treasures were unpacked. This was the most excited I had seen Mom since we left Denmark!



Dad's blacksmith shop in Manning, 1956

Dad quickly started a blacksmith business on a rental property, across the street from our tiny home. I think it was in 1957 that Dad finally built our own house from rough lumber on moveable skids. It sat next to his shop. Being immigrants, with no knowledge of Canadian prices, Dad was taken terrible advantage of by the crooked owner, being charged double the going rates at the time. This horrible swindler threatened to seize our dwelling for back pay owed, willing to leave a family with four young children homeless. However, my Mom was a smart lady, and immediately contacted the closest legal consultant in Peace River. Since the house was on skids, it could be pulled off the property before office opening hours the following morning without legal consequences. Dad lay underneath the house all night, jacking it up, and a semi truck with a hugetrailer backed under it. When we got home from school for lunch that day, the house was sitting on the street. We kids thought, that was pretty cool, but I'm sure our parents didn't. The house was homeless, but we were not. If there ever was a time Mom and Dad needed help it was now. Within the hour, hearing of our dilemma, a man offered a piece of his property with one month's free rent. And the house was placed on this property. Bless his heart.

Dad continued his blacksmith business, repairing farmers' equipment (including sharpening sheers for plows and welding equipment), in his little shop on the rented triangle of land. A few years later, bad luck struck again, when that shop burned to the ground, whereby Dad lost a great deal of his equipment and supplies.

In the meantime our house had been moved a second time to myparent's own small piece of land. As Manning was expanding with a huge field being subdivided, lots were available for a price they could afford.

The harsh cold winters came again. Meanwhile oil exploration in the north was huge in the late 1950s and early 60s, meaning there was a great demand for welders. With Dad's skill level, he was hired to repair and build equipment deep into the bushland. This meant he was away a lot, but he was supplied with a room in a bunkhouse and good meals. Once more Mom was alone to look after the children and run the household.



Truck moving the old home, 1960

Dad was a very hard worker, and made good money. Unfortunately most of it was spent on booze and his drinking issues took a toll on us mentally and physically. Our power and party line phone service was often cut off, for non payment. Candles and a small coal oil lamp were used to give minimal light. Mom became our family's main provider, with her new job at the local hospital, bringing in a small income. Mom did the best she could. She insisted that Dad pay for groceries. There was the time when Dad was away, in the depth of a long freeze, when Mom ran out of wood for the stove. We found it funny when Leif climbed the very tall clothesline pole to cut the top off, then chop it into burnable wood and throw it into our stove, while Mom walked a mile to find the only load of wood available, at a steep price. Mom took care of us. She spent hours at the Singer treadle sewing machine turning rags into riches, and pants with holes into pants with patches.



Dad clearing land, ca. 1957

With Dad selling his previous property at a good price, he purchased a larger lot with a shop on it, with room for our house, moving it for the last time. Dad also obtained one of many homesteads allotted to immigrants by the government in the 1950s. His was located east of a little hamlet called North Star about ten miles from Manning overlooking the beautiful Sunny Valley. It was a land of bush and bears. To fulfill the requirements to eventually get the right to the title a certain amount of land had to be cleared per year and residence had to be taken within a certain period of time. This sounded easy, but clearing these large heavy trees, pulling out stumps, and getting ready for building, seeding and planting was no easy task. Dad had built a self designed brush cutter, placed on the front of an iron caterpillar, used to fell the trees. He would push the trees into long windrows, and then dry and burn them. This took a number of years to complete. Periodically in the summer Dad would stay at the homestead to meet the resident requirement.

We spent many weekends at the farm, picking roots and picking potatoes in the cold wind. The hard work was well rewarded with a picnic lunch Mom brought from home, for us to enjoy in the dirt field. On the farm I felt free. It was forever my dream to live there and own a horse, but neither happened. Still, I enjoyed many weekends at the farm.

I've shared my story growing up, as I experienced it. Where is my family now? With marriages and births, the Jørgensen family has now grown from the eight who immigrated to Canada in 1954 to a family of over sixty. And in Canada the family spells the surname Jorgensen. But first, here is some brief background information.

My father, Hans Alfred Jørgensen, was born on July 9, 1913, in Gærup, Brahetrolleborg Sogn, Fyn. He was the son of Olga Georgine Jørgensen, née Hansen, and Niels Jørgensen, who was also born in Gærup. For a living Niels Jørgensen dug water wells.



Dad takes residency at the homestead, ca. 1957

My mother, Else Jørgensen, née Olsen, was born on October 11, 1917 in Slagelse on the island of Sjælland. She was the daughter of Elna Marie Olsen, née Nielsen, and Christian Valdemar Olsen, who was from Aarby, Sjælland. Christian Olsen sold fish in the streets. He rode up and down the streets on his bicycle with a big wooden square box on the front of it. As he peddled he yelled, "Fish for sale."

My parents, Hans and Else, were married in Horne Rundkirke, Fyn, on August 1, 1937. They divorced in Manning, Alberta, in 1971.

I admired my Dad for his knowledge, hard work and his creativity in blacksmithing and woodworking. Dad was an avid lover of the outdoors. He died in a car accident in Newbrook on April 2, 1988 at age 74. With my Mom's grade-six education in Denmark and no formal English schooling, I admired her for her perseverance to graduate as a lab and x-ray technician at the age of 53. I always loved her. Sadly, after many blood transfusions, she passed away in Edmonton from a blood disease on July 8, 1991 at the age of 73.



Family picnic in the field after picking roots, 1958

Lis, a retired accountant lives in Quesnel, British Columbia, and enjoys curling and 5-pin bowling. Sadly, my brother, my hero, Leif, passed away in 1987 at age 48 from colon cancer. I still miss him dearly. Rita has spent many years immersed in aboriginal culture, and lives in Edmonton, Alberta. Niels, a retired flooring business owner, lives in Spruce Grove, Alberta. He has traveled the world with his wonderful wife, Sharon, who is like a sister to me. Today, Niels struggles with severe illnesses. My little brother, Poul, enjoys the Atlantic coast of Canada. As a long time resident of Three Tree Creek, New Brunswick, he enjoys life on his acreage with his partner Jan and he works building the New



Else, Karin and Hans, proud parents
At Karin's Nursing Aid Graduation, 1965

Brunswick branch of the Trans Canada Trail. As for myself, I was born in Svendborg on October 1, 1946. I am now retired from careers in nursing and mental health work. I am enjoying retirement as an avid nature photographer, author and community volunteer.

I thank all my siblings for the fun we created together during those hard times, and for always sticking together. I feel in my heart today tremendous gratitude to that one special lady for protecting us from those freezing temperatures, the best she could and maybe even from death in an environment she could never have imagined. Thank you, Mom. Despite the many hardships, everywhere she went, Mom expressed how thankful she was for what Canada gave us.

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1929 – 2013

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

A major milestone in Kurt Klarskov Larsen's life was June 1, 1963, when he founded Blue Giant of Canada Ltd. in Brampton, Ontario. Over the years Blue Giant would grow into a worldwide network, incorporating two major manufacturing facilities with licensees and distributors in forty countries around the world, serving a diverse range of customers.



In time Blue Giant would manufacture a broad range of material handling equipment, including manual and powered pallet trucks, stackers, forklift trucks, scissors lifts and mechanical and hydraulic dock levelers. Within six months of starting Blue Giant, Kurt, a going concern all of his life, was busy registering the Blue Giant Corporation in New York State.

Kurt, often with his wife, Joy, at his side, would visit distributors in Latin America, Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. Kurt would often point out that, "Finding the right and good distributor is somewhat like the young person looking for the right mate, or the boat owner finding the perfect boat." And Kurt was good at finding and maintaining excellent distributors. Part of his success was visiting them personally and often.

Blue Giant's equipment was manufactured in Brampton, as well as in Pell City, Alabama, and in Plympton in the United Kingdom. As the companies developed new products Blue Giant took out patents and trademarks. Customers included Canada Post, the United States Postal Service as well as Loblaws, one of Canada's largest grocery chains.

In 1990 Republican Governor Guy Hunt of Alabama presented the Industry of the Year Award to the owners of the Blue Giant Equipment Corporation. Kurt and Joy Larsen were honoured at a special banquet at the Civic Center in Pell City, location of their American office and manufacturing plant. Kurt had chosen Pell City as his US location because it was close to major highways and an airport and because Alabama was a "Right to work" state, with little or no support for the union movement, Kurt having had bad experiences with labour unions.

There is no doubt, Kurt was a successful businessman and lived a charmed life with a supportive wife and three children. If you asked him where he was born, he would proudly say Flakkebjerg.

In response most people, even Danes, would say, "Where's that?" In other words, how did a boy from a small unknown village in Denmark go out into the world and establish a world-wide company?

There would be at least three reasons. His father was a businessman; he received a good education; and he was ambitious. His father, Peter Klarskov Larsen was born in Skårup, Fyn, on September 1, 1894. His mother, Karen Mary Larsen, was born in Hyllested on May 21, 1901. Peter and Karen were married in Hyllested on October 27, 1922. They had four children, Børge, Arnold, Kurt and Sigrid. Kurt, the third child, was born in Flakkebjerg, Sjælland, on October 25, 1929, the day after the stock market on Wall Street began to falter and crash.



Kurt Larsen, with American flag in parade in Copenhagen in 1983

Kurt's father, who had grown up on a farm, apprenticed as a blacksmith. Later the family moved into Flakkebjerg where Peter established a farm implement shop. It grew to become a gas station as well as a mechanics shop. So it was natural for Kurt to also become a blacksmith and welder. Kurt apprenticed from 1943 to 1947. In fact he also became a certified farrier, being able to trim and balance horses' hooves and place shoes on their hooves.

In 1950 he was called up for national service and was chosen to serve with the Royal Danish Guards in Copenhagen. After basic training at Sandholmlejren, Kurt was chosen to be sent to the Corporal School in Slagelse. Again he was one of the few chosen to be trained for the Military Police. As an MP he was sent to Itzehoe in Germany to be part of the Danish occupation forces in the British Zone of West Germany. The Danish army in Germany was under British command. MP Larsen was issued a Nimbus motorcycle and with fellow MPs patrolled to make sure Danish privates did not get into trouble. Wisely Kurt Larsen used his time there learning German. At the same time he was shocked by the devastation all around him; the Allies having carpet-bombed whole cities. While he did visit Hamburg which had been fire-bombed, he was particularly horrified by seeing the eerie ruins in Kassel.

In the army Kurt met John Nielsen and they became life-long friends. Kurt and John decided that when they were demobilized from the army in April they would travel across North America and back to Denmark. The plan was to work in the Toronto area for about six months earning enough money to travel west or enough to cover the whole trip. They were only allowed to take $50 out of Denmark due to the Danish currency restrictions at the time. They would then drive to Vancouver, staying for maybe about six months. Thereafter they would drive down the coast and then across the United States to New York City, from where they would sail home to Denmark.

It was a good plan, but it was not feasible as Canada needed welders, but not butchers, they were told by the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen. So John, a butcher by trade, wouldn't be able to go. However, when they contacted the Cunard Line about passage on one of their ships they were told that there was a meat packing plant in Berwick, Nova Scotia, which was looking for a Danish butcher.

Henry D. Larsen, a butcher from Denmark, had arrived in Canada in 1929. In 1939 he started the Larsen Packing Company in Berwick, Nova Scotia, which produced a full range of pork cuts, including hams, bacon, wieners and sausages. He was willing to hire John Nielsen. This meant that both Kurt and John would be heading for Berwick. In fact, Henry could also use Kurt, who then helped fix machinery and repair equipment.

As many before them, Kurt Larsen and John Nielsen sailed from Esbjerg to Harwich, and then took the train to London where they stayed a few days to take in the sights. Then it was up to Liverpool, from where they sailed on board the *RMS Ascania* to Quebec City and then Montreal. Their passports and immigration papers were checked at Quebec City, and they were granted Landed Immigrant status, finally disembarking at Montreal, and taking the train back to Nova Scotia.



Former Danish Guards
From left: Kurt Larsen, Frank Engelbrecht, Poul Rasmussen, Erik Hogh, Jørgen Birk Andersen and Rolf Buschardt Christensen, May 2012

Kurt and John only stayed in Nova Scotia for a couple of months, and then headed for Toronto, where Kurt easily made friends and quickly got a job. An urgent task for Kurt was to learn English. He was able to do that despite working with other Danes and cultivating friendships with a large circle of Danes. With other Danes he founded a company and they gained significant experience and did quite well. This experience laid the groundwork for Kurt being able to establish Blue Giant.

Since he was a boy, Kurt had been interested in gymnastics, athletics and sports. In Toronto he joined the Boulevard Club on Lakeshore Boulevard and became an active member. It was at this Club that he met Joy Peterkin in the spring of 1958. Kurt was smitten and within a few weeks Kurt proposed. Kurt and Joy were married at the Rosedale Presbyterian Church on September 26, 1958. John was of course the Best Man. On their honeymoon they went to Lake Placid in up-state New York. They would eventually have three children, Fiona, Colin and Karen.

Meanwhile, Kurt's company, Blue Giant, grew rapidly, and to better position it he decided to move its main operation to the United States. As a consequence in 1978 Kurt established the Blue Giant Equipment Corporation in Pell City, Alabama. He loved the warmer climate. In 1989 Kurt became an American citizen, and his children all live in the United States.

Yet, Kurt kept in contact with his many friends in Canada, not least John Nielsen, who worked for Canada Packers in Toronto after his compulsory work in Nova Scotia. John married Inge, his Danish fiancé from Køge, and they later moved to Calgary where he became president of Burn's Food. John eventually retired as president of the food processing company John Morrell USA.

Similarly, Kurt kept in contact with the old guardsmen belonging to the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada. In 1983 Kurt participated in Den Kongelige Livgardes 325-års Jubilæum in Copenhagen, the 325th anniversary of his old regiment. In the parade through the streets of Copenhagen Kurt carried the Stars and Stripes. In the evening a big celebration was held in the Bella Center with about 8,000 current and former Guardsmen. In attendance were also Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik.

In May 2012, Kurt participated in the Danish Federation's national conference in Toronto. Kurt was in good spirits and had a wonderful time. Little did we know at the time, one year later he would be gone. Kurt passed away at St. Vincent's Hospital East in Birmingham, Alabama, on May 26, 2013. A plaque at Sunset Mindepark commemorates him, as a former Guardsman and a former Military Police officer. He made a difference. We can be proud of him.



Kurt and his wife Joy, Kurt is wearing his Guard tie

There is a write-up about Kurt Klarskov Larsen in the 2013 Heritage Book, written prior to his passing. Moreover, already in 2004 Kurt wrote an autobiography, primarily aimed at his grandchildren, which he entitled "My Dash – October 25, 1929 -???" His autobiography was typed and edited by his daughter Karen Joy Klarskov Larsen with editorial help from Mary Morgan. His autobiography is 131 pages in length, single-spaced, and gives a good picture of his life, his accomplishments and his dazzling personality. His wife, Joy, donated a copy of this autobiography to the Danish Federation, because, as she noted, one of its aims is the preservation of Danish heritage. In due course, the Danish Federation will place Kurt's autobiography in the Library of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, for all to have access to this remarkable man's life and times. Ære være hans minde!

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Solvejg Nielsen

by Solvejg Nielsen

I was born Solvejg Thygesen on October 23, 1932, at Hylleagregaard in Agedrup Parish between Odense and Kerteminde on the island of Fyn. My maternal grandfather owned the farm where I grew up which was then passed on to my mother. My parents married on May 5, 1927 and divorced 27 years later. My father was later married for 12 ½ years to a second cousin until she died of cancer. The main farm building was a long Tudor style two-hundred-year-old house, while the outer buildings were from around 1900. We were five siblings, Vagn, Jens, Solvejg, Kirsten and Thyge, and none of us had a middle name. Mother said that when you are a Thygesen, you don't need any more names.



Our father, Hans Thorvald Thygesen was born April 1, 1898, at Skovgaard in Ferritslev, Fyn. Our mother Emilie Kathrine Pedersen was born on July 16, 1900 at Birkelygaard in Aunslev. Vagn took over Hylleagregaard when he married Karen Schultz in 1957. They had four children. Vagn died in 2006.

Jens immigrated to Canada in 1951, first working in Northern Ontario, then later for Bombardier in Peterborough with his wife and three children. Later they lived in Barrie, where Jens had his own business, repairing small engines, selling snow blowers, lawnmowers etc. Jens died in 2004.

Kirsten became a nurse, and later obtained a degree from Aarhus University. She taught nursing students in Vejle and Kolding. Kirsten has three children and lives in Harte, a suburb of Kolding.

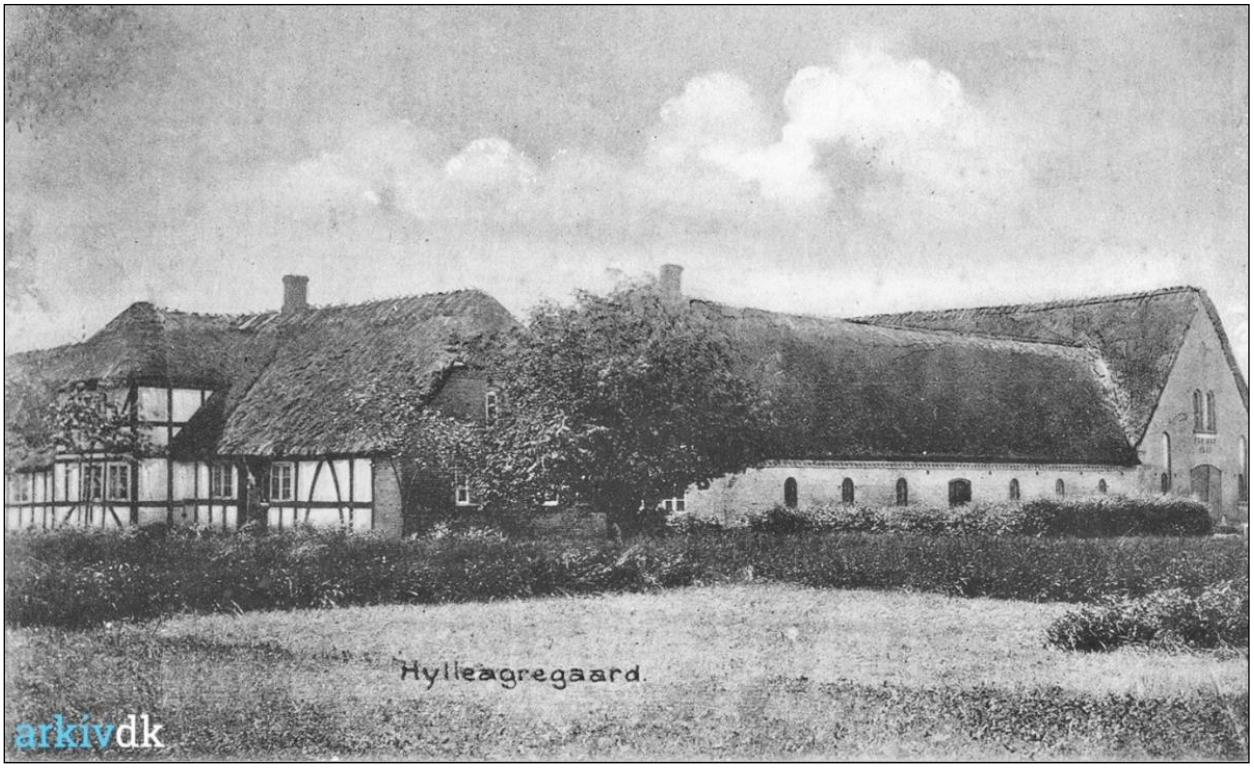
Thyge received his education in Odense and Copenhagen, and always worked in sales in the building industry. Thyge and his wife have two children and live in Stubberup near Roskilde.

Our father, Hans Thorvald Thygesen, had earlier lived in Canada for a year and a half. He crossed the Atlantic on the *SS Regina* from Liverpool to Halifax, where he landed on April 18, 1924. He travelled and worked as far west as Winnipeg. I remember him telling us about seeing Toronto and Niagara Falls. His mother urged him to come home when his father was sick, so he came home, and his father survived.

When I finished school in Odense in 1950, I went to England as a nanny. I spent the first six months south of London, then a year in London. It was a great experience. I also took trips to Scotland and Wales. In May 1952 I returned home. I was then invited to work in Helsinki for two months for a Danish lady, Elisabeth, and her Finnish husband and their two children. It was the year of the Summer Olympics in Helsinki. I attended several events with the family. Elisabeth had a strong influence on me. She was a nurse. I had plans to become a teacher, but Elisabeth convinced me that nursing was such a good profession.

I spent the winter of 1952-53 at Askov Højskole. In September 1953, I started at the Nursing School at Aarhus Kommune Hospital, and graduated in November 1956. It was then six months psychiatry in Middelfart, and four months maternity at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen. While working at the hospital in Odense I received an invitation to come to Jens and Corrine's wedding in South Porcupine, Ontario. I agreed to go to represent the family in Denmark.

At the same time, I wanted to see some of Canada. I wanted to stay for a year and a half to work and travel. So, I had to go as an immigrant. Canada needed nurses, so no problem, the papers and travel arrangements were soon in order.



The farm I grew up on at Hylleagregaard, on Fyn

I left Copenhagen for Montreal on the Polish ship *Batory* on April 3, 1958. It was a pleasant trip. There were quite a few other Danish people on board. We arrived April 13. I then took the train to South Porcupine, passing trees, trees and more trees and lakes. The wedding was on April 19 so there was just enough time to get a dress made so I could be one of the bridesmaids.

Jens and Corinne left on their honeymoon to Ottawa and then Niagara Falls. Corinne's parents drove me to the hospital in South Porcupine for an interview with the matron. Sure enough they could use another nurse. The Nurses' Residence was a nice old house on the hospital grounds. The matron had her own apartment on the ground floor. Upstairs there were four rooms for single nurses. Most of the nurses were married. We had our meals in the dining room at the hospital. Everyone was friendly and helpful. It was a memorable summer. Nearby Timmins was said to be the Entertainment Centre of Northern Ontario. There was a hotel, a drive-in movie theatre and a hospital. It was great swimming in the lakes.

In the fall I arranged a trip to Toronto and had an interview with the Director of Nursing at Toronto General Hospital. I was promised a job and a room at the Nurses' Residence. I finished my six months in South Porcupine and started work at the Toronto General Hospital in November. It was a great place to work with nurses from Australia, England, Scotland and Ireland, and of course many locals. One of the nurses had been on a trip to British Columbia. When she heard I was planning to stay only 1½ years in Canada, she said, "You have to go to Vancouver before you go home." In December when it was getting close to Christmas, I had a strange feeling. I felt I should go home for Christmas, and if I did not go, something would happen. I also had two wedding invitations. One was for January 6th, my best friend, Irene, from the neighbouring farm. We had played together since we were old enough to walk. The other invitation was for Catherine and John Petterson's wedding in London, on January 10th. Catherine and I had been friends since we met in the line-up when King George was "lying in state" and thousands of people were paying their respects.



Børge and Solvejg ready to leave Toronto

I explained to the Director of Nursing due to family matters I had to go to Denmark. She said, "Your job will be here for you when you come back, and your room in residence will remain yours." I flew Toronto-London-Copenhagen, and then took the train to Odense and a taxi home. They were all so surprised. I never thought of phoning them and there was not enough time for a letter. It was December 23 - Lillejuleaften.

The next day, Eriksen, the postman, came with the mail as always on his bicycle. He was almost at the end of his route, so it was good to come inside for a cup of coffee. Eriksen said, "Solvejg, it used to be when people left for America, they never came back."

Well, it was a lovely Christmas. What I didn't know was that it was my last Christmas, forever, in Denmark. After Irene and Knud's wedding, I went by train to Amsterdam for a visit with a Dutch friend, great sightseeing, visiting museums and Anne Frank's House, then on to London.

After Catherine and John's wedding I stayed a few days with friends, and then flew to Toronto, arriving in the afternoon. I went straight to the Director of Nursing. She said, "Good, Miss Thygesen, you are back. Can you do the nightshift tonight on Ward D?" "Yes, certainly", I said.

It was good to be back at work after such a wonderful trip. Soon into the New Year I met a Danish girl who told me that the Danes in Toronto had Church Services and social functions at a German Church on College Street. So, I went with her to an evening Youth Group meeting and there I met Børge Nielsen. He had been in Canada since 1955. Børge was born on July 28, 1932, in Ørum, Djursland. Børge had attended high school, agricultural school and had served in the military in Denmark. He had worked at different jobs in Toronto. When we met, he was taking a course in diesel mechanics. He had room and board in a private home with a Canadian family.

We started dating. I told Børge that I was planning to travel across Canada to work in Vancouver, then to return to Denmark in December. I had booked passage on a Norwegian ship. In the meantime, however, we got engaged on Børge's birthday. Børge's course finished at the end of July. I worked until August 1 and on August 2 we started our trip across Canada. Børge's Pontiac was big enough to hold our personal belongings and a tent, a Coleman stove and sleeping bags.

We drove north to South Porcupine so Jens and Corinne could meet Børge. We had a good visit with them and also with friends from my time at the hospital. Then we headed out on the Trans Canada Highway. It was a long stretch and it was not yet paved. We camped several nights in Ontario. In Manitoba we spent time seeing Winnipeg. In Saskatchewan we visited Regina. Camping on the Prairies we saw the most beautiful sunsets. In Alberta we visited two nurses in Calgary who I had worked with in Toronto, then on to Banff and Lake Louise. The scenery was breathtaking. There were other tourists, but not crowded like it is now. We could go on a hike and not meet another person. Next it was over to Radium Hot Springs and the Okanagan where we camped in a peach orchard, enjoying the delicious fruit. The great thing about our trip was we did not have a deadline. If we liked a place, we would stay for several days. The only really scary part of our trip was the two hours it took us to cross the mountains on a narrow gravel road near Rossland. Sadly, in Manning Park there had been a terrible forest fire. Coming out of Manning Park there was a garbage dump where a mother bear and her three cubs were having a feast.

Driving west through the Fraser Valley on Highway 7 toward Vancouver, I can close my eyes and remember how beautiful it was. At the time Vancouver was just a small city. The mountains on the North Shore were so impressive. We arrived at the end of August.

Vancouver became our new home

We rented a small, furnished apartment on 12th Avenue near the Vancouver General Hospital. The next day I went there for an interview with Miss King, the Director of Nursing. Yes, she had received the letter I had sent from Toronto. However, to work there I had to be a Registered Nurse in British Columbia. I had to sit the exam at the RNABC office, where they had at least ten other "foreign" nurses writing the exam. This was different from the Toronto General Hospital, where they welcomed "foreign" nurses if they had good papers from their school of nursing. On top of that, the pay was $10.00 less a month than the Ontario RNs. Luckily St. Vincent's Hospital on 33rd Avenue needed a nurse. It was not a teaching hospital, so they

allowed nurses without registration in B.C. to work there. After a few weeks Børge too found work.

We absolutely loved Vancouver and decided to get married when I could get a weekend off. I had cancelled my December passage back to Denmark before we left Toronto. We were married on Saturday, December 12, 1959, in the Danish Lutheran Church on East 19th Avenue. Børge's employer, Reiner Miller and his wife, Inger, offered to have the celebration at their house. There were eighteen of us, including Pastor Arnold Vang and his wife, Elly. It was a great party. The wedding cake from Copenhagen Bakery on Fraser Street was a "Overflødighedshorn" made of Kransekage.

As of December 1st we had rented a small house on 18th Avenue. The Danish bank manager at Bank of Montreal, C. Hansen, had given us a loan of $500. We bought Danish teak furniture at Sorvin's downtown, including a chair, and a chesterfield, that could be pulled out for a guest to sleep, as well as a long coffee table which we have kept all these years. At a store on Main Street we bought a kitchen table and four chairs and bedroom furniture. We paid $300 a month until it was paid off. Our house was originally a coach house for the big mansion next door. Later, the mansion was converted to apartments. Our house had a window on each side of the front door. In the spring Børge made a flower box for each window. The lady who owned the house said, "Because you keep it so nice, I am going to reduce your rent by five dollars a month". Consequently, our rent went down to $80 a month. There was a small window facing north, from where we could see the clock on City Hall on 12th Avenue. If we had company and it was getting late, we would say we have to go and see the time on City Hall. Then our friends knew it was time leave.



Solvejg in1955

In the fall of 1959, I had passed the exam to be a Registered Nurse in B.C. In 1961, when our daughter Tina was five months old, I started working at the Vancouver General Hospital. Tina was in daycare in a private home. In the spring of 1961, my mother came to stay with us for almost a year. She did that again in 1967. It was great to have Mormor as a live-in babysitter.

In the summer of 1961, a two-bedroom house with a basement and an attic on the other side of the big mansion was for rent. We were happy to get it. Our Danish friends helped us carry over all our furniture along the sidewalk to our new house. In 1963 the owner wanted to sell so we bought the house for $9,000. We had such nice Canadian neighbours, and some became lifelong friends. Our neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Duke told us that when they were married in the 1920s, south of 22nd Avenue it was all bush and Cambie Street was a gravel road up to Little Mountain, which many years later became Queen Elizabeth Park.

Our house was heated with sawdust. The whole basement was filled with sawdust, except for a small area with two laundry tubs and a wringer washer. When we needed more sawdust, a truck

would come and through a big pipe the sawdust was blown in to refill the basement. This made it very hard to control the furnace. So, when the house would get too hot, we had to open all the doors and windows. Eventually we converted to gas, which meant the basement could be made into two bedrooms, a bathroom and a rec room, where we could seat twenty people for dinner. Børge tore down the old garage and built a double garage, where in his spare time he repaired damaged cars and restored vintage cars. We added white stucco to the house, new windows and a big porch in the back with cement underneath, where our son, Erik, and his friends could play hockey. We had a treehouse in the backyard, when our daughter, Anne, was in grade one. On a school outing her class walked over to see the treehouse. One child at a time climbed up the ladder and looked in. Afterwards they were all served lemonade and cupcakes. In 1976, we sold that house for $60,000. The house is still standing, looking very nice. We bought a bigger house on West 28th Avenue, between Cambie and Oak Street. It was within easy walking distance to Eric Hamber High School on 33rd Avenue.



Børge, Solvejg, Tina, Erik and Anne, December 1969

We have three children, Tina born on September 8, 1960, Erik born on April 17, 1963, and Anne, born on June 2, 1967. Tina is married to Richard Pangrass and they have four children and one grandchild. She currently lives in Edmonton and has been in banking and leasing. Erik, who lives in Richmond, is married to Rebecca Rankin and they have four children and two grandchildren. Erik has his own grain export business. Anne is married to Daniel Wood and they have one child. They live in Toronto and Anne is a Director of Business Development.

The first time we took a trip to Denmark was on the famous first charter flight in 1965. We were one day late leaving Vancouver. When we returned home to Vancouver five weeks later, we waited two days for a plane to come for us in Copenhagen. But we were well looked after. In those days everyone wore their best clothes when going on a flight. Some ladies even wore hats and gloves.

I became involved with the Danish Community

Soon after we were married Børge and I became members of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver. In 1963 I was elected as secretary of the Church Board for four years, until 1967. Bernhard Johansen was president, Karl Kristensen treasurer. They both lived in Kitsilano. They drove by to pick me up for the Board meetings at the parsonage. They were both heavy smokers,

so I came home smelling of Danish cigars. I have been so fortunate over these many years, to have met and known so many interesting Danes. We've been lucky to have wonderful Pastors too. I guess because I've been around so long, successive Pastors (and others) would usually come to me to ask about different things that happened in our church. I was happy to share what I knew about people, past decisions and actions so that the Pastor and/or Board could make informed decisions.

I became a member of the Sunday School Auxiliary and later taught Sunday-School for some years. I also joined the New Ladies Evening Auxiliary, but that was not ideal as I sometimes had to work a night shift at 11:00 p.m. after our meeting. Then I joined Den Danske Kvindekreds with their meeting the first Thursday of the month, which was perfect because I worked Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I am still a member of this Auxiliary.

I was elected president of the Church Board in 1987, serving until 1991. That was the time when we worked hard to pay off the money owing on our brand-new church in Burnaby. The evening of the Annual General Meeting, when I was stepping down after four years as president, Flemming Sondergaard was there with his mother, Nina. Flemming initiated a thank you to me and a standing ovation for the work I had done as president. I was overwhelmed and grateful.



Solvejg Nielsen speaking in 1990 at the Danish Canadian Conference in Vancouver Sitting: Poul B. Christensen, Esther Machacynski and Martha Larsen

I was on Dania Society's Board for four years, from 1991 to 1995. I took over from Stinne Kvist the job of managing the Waiting List for both Dania Manor and Dania Lodge. I liked that job very much. When Carl Mortensen Manor was built and ready for tenants to move in, the president of Dania Society, Knud Elgaard, and I interviewed all the applicants. It was very special to help people get the apartments they liked.

I was elected to the Danish House Society's Board as vice-president in 2005. That year it was Danish House Society's turn to supply the president for the Scandinavian Centre for one year. I really felt it was a great challenge, but I managed, I think, quite well. That was also the time when I started to sell tickets for the dances and fund-raising evnts for the Danish House Society,

and for dinners at the Church. When event tickets were sold and prepaid, I could tell the cooks how many to expect and invariably it was a full house.

I have always enjoyed being a member of Danish House Society and to be able to help if needed. For quite a few years Birthe Auld and I took turns cleaning the Danish Room. I also appreciated having a place in the Danish Tent every year at the Midsummer Festival to promote the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta.

In 1987 I attended my first Federation of Danish Associations in Canada Conference. It was held in Kolding, Denmark. It was very special to display the Danish and Canadian flags on July 1st in our red jackets, marching down the main street in Kolding. I found it to be hugely inspiring to attend the yearly Danish Federation Conferences in different parts of Canada. It is a unique opportunity to meet other Danish Canadians and it is an exceptional experience to represent the Church and the Societies and Clubs from my part of the country. I have participated every year from 1987 to 2015. The Conferences in 2006 and again in 2015 were held in the Vancouver area, at the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster, with more than sixty delegates from across Canada. I have also attended most of the Seminars (Højskoleophold) held every year the week after the Conference.

From 1998 to 2002 I was again president of the Church Board for four years. I like the bylaws we have at our Church. You get elected for two years and can then be re-elected for two more years. After that you must step down from the Board. It provides renewal and offers other



December 12, 2009: Our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary

members of the church the opportunity to serve.With a group of 16 to 18 other volunteers Børge and I have for more than forty years helped with mailing out the Church Bulletin every month. It is now mailed out every second month.

We have a Flower List at the Church – Blomsterlisten – it goes from May to May the following year. This means we have fresh flowers at the altar every Sunday of the year. Anne Pagh used to make up this list but when she passed away, I happily took over the job. It is very special every Sunday, as a different person each week is responsible for the flowers. It is an honour to be on the Flower List.

On my mother's first stay with us in 1961, on 18th Avenue, she brought us a Guest Book. That book was used whenever we had special company. When any of our friends had family visiting from Denmark, they would be invited to visit us. When we were at Church on Sunday and there were visitors from out of town, Pastor Immanuel Rasmussen would often say, "I am sure Solvejg and Børge will invite you home for lunch." That is what happened when Rudy Jensen from the Danish magazine "Alt for Damerne" came to interview us in the spring of 1973. We were featured in the November 1973 issue, with pictures of our house, our children and us. I remember Rudy saying that when he got home he was going to stop smoking, so he could save up and come to Vancouver again.

Expo 86 changed Vancouver

When Vancouver hosted Expo our children had already left home, so we had room to have visitors staying with us. We were contacted by a Ukrainian Dance group in Kitchener-Waterloo. These girls had conducted fundraising to pay for their airfare but needed a place to stay. Their dance director knew somebody in Toronto who knew us – "maybe you can all stay with the Nielsen's on 28th Avenue" our friend said. Well, they phoned us and asked. So, I said "OK, there will be a bed for each of the adults." The dance director and two mothers were responsible for the fourteen girls. Each girl had to bring a sleeping bag and a towel. They all slept on the floor in the Rec Room. We provided breakfast every morning, but they were responsible for their other meals. On the Saturday I had to be at work at 7 a.m., but I had mixed a huge portion to make pancakes. So Børge baked all the pancakes for them. We had Season Passes for Expo and went several times to see the girls perform. They knew we were in the audience and they announced how grateful they were to be able to stay with a local family. We were asked to stand up for a great round of applause. They all wrote in our Guest Book and every one of the girls gave a big thank you for the delicious pancakes.

We also had people from Alberta staying visiting for Expo, family of our good friends in Seattle, Linda and Ernie. It seems the summer of Expo the weather was wonderful the whole time and even until the end of Expo in early October. The day of the closing, we took a bus to the site. There were masses of people visiting the different country pavilions for the last time. It ended with a closing ceremony and fireworks. We left the site walking home over the Cambie Street Bridge. It was a solid sea of people walking – no cars or buses could get through. After Expo, Vancouver changed. It was the end of a slower pace. Since then the building boom in Vancouver and in the Greater Vancouver area has continued.

Our house on 28th Avenue was in an excellent location. The "Komsammen" group from the Church had an outing to Queen Elizabeth Park. Afterwards they all came for coffee and tea at

our house; 26 people signed our Guest Book. Another year it was an outing to see Van Dusen Botanical Garden and again they all came for refreshments at our house. One time we had arranged a potluck supper. I remember it was a weekday and after we ate our supper, we all went to a movie theatre downtown where we had booked tickets for the Danish movie *Babette's Feast*.

On one occasion, Lene and Karsten from Denmark, and their baby Emilie, stayed in our downstairs for seven months while Karsten attended the University of British Columbia. There was a bath and shower. The large room was a nice living room with a double bed. The small room had a kitchen with a fridge and stove and of course they could use our rec room. They were so grateful, and we were happy to help them in this way. It was a lovely coincidence that their baby, Emilie, has the same name as my mother.

In 1996 we sold our house in Vancouver for well over half a million dollars. We moved to a big house on Sunbury Place in North Delta which was next door to Tina and her family. We were neighbours for five years after which they transferred for work to Edmonton, Alberta. They took their four children and the dog, but left their cat, Rascal, with us. We missed them very much, but then our cruise years started. Our first cruise was with our good friends Doris and Knud Nielsen along with their family from Denmark. It was "allertiders" great fun Caribbean cruise with one of the stops being the former Danish West Indies which were sold to the USA in 1917.

For many years, it had been our wish to live in the "Royal City" which is New Westminster, the first capital city of British Columbia. After our faithful cat, Rascal, died we moved to Quayside Drive where we had a gorgeous panoramic view from the 16th floor.

Sadly, my husband, Børge Nielsen, passed away at the age of 85 on April 15, 2018. He had worked as an autobody mechanic for thirty years, and this included many years at Wolfe Chevrolet in Vancouver. After retiring in 1990 he joined our son, Erik, at EBN Grainco, selling and exporting grain. Børge was President of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver Board from 1979 to 1983. He also served on the Board of Directors at Dania Home and was Vice-President for two terms.

In closing I want to say that I have enjoyed sitting on the Board of Directors of the Danish Canadian National Museum, which I did from 2002 to 2014. As well, I sat on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada (as President of the Pacific Region) from 2006 to 2016, taking over from Poul B. Christensen. In the Pacific Region we meet twice a year, either on Vancouver Island or in the Lower Mainland. I have chaired many of the Danish Federation's Annual General Meetings and sold many of the Danish Federation's annual Heritage Books. In short, being involved in all these Danish organizations truly enriched my life.

Editor's Note:

Solvejg has told her story in her usual matter-of-fact manner with no expectation of accolades or fanfare. I need to acknowledge the amazing and profound impact that Solvejg Nielsen has had on the Danish Community not just in Vancouver/Burnaby but across Canada. Along with many other volunteers, Solvejg's dedication has resulted in a vibrant and celebrated Danish culture here in Canada. There can be no doubt that the work she has done and the example she has set is a gift for future generations of Danish Canadians. Solvejg Nielsen passed away at Dania Home, Burnaby, on Sunday, June 7, 2020 at the age of 87 due to natural causes. The funeral service took place at the Danish Lutheran Church on June 13th.

Karin Schlaikjar

Karl Sorensen, Winnipeg

The more Karin talked about her life, the more fascinated I became. So I am delighted to tell her story. Karin was born in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, in August 1950, in an old house on Steen Blichers Vej. Her maiden name was Vedsegaard **(**which is short for *ved søen ligger garden*). Her parents' names were Børge and Esther Vedsegaard and their home was an old historic house. There was an undertakers business in the basement, which was owned and run by her father and his brother. The upper part of the house was a residence for seniors run by her mother and in the attic were rooms for two maids that helped her mother with the seniors. The house was close to the Copenhagen Zoo and often they could hear the roar of lions and sounds from other animals. After the war they moved to another street in Copenhagen, but Karin does not remember the name of the street.



The house where Karin was born



Karin, with Monty

Karin attended Lindevang School which is within walking or biking distance of Steen Blichers Vej. She learned to ride horse-back at the Christiansborg Riding School and would often go horseback riding down the streets of Copenhagen. Karin's father, who owned the funeral home, saved the lives of many Jewish people during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. In total they hid about 120 Jews in the house and her father and uncle would hide them in coffins and bring them to ships that would take them to safety in neutral Sweden.

Karin went to dental school to become a dental assistant. While studying she met a young man, Aage Schlaikjær. She was fifteen at the time and they were married in the Chapel at Frederiksborg Castle on December 13th when she was 20. Aage, who was born in August 1950, was from Esbjerg in Jutland.

Aage wanted to immigrate to Canada and a few weeks after their wedding, on January 1, 1971, they landed in Winnipeg. Aage was a trained chef and he was promised a job at the North Star Inn, but it was not finished yet. He then got a job at the University of Winnipeg as a Chef. After seven months in Canada, Karin got a job at the Winnipeg Inn. She also had two years of nursing from Denmark but worked for only six weeks at this job.



Karin, with her horses and dogs

They lived in an apartment and soon after they acquired a dog and a horse. The horse was kept in the small community of Stonewall, about 20 km north of Winnipeg. They got kicked out of the apartment because of the dog and then they moved into a fancy apartment on Wellington Crescent with no furniture in it. They had no money, but when they had saved enough they bought a nice leather sofa, which the dog chewed up. After living in the apartment for two years, they bought a small house in Charleswood. A friend from Denmark was coming for a visit and she phoned asking Karin to pick her up at the airport. They did not own a car so they went out and bought a brand new lime green Ford Mustang on the side of which Karin plastered a huge palomino horse decal (Aage was not amused) and now they could pick up their friend.

In 1974 they moved to a bigger house in Charleswood but not long after the move Karin and Aage split up and Karin bought a thirteen acre lot near the beautiful Birds Hill Park, just north of Winnipeg. Her love of nature and animals brings her pleasure. She has acquired four horses and five dogs. Every day she goes horse-back riding in the park and she participates in the Springfield Hunt, a fox hunt where the hounds chase a dragged artificial scent rather than a fox.



Karin and Richard

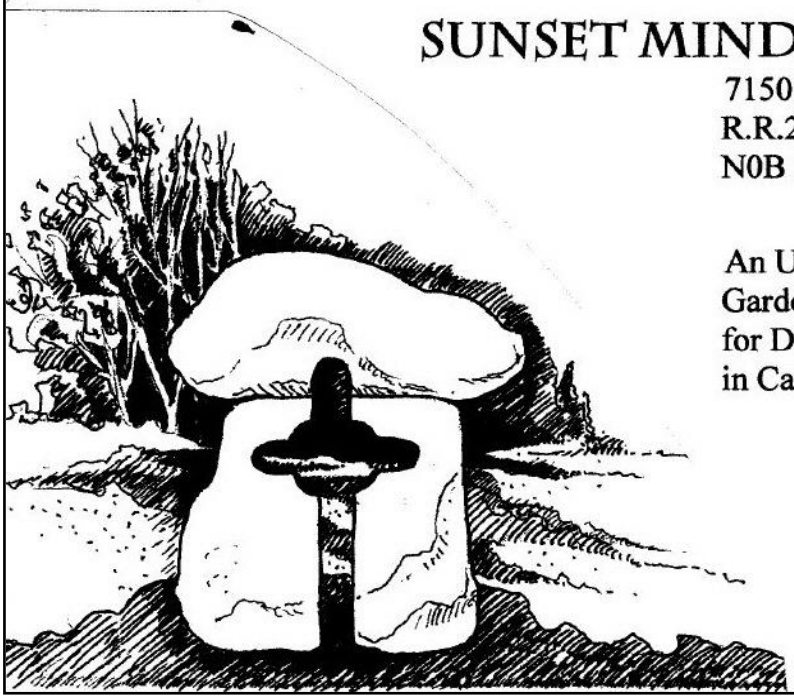
At a hunt ball she met Richard Hurst who was a landscape Architect and they share the same interests, the love of the outdoors. Richard worked for Manitoba Parks for 37 years until he retired. Later he worked on the Canada Trail for six years. They have a cottage on Hecla Island and love to go there as often as possible during the summer months. They

have a sailboat at Gimli as Richard loves to go boating on Lake Winnipeg, but Karin is not a boat person and says she feels seasick just thinking about sailing.

Karin is involved in many activities, cross country skiing in winter, horseback riding and running with the dogs and lots of volunteer work. One thing Karin loves is gardening, and they take pride in their beautiful garden and they enjoy driving the long distance to the Scandinavian Centre for Folklorama and do participate in some Danish events. Today Karin owns Baltic, a Swedish warm blood horse, Monty the mule (a YouTube sensation) and four dogs, so dog sledding is a big part of her winter activities. She has participated in jumping, polo playing, driving, foxhunting and dressage and she did two days of cattle driving in the Pembina Valley. With all these activities, she is way too busy to visit Denmark. She loves Canada and she and Richard enjoy their lifestyle in the beautiful park area, a lifestyle that would be envious to many people and we wish them many years of happiness in those beautiful surroundings.

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Due to Covid-19 The Danish Place Restaurant at Sunset Villa has been forced to close as of November 30, 2020. We wish to thank ***Kristine, Jacob and Joanne, Anna and Benny*** for their many years of service, hygge and delicious Danish cuisine in cozy surroundings.



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My Story – Lena Ørum Tsuji

Lena Ørum Tsuji

I was born June 7, 1951 at Hørsholmsgade 18B in Copenhagen to Ruth Edith Olsson and Robert William Mac Ørum. I don't know if it was my birth that spurred my father to try his fortune in Canada, but he left just after my christening late August, 1951. He left my mother to pack up or dispose of furniture, etc., while caring for me, my sister Nellie (born in 1942) and my brother Jack (born in 1946). Arrangements were somehow made for us to sail to Canada on the *Gripsholm*, leaving from Gothenburg, Sweden on March 27 and arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax on April 5, 1952.



We travelled by train to Edmonton, me sick with pneumonia, to find no one there to meet us. Unbeknownst to my mother, my father had fallen through a stairwell hole while working as a plumber and had broken his femur and was in a body cast, and unable to work or indeed move much at all. My mother knew very little English, but my sister was on the ball enough to suggest we get a taxi to the address on some letters we had received.

We stayed in one room in the Jensen's house while my father recuperated. This was not a very auspicious start to our life in Canada and I think if my mother had been able, she would have returned to Denmark and never come back. Even in her much later years, having out-lived my father by many years, and finally achieving a pretty good life, she would say she never really wanted to come to Canada in the first place.



Ruth Ørum with Jack, Nellie and baby Lena

We lived in two other places in Edmonton, while my father went up north to work. He had apprenticed as a welder (kleinsmit) in Denmark and knew how to weld aluminum which was quite new then and could work welding barges. He was gone many months and when he finally came back, he decided to go to Vancouver with some of the Danish fellows he had met up north. As he complained that he had no money to send, my mother found work as an office cleaner for a firm run by Paul Fisker, another Dane.

Again, my mother had the job of packing and finding a way to get to B.C. After many months, Mr. Fisker was going to make a trip to Victoria and offered to take us



*Mother and baby Lena on board the **Gripsholm***

along. He was so kind to us, renting a trailer for our things and driving three children and my mother to Vancouver. In those days, it was not a one-day drive. He deserves a medal in my opinion. We arrived in Vancouver in the summer of 1957, just before I was to start Grade 1. Although my Mother and I talked about all these times, I still wish I could tell her how brave I think she was to find a way to overcome the trials my father put her through. She was a great mother and I don't remember ever being hungry or in want of anything.

So I grew up in Vancouver, where my younger brother Jeff was born in 1962, until my parents built a house in Richmond in 1968. My sister by then was married with 2 children and as she also lived in Richmond, I babysat for her occasionally.



Christmas dinner with my father, sister and brother in Edmonton with Dad's gallon of Muscatel



Frozen long johns in cold Edmonton

Both in Edmonton and Vancouver/Richmond, my parents had many Danish friends, which made my life very hyggelig. We ate a lot of good Danish food and had wonderful family Christmases, even though it was just our little family. My mother left her parents and many siblings in Denmark that I did not meet until I was an adult, and I never did meet my grandparents on her side. My Farfar, though, did make the trip to Canada to visit us eventually.

After graduation, I worked at CP Air at the Vancouver Airport, where I met Ray Tsuji. After we married in 1972, we bought a house in North Delta and our children Robyn and Tim, were born and grew up in that same house until they finished University and moved away. Ray and I decided to find a quieter place to move to and decided to try the Island and Nanaimo became our home in 2002.



Father, Mother, Lena in Vancouver

We joined the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in 2011 and have enjoyed the dinner/dance events and the smaller Andespil Afternoons. I joined the Board in 2015 as Secretary and took on the job of Newsletter Editor in 2017.

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PS: Although my story makes my Father sound like he didn't want us, I do remember a lot of good times being with him. When he was with us, I think he really did love us. And once we were all in Vancouver, we were a family

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Salem Church of Pass Lake Celebrates 90th Anniversary

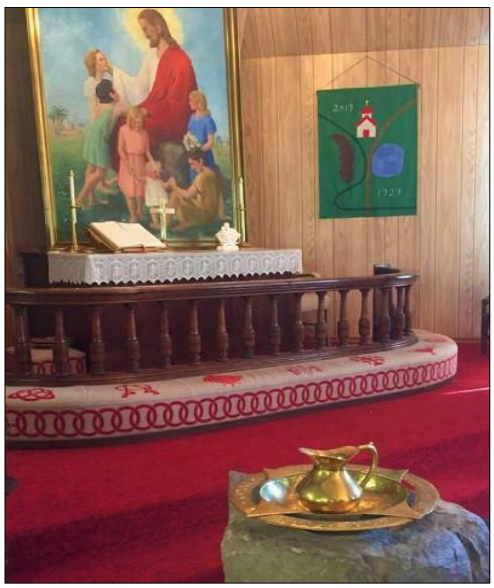
Wendy Sorensen and Debby Jensen,
Salem Lutheran Church, Pass Lake

On September 28, 2019, the Congregation of Salem Lutheran Church of Pass Lake celebrated its 90th Anniversary. The congregation had been established on October 20, 1929. Our Master of Ceremonies, Pastor Ed Long, led the evening celebration, which consisted of a meal followed by music, speeches and greetings from past and present clergy. The next day Pastor Arleen Leishman led a celebratory Sunday Service joined by special guests Pastor David Knudson, Pastor David Hunter, as well as Margaret Hundeby-Hunter, who read scriptures and shared their musical talents along with our seven regular talented musicians.



On this special Sunday Service, a 90th Anniversary Banner was dedicated. The Danish settlers came to Pass Lake by train. The railroad tracks are situated between the mountain and Pass Lake. From the train station they had to walk or be picked up by horse and buggy. Later, land was donated to build the church.

The Beginning of a Congregation



In the year 1924, the Provincial Government of Ontario opened 25 square miles of dense forest on Sibley Peninsula, on the north shore of Lake Superior, 20 miles east of Port Arthur. As an experiment, the land was offered as homesteads of 160 acres, for 50 cents per acre to Danish immigrants exclusively. Soon, many families occupied most of the available land. During the summer 1926, Pastor Vilhelm Beck, sent from the West Canada District of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church to investigate the possibility of a Mission at Pass Lake, held the first service at which it was decided to ask for someone to serve Pass Lake. The Danish Church in foreign Countries (DKU) was contacted to find a suitable man.

DKU recommended Missionary Kristian Ludvigsen, who arrived in Pass Lake with his wife in November 1927, and he took up homesteading like the other settlers. Pastor Ludvigsen held Sunday-School and Services every Sunday in the schoolhouse, and besides that, there were Young Peoples meetings in the different homes - all of which were conducted in Danish.



Pastor David Knudson, his wife Joan, Margaret Hundeby-Hunter and Pastor David Hunter



Bente Sorensen & Inge Grann Created the Banner on the wall With Pastor Arleen Leishman

In the fall of 1929 a small house, situated close to the railway station, was bought and used as a chapel. The congregation was established on October 20, 1929, and was called Salem Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Present at the founding were Pastor Jens Knudsen of Calgary, Alberta, who was President of the West Canada District of the UELC. The first Board of Trustees consisted of Peter Rasmussen Friberg, Holger Aegard, Carl Sorensen, Anders Dahl, Fred Mikkelsen and Missionary Kristian Ludvigsen.



Holger Aegard, Pastor Kristian Ludvigsen, Peter Rasmussen Friberg, and Fred Mikkelsen at the 40th Anniversary of Salem Lutheran Church

Salem means “peace”, though it may have seemed anything but peaceful in the early days of the church. Then in 1931 as the foundation of the church building was laid, a message was placed in a bottle and the bottle embedded in the foundation. The message had become a theme for the Danish Lutheran settlers during their struggle to get established in a new and rugged land. It read, ‘By the Grace of God, only”. Surely it is by God’s grace only that the church survives and thrives even while it struggles. Many changes have taken place in the ninety years, but the church continues, with a mission to care for all those who live in the community. This means our doors are always open to all.

Salem Lutheran Church, Pass Lake



PASS LAKE CHURCH – 1931

A Brief History of Salem

1929 Salem Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed
1932 New Church building was dedicated. A bell donated by CN Rail was dedicated
1937 Ladies Aid was formed
1939 Alter Painting of Jesus & The Children dedicated
1944 Services were changed from Danish to English
1945 Electricity came to the church
1953 Transferred to the Minnesota District from the West Canada District of the UELC
1954 Parsonage was dedicated
1969 Fortieth Anniversary celebration
1974 The sound system for the taped church bells from Denmark was dedicate
1978 Church addition dedication (Sunday School Hall)
1978 Altar Railing dedication (half million stitches)
1979 50th Anniversary
1987 Changed the name of church to Salem Lutheran Church of Pass Lake Church Incorporated
1989 Sixty Anniversary celebration
1992 First Fish Fry
1995 Salem Church Hall dedicated
1998 Pastor Ed's 25th year of Ordination Celebration
2002 Historical Plaque Stone Dedicated to the pioneers of Pass Lake
2005 Fence around the Graveyard - Knudsen Friberg Families
2017 Immanuel Lutheran Church Cross dedication

List of Pastors

- Pastor Vilhelm Beck – 1926, sent to investigate possibility of church in Pass Lake.
- Missionary Kristian Ludvigsen – arrived Nov. 1927,
- Pastor N. Damskov 1932-1934
- Pastor J.K. Jensen January 1934- July 1940
- Pastor C. Krogh from Wisconsin 1940-1944
- Pastor H.S. Madsen, September 1944-1951,
- 1951,1952,1953 no permanent pastor, church was served by: Pastor Carlsen, Pastor W. Hesselgrave, of Fort William and Pastor J. Dahle, Pastor L. Likness of Port Arthur
- 1953 Summer, Robert Nielsen, Theological Student worked here for 3 months
- July 1954 Pastor Robert Kloth
- Sept 1957 - 1961 Pastor Holger S. Nielsen
- Pastor McFarlane -1961-1962
- April 1962 Pastor Bruce Ayers – May 1964
- Pastor Eriksen 1964 served 3 months
- Pastor S. Bue August 1964 – February 1967
- Pastor H. Olsen 1967 supplied
- Pastor J. Noble supplied temporarily
- Pastor Lars Knudsen & Dorothy 1968- 1974
- Pastor James Noble 1974 -1976 part time
- September 1976 served by Pastor Leo Leiv
- Intern Ron Bjorgan, & Edna - 1st Intern June 1977
- Intern Richard Prankiv & Peggy 2nd Intern August 1978
- Intern Dale Olsen - 3rd Intern arrived May 1979
- Pastor David Knudson Ordained 1980
- Intern Marilyn Haugen – 4th Intern 1980-81
- Intern Barry Rassmussen –5th Intern 1981-82
- Intern Dennis & Wendy Becker – 6th intern1982-83
- Pastor Barry Rassmussen & Karen– 1983-1987
- Pastor Leo Glad – supplied 1987-Mar. 1988
- Pastor David Hunter & Margaret 1988—1993
- Pastor Glenn Widdis 1994
- Pastor Ed Long & Beth 1996
- Pastor Les Skonnard & Betty 1996
- Interim Pastor Jari Lahtinen & Lisa
- Interim Pastor Andrew Hinwood
- Pastor Arleen Berg & Howard 2002-2019
- Intern Jim Appleby & Angie - 7th Intern 2006
- Intern Kristen Steele - 8th Intern 2007-08
- Intern Dawn Myrfield - 9th Intern 2008-09
- Pastor Arleen Leishman & Tom 2015 -present
- Pastor Ed Long & Beth 1996 to present
- Pastor David Knudson & Joan 2012-2019

A living church is a growing church. Salem seeks to be a church which is growing and involving more people from the community. But growth is more than numerical. We also hope for growth within each person as we understand, more fully, God's grace toward us.

There will always be a church.

Sunset Villa turns 70

Lisa Olsen and Soren Sondergaard

On March 17, 1950, sixteen Danes met at 666 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, the home of Frederik and Emilie Nielsen. For many years the Nielsens had been trying to encourage Danes in Ontario to establish an old people's home, similar to the ones in Denmark. That evening a committee was elected comprised of Frederik Nielsen, Magnus Jensen and Aksel Suder to explore the possibilities of establishing such a home in Ontario.

On May 13, 1950, the Association was officially formed at Magnus Jensen's home at 461 Bedford Park Avenue, Toronto. The name Sunset Villa was chosen as a symbol for the peaceful rest one feels after a long and busy day. Elected to the first board were: Magnus Jensen (President), Frederik Nielsen (Vice-President), Aksel Suder (Treasurer), Eric Thure (Secretary), as well as Christian Jensen, Mrs. Karin Eriksen and Mrs. Emilie Nielsen. The President Magnus Jensen had come to Canada in 1921. He was born in Østrup, the son of a tenant farmer. He worked as a bricklayer and later became a contractor. As a very tall man, he had a formidable presence, and would lead the organization for the first nine years.



Fred Nielsen, Magnus Jensen and Eric Thure

On August 23, 1950, the Sunset Villa Association was incorporated in Ontario as a non-profit corporation with members without share capital. The letters patent stated that the purpose was "to procure and operate a home and living quarters for aged people of Danish descent or inter-marriage who wish to retire because of age or other reasons". Many years later the purpose of the Association was expanded to include culture and recreation.

At the end of the first year the membership totalled nineteen couples, who had paid $5 each, and seven single members, who had paid $3 each. They had held sixteen meetings, four social events and one bazaar. They also created active sewing circles. As a result of their fundraising, the bank account showed $1,219 (about $14,000 in today's dollars). They were off to a good start, but more members were needed. Consequently membership fees were reduced to $1.50 per person to achieve that goal.

There was indeed interest in the project and word of it started to spread within the Danish community. Chris and Lene Andersen of Hamilton, Ontario, who had come to Canada in the 1920s, proposed that a branch of the Sunset Villa Association be established in Hamilton with

the purpose of signing up members and raising funds to help establish a seniors' residence. Branches with their own councils (which today would be called Boards) were created, all reporting to the head council of the Association. Fundraising was carried on by organizing lotteries, picnics, bake sales and above all well-attended Christmas Bazaars. Dances were held at Columbus Hall in Toronto, in Hamilton as well as in Jordan, between Grimsby and St. Catharine's. The ongoing work of fundraising was interwoven with much pleasure and socializing. By May 1954, a total of $7,631.79 had been raised.



In 1954 Magnus Jensen and his board of directors discovered a large rural property in Puslinch, Ontario, halfway between Guelph and Hamilton, which had been owned by John Maclean of Maclean-Hunter Publishing, owner of *Maclean's Magazine*. The board thought the property would be ideal for a seniors' residence, but they did not have enough money to buy it. So there was a last minute push to raise more money, but in order to reach the required amount several of the founding board members had to sign on for the mortgage. It was also a matter of signing the sales contract before John Maclean's nephew, Andrew, received a better offer for the property he had inherited. Finally in October 1954 the contract was signed, and the Sunset Villa Association became the proud owner of the lovely Maclean property in Crieff.

The 52-acre parcel located in Crieff, in the Township of Puslinch, featured flat and pastoral land, a greenhouse, a large five-acre pond, wooded areas and orchards. Above all the sizable property contained the manse (præstegård) of the first minister in the area, The Reverend Andrew Maclean, an immigrant from Scotland. His first son, John Maclean, was born in the manse.



Main entrance to Sunset Villa

John grew up to be a newspaperman and was known as Colonel Maclean, as he had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Canadian Militia. John Maclean passed away in September 1950, and the manse and the surrounding 50 acres passed to his nephew Andrew.

The big beautiful white Manse looked just like a Danish Kro (Inn), which in those days could be found throughout Denmark. The property was listed for $50,000, but sold to Sunset Villa for $28,000 when the Macleans became aware of what the Danes wanted to use it for. The terms of the deal were: $9,000 cash and $1,000 paid every three months for 1.5 years. Sunset Villa would have to get a mortgage for the balance. All council members (and some others) offered to donate $100 to pay for the down payment, and a campaign was launched to pay off the mortgage.

Eager to get things going on the property, Chris and Lene Andersen of Hamilton volunteered to live there to manage it, which they did for about a year. Already on June 5, 1955, Sunset Villa was officially consecrated at the first Grundlovsdag (Constitution Day) celebration. This official task was carried out by His Excellency Ove Sehested, the Danish Ambassador to Canada who had come from Ottawa to help celebrate the grand occasion. It was a big success and the event was destined to repeat itself yearly, attracting up to 3,000 Danes at its peak. In recent years attendance at Constitution Day has numbered about 800. Sunset Villa is also proud of the fact that many of Denmark's ambassadors to Canada have over the years been Guest Speakers at Constitution Day, and thus added to the festivities where we commemorate Danish democracy and the Danish way of life.



Crown Princess, Margrethe of Denmark and Prince Henrik visit Sunset Villa in 1967; The Princess is accompanied by Sunset Villa President Knud V. Stokholm

Over the next two decades, Danish dinners, bake sales, lotteries, Christmas bazaars, eel parties, duck bingos, Høstfest dances and family picnics of every variety were undertaken. Fastelavn, Sankt Hans, Constitution Day and Saint Lucia were celebrated yearly.

The various events created a real community spirit with hundreds of Danes volunteering over the decades. Many of them dedicated a large part of their lives to Sunset Villa. Membership has typically ranged between 400 and 500, and stands at 527 as of Spring-2020. However, hundreds more Danes and their descendants visit and enjoy the property every year. Sunset Villa has become a true passion project, and none of it would have been possible if it wasn't for the thousands of hours of volunteer work by members. And that is still true today!

In September 1967, in connection with celebrations of Canada's Centennial, Sunset Villa welcomed twenty-seven year old Crown Princess Margrethe of Denmark (now Queen Margrethe II) and husband Prince Henrik. Three thousand people came to the property that September day,

including many dignitaries and the press. During her visit she symbolically planted two beech trees, which are now fully mature and stand proudly in the park. Unfortunately they are showing signs of suffering from a beech tree disease and their future is uncertain.



The 1973 wing, with six apartments

It was not until 1973, nearly twenty years after buying the property, that the dream of retirement apartments finally became a reality when a wing of six apartments was built and added to the historic Manse. Finally the mandate of Sunset Villa had been achieved.

During those fundraising years, the property took on another meaning and purpose for the Danes. They loved having this beautiful place to gather and be Danish together, and they brought their children along in large numbers. Every month a Danish Baker from Toronto would come, which was a huge draw for those desperate for rye bread, pastry, herring, and imported sweets! Many clubs within the club were formed: a gun range shooting club, The Royal Danish Guards' Association, a craft and sewing group and a weekly men's maintenance group - affectionately called the Geritol Gang. Many committees were also formed, for events, building development, planning and more. And social activities were offered: a playground, croquet, minigolf, folk dancing, darts and horseshoes. Dances, BBQ's and bonfires with lots of Carlsberg and Tuborg beer rounded it all out.

Because there was so much land, a section of the property became attractive for tent camping, which, as it turned out, was a very Canadian activity! In 1978, the Sunset Villa trailer park was created. Trailer sites were added in small numbers over many years (now numbering 57) and a committed group of Danish campers was established, many of whom became active volunteers on the Board and committees.



Sunset Mindepark, seen from the Memorial Wall

Garderstuen, the Guards Room, was added to the dinning room restaurant in 1979 when Herbert Rasmussen was President of Sunset Villa. It was built and officially inaugurated by the Royal Danish Guards' Association Eastern Canada, and they are represented there with various displays.

In connection with Constitution Day in 1981 Sunset Villa hosted the founding meeting of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. Later in 2013, a stone and plaque were unveiled at Sunset Villa, commemorating the founding meeting.

In the late 1980s some people in Toronto asked Pastor Emilie Esbjørn if it would be possible to establish a Memorial Garden for Danish immigrants and their families. Sunset Villa was

approached as a possible location, but initially turned it down. The idea arose again in 1989 and soon a Board and planning group consisting of Fredy Frey and Kirsten Skovsgaard from Sunset Villa, Pastor Esbjørn and Jens Skovhoj from Toronto, as well as Pastor Poul Sundgaard and Martha Larsen from the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby was established. They were strongly supported by Esther and Chris Pedersen of the Danish Congregation in Waterloo. Sunset Villa offered to donate 0.618 hectares of land for $ 1.00 for this purpose. Later 0.418 hectares were added for a total of 1.036 hectares. On December 6, 1990, Sunset Mindepark - Ontario was incorporated federally, as a Not-for-Profit Urn Cemetery, for persons of Danish ancestry.

The Cemetery was built by volunteer trades people, who for many years, between April and November, have met to built niche walls, plot beds, plant bushes, cut grass etc. The location with its own entry, overlooking the pond at Sunset Villa and with many stately trees, provides a beautiful final resting place with a current capacity of 1,422 urns, with 504 urns interned to date.

In 1989 four more retirement apartments were built, the leading force behind the project being Arne Zabell and Fredy Frey who served as presidents during the period of planning and building. All the while there were many qualified seniors on the waiting list for the six older units, so the Board decided to build the two houses with two apartments each, including basements which could be used as a board room in one building and in the other a room for the Geritol Gang who looked after the maintenance of the large property. Although unknown at the time, that was the end of the development of apartments at Sunset Villa.



*The two reside**nc**es built in 1989*

Presidents of Sunset Villa Association 1950 - 2020

1950-1959	Magnus Jensen
1959-1961	Richard Hansen
1961-1965	Gunnar Madsen
1965-1966	Jens Gundersen
1966-1968	Knud V. Stokholm
1968-1969	Richard Hansen
1969-1970	Victor Sprankel
1970-1971	Chris de Lacour
1971-1973	Simon Sorensen
1973-1974	Ellen Andersen
1974-1976	Chris de Lacour
1976-1978	Arne Jensen Zabell
1978-1979	Richard Mortensen
1979-1982	Herbert Rasmussen
1982-1985	Karl Poulsen
1985-1986	Erik Thomsen
1986-1987	Bent Hansen
1987-1988	Arne Jensen Zabell
1988-1990	Fredy V. Frey
1990-1994	Kirsten Skovsgaard
1994-1997	Gert M. Andersen
1997-1998	Soren Sondergaard
1998-2000	Kirsten Skovsgaard
2000-2002	Kirsten Skafte-Binney
2002-2003	Bill Crosbie
2003-2007	Linda Larsen
2007-2009	Johan Nielsen
2009-2010	Poul Erik Lange
2010-2011	Frans Lichtenberg
2011-2013	Rick Rowan
2013-2015	Karin Thorlund Larsen
2015-2016	John Hansen
2016-2017	Poul Erik Lange
2017-2018	Arlene Lange
2018-2020	Lisa Olsen

Another big part of the Sunset Villa story is the beloved Danish restaurant; after all, Danish culture is largely shared by the food our mothers made as immigrants, with traditional recipes from Denmark. Early on, the white Manse (now a Kro) was used for parties and the bedrooms were rented nightly, typically for Danes who enjoyed a good party and wanted to stay overnight.

Through the years, Sunset Villa experimented with being a 'restauranteur' by hiring operators to run the restaurant, cater parties, and then later operate a fully licensed restaurant, while sharing in the profits. People have always believed that there is good money to be made by selling food and liquor. That, however, never happened, and operating it, even at arm's

length, was a constant strain on finances for one reason or another. Finally, in the late 1990s, Sunset Villa allowed an operator to run it independently as a tenant, and the Board's role became that of Landlord.

Anna and Benny Beck were very successful with the Danish restaurant concept, operating it as of the year 2000, and rebranding it as The Danish Place. The only licensed Danish restaurant in Ontario! In 2018 they retired and their children (Kristine, Jacob and Joanne) bought the business, and executed a brave makeover from an old Kro into a modern Nordic space. This attracted many more young people, which Sunset Villa as a whole really needs. In 2019, it was the #1 restaurant in the region according to the Kitchener Waterloo Record. Riding the wave of their success, Sunset Villa has collaborated on events with them (the new wildly successful Nordic Christmas Market for instance) and gained nearly 100 more members.

Once lagging and with a declining membership, like so many other social, service and ethnic clubs, Sunset Villa has enjoyed a renaissance as a result, and the next chapters of Sunset Villa are yet to be written. It is our collective goal to keep the property active and going for the next generations. Happy 70th Birthday Sunset Villa!



Bethany Care Centre

Started by Danes as Lutheran Welfare Society

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The many Bethany Care facilities which exist today in Alberta were started by a small group of Danes in 1944. Their success was to a great extent due to one man who provided the necessary experience and leadership to launch such an enterprise, and then during his term saw a senior citizen residence established and paid for. This leader was Pastor Theodore Marcus Hansen of Sharon Lutheran Church in Calgary. Prior to serving at Sharon he had had an impressive career. He had been President of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC) Wisconsin District, and from 1925 to 1929 he had been President of Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, as well as of the Trinity Seminary, associated with the College. He was himself a graduate of Dana College, and had also studied theology at the universities of Minnesota, Copenhagen, and Tübingen.



Pastor Theodore Marcus Hansen - Sharon Lutheran Church, Calgary

Pastor Theodore Marcus Hansen had arrived at Sharon Lutheran Church in Calgary in 1942. Within two years he was elected President at the annual meeting of the UELC West Canada District. His strong leadership was felt right away, as at the 1944 District Convention in Edmonton it was proposed and passed that a Lutheran Welfare Society should be established to address the needs of the aged, as well as of orphans and the chronically ill. The Convention fully endorsed the motion and elected a committee to solicit all possible information from others engaged in this work. Pastor Hansen was asked to chair the committee, which also consisted of John Larsen and Chris Mikkelsen.

John Larsen was a devoted Christian who farmed in the Standard area. He was a quiet and soft-spoken gentleman who remained a bachelor all his life. Chris Mikkelsen, on the other hand, was a successful Calgary businessman who operated a profitable trucking company, and who would later become President of the Lutheran Welfare Society. Based in Lethbridge at the time, Chris Mikkelsen had in 1935 bought a Pontiac truck and started Chris Transport, hauling newspapers from Calgary to Lethbridge. The business grew and in 1940 he began to haul freight between Lethbridge and Regina. That same year he renamed his company Canadian Freightways.

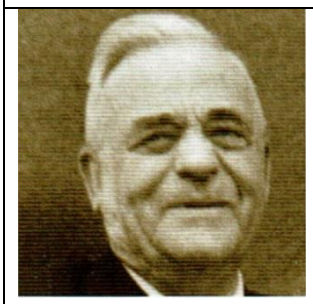
Within months two others joined Hansen, Larsen and Mikkelsen. They were Chris Morck, a stalwart member of the Bethany Church in Dickson, who was also known as the Rye King, in addition to Pastor Marius Jorgensen, the minister of Nazareth Lutheran Church in Standard.



John Larsen
Standard



Chris Mikkelsen
Calgary



Chris Morck
Dickson



Pastor Marius
Jorgensen, Standard

The committee had also been instructed to draw up bylaws for the operation of this new institution, which would serve the needs of those who could not, or could no longer, care for themselves. Several meetings were held during the course of 1944. Rather quickly, bylaws were drafted, discussed and approved. As the work on the bylaws progressed it became apparent that the help given should be provided regardless of nationality, creed or colour. The committee promptly realized that this could only be accomplished by forming a separate society, which would be the sole owner of all the property and assets, and which would be governed solely by the members of the society. At the final organizational meeting of the committee it was decided to name the new society the Lutheran Welfare Society in Alberta.

It was made clear to the United Evangelical Lutheran Church and its West Canada District that the Lutheran Welfare Society would not take instructions from the Synod, but would of course be Lutheran as the name indicated. The committee moved swiftly to have the new society incorporated, and it came into being on March 3, 1945. According to its articles of incorporation the Society was granted the right to operate a home or homes for the aged, infirmed and orphaned. The new Society could now officially begin its work, and make a dream come true.

Talk of establishing a Seniors Retirement Residence or Old Folks Home as it was called at the time had been discussed among Danes in the 1920s and 30s, above all in the Danish Lutheran congregations across Canada. The problem of finding accommodation for needy seniors became more acute during the Great Depression. At the time there was no support for these homes from the Dominion or provincial governments.

Over the years a number of Danish Lutheran congregations have tried to establish homes for seniors and were successful in raising money, but were not for various reasons able to get beyond that stage; Montreal and Toronto come to mind. Others such as Edmonton and Vancouver created respectively Ansgar Villa and Dania Home.

The Lutheran Welfare Society in Alberta was created by the Alberta Section of the West Canada District of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. In other words, the formation of the Lutheran Welfare Society was a joint effort among a number of congregations in Alberta, which strengthen the likelihood of success.

The participating congregations had all been founded or supported by the United Danish Evangelical Church in the United States. At a meeting of these Danish Lutheran congregations situated in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, held in Standard in August 1927, the West Canada District came into being, whereby they severed some of their ties to the mother Synod in the United States. The four founding congregations in Alberta were Bethany in Dickson, Nazareth in Standard, Immanuel in Kevisville and Sharon in Calgary. By 1944 the West Canada District also included St. Paul in Olds and Bethany in Tilley.

When we look at the makeup of the Lutheran Welfare Society we immediately notice that the committee was made up of people from the churches in Calgary, Standard and Dickson, the three largest and most active congregations. We might therefore conclude that the committee was destined to succeed. And they did.

Some might point out that there were also active Danish congregations in Edmonton and Dalum. That is true, but they did not belong to the UELC. The Ansgar congregation in Edmonton was supported by DKU, the Danish Church Abroad, while Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Dalum had been established by Dansk Folkesamfund, a Danish liberal Grundtvigian Society within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (no United in the title). For those who might not know, the UELC had its roots in a pious fundamentalist movement, known as the Inner Mission (*Indre Mission*) in Denmark. To make a long and complex story short, in Denmark the Grundtvigians and the Inner Mission, both popular revivalist movements, remained within the Danish *Folkekirke*, or state church, despite their differences, whereas in the United States they each formed their own Synod.

The first President of the Lutheran Welfare Society in Alberta was Pastor Theodore Marcus Hansen, a very capable leader, who also pushed to make the main language of his congregation English. His able Vice-President was John Larsen from Standard. Treasurer for many years was Calgary businessman T. Chris Mikkelsen. When finally in 1947 Pastor Theodore Marcus Hansen responded positively to a call from a congregation in Minnesota and left Calgary, Chris Morck of Dickson, another talented leader, was elected President of the Lutheran Welfare Society.

Going back to March 1945, when the Society was incorporated, we cannot be but impressed by the speed at which the Society set to work on finding a suitable property that could be used as a home for the aged. Fairly quickly the Society came upon and chose the Riley Estate at 1918 Eighth Avenue NW, Calgary, which included four-and-half acres of land, which meant there was ample room to expand. The price was $10,000. The Society thought that the house could easily be made into a seniors' retirement home and the price was reasonable. However, the Society had no money. At the various meetings people had been generous with their ideas and criticism, but would they now also be generous in donating funds to the proposed home? The answer is yes they were. The $10,000 was raised, primarily through generous donations, and the property was subsequently bought and paid for in full.

The steam-heated Riley House was a two storey red brick building with electricity and indoor plumbing. A large garden on the property could provide vegetables for the residents. After extensive renovations it was able to accommodate nineteen residents. The house was then renamed Bethany Home. Most of the Home's first residents were without property or capital of any kind. Elderly residents who received $35 a month in Old Age Pensions were allowed to keep $5 for spending and the rest went to the Home, which operated on about $300 a month.



The Riley Estate became the Bethany Home

Mr. and Mrs. Odin Larsen were hired as Manager and Matron of the Bethany Home. The Society's policy was that the home must be operated by a married couple as Manager and Matron. Further, the policy stated that the couple must be confessing Christians, and willing to spread the word of God. Moreover, the policy stipulated that the couple would be in full charge of the Home, hiring staff and purchasing whatever was needed. At the same time they were required to submit a complete income and expense sheet to the Society's Treasurer each month.

Mr. and Mrs. Odin Larsen were managers of Bethany Home for over two years. When they left Chris Morck went on a search and soon found Joseph and Esther Johnson who became managers of Bethany Home in May 1948. Joseph Johnson was just about to graduate from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose when he accepted the position of manager of Bethany. Little did he know that the position at Bethany Home required that he and his wife would work sixteen hours a day, being responsible for cooking, shopping, laundry, housekeeping, gardening, entertaining, as well as the administration of the Home.

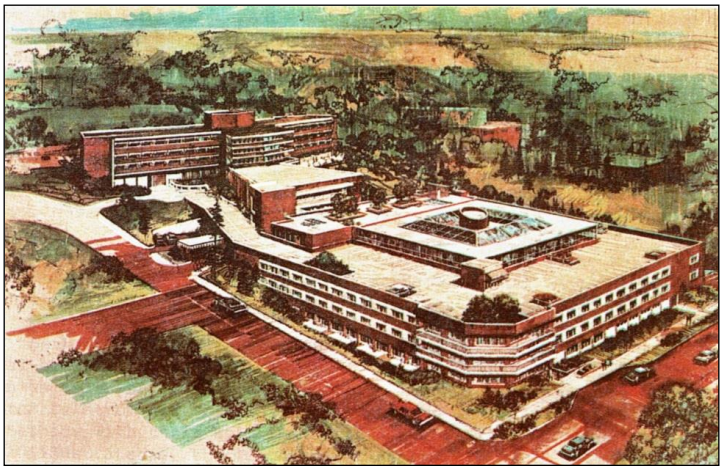
Bethany Home acquired an organ and some of the residents had brought musical instruments. For the most part it was either a violin or an accordion. The residents would then sing, often hymns or old, Danish songs. This was one way to socialize and foster friendships. Moreover, the manager provided daily devotions and led in saying the Lord's Prayer.

To ensure that the Bethany Home stayed operational the Sharon Congregation in Calgary naturally became involved in the running of the seniors' residence. Two parishioners who became heavily involved were Dr. Roy Rasmussen, who was born in Standard, and now worked in Calgary as a dentist. He served on the board of the Lutheran Welfare Society for over 27 years. The other was Gunnar Hansen Dresen, who was born in Denmark, and who in 1983 on the seventieth anniversary of the Sharon Congregation published a 38-page history of the Sharon Church. In addition, Gunnar Dresen, a dedicated servant of God, served as the Lutheran Welfare Society's secretary for many years.

In 1950 the Lutheran Welfare Society acquired yet another property when the Coal Miners' Union in Wayne, Alberta, offered a fully equipped hospital to the Society, on a property which also included a five-room bungalow and a shack. The hospital had been built in 1928, but was no longer in use because the coal mines in Wayne were closing. The miners made it a condition of their gift that the building should be operated as a home for people in need for a period of five years. The Lutheran Welfare Society agreed to the stipulation and took over clear title to the property, renovating it and turning it into a seniors' residence, spending about $4,000 in the process. It opened at the beginning of July 1950 under the name Bethel Home, with accommodation for twenty men and women, plus a staff of four and sometimes five. Mr. and Mrs. Ejner M. Olsen were hired as managers of Bethel Home. Unfortunately, the Lutheran Welfare Society only operated Bethel Home for about six years. In 1956 it finally became necessary to dispose of the property as major repairs to the building were required and the cost could simply not be justified.

While both the Bethany Home in Calgary and the Bethel Home in Wayne met the goals set by the Society, the founders had from the beginning intended to operate a hospital for the chronic ill. Whenever the health of one of the residents had deteriorated to the point where medical attention by professionals was required, it had been necessary to transfer them to a hospital, as the Home was not equipped to deal with chronic cases. Each time a resident left Bethany Home for the hospital, that resident would be leaving friends and a familiar environment, where generally they had found peace, happiness and security. For many of the residents it would have been preferable to have them stay in the same facility as the transition to life in new location was often problematic.

For a number of years, members of the Lutheran Welfare Society diligently explored ways to establish a hospital which could address these needs. By 1954 the Board thought that the Society would be able to build a hospital if it could qualify for provincial and federal grants, and not have to borrow more than 25% of the total cost.



Bethany Care Centre, Calgary, 1978

The Society asked the architectural firm J. A. Cawston Architects to draw up blueprints which could be submitted to the provincial and federal authorities for approval. After some changes, the final plan was approved in May 1955, and the Society could begin the construction of a hospital with R. Rasmussen of Calgary as General Contractor.

Building and operating a Chronic Hospital required amendments to the Society's Charter. The Bylaws were revised in January 1955, whereby the Society was granted the right to build and operate a hospital.

According to the Society's 2005 *Legacy of Caring* booklet the total cost of the new hospital was about $204,500, that is $165,000 for the building, $37,000 for equipment and furnishings and $3,500 for landscaping. The generous grants from the provincial and federal governments totalled $123,000. About $50,000 was loaned from members of the Society, while the Society itself had saved up about $20,000. The remaining $11,500 was raised by donations.

The new Bethany Chronic Hospital opened its doors within a year. It was beautifully situated with all the lounges and sundecks facing downtown Calgary, with the foothills and the mountains visible in the background. The opening ceremony was held Sunday afternoon, March 25, 1956. It was a grand affair which had been announced in a full-page ad in *The Calgary Herald* the day before. Already on April 1st the fully modern 41-bed hospital was able to admit its first patients. Joseph and Esther Johnson, the managers of Bethany Home were asked to manage the new Hospital facility. They did all the hiring and managing, as well as other work when necessary. This meant being the cook on the cook's day off, and doing the laundry or housekeeping when required. Officially Joseph was now the Director of the hospital and Esther was the Director of Nursing. They were soon joined by Esther Anderson who came in and set up the nursing station and looked after the purchasing of equipment.

By the end of 1956, the Johnsons needed a change and in 1957 they moved to Mirror Lake, nestled on the western shore of Kootenay Lake in British Columbia, where they bought and operated the Kootenay Lake Guest Home for seniors. Hired to be the new managers of the Hospital were Andrew and Dagny Dyrholm of Dickson, friends of Chris Morck, who for years had told the two of them about the Bethany Home in Calgary.



The Mikkelsen House, Calgary

Andreas Nielsen Dyrholm, known as either Andrew or Andy, farmed a quarter-section which had once belonged to Pastor J.C. Gundesen, the first minister in Dickson. As well, Dyrholm had for several years been the unofficial pastor of the Danish speaking people in Dickson. This came about when a new minister at Dickson and some members of the congregation felt the community should be speaking English, and not needing a Church Service in Danish. In this way Andy Dyrholm became the pastor for those who still desired a Service in Danish. Andy's wife, Dagny Gundesen Dyrholm, was principal of a semi-rural four-room school west of Dickson. Together Andy and Dagny were managers of the Chronic Hospital from 1957 to 1971. During that time they oversaw two major expansions of the Hospital.

The Bethany Chronic Hospital was always filled to capacity and constantly had a waiting list. So again there was a need to expand. A new facility would cost about half a million dollars and the challenges were how to raise this amount of money as well as how to pay for the day to day ongoing operation. At the time of the 1956 addition the Society had to charge patients for the full cost of running the hospital.

Around this time the Alberta government announced its new policy of supporting the building and operation of chronic hospitals. This policy meant that the government would subsidize the cost of operating the hospital and patients would only have to be charged $1.50 per day to stay in the hospital.

The Society went ahead with construction and in September 1961 it could open a new 59-bed wing of Bethany Chronic Hospital. With the new expanded hospital facility, the old Bethany Home on the hill was overshadowed by the new development. As well, the old Bethany Home was in need of upgrading. For example, most of the rooms were on the second floor and there was no elevator. The Society realized that the days of the old home were numbered.

As plans progressed it became clear that the best way forward was to tear down the old Bethany Home and build a new 200-bed Bethany Auxiliary Hospital Extension. It was built on the top of the hill at a cost of about $1.6 million. It was dedicated on December 7, 1969. Between the new and existing facilities, a total of 300 beds, the Lutheran Welfare Society now operated the largest Auxiliary Hospital in Alberta. Present at the official opening of the new Auxiliary Hospital were both Alberta Premier Harry Strom and Calgary Mayor Rod Sykes.

After the auxiliary hospital was built the focus of the Society again turned to building a seniors' residence and a nursing home. Plans were made and approved and already in March 1974 a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the building of a lodge for seniors with room for 50 residents, and a nursing home which could accommodate 150. With the Society now operating a seniors' residence, a nursing home and a hospital, the Lutheran Welfare Society became the first in Alberta to provide support for senior citizens at all three stages of care. In other words, the Society had reached its goal, and more, within thirty years.

Early in 1975, in keeping with its expanding mission, the name of the Bethany facilities was changed to Bethany Care Centre. Bethany was also the name used for the new homes opened in the 1980s in South Calgary, Airdrie and Cochrane.

To further align the name and operation of the organization, in 1992 the Lutheran Welfare Society in Alberta became the Bethany Care Society. In addition, the 1992 Bylaw changes allowed one-third of the Board of Directors to be from Christian denominations other than Lutheran. The Society's Mission Statement was revised, and the Board and corporate services were centralized. Elections to the new Board in 1992 resulted in Glenn Schultz being elected Chair of the Bethany Care Society Board, while David Gariepy was hired as Chief Financial Officer and Cathryn Brett as Director of Human Resources.

In 2011, construction began on the Mikkelsen House at Riverview in Calgary. The Mikkelsen House consists of 139 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites that feature high ceilings and large windows with panoramic views of the city and mountains. It was one of many Bethany properties. In the following years the Bethany Care Society kept expanding, with homes in Red

Deer, Sylvan Lake, High River and Didsbury. It is impressive what Bethany has accomplished and so quickly. The Society got off on the right foot and never looked back. In short the founders had a vision, as well as the resolve and skills to manage a major undertaking for the benefit of those who needed to downsize or who truly required care and medical attention.

The author of this article conducted interviews with Rod Dyrholm and Ted Mikkelsen, who also provided written material. In addition, the following sources were consulted:

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Danske kirker i udlandet er stærke danske kulturbærere

Af Simon Kangas Larsen, præst ved den Danske kirke i Toronto

Når danskere mødes i Toronto, skal der spises smørrebrød. Sommer og vinter, til grundlovsdag og jul og når de to årlige basarer trækker fulde hus. Der bliver også spist æbleskiver året rundt, drukket kaffe og ved særlige lejligheder nydes dansk kransekage. Det er ikke uden grund, at hygge og tygge rimer på hinanden!



Når vi samles i Den danske kirke i Toronto, er der næsten altid noget at spise. Både fordi mange kører langt for at nå frem, og fordi fællesskabet om måltidet er kulturbærer.

Det samme kan man sige om kirken. Kirken i Toronto er en af de stærkeste bærere og vedligeholder af dansk kultur i Canadas største by – langt væk fra Danmarks yndige land. Det at mennesker med danske rødder kan mødes, fordi de har Danmark til fælles, har en stor værdi for dem – og har en stor værdi for vores land som sådan.

Det er en af de væsentligste erkendelser jeg har haft, efter at have været præst ved den danske kirke i Toronto i præcist et år. At være præst i udlandet handler om at skabe kirke med sin menighed, men samtidigt – i måske lige så høj grad – at skabe rammer om dansk kultur.

I den nordlige del af Toronto, på Finch Avenue, tæt ved verdens længste hovedgade, Young street, og en travl Subway station ligger den danske kirke. Det har den gjort siden 1966. Her står danske salmebøger, danske bibler og højskolesangbogen på reolerne, og de bliver brugt uge efter uge. Bøgerne står side om side med salmebøger på engelsk (med både engelske salmer og danske salmer på engelsk) og bibelen på engelsk. I kirken pryder Dannebrog væggen sammen med det rød-hvide canadadiske flag, og på bordene i salen pyntes der også med begge landes flag. Kirken i Toronto er nemlig en dansk kirke med rødderne forankret i den canadisk muld.

Som kirke her i Toronto er vi en del af det canadiske samfund. Danmark og danske værdier er bredt anerkendt i Canada, og når jeg fortæller, jeg er præst i den danske kirke, oplever jeg stor nysgerrighed på vores land. Det er blevet tydeligt for mig, at jeg, sammen med de mange andre danskere i byen, er levende ambassadører for dansk kultur og værdier i en canadisk sammenhæng. Mange beundrer vores lille land og den måde, vores samfund er skruet sammen.

Derfor er en af de afgørende opgaver for mig som præst og os som en del af de danske kirker i udlandet at være bærer af dansk kultur; og både de sociale og kulturelle aktiviteter mellem søndagens gudstjenester er afgørende.

Det talte jeg for nylig med en dansker om, der har boet i Canada i en længere årrække, og som jeg faldt i snak med. Han var ret skeptisk på det folkekirkelige, men i løbet af vores samtale gik det op for ham, hvor meget mere kirken i Toronto er end bare kirke.

Det er tydeligt i kirkebladet, som vi bladrede i sammen, og hvor 12 af de 16 sider beskriver de kulturelle og sociale aktiviteter, der foregår i kirken: Den ugentlige café om tirsdagen, fredagens folkedans, danske film, opera-frokoster, netværksaftner for ny-tilflyttere. danskundervisning eller spilleaftner for familier – blot at nævne nogle. Det er alt sammen på forskellig vis aktiviteter, der er kulturbærer i det danske fællesskab, hvor kirkens lokaler danner rammen.

Manden fik en aha oplevelse, og jeg blev mindet om, hvor vigtig en opgave vi har i at kommunikere klart og tydeligt, hvad vi laver.



I Toronto lever dansk og engelsk side om side, selvom engelsk fylder meget. Al kommunikation er på engelsk (kirkeblad, hjemmeside, Facebook og fællesbeskeder i kirken) og det samme er hver anden gudstjeneste. Årsagen er den enkle, at danskerne er gode til at integrere sig i det canadiske samfund. De har giftet sig med ikke-dansk talende, og ofte kan 2. og 3. generation derfor ikke dansk.

Det får dog ikke det danske til at stå svagere – tværtimod. Når man kommer til gudstjeneste eller arrangementer, er det netop for at møde den danske kultur, selv når det foregår på engelsk.

Mange af de danskere, der immigrerede fra Danmark til Canada i 1950'erne og 60'erne, lever stadig og kan fortælle om vanskelige år, og hvordan kirken i begyndelsen var deres samlingspunkt og en helle i vanskelige tider.

I dag rejser danskere ud af andre grunde. De rejser som expats med danske virksomheder, på grund af forskning eller måske ansættelse i internationale organisationer. Eller fordi kærligheden trækker.

Når jeg møder de danskere, er jeg nysgerrig på, om de som expats mon kan bruge en dansk kirke? De har jo ikke de samme udfordringer, som immigranterne havde for 60 år siden, og når man rejser ud i dag, er det jo for at møde verden – ikke for at møde andre danskere.

Men det samstemmende svar jeg får er, at ”Jo, en dansk kirke er stadig relevant”.

Det er den af den væsentlige grund, at i kirken er man på hjemmebane, og på hjemmebanen kan man få gode råd, netværk og kultur – samt smørrebrød og æbleskiver.

”Man er på en eller anden måde foran på point, når man kommer i kirken”, som én formulerer det.

En anden grund er, at kirken er kulturbærer for nogle af de danske traditioner, som man giver afkald på, når man rejser ud. Derfor er fastelavn, Skt. Hans, Lucia og jul særligt vigtige højtider i kirken, ligesom fejring af dronningens fødselsdag i april, og muligheden for at kunne købe danske importvarer til basaren bliver vigtigt.

Også på et højere plan spiller kirken en rolle som dansk kulturbærer, nemlig i samspil med danske organisationer, virksomheder og netværk, der er i Toronto, samt Den danske ambassade og konsulatet. Som præst forsøger jeg at række ud og give kulturen en dansk stemme i de sammenhænge.

Økonomien til at drive kirke og sikre aktiviteter, bygninger og min løn kommer udelukkende fra indsamlede midler. Som migrantkirke er den danske kirke i Toronto i dag 100 % selvfinansieret uden nogen form for økonomisk støtte fra Folkekirken, Danske Sømands- og Udenlandskirker eller den danske stat. Det er en kæmpe opgave, som menigheden her tager på sig ved at opretholde og drive kirken og de mange vigtige kulturelle aktiviteter. Den samme udfordring har de andre danske udenlandskirker rundt i verden.

Der er ingen tvivl om, at kerneopgaven for kirken og for mig som præst er at holde gudstjeneste, begravelser og varetage de øvrige kirkelige handlinger. At der bliver bedt fadervor på dansk og sunget danske salmer på dansk og engelsk her i Toronto er for mig at se meget meningsfyldt, ligesom jeg ved, at der mange andre steder på kloden bliver holdt gudstjeneste på dansk i løbet af et søndagsdøgn.

Men kirkens arbejde og præstearbejdet er meget mere end det. Det vidste jeg godt inden jeg tog afsted, og alligevel er det først efter at jeg er landet, at det går op for mig, hvor stor og afgørende en rolle kirkerne i verden påtager sig som bærer af danske traditioner og kultur for danskere og dansksindede rundt i verden.

Danmark og dansk kultur har nemlig rigtigt meget at byde ind med i hele verden, og efter mit første år som dansk præst i Toronto er det blevet meget tydeligt for mig, at de 26 dansker kirker, der ligger spredt over det meste af kloden, er oplagte platforme at bruge i det arbejde – og det, meget gerne med højere grad af støtte ’hjemme’ fra Danmark end det sker i dag. For kirkerne ude i verden kan nemlig meget mere end deres fadervor på dansk og servere dansk smørrebrød.

Artiklen har været bragt som kronik i Kristeligt Dagblad, den 2. marts 2020.

Report for the: 2020 Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

The Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

Subsequent to a presentation by Otto Christensen to the 2017 Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada (Red Deer and Dickson, Alberta), and the enthusiastic discussions at and following that Conference, at its meeting on September 12, 2017 the Federation Board established the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee. The Board motion stated:

> *In view of the upcoming 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's voyage, the mandate of the Committee is to initiate and carry out the commemoration of the arctic expedition to find the Northwest Passage by Danish explorer Jens Munk in 1619-1620.*

The Steering Committee submitted a report to the 2018 Federation Conference (Halifax) and to the 2019 Federation Conference (Winnipeg), also published in those respective years' *Heritage Book.* Since that 2019 report the Committee has proceeded with a number of further and continuing initiatives. The purpose of this current report is to provide an update on the Committee's work and its results since that report a year ago.

The Steering Committee has been very active, seized by the objective as stated in the Board's motion and by the enthusiasm for the project both among members of the Committee and among others. It has been extremely exciting. As Chair of the Steering Committee I am pleased to be a part of that – and to provide this third report to the Federation.

While the Committee and its individual members have been in the forefront of most of the initiatives and activities, there are others – both individuals and organizations – who have contributed significantly, both to the initiatives listed and in their own local initiatives.

Following this is an Appendix which contains detailed information on the work of the Committee and others. The information repeats some of what you may have read in the two previous reports to the Federation's Conference. How, some of what was previously listed is now completed.

Appendix

Details of Initiatives Undertaken by the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

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Initiatives Completed:

- Production of posters, banners and other display material for use at Federation conferences and made available to local organizations across Canada.
- The Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta featured the Jens Munk Expedition as its 2019 summer season theme.
- Submission of a formal application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for the designation of Jens Munk as a National Historic Person.
- Submission of a formal application to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for the addition of the Jens Munk Expedition's "overwintering site" to the existing Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site.
    - On the advice of staff supporting the Board, those two applications were changed to one application, for designation of the Wintering of the Jens Munk Expedition as a National Historic Event. The Steering Committee has been advised that the application has been supported by the staff committee advising the Board, and was submitted to the Board. At the time of writing of this report, the status of the application before the Board is not known.
- Submission of a formal application to Canada Post for Canada Post to issue a stamp commemorating the 1619-1620 Jens Munk Expedition.
    - The Federation has now been advised that this application was not among those submitted to the Canada Post Board for approval, and therefore there will be no commemorative stamp.
- Re-publication of the Royal Ontario Museum's 1980 publication *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*.
    - Negotiated and received a substantial money grant from the Royal Danish Embassy to Canada, in support of the re-publication of *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620,* and in support of materials for registrants for the 2019 Federation Conference.
    - Solicited and received a private donation in support of the re-publication of *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620.*
    - These were provided in the registration packages for all registrants at the 2019 Federation conference.
    - Complimentary copies were provided to individuals, organizations (including academic institutions, libraries and archives) across Canada.
    - The book was offered for sale, and some Federation member clubs received copies to sell in their local areas.
- Promotion through FaceBook:
    - Creation of a Jens Munk 400th Anniversary FaceBook site, created by the Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg.

  - Creation of a Jens Munk Expedition page on the Danish Canadian Museum's website: https://thedanishcanadianmuseum.com/jens-munk-expedition/
- Connected with Gunnar Kristensen's group in Denmark and further with the contacts they have established, through connections made in Denmark by Helle Wilson on a trip to Denmark, and through Carl Sorensen's connections to Danes Worldwide and the previous Danish Canadian Friendship Society, supporting Danes in working towards a 400th Anniversary "jubilæum".
- Connected with officials of the Government of Manitoba to explore and develop their interest in the Jens Munk Expedition 400th Anniversary Commemoration.
- Winnipeg area Committee members (Helle Wilson, Karl Sorensen, Otto Christensen) together with Susan Person of the Winnipeg Danish Canadian Club, augmented as useful by phone communication and emails including Carl Sorensen, Ed Kuhlman and Rolf B. Christensen, have continued in an important rôle in initiating and coordinating ideas and making connections.
- Ongoing writing and contribution of various "Jens Munk" articles for newsletters, bulletins, etc., including:
  - articles for *Church and Life* (the publication of the Danish Interest Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America),
  - a wonderful article (focused on Rasmus Jensen) in the December, 2019 issue of *The Canada Lutheran*, the official publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
  - Connected with the digital editor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's publication *Canadian Geographic* and website for the inclusion of material respecting the Expedition.
  - Connected with the publisher of the private *Scandinavian Press* (Seattle) and through him with freelance writer John Bechtel for the production of an issue almost exclusively devoted to the Jens Munk Expedition.
  - *Scandinavian Press* subsequently provided good coverage and advertising (free) of the upcoming Winnipeg-Churchill tour
- Researching Jens Munk descendants in Canada.
- Supporting the Winnipeg Danish Canadian Club to highlight the Jens Munk Expedition and Commemoration at the 2019 Federation conference (Winnipeg):
  - an article about the Jens Munk commemoration in the Winnipeg Historical Society's magazine *Manitoba History*
  - Travel Manitoba Jens Munk exhibit at the Forks, Winnipeg (grand opening May 25th)
  - Jens Munk display at the Millennium Library, Winnipeg, including power point presentation at the Library
  - creation of Jens Munk t-shirts and tote bags for all Conference registrants
  - purchase of Jens Munk Rose (garden flower) for planting in various prominent spots in Winnipeg; publicizing the rose's availability and encouraging others across Canada to purchase and plant it
  - an article by a garden specialist about the Jens Munk Rose and about the Jens Munk commemoration in the *Winnipeg Free Press*
  - Negotiated with a Winnipeg micro-brewery for a "Jens Munk beer".

- Connected with a freelance journalist and a film-maker in Denmark, Ole Japp; both having a strong personal interest in the Jens Munk story; the film-maker had recently created an action movie based on the Expedition (*NordvestXpeditionen*).
    - Committee member Helle Wilson produced English-language "dubbing" to insert in the movie.
    - Screening of *NordvestXpeditionen* at the Gimli Film Festival and at various other venues across Canada – most particularly various club members of the Federation.
    - The movie is available at: https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thenorthwestxpedition for downloading and rent for $8.06 or for purchase for $26.87.
- Various members of the Steering Committee gave Jens Munk presentations at various venues across Canada, principally to events at various club members of the Federation. This included a presentation to the annual Speaker's Event of the Scandinavian Studies Association affiliated with the University of Alberta.
- Co-operating with Parks Canada and the Churchill community to re-install the provincial commemorative plaque erected as a Centennial project in 1967.
- Working with Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage to erect a new plaque to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Expedition.
- Encouraged, supported and participated in of a variety of important activities across Canada, such as:
    - presentation on Jens Munk at the Federation's Danish Heritage Seminar in Winnipeg following the 2019 Conference
    - local Federation member organizations developing their own commemoration-related activities;
    - supporting the Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, Alberta, in developing appropriate displays and activities related to the Jens Munk Expedition;
    - etc.
- Connecting with interested officials, persons and museum at Churchill, Manitoba.
- We (Otto Christensen) organized, in partnership with the Manitoba Historical Society, a "group tour" ("field trip") from Winnipeg to Churchill, Manitoba in July, 2020. This is provided by the tour company Frontiers North. Details are available at:



Jens Munk-Final.pdf

Initiatives in Denmark:

- Gunnar Kristensen has gathered together and is coordinating a group of people in Denmark who have an interest in publicizing and promoting the "jubilæum" in Denmark.
- Sven Erik Jensen and a group, separate from Kristensen's group, are working on possibilities.

- Working with the council of Holmen's Kirke, Copenhagen, for the installation of a memorial plaque on the church. It is the church, from which the Jens Munk Expedition set out after a worship service in May, 1619.
    - This is a well-known and historic Copenhagen church, across the canal from Christiansborg Palace which is the home of the Danish parliament. The church itself celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2019.
    - This may not be possible due to the cost estimated by the church council.
- Events in some schools and by various lecturers to highlight the anniversary of the 1619-1620 Expedition.
- Danish TV and radio featured various broadcasts during the year.
- Possibly a new book about Jens Munk authored by an associate of the Danish National Museum.
- Working towards restoration and greater prominence of the Jens Munk Memorial Cairn in the Strandegård's Dyrehave, south of Fakse Ladeplads, south of Copenhagen. Improved highway signage, possibly production of brochures and articles drawing attention to the Cairn.
- The movie *NordvestXpedition* has been shown at various venues in Denmark, such as libraries.

Further Possible Initiatives:

- Connecting with the publication *Canada's History* for publication of articles.
- Connecting with various individuals who have previously been involved in researching the "overwintering site", with the view towards pursuing further archaeological excavation and research of the site.
- Connected with a University of British Columbia emeritus professor of history and archaeology who has done research on the Jens Munk Expedition "site" at Churchill, Manitoba, and is supportive of further archaeological research at Churchill.
- Connected with the co-director of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's explorations program, for the Society's interest in and possible support of further archaeological research.
- Consideration of how to include First Nations people in Canada in celebrating and commemorating based in part on references in Jens Munk's diary to the Expedition's contacts with indigenous people in the Churchill area, and in recognizing the Expedition as an early example of European "colonization" attempts.

The foregoing list is lengthy, but members of the Danish-background community in Canada will be interested to read about, and be inspired by all these activities. It is also likely that some activities and items which could have been included have been inadvertently overlooked or omitted!

Members of the Federation's member organizations are encouraged to participate in and support the Jens Munk Expedition Commemoration, both locally and in connection with any interest in initiatives underway as described above.

Readers note: the Federation Board's September 12, 2017 motion includes:

> ***The Danish Federation shall endeavour to promote the initiatives and events of the Committee, also through its Member Organizations.***

Respectfully submitted:
Carl Sorensen
Chair, Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada
March, 2020

THE ONTARIO REGION
of
THE FEDERATION OF DANISH
ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



The Danish Club of Ottawa
Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
Danish Women's Cultural Association
Sunset Villa Association
Sunset Mindepark
Pass Lake Historical Society

PRESIDENT:
Eva Terp
Tel: 416 493 1594; Email: terpeva@bell.net



MUSEUM UPDATE

When I look back to 2019, it seems like a very long time ago, and just so very normal.

We opened the museum in early May in time for Mother's day, which we celebrated with a pig roast and the restaurant was filled to capacity. The next event was Canada Day where we again had full house.

In the middle of July we have our annual Æbleskiver and Jam session; all you can eat with prize, for most consumed Æbleskiver, I think the record stands at one eating 36.

Then we skip to the middle of August to our premier event of the year, Viking Days. It is a 2 day event with the Vikings camped on the lawn, becoming a sort of village where people can see how jewellery and weapons are made. We had 1000 visitors during the two day event, the most ever.

The last event is the Haunted Forest which is done in conjunction with Halloween. This event is very popular with children. They walk through our forest where they encounter various things both static and live intended to be scary.

The museum is open 7 days a week with a variety of food on the menu, the most popular being the open faced sandwiches, smørrebrød.

We do a monthly bingo in Red Deer, all done with volunteers, to support the running of the museum.

During the 2019 season we had almost 10,000 visitors to the museum, so all in all a very good year. So we were really excited about the 2020 season, with some changes, like trying 4 major events, in order to reduce the amount of volunteers but the virus overtook any change and of course we could not open.

We are constructing a fence made of stone pillars and steel pickets along the county road, which should be finished this fall.

With the pandemic we have had to put some projects on hold, but did do some housekeeping, updated our membership list, and launched a new website: the Danish Canadian Museum.

I would like to thank all our volunteers and supporters, you make it all possible and we hope to see you all sometime in the future, perhaps as early as 2021.

Svend E. Nielsen
President

Progress of New Fence Construction So Far









2021 Event Schedule

May 1st Summer season starts

July 3rd Aebleskiver N Jam Day

Aug 21st & 22nd Viking Days

Aug 21st Viking Feast

Oct 23rd & 24th Hans Christian Andersens Haunted Forest

Nov 6th Julestue Spruce View Hall

Our Mission is to: "Inspire, engage & educate about Danish Canadians."

2019 Conference in Winnipeg

Commemorates Jens Munk's Expedition

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Group Photo of Winnipeg Danish Canadian Conference delegates

The 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's expedition to find the Northwest Passage was commemorated at the Danish Canadian Conference in Winnipeg, which was held from May 23 to 26th at the Hotel Fort Garry. Conference delegates received a copy of the book "*The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*" (in English) as well as a Danish Federation Heritage Book which contained articles about Jens Munk, including two biographical sketches and a report of the activities of the Jens Munk Committee. The delegates also received a Jens Munk T-shirt and a Jens Munk Conference Bag. In addition, Carl Sorensen of Edmonton, Chair of the Jens Munk Committee, and Otto Christensen of Gimli made captivating presentations.

The Danish Ambassador to Canada, Thomas Winkler, made a thought-provoking PowerPoint presentation about the Arctic and he cut the red ribbon to open the Jens Munk Exhibition at the

Travel Manitoba Office at The Forks. Winnipeg's new and refurbished Millennium Library also accommodated a Jens Munk lecture as well as a large Jens Munk display in the library foyer.

The Conference was hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba. The Conference organizing committee consisted of Club President Susan Person, Danish Federation Regional President Karl Sorensen, Danish Honorary Consul Helle Wilson, Conference Registrar Barb Nault and Jens Munk Committee Member Otto Christensen of Gimli. In connection with the Conference both the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson held their Annual General Meetings.

The theme of the Conference was The Arctic: Past, Present and Future. The Friday luncheon speaker was Fred Ford, President of the Manitoba Inuit Association, who spoke about the new Inuit Art Centre at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. At the Saturday dinner and dance, a very interesting presentation on the various studies being carried out in the Artic was given by Prof. David Barber, Associate Dean, at University of Manitoba. On the Sunday morning, the delegates were taken on a tour of the "Journey to Churchill" at the Assiniboine Zoo, which featured a number of animals found in the Artic. The participants were mesmerized by the underwater viewing tunnels, from where one could view the polar bears and seals swimming in the water above. The delegates were also given time to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Conference commemorates the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog

Another highlight was when the Conference commemorated the 800th anniversary of the Danish flag, Dannebrog. The Danish flag dates back to the year 1219 and the reign of King Valdemar the Victorious. To commemorate the anniversary a flag raising ceremony was held in front of Winnipeg City Hall on Saturday, May 25th. In attendance was Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman, Danish Ambassador to Canada Thomas Winkler and Karl Sorensen, former president of the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba. It was Karl Sorensen who had proposed to hold the flag ceremony at Winnipeg City Hall in conjunction with the National Danish Canadian Conference. After some stirring remarks by the three dignitaries, who were accompanied by Danish Consul Helle Wilson and City Councillor Jason Schreyer, the Danish flag was raised in front of City Hall. Witnessing the event were the Conference Delegates and many passers-by.

Once the flag had been raised the Danish and Canadian National Anthems were sung. The flags had been drooping as there was no wind. Fittingly, as the Danish National Anthem was sung the wind picked up and all the flags waved beautifully in all their glory. It was very touching to see the flags flying together.

The Ceremony was followed by a lovely lunch at City Hall for the Conference Delegates. A special treat was the cookies, decorated to resemble the Danish flag. Inside City Hall the Danish and Canadian flags were accompanied by the flags of Winnipeg and Manitoba. Mayor Bowman invited the delegates to view his office and visit the City Hall Chamber. It was a moving and solemn ceremony, commemorating the world's oldest national flag.The Winnipeg Conference concluded Sunday at the Scandinavian Centre with a delicious lunch of smørrebrød, beer and snaps complimented by entertainment by the Nordic Folk Dancers and the Nordic Folk Band "Sill-I-Tones". At the closing ceremony Winnipeg President Susan Person handed the Danish Federation flag and mailbox over to Tom Hedekar of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, host of the 2020 Danish Canadian Conference.

Conference Photos:



Group Photo of Conference delegates at Winnipeg City Hall Flag Raising

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Danish Canadian Conference hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba
Held at the Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg from May 23-26, 2019



Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba
President, Susan Person welcomes delegates



Danish Ambassador to Canada,
Thomas Winkler speaks about the Arctic



Danish Canadiam Museum AGM



Federation AGM



Federation AGM
Chairperson Ed Kuhlman



Karl Sorensen at Winnipeg City Hall
Flag Raising Ceremony



Flag-Raising at Winnipeg City Hall: Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler on Left



Otto Christensen and Susan Person with Ribbon Cutting Scissors at Jens Munk Exhibit



L to R: Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler, Danish Consul Helle Wison, Otto Christensen



Jane Meech and Carl Sorensen



L to R: Karl Sorensen, Danish Consul Helle Wilson, Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler



Margit Hansson, Jens Woller, Otto Christensen, Carl Birkkjaer, Hans Jorn Jorgensen

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L to R: Danish Consul Helle Wilson with Gert Andersen and Barb Nault



Conference participants stand behind Winnipeg Club's new mascot, which they named Jens



Jens Munk Expedition Banner
At Millenium Library



Saturday Night Arctic Studies presentation by
Professor David Barber, Associate Dean,
University of Manitoba



Delegates at the "Journey to Churchill" Exhibit at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Zoo

Sunday Luncheon at the Scandinavian Centre



Nordic Folk Band "Sill-I-Tones"
Entertain at the Sunday Luncheon



Faye and Larry Kjearsgaard
Enjoying lunch



Linda and Ed Kuhlman



Liselotte Ostergaard and Aase Christensen



Ole Larsen and Jens Woller enjoying their akvavit and commemorative Jens Munk Beer



Federation flag & mailbox handed over to Tom Hedekar – Van. Island Danish Canadian Club

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
FEDERATION OF
DANISH
ASSOCIATIONS
AND
THE DANISH
CANADIAN MUSEUM

DANISH CLUB OF MONTREAL
EST. 1922



CONVERGE NET



Reports from the Member Organizations

Given at the Annual General Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 25, 2019

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 2019 reports from the member organizations:

1. New Denmark Historical Society, New Denmark, N.B.

2018-2019 saw a new Board for the New Denmark Historical Society. Our museum was open from June 2018 until the Labour Day weekend in September.

We are trying to raise money to improve the immigrant grounds barn and that will continue this year. Our summer student was a tremendous help over the 2018 summer, as her hands were full keeping the Museum running and being a guide for visitors. Because we only had one student, the Board took turns doing the regular maintenance such as mowing the lawn etc.

All in all, it was another successful year at our Museum, and we look forward to another one this year, as we get ready for our Founders Day celebration which will be held on the 23rd of June.

Submitted by Heather Jensen, President and presented by Rolf Christensen

2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.

I am very happy to report that the activities of the Danish Canadian Society Inc. Montreal (DCS) in 2018/2019 were similar to what they have been the last several years. The younger generation is still participating in many of our functions, in particular the Fastelavn celebration and the Christmas party. Thank you to Sarah Christensen, we now have a Facebook page where we can post and share our events and are able to reach a larger population of the younger Danes (and would-be Danes).

As usual Sankt Hans Aften was celebrated at Janet and Peter Nissen's green houses and even though it was a smaller group than usual the room hummed with talk and laughter while everyone enjoyed a bring-your-own-food-and-drink picnic.

After coffee and dessert the bonfire was lit, and an imaginary witch was sent off to Bloksbjeg while everybody joined in singing a collection of our beautiful Danish songs. Thank you to Janet and Peter Nissen for their much appreciated hospitality and for providing coffee and tea. A big thank you to Vagn and his helpers for unloading (and loading) all the tables and chairs, which are borrowed from Saint-Ansgar' Church.

Thank you to all the amazing Vikings who came to celebrate Canada Day despite the incredibly hot weather. It may have been the hottest day ever for the Montreal Canada Day Parade. Some of our senior Vikings were smart to stay home and out of the heat. Many more "sailed" with the ship in the shade of the sail.

Thank you to Nis-Anker Jessen for picking up our Viking ship all the way in Hemmingford and for pulling "Vinland" safely through the crowds. Nis thoughtfully brought a much-appreciated supply of ice-cold water. A very big thank you also goes to everyone involved in keeping "Vinland" roadworthy and at all times in great condition as well as for year-round storage. Our Viking ship, "Vinland" and its Vikings are popular with the spectators. It should also be mentioned that the Viking crew is a mix of members and friends from both the Danish Club and the Danish Canadian Society. And often a few spectators are "kidnapped" during the parade and put on the ship. The Danish Club has a large stake in "Vinland" as the club shares in the up-keep of the ship and in any other cost involved.

In mid-September, members and friends enjoyed a beautiful dinner at the Legion in NDG. Authentic Danish food prepared by friends and members was served. It was an enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to all who prepared the food, who helped set the tables and cleaned up after the party.

Again this year the Christmas party brought a full house and as usual Bjørg and Svend Berg got the party off to a great start by welcoming everyone with a glass of hot gløgg and Christmas cookies. Thank you for serving and providing the gløgg and the cookies.

The traditional Christmas dinner of roast pork, gravy, caramelized potatoes and red cabbage was served and of course followed by ris à l'amande with cherry sauce. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked hard in the kitchen making sure the food was perfect. A special thank you to Nis-Anker Jessen, our in-house expert in Danish flæskesteg! Not to mention the crackling! After dinner everyone danced, singing our treasured Danish Christmas songs.

The Julestue was organized and conducted by Jessica Christensen and the children had fun creating many different Christmas decorations. And again, a big Thank You to Bodil Jelhof Jensen and Sarah Christensen for organizing all the goodie-bags for the children.

A heartfelt and well deserved thank you goes to the Christensen clan (Mary, Bob, Sarah, Amanda, Jessica), who so generously help in the kitchen from preparing and serving the food to cleaning up after the dinner.

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 was as usual Wilhelmina Tiemersma who again prepared special music for the service. After the service everyone enjoyed coffee, tea and homemade goodies while Ellen Dahl read "Nisse-rejsen" by Valdemar Vaaben.

Fastelavn was celebrated with a potluck lunch and a variety of desserts. Both adults and children were dressed in wonderfully imaginative costumes. Children of all ages had a great time creating their own fastelavnsris and after some energetic batting-the-barrel, a Fastelavns Queen was crowned and the candy from the barrel shared by all the children. For the third year in a row we had a real wooden barrel thank you to one of our members, Kim Lebech, who organized

transportation of the barrel from Denmark through the company he works for.

In closing I would like to thank members, friends and the members of the board, for continuing to give 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

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

Greetings from: The Danish Club of Ottawa. The Club has enjoyed another very good year since the last meeting of the Federation. We are delighted to report that last November's Annual Bazaar, which raises the majority of the operating funds for the Club, once again was a resounding success. Attendance is always good, but increased online promotion brought out even more people than usual, a great result of course, but now we may have to start worrying too many people showing up!



Eva Andersen, with medal

Many of the Club's biggest events, including the Family Christmas party and Fastelavn tend to be labour-intensive, and we continuously seek opportunities to reduce the workload for the Board and other volunteers without compromising our events and traditions.

On Saturday, April 13, the Danish Club of Ottawa held a dinner and dance at the Centurion Conference Centre in Ottawa to celebrate Queen Margrethe II of Denmark's 79th birthday. Celebrating the Queen's birthday has been a tradition since the Club was founded and it is now the only dinner/dance held during the year. The president, Vibeke Reid, gave a fitting speech about the popular monarch and then proposed a nine-fold hurray for the Queen. For this event we tried out the "one-stop" format at a local conference and event venue that supplied pretty well everything except for the decorations and a few Danish desserts. It worked exceedingly well, so we will repeat it next year for the Queen's 80th birthday party.

A few smaller events remain before the summer break, after which we will begin to prepare for September's Annual General Meeting. A number of Board members intend to step down, including the President and the Secretary. It will be a challenge to find suitable and willing candidates for the new Board, but we all remain hopeful.

The Danish Club of Ottawa is proud of its own Eva Andersen, who for over two decades has volunteered at the Ottawa Riverside Hospital and elsewhere. On April 9th, Eva Andersen was recognized for her work and was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, in recognition of her significant volunteer contribution to the Ottawa community. The Medal was accompanied by a Certificate signed by the Governor General of Canada. Eva Andersen has also served on the

Board of Directors of the Danish Club of Ottawa and is still active with the Bazaar Ladies and the Club's Church Committee. We are all volunteers and it is heart-warming when someone among us is recognized.

As this is my last report to the Federation, I want to express my regrets that I was never able to attend a meeting. I know beyond doubt that it would have been a pleasure to meet everyone, and helpful to have heard how other organizations deal with the issues and challenges facing them and their memberships. I thank Rolf Christensen for presenting this report on behalf of the Danish Club of Ottawa and wish everyone a great meeting and the best for the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted by Vibeke Reid and presented by Rolf Christensen

5. The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto

Greetings: from the Danish Church in Toronto. As in other groups across Canada we are extremely grateful for our many, capable volunteers. Sune Overgaard, our president, as well as our board members and group leaders work hard to ascertain all runs well.

Each week begins with an inspiring service conducted in Danish or English by Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen and is followed by fellowship and a member prepared lunch. In the days following there are numerous activities, such as The Church Cafe, The Golden Age Club, The Folk Dancing group and on Saturday The Movie Club or the Opera Appreciation Course.

Since our last Federation AGM we have said goodbye to Pastor Kenneth Berg and his family, as well as to our organist, Rikke. We were lucky that Pastor Hanne Vejs Christensen and Pastor Jørgen Flensted Jensen were willing to fill in. In February we could welcome Pastor Simon and family to Toronto as our pastor family for the next five years. Pastor Simon is young and energetic, has a good sense of humour and has already used his talents well. Our Kirke Hilsen has been re-designed, and you can visit us on Facebook (facebook.com/dlctoronto). A family service for Fastelavn brought many young families to church.

Our two bazaars have given a joint profit of over $ 30,000 for our church. We can recommend trying a Jewellery Booth or even a Vintage Booth selling antiques and linens. Our White Elephant Booth keeps selling for around $ 1,000.00! Each September we have a Welcome Back Fest and in 2018 we used a Viking theme to entertain 65 people of all ages. Six young people attended Confirmation Classes this year and they and their parents took an active part in church activities.

It looks as if we will have a closer working relationship with the Danish Consulate. Recently the consulate and the church members held a joint meeting at the church about the upcoming election in Denmark. As you may know the main concerns in Denmark are climate change, the health system and immigration.

With our young pastor family to lead us, we look forward to inspiring other young families to join us at our Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto, 72 Finch Ave. West, Toronto, Ontario.
www.dlctoronto.on.ca

All groups across Canada are wished a good year ahead from us in Toronto!

Respectfully submitted and presented by Liselotte Ostergaard.

8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch

We have been very busy at Sunset Villa. It all started with the restaurant. The Danish Place changed owners to the next generation; Anna and Benny's kids, Kristine, Jacob and Joanne. At the same time, the Board transitioned to a next generation Board, and it became the "perfect storm" for change at Sunset Villa.

The Danish Place renovated to a more modern space, which attracted younger Danes. Then the Kitchener Waterloo Record named The Danish Place as the #1 restaurant in the region! Renewed interest in the restaurant then led to renewed interest in Sunset Villa, and we ended the year with 100 new members – a record for many years.

During the year, the restaurant and Sunset Villa partnered to make better events and work as a team. Every month we have a "Danish Baker Day". Kristine has great networking skills and has attracted vendors to also come on that day. The new vendors help make the drive more worthwhile, since we are in the country. This has led to more customers for both the restaurant and the Baker, and more memberships for us - a win-win for everyone.

On Constitution Day we added some new attractions: the Vikings set up a "Viking camp", we painted kids faces with Danish flags, had Viking props for selfies, and added more modern Danish music to appeal to a younger crowd. This year we plan to have a Lego contest!

In keeping with change, we updated our "Bulletin" newsletter to a more modern look with better content. It has been noticed by many members, and the Bulletin now has better readership.

We also added more live music to our dinner events. However, these events continue to struggle, after all we have our beloved Danish restaurant onsite.



Santa Claus at Sunset Villa

The biggest change we made last year was the introduction of the new outdoor Nordic Market. It was modeled after the European tradition of Christmas markets, which have become popular in Canada as well. It was a huge success. We had market vendors as well as our own tables full of Nisser and Danish cookies. There was a firepit where kids could cook snogbrød and have a one-on-one visit with Santa. The restaurant served ris à l'amande, risengrød and Gløgg! We served æbleskiver from a food truck and offered buggy rides on the property. The Danish Baker was also here. There were lineups everywhere. We all ran out of things. Everyone was in disbelief at how popular it was. People just loved bumping into each other, sharing a "God Jul". It was truly magical and of course we will do it again!

Organizationally some progress has been made with the formation of committees. This should help reduce Board work. The Planning Committee did a presentation at the AGM about ideas to make Sunset Villa sustainable over the next 5-10 years and beyond. This is now being debated. And following Denmark's digital lead, Sunset Villa approved the use of electronic attendance at meetings, electronic notice and delivery of materials and electronic voting. Change is important and most of us are embracing it. Like the restaurant we are doing new things and its working. Moving Sunset Villa into the future is vital to keep it going, which is something we all agree on!

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Olsen, President, and presented by Gert Andersen

9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch

At Sunset Mindepark we had a traditional summer in 2018, with a dry period which is hard on grass, especially on the old urn plot beds which date back 26 years but an early fall restoration and reseeding have brought them back to looking good again.

The addition of 96 new urn plots and a new Niche wall with 86 niches has been completed, with landscaping and planting of scrubs and bushes, a nice addition to the cemetery. This will bring the total capacity to over a thousand Urns and should last for some time to come, there were 26 interments in 2018, which by now is about the average in a year.

We are pleased to note that the second generation children, of original Danish immigrants, some born in Denmark others born in Canada, from across Canada, are also deciding to have their and their spouses or partners urns, interred at Sunset Mindepark.

Respectfully submitted by Soren Sondergaard, President and Internment Director, and Presented by Ole Jensen

11. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg

Our Danish Club has their meetings every second Tuesday of the month. Most discussions this year have been in regard to the Danish Canadian Conference and regular business has taken a second priority. In February we tried something new, we hosted a Pub night and it turned out to be quite successful. We served various type of Pub food and a very good band provided dance music. A night we want to repeat. Our first activity is usually the Fastelavn, which we celebrate in connection with our Sunday brunches. Unfortunately, this year not a single child showed up to beat the cat out of the barrel, so instead we had ladies up on the floor teaching them how to sing the Fastelavn songs. They were then awarded a bag of candy.

In April we hosted our Smørrebrøds Aften, always a sell-out event, very popular and we will repeat this sometime in September. In early June we opened a Jens Munk exhibition at the Millennium Library downtown, which will be there for three months. Then there is nothing till Folklorama in August. Volunteers will be busy making homemade candy which will be sold along with imported candy at our Danish candy shop, a very popular spot for the guests. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Folklorama, Winnipeg's multicultural festival.

Towards the end of October we have our Annual General Membership meeting, where we hope to see new members sign up. Then we are getting closer to Christmas. In November we have the ever popular Juleklip, where we teach how to make popular Danish and Scandinavian Christmas

decorations. Our year ends with the Danish Christmas dinner in early December. This is also a very popular event and usually a sell-out.

Our club membership is quite low as many old-timers are no longer with us and no new Danes are coming to Winnipeg. We have a couple of new young ladies on the Board, but it is a struggle to find new members.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Karl Sorensen



12. Danish Canadian Club, Calgary

Greetings: from the shareholders, directors, members and staff of the Danish Canadian Club. Since the 2018 Federation Report, the Club has continued to have both a reasonably stable business in addition to active social functions. The Club is still affected by the current economic environment in Calgary and Alberta. We continue to work through this period with new initiatives and prudent management by our General Manager, Peter Christensen, and his management staff.

The Club will be hosting a Casino in September 2019, under the stewardship of Lars Lehmann and his many volunteers. Funds from this casino are important to the Club so that we can continue to award scholarships, donate to charities such as the Danish Lutheran Church, Danish Canadian Museum and provide funds to the Club for necessary maintenance items.

The AGM shareholder meeting was held on September 19, 2018. There were 50 out of a possible 327 active shareholders at the AGM. We were pleased to award two $3000 scholarships at this AGM. At this AGM, I was elected President of the Club for a one year term. Currently we have nine directors on the DCC board.

Our social media offerings, "Newsletter, Website and Facebook", have continued to evolve and to provide members and non-members with information about the Club's facility offerings, lunch and dinner menus, social activities plus items of interest to the Danish community.

The "Speakers Forum" initative where we invite guest speakers to the Club to speak on issues of interest to the local community, followed by a Danish dinner, continues for the upcoming year.
In October 2018, the Club celebrated the 85th anniversary of the formation of the "The Danish Canadian Society" in Calgary on November 30, 1933, which was then incorporated as the "Danish Canadian Club" in 1947.

In addition to this celebration, other social activities at the Club included the Stampede Breakfast, Viking Stag, "A Touch of Class" Christmas party, Children's Halloween and Christmas parties, Grey Cup party, The Danish Christmas dinner, "Dansk Julemiddag", New Year's Gala, Katten af Tønden, Mother's Day as well as Father's Day Brunch.

All these social events were well attended. The success of these events relies on many volunteers, the Board of Directors, our social director Bente Dalberg, participation by members and the dedicated DCC management and staff. Our membership continues to decline, we currently have about 1,130 members.

Respectfully submitted by John Steffensen, President and presented by Annette Jochumsen

13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary

Another year is behind us and it is now time to reflect on what has transpired. We are very blessed by having such an inspiring and hardworking Pastor as our Charlotte Berg heading up our congregation. She and her husband are both very involved in all aspects of the Danish community in Calgary and area.

We continue to have both Danish and English services every Sunday at 10:00 am, with the Danish services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month. For months with five Sundays the fifth Sunday is organized as a family service with a following potluck lunch. Attendance at both the Danish and English services is very stable.

We continue to have a lot of functions throughout the year such as movie nights, speaker nights, sing-alongs, language classes, Fastelavn and Stampede breakfast etc. along our various groups such as Ladies Auxiliary, Literate Vikings, Crafter's Group, Viking Girls and the Merry Kitchen Boys.

In addition to the regular church services, the congregation provides a lot of activities to the community. This year we added a new event – "Dinner and Fun(d)" raising with the purpose of raising money for various specific projects. This time it was for new cushions for our pews. We had three evenings where Peter Berg with help of members of the Kitchen Boys served up a fantastic meal for the guests. Even when we only charged $10 for the meal we still managed to raise almost $6,000 over the three evenings. This will allow us to get the old cushions replaced with new and thicker cushions for all the pews.



Ollerup Gymnasts, August 2017

And our two main fundraising events, the Christmas Bazaar in November and the Dinner and Auction in April are still contributing greatly toward the general operation of the Church.

Our annual Christmas Bazar held at the Danish Canadian Club in November gives people a chance to stock up on various Christmas items as well as to meet up with old friends over an open face sandwich and a cup of coffee. The sandwiches are prepared by a group of hardy volunteers who meet at 7:00 am to start the preparations for the event. Many of the items for sale are provided by or made by The Ladies Auxiliary at their monthly meetings.

In the spring we are again back at the Danish Canadian Club for our annual Dinner and Auction featuring both a silent and live auction along with other fun draws for different prizes. Last year we had the luck to secure a visit of two great Danish musicians, Mads Tolling from San Francisco and Jacob Fischer from Denmark.

The duo put on a concert as a tribute to the great Danish violin artist Svend Asmussen. Svend passed away in 2017 just before his 101st birthday and the duo had put a tour of the United States and Canada together as a tribute to his life.

Mads is a two-time Grammy award winner and Jacob played with Svend Asmussen for fifteen years, so needless to say we were treated to a quality performance, which also included "Nu bliver der Stille" as a tribute to the Danish musician Kim Larsen, who just passed away the previous month.

The Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary has an exciting time ahead and with the support and interest there is, we are looking forward to it.

Submitted by Karsten Dalberg and Presented by Bente Birkkjaer

15. The Calgary Naver Club

The Calgary Naver Club is still running strong with a membership of 46. We are one of the largest Naver Clubs in the world at the moment and proud of it. Last year, 2018, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our club. We had guests from several of the Naver Clubs in Denmark and also from USA, The Los Angeles Navers.

All the Navers and the guests enjoyed a nice Hule Møde on Thursday July 5th. Several of the out of town folks took in the Stampede Parade on Friday, July 6th, followed by lunch in The Danish Canadian Club.

On Saturday July the 7th, we hosted the Gala Dinner where a lot of our members had done a great job in getting some great door prizes organised for the 98 guests. Sunday July 8th we hosted our annual Stampede Breakfast with flapjacks, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs and all the other good stuff that goes with such an event. We had a great turnout with about 115 people showing up. All enjoyed the great outdoor setting at Strathfield Potato Farm.

In April 2019 there were seven of the Calgary Navers with wives who made it down to Los Angeles to help the celebration of the Los Angeles Naver Club's 85th Anniversary. They did a great job on the event and we all had a great time socialising with fellow Navers from their club and also Navers from Denmark who made the journey across the pond.

Med Kno.

Submitted by Jens Laursen, President and presented by Steen Jochumsen.

16. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada

Little has changed since our last report. There are still sixteen loyal members, one associate member and thirteen friends of the association who meet twice a year. This year our summer picnic will be held at the home of Mandy Dykstas (daughter of Alf Jensen). As usual, the fall AGM will be held at the Danish Canadian Club. Best wishes for a successful conference.

Submitted by Jens Lind, President and presented by Steen Jochumsen

19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club

The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club membership continues to hold steady at about 80 members. We exist primarily as a social club and hold a number of events throughout the year including:

- Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in February
- Spring Campout on the May long weekend
- St. Hans Fest in June
- Providing our concession trailer and manpower for events at the Danish Museum in Dickson
- Golf Tournament in August
- Fall Campout on the September long weekend
- Harvest Party in October

We also provide three $1,000 Bursaries to graduating high school students in our area annually. The Red Deer Club is also proud to be an enthusiastic supporter of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, with six members attending the Winnipeg Conference. In addition, four of our members serve on the executive of the Alberta Region of the Federation. All of our events and activities are described in detail on our website at: www.rddcc.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted by Larry Kjearsgaard, President, and presented by Joanne Nielsen

20. Danish Canadian Society Dania, Edmonton

2018 was another year of challenges for Dania. We have been trying to evolve in order to appeal to the next generation of Danes in Edmonton as well as meeting the needs of the long-time members who are aging and, with more time on their hands, choose to escape the harsh Edmonton winter for warmer climes. In 2017 we replaced our regular January dance with a Fastelavn celebration in February and have now had our third annual Fastelavn dance as of February 2019. We enjoyed a traditional dinner of herring, tartelleter and open-faced sandwiches on long tables, accompanied by a Tuborg Gold beer and Akvavit. Delicious desserts included fresh fruit, kransekage, wienerbrød, and various Danish cakes and cookies. Most people dressed up in costume and we had fun with *slå katten af tønden*. As this is still a new event, attendance is not what we have been used to, but we are hoping that it will pick up over the next couple of years.

In June 2018 we held our annual Camp-Out at Entwistle Campground, which is located west of Edmonton on the scenic Pembina River. The Camp-Out is held on the weekend of summer solstice to celebrate Sankt Hans Aften and this is a family event. The activities included the much coveted Horseshoe Tournament, which is one of the highlights of the weekend. Almost all of the campers, whether they are experienced or not, join in the competition and have a fun time watching and cheering for each other. Prizes are awarded to the winning A and B horseshoe teams. On Saturday evening a bonfire was lit and the witch effigy was burned. It was quite the spectacle! With all the families gathered around the fire, we baked snogbrød on sticks, roasted marshmallows, sang songs, etc. On Sunday morning Pastor Lasse Hultberg from Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church conducted an open-air service with a most interesting sermon focused on

Harald Bluetooth and the introduction of Christianity to Denmark. The weather was sunny and warm.

Every year the City of Edmonton holds a festival on the long weekend in August. The Edmonton Heritage Festival is a 3-day event to sample delicious food, see creative performances and celebrate Canada's multiculturalism. Dania is proud to be a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton, which is comprised of five Scandinavian countries – Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. These countries have a joint pavilion at the festival which serves a variety of Scandinavian foods and has wonderful cultural displays. In 2018 the Scandinavian Pavilion received an "Honourable Mention" in arts and crafts and a 2nd Place Vignette Award for its cultural display focused on Vikings, which we are very proud to be a part of. Dania has two Heritage Directors who attend monthly meetings of the Scandinavian Heritage Society to collaborate in the planning and implementation for the Scandinavian Pavilion. The Pavilion is run as a collaborative effort by volunteers from all five countries.

Our Annual Fall Dance was held on October 27, 2018. We again enjoyed the traditional open-faced sandwiches with all the trimmings and danced the night away with a DJ. This event is also experiencing a significant decline in attendance.

We held our Family Christmas Party on December 16, 2018. We enjoyed æbleskiver and gløgg, which is always a great hit. The children made some Christmas crafts and then danced around the Christmas tree to traditional Danish and English Christmas songs, followed by a visit from Santa. As usual, the adults outnumbered the children as there are a lot of grandparents who come out to have æbleskiver and gløgg with their grandchildren. However, participation was down due in part to seasonal illnesses and the proximity to Christmas.

Dania is changing with the times by entering into the electronic world. In addition to a Facebook page, we now have a website where our members can catch up on the latest events, electronically purchase their memberships and tickets to our events, and subscribe to our newsletter.

Our club has struggled to form a board over the past few years and to maintain its declining membership numbers. I am pleased to report that Dania now has a diversified board that includes all age groups. We are very fortunate to have Pastor Lasse Hultberg, the Pastor of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton, join our board last November as one of our Heritage Directors. Pastor Hultberg recently came to Canada in March of 2016 and provides us with a current connection to Denmark.

We are hopeful that we can continue to attract a new generation of members to keep our club alive.

Respectfully presented by Lis Walker, President

22. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia

We have enjoyed our partnership with the Danish House Society (DHS) for many years: We jointly hold two annual events at the Scandinavian Centre, (1) the awarding of Scholarships, (2) the Christmas by the Fireside event.

Our third event, also held at the Scandinavian Centre, is the Danish Constitution Day celebration (Grundlovsfesten). This has always been a DCCC event although we appreciate Danish House

members helping with the setup. I will, therefore, only expand on that event. In 2018 we invited people with their family and friends to come and enjoy the first Sunday in June outside or inside with their picnic lunches allowing time to attend church service provided at the Centre by the Danish Lutheran Church with our Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen officiating. She was accompanied with a musical trio. Then next a Grundlovstale, by the former Danish Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Niels Boel Abrahamsen, while our own local entertainers followed in the afternoon. Moreover, again this year the DCCC awarded grants to a number of Danish organizations in British Columbia based on their cultural needs.

We have about 78 annual and life individual and corporate members.

In closing, we are looking forward to our next event, the Constitution Day Celebration on Sunday, June 2, 2019. It will be similar to last year's celebration. We are hoping that the new Danish Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Thomas Winkler, will be present. We also look forward to the musical entertainment by musician Charlotte Andersson, who will be coming from Denmark.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Margit Hansson, President

23. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge #328, Vancouver

Lodge 328 sadly lost three members in 2018 whose average age was 90. Five new younger members joined the Lodge. The total membership now stands at 84. The ten monthly meetings continue to attract an average of 40 members. The big draw to the ten monthly meetings is the delicious Danish Open Faced Sandwiches available following the business part of the meeting. Lodge 328 maintains a male only policy, and that policy has not been challenged so far.

Visiting ailing Brothers and financially supporting a number of worthy causes continues to be important for the Lodge. Two food banks and the two Danish Churches as well as The Ladies Auxiliary of Dania Home are supported as is the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. The two yearly social events are still popular, a Bingo/Dinner/Dance in the fall and Valentines Day Dinner/Dance in the spring.

In 2018 for the first time, Lodge 328 had a small booth at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Centre in an attempt to attract new members. Five members of Lodge 328 will again this year attend the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood Pacific North West District Convention that this year will take place in Portland, Oregon.

Respectfully submitted by Kjeld Christensen, Secretary, and presented by Jannet Tricarico

24. Royal Danish Guard's Association, Pacific Northwest

The Royal Danish Guard's Association in the Pacific Northwest is a small group. We are now a ten member association in British Columbia and the State of Washington. With the distance that those members have to travel to get together, we don't have many meetings anymore. We are still planning to celebrate the Queens 80th birthday in April 2020 with a dinner dance at the Scandinavian Center in Burnaby. We hope to bring two Tambours over from the Royal Guards for that event. We also have our annual AGM in June, but we don't expect any changes in the board of directors.

Submitted by Knud Nielsen, Treasurer, and presented by Margit Hansson

25. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver

The Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby is doing well; we still have a good number of people for the Sunday service. More parishioners attend our English services than the Danish services, but it is still important to maintain the Danish culture at the church, so we will keep the first and third Sunday in Danish. We have over the last few years started with different workshops for upcoming holidays, such as Christmas, Fastelavn and Easter and that brings in a lot of the younger families that are in Vancouver for a short time. It is a great way to tell the young families about the church. This year we also had a great Valentines evening with speakers, great entertainment and of cause good food. We had well over 50 people that evening, and we all enjoyed ourselves. Our memorial walk is filling up, so we are now on our fourth expansion, it gives families an opportunity to have a plaque for their loved ones at the church where they come regularly instead of going to a large cemetery, and the cost can be kept to a minimum. Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen is now in her second year, and is settled in. The congregation is very happy and appreciates her sermons and her energy; always a smile on her face and no job is too large. She has a lot of great new ideas and is willing to try new things.



Each year the Church marks the Liberation in May 1945

Submitted by Knud Nielsen, President, and presented by Margit Hansson

27. DanishHouse Society, Burnaby

Greetings to the Federation: from the members of Danish House.

Danish House membership continues to remain in the neighbourhood of 425-450 members and our society continues to enjoy relative stability with regards to the financial picture despite the increasing dollars required each year to pay our share of the Scandinavian Centre's property tax bill.

After the DHS AGM held on March 18th all of the members of the Board were returning with the exception of Mik Petersen who was replaced by Lisa Terrillon. Lisa is the youngest member of the board by a considerable margin and we are excited about the much needed fresh next generation perspective Lisa provides.

Our monthly Kro Aften club nights continue to be very successful and are usually sold out. The proceeds realized from the Kroaften raffles average about $600 to $650 and make it possible for the DHS together with the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of BC to award ten annual $1200 scholarships. As well DHS also awards two $2400 scholarships funded by the estates of Ruth and Johannes Pedersen. This year's scholarships will be awarded at the September 6th

Kroaften. Danish House is very appreciative of our ongoing relationship and friendship with the DCCC, which goes beyond the scholarship program. The DCCC organized a very special and enjoyable Grundlovsfest celebration at the Scandinavian Centre last June and will do so again this year. The DCCC's contribution to Danish House's Christmas by the Fireside is also very much appreciated.

Danish House continues to participate and share in the success of the various joint events held with the other Houses of the Scandinavian Centre including the Midsummer Festival. The theme of this years's Festival is "The Splendor of Scandinavia" and we again look forward to hosting the Danish Sisterhood, the Danish Lutheran Church, and the Danish Brotherhood in the Danish Tent.

After the Midsummer Festival and time off in July to recharge our batteries, the next events on the agenda besides the Kroaftens is the Family BBQ held in the Beer Garden every August, followed by the Leif Erikson Festival. The Leif Erikson Festival is a Scandinavian Cultural Society event held each year, the hosting of which rotates among the Nordic countries with 2019 being Denmark's turn. The normal rotation would have had Finland host the 2019 festival, but since 2019 is the 400th anniversary of the Jens Munk expedition, Danish House requested to host the event and Finland graciously agreed. Danish House will focus on the Jens Munk anniversary as the subject of the Festival which is now in the planning stages. May it be a successful and enjoyable year; for all the member organizations of the Federation.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Ed Kuhlman, President of Danish House Society

28. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey

Greetings from Granly! All regular activities are held at our Church, Hall or Parsonage. The Wednesday Club: Showing Danish movies. Study Group: Danish Literature, presently by Jesper Wung Sung, "Another Branch" about his Grandfathers immigration to Denmark, and next season H. C. Andersen's life. Bible Study: Conducted in the Parsonage next door. Weekly Sunday and Holiday Church services, alternately Danish and English. Other seasonal activities: Spring and Fall Dinner, where we regularly are entertained by the Tivoli/Runeberg Choir. Sankt Hans's Bonfire is in June, with dinner, speeches and traditional sing-along. "Julestue" our Christmas Bazaar is arranged by the Ladies Auxiliary. All our events are well attended. Our Pastor, Ruth Wegeberg, conducts all church related activities and is involved in all social events. Pastor Ruth and Tom Søby have now been at Granly for one year, we are very happy to have them, and they enjoy Granly and B.C.'s beautiful outdoors. Best wishes for a great conference!

Submitted by Manfred Hoff, President, and presented by Jannet Tricarico

29. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver

Our Dogwood Lodge #179 in Vancouver is always busy pursuing our goals, motivating our old members and working to attract new members to join our Lodge. We hold nine meetings a year. Various Committees are established and assigned duties. We start each meeting with first enjoying open-faced Danish sandwiches and socializing before we conduct the business ritual. In order for our Lodge to grow, we continue to set up display tables at many functions in the community where we

hand out application forms and business cards. Our Social Committee is in charge of various festivities at our meetings, to retain the interest of our existing members by creating various *Theme* nights, and other fun activities. We also have pot-luck dinners and presentations and sharing of cultural interests, so our members learn to understand and enjoy our Danish heritage and traditions and much more.

Our local **'Dogwood'** newsletter is sent out four times a year, updating us of coming events and other interesting news. We now email it to 97% of our members and send it by regular mail to just 3% to those few without computers, which have saved us a lot in postage.

Our Website was created in 2008 together with a new email address, both used to attract new members and interest, and we have received much complimentary feed-back. We have also created a Photo Gallery of all our events.



Jannet Tricarico

Our 'Pet Club' - established seven years ago as the very first Lodge in the Danish Sisterhood to do so - now has 22 members from Canada and the United States. It is a great little fundraiser and a unique way to connect members through their pets - showing that Danes are a pet-friendly people.

Our **Dogwood Manual**, created in 2005, contains the history of our Dogwood Lodge and the Danish Sisterhood of America. It has a Photo Gallery of all officers – past and present - and includes guidelines for membership, duties of all local officers as well as Convention information. It is a great recruiting tool as well as being educational. The Manual is sent electronically to all members.

Some Monthly highlights since our last Conference in 2018

2018:

MAY: Is a very busy month for the Sisterhood as the nomination for new Officers takes place.

The Federation of Danish Association in Canada: As a member of the Danish Federation we participated in the 37th Conference, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Delegates from 40 Danish Associations participated.

Flag Day: We celebrate Flag Day at the Danish Church in Burnaby together with other Danish organizations to commemorate Denmark's liberation in 1945.

Alexander Multicultural Festival: For seven years we have been invited to participate in this Festival representing the DS and promoting Denmark and wearing Danish National costumes, which are photographed by the many visitors.



Connie Frederiksen and Sandra Alexander

JUNE:

'Grundlovsdag': The Danish Constitution Day was celebrated with a picnic with the Brotherhood and now we also bring our pet-members to the park. The picnic baskets are full of Danish delicacies, beer and 'Gammel Dansk' or akvavit - a very festive day.

Midsummer Festival: We again took part in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Centre in the Danish tent where we displayed our Lodge banner and various paraphernalia and use this opportunity as our yearly membership drive.

Anniversary: We hold a special dinner - honouring our member's membership anniversaries and their special round birthdays with flowers and tributes.

JULY:

Annual Summer Barbeque: Though we do not hold meetings in July or August, we always hold our Summer Picnic with the Brotherhood. About 40 to 50 happy Danes enjoyed a real fun day with chicken and salmon on the grill and many delicious desserts.

SEPTEMBER:

After the summer holidays, we started our meetings again. And after the business meeting we started preparing for our upcoming events and worked on Arts & Crafts for our Fall Bazaar. The evening usually ends with playing fun games.

OCTOBER:

A Halloween party was held, and all showed up in festive costumes. We vote on the best costume and take pictures, where after prizes are handed out. Then a special pot-luck dinner is served followed by Halloween desserts in abundance. The Sisterhood attended the well attended Danish House 'Kro Aften' as a group and contributed a gift basket.



NOVEMBER:

Our yearly Bingo, or in Danish "Andespil" was held with the Danish Brotherhood Lodge #328, with ducks, salami and flæskesteg as prizes for the lucky winners. About 120 people attended and the Sisters made about 400 open-faced sandwiches. It was a great opportunity to show new sisters how to make them. The night ended with dancing. The fall and Christmas Bazaar was again held at the Scandinavian Center. The Sisters were busy creating their many different craft items and baking up a storm of various cookies and cakes which are always sold out within two hours.

DECEMBER:

Christmas Party: Our yearly Christmas party is always very enjoyable in a 'hyggelig' atmosphere. We enjoyed typical Flæskesteg and ris à l'amande - even with *mandelgave*. During the evening we sang many Danish 'Julesange' and exchanged Christmas gifts - draw raffle and

door prizes - nobody goes home empty-handed. From the proceeds we donated $416 to our favourite charity. During this lovely evening we also did the Installation of our newly elected Officers.

2019:

JANUARY:

At the meeting the evening is usually filled with paperwork and updates for our yearly Calendar of Events, membership list, birthday list and simply planning for the balance of the year's meetings including assignment of committees and new elected Officers duties. A letter is sent to all Danish organizations advising of the new list of Officers. We initiated a new member and the evening ended with playing Bingo.



Jannet Tricarico, Ella Wolder and Sandra Alexander

Financial Statement: Our Treasurer handed out the yearly statement which is signed by the Trustees. We were grateful for again having received a grant from Danish Canadian Community Centre. Our yearly memberships in the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, and to The Federation of Danish Associations were paid, and the treasurer started collecting the dues to be sent to the National and the PNW District as well as preparing for any upcoming Conventions or events i.e. programs, posters or ads.

FEBRUARY:

After the business meeting, the Bylaws committee reviewed our Bylaws – and the evening continued with the theme "Valentine - Love and Hearts" – and a special dinner was brought in by one of our Sisters. Then we played Valentine Trivia and some Word games.

PNW Bowling Tournament: Our yearly Sisterhood/Brotherhood bowling tournament between Washington State, Oregon State and Vancouver took place. It was held in Kenmore, Washington, and Vancouver did really well and won some awards.

MARCH:

St. Patrick's Day: After our business meeting was concluded - we celebrated St. Patrick's Day enjoying a pot-luck dinner with many green salads - served with 'Green Wine'- that goes down well and we all dress 'GREEN' and at the same time we celebrated Vera Inversen's 100th birthday.

APRIL:

Our meeting was in the *'Theme'* of Easter with eggs and Easter Lilies handed out at the meeting. Our delegate representing our Lodge went to The Danish Sisterhood Pacific Northwest Convention held in Hood River, Oregon, and met with Sisters from the other six Lodges.

I look forward to attending the Danish Federation Conference in Winnipeg as delegate, for the Danish Sisterhood, and as Secretary for the Danish Federation's Pacific Region.

In conclusion: Being part of the Sisterhood Lodge #179 is never dull. We have a lively and productive Lodge and as a result have yet again enjoyed an eventful year, however like most other organizations, we need to increase our membership, though since last report we did enroll,three new members, and we are always striving to maintain the Danish spirit and heritage by making it true, that "DANES ARE ALL HEART."

www.danishsisterhood.ca lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca

Respectfully submitted by Delegate: Jannet Tricarico, Lodge #179

30. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo

Hello from Nanaimo! Since our last AGM, we have lost a number of long-standing members (largely due to old age), and this leaves our current membership at approximately 165 members. We had our club's AGM on March 3 and two Board members whose terms had expired stepped down, but we gained one new Director (Hakon Philipsen) making a total of eight Directors on our Board. Our first Board meeting with our 2019 Board was on Sunday, March 10 at which we assigned "position" titles and we basically left our Directors with the same positions as last year.

President:	John Jensen
Vice-President:	Sophia Sorensen
Secretary:	Lena Tsuji
Treasurer:	Tom Hedekar
Directors:	Darlene O'Neill
	Carsten Krogh
	Louise Krogh
	Hakon Philipsen

Our Club had a very good year financially in 2018 and showed an increase in our bank account at year end. The October Harvest Party showed a loss, but this was to be expected since it was a Member Appreciation Event at which ticket prices were heavily discounted for members in good standing. The Birthday Party and Christmas Party as well as most other events, however, were profitable, very well attended and enjoyed by all.

One of the changes we made in our calendar of events was the reduction in the total number of events that we host in a year although we did that by simply combining a couple of our events in the Spring as well as a couple in the Fall. Normally we have a Pandekager Afternoon and an Andespil in the Spring, but we combined those two events into one and did the same with our æbleskiver Afternoon and the Fall Andespil. The changes were well accepted by our membership, largely because the combination provides some food service with each Andespil event. In previous years, we had smørrebrød served ahead of the Andespil games but that ended with the retirement of our Danish caterer.

Our newsletter continues to do well with approximately five issues per annum. We still print hard copies and mail them to members that do not have e-mail as well as those that would rather have a printed copy. Many members now receive the newsletter via e-mail and benefit by receiving all the pictures in full colour while the printed copies are in B&W only. Our club Secretary, Lena Tsuji has managed to turn red ink into black with respect to covering the

publication costs by garnering more advertisers and reducing the number of copies printed and mailed.

Our web-site continues to attract inquiries about our Club and Facebook is also viewed by many, not just in Nanaimo. We believe that these social media sites are very helpful in membership recruitment and they provide valuable avenues for disseminating information to members as well as other interested viewers. These media sites are very popular with young people and that is the audience that we need to attract in order for our club to survive. With the worldwide coverage on the internet, we get some very interesting inquiries from faraway places!



Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club celebrates Sankt Hans: June 23, 2018

The activities planned for 2019 are much the same as past years. Our annual Sankt Hans Celebration was held at Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park on June 23rd with an overwhelming attendance. We arranged to share the event with the members of our local Sons of Norway club. Both of our clubs mustered about 60 members each to gather around the campfire circle and send the witch back to Bloksbjeg! At the time of this writing, we have not determined if our two clubs will do the same again this year or not. We had our Club's 30th Birthday Party in April, featuring a Kroplatte dinner that was prepared and assembled by a team of our member chefs under the supervision of Henny Andersen. This was done the same way as last year and the meal was memorable, and the event was a big success.

Our Club is preparing to host the 2020 Danish Federation Conference in Nanaimo on May 22, 23 and 24 of 2020. Our Treasurer, Tom Hedekar is attending the Conference this year in Winnipeg and will act as the Chair of our 2020 Conference Host Committee. We have already formed a committee with many of the critical positions appointed and we have had our first meeting to get the planning process under way. We have secured Nanaimo's finest hotel for this event the *Coast Bastion Hotel* and we have negotiated an excellent room rate for our guests. Hotel booking information is available from the Club and we encourage everyone to book a room now in order to avoid disappointment because the hotel in not "holding" any rooms for us and this hotel will sell out quickly. There is another large conference in Nanaimo the same weekend at our Conference Centre so hotel room availability will be at a premium. The cancellation policy at the Coast Bastion is "penalty free until 48 hours prior to arrival" so book your room now! We look forward to hosting the nation in Nanaimo next year!

Respectfully submitted and presented by Tom Hedekar, Treasurer



Annual Reports from the Regions of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Ontario Region

Hello everyone, I wish you all a very successful conference. Sorry I am not able to be with you. The Ontario Region has held two meetings since our last Conference, a Fall Meeting and a Spring Meeting. The Board of Directors were re-elected at the Fall Meeting and AGM and consist of secretary/treasurer Liselotte Østergaard, director Lis Søndergaard and President Eva Terp. The Spring Meeting took place at Sunset Villa on May 4th. I had the pleasure of introducing the new pastor for the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto, Simon Kangas Larsen, who arrived mid-February to be installed on February 17. With his communications background and skills, he has already put his own stamp on the church, noticeably by redesigning the Kirkehilsen, Facebook and web pages.

In the "Club Reports" section of our Spring Meeting, the two presenters stood out. Lisa Olsen, the president for Sunset Villa, who spoke with enthusiasm about events already having taken place, as well as of the exciting future plans for Sunset Villa. Annelise Pedersen, who we all know as an ardent supporter, and volunteer for the Danish Canadian Museum, gave us an insight into the events and plans for many interesting developments at the museum. Annelise's persuasive powers are legend and before the meeting was over, she had commitments to the tune of $1,150 from several of our members towards a much-needed golf cart that will be a great asset to the Museum in Dickson.

The proceeds from our customary lottery yielded $330 that was divided among the National Federation, the Ontario Region and the Museum – this time with $110 to each. The Region also voted to contribute an extra $200 to the Museum. With energetic and enthusiastic people like Lisa and Annelise, there is certainly hope for the future.

Submitted and presented by Liselotte Østergaard for Eva Terp, President, The Ontario Region

Alberta Region

The Alberta Region, recognized officially as *The Alberta Association of Danish Canadian Organizations* by Alberta Corporate Registry, continues to meet on a semi-annual basis at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, which is centrally located for travel purposes. The reason for our meetings is laid out in the Objects and By-laws:

- 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;

We continue to be a communication channel for our Alberta organizations to help each other and

to support individual club projects. To date we have been unable to convince Alberta Gaming of our eligibility for a casino license which, if approved, will provide us with source of funds and greatly enhance our ability to further our goals. We'll keep trying!

2019 Board of Directors:

President	Larry Kjearsgaard, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
Vice President	Jens Woller, Dania Edmonton
Secretary	Pernille Nielsen, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
Treasurer	Ellen Bonde, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
Director	Kari Morck, Dickson Store Museum
Director	Carl Sorensen, Dania Edmonton

Pacific Region

The Pacific Region held two meetings in 2018 in the homes of our members: One was held on the mainland of British Columbia and the other was held on Vancouver Island. The two meetings were well attended by a total of 42 guests and representatives. We had our annual general meeting in March. Our officers are Jannet Tricarico, Secretary; Kjeld Christensen, Treasurer; Henny Andersen, Director; and me, as per below. We send greetings from our past president, Solvejg Nielsen.

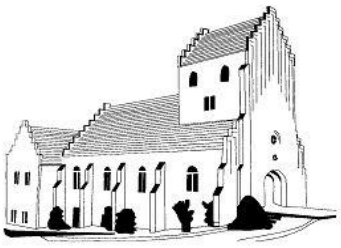
Informative reports from our various Danish/Scandinavian/Canadian organizations were presented at the meetings and discussions were made based on the federation correspondence received during the last half year. The Heritage Book, articles and distribution; past, current and future conferences and seminars were among the topics for discussions. The meetings were followed by a nice Danish lunch, while we appreciated the preparations by the hosts.

As in past years, we were present at the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver with our Pacific Region of the Federation Flag, at Flag Day on the first Sunday in May.

Congratulations to Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba for hosting this conference!

Submitted and presented by Margit Hansson, President

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

Danish Heritage Seminar explored Wanderlust

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Group Photo of Heritage Seminar participants in front of Hotel Fort Garry

The Danish Heritage Seminar was held at the Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg from May 27 to June 1, 2019. This year's theme was Wanderlust, the desire to explore the world. The headmaster, Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver, discussed wanderlust and romanticism during the 19th century looking at how these movements influenced life and culture in Denmark.

Many of the Danish lyric poets, sculptors, writers and composers had wanderlust and would stay for long periods in other parts of Europe, particularly Rome. The participants were introduced to the works of H.C. Andersen, B.S. Ingemann, Holger Drachmann, Bertel Thorvaldsen, and a number of other well-known 19th century Danish artists. Pastor Susanne emphasized how the Danish national anthem and other national songs were composed or became popular during the 19th century. In so many ways the artists of this period laid the foundation for much of present-day Danish culture and tradition.



Professional Musician / Singer Charlotte Andersson

Professional musician and singer, Charlotte Andersson, from Copenhagen was an extreme delight for this year's participants. Charlotte awed everyone with her beautiful voice and many musical performances during the entire week. She described Christian Winther's "*Hjortens Flugt"*, a poem which dealt with wanderlust and romanticism.

Otto Christensen gave a captivating PowerPoint presentation about Jens Munk and his search for the Northwest Passage. Aase Christensen spoke about Scandinavian Folklore and the role Trolls played both then and now. She talked of the Thomas Dam trolls which have become collectors' items and of the Thomas Dambo trolls which can be found all over the world. Rolf Christensen spoke about the rise of political Populism and Populists, trying to define it and giving examples from the United States, Britain and elsewhere.

There was an excursion to the impressive Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which included a guided tour as well as free time to explore some of the exhibition halls in more detail. Another excursion was to the magnificent Manitoba Legislature, where Members of the Legislative Assembly were debating climate change. Pastor Susanne gave a talk about Pastor Rasmus Jensen, who had accompanied the Jens Munk expedition. In the process she performed a Lutheran Church Service just as it would have been held during the reign of King Christian IV.

On the last evening the 28 participants held a Goodbye Party, where they showed off their talents by creating their own entertainment. Charlotte Andersson sang and played on the keyboard and Alf Gregerson sang and played the accordion. A very successful fundraising lottery was held during the evening with many very desirable winnings, brought by the participants.



Alf Gregerson



Aase Christensen & Trolls



Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen



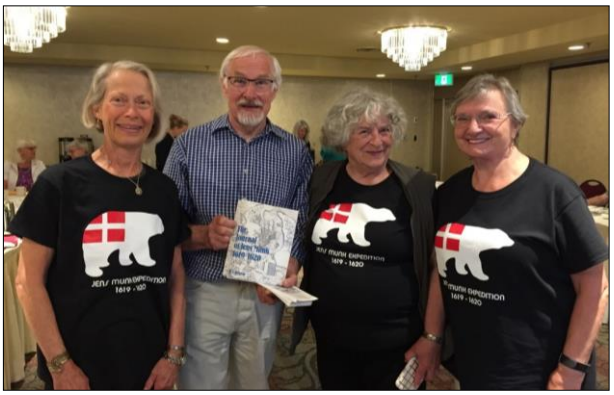
Good Bye Party



Dining at the Dansk Bistro in Winnipeg



In the Bar at the Hotel Fort Garry



Margrethe Hiebert, Otto Christensen, Barb Schweger, Anne Lise Pedersen



COQUITLAM
1400 United Blvd
604 524 3444

RICHMOND
12551 Bridgeport Rd
604 273 2971

LANGLEY
20429 Langley By-Pass
604 530 8248

KELOWNA
1912 Spall Road
250 860 7603

NANAIMO
1711 Bowen Rd
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Honorary Danish Consul Ann-Britt Everett

Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, Vancouver

With a profound sense of loss, I am saddened to announce the passing of Honorary Danish Consul Ann-Britt Everett in Vancouver, British Columbia, on November 26, 2019.

Ann-Britt Boding Everett, née Nielsen, is survived by her ten year old son Oscar, her husband Jeff, parents Rita and Poul-Henning, brother Simon (Anton and Goddaughter Ella Caroline) in Denmark, as well as aunt and uncle Jytte and Ole Hansen in Vancouver, in addition to an extended family of in-laws and relatives in both Denmark and Canada. She had a vast, vibrant, and caring community of friends and colleagues and as such leaves many lives touched by her spirit of generosity and inclusion. Ann-Britt enjoyed people and loved nothing more than connecting others to forge new relationships, whether personal or professional, and then to see them thrive.



Jeff, Ann-Britt, and their son Oscar

Ann-Britt had a master's degree from Copenhagen Business School and in Vancouver founded her own company Ann-Britt Everett Consulting, with expertise in search and recruitment. She had been serving as the Honorary Consul for Denmark in British Columbia since 2015. She considered it her highest honour and privilege to represent Denmark. It was a role she was perfectly suited for and thoroughly excelled in.

Ann-Britt was an avid reader, accomplished knitter, master baker and chef. She loved to entertain and whether on a sailboat or in her family home, she brought people together to make memorable occasions of both the ordinary and the celebratory. Ann-Britt was a worldly soul who loved travel and fashion and meeting new people. But nothing mattered more to Ann-Britt than her family and friends. Her son Oscar was her greatest joy and brightest light, husband Jeff her fiercest supporter and closest confidant. She will live on in their love for her, in their love for one another, and in the beautiful community of family and friends the three of them built together.

As the Danish Pastor in Vancouver I mostly met Ann-Britt at swanky celebrations in the Danish community, such as when we received the Danish ambassador or celebrated the Danish Queen's birthday. Yet Ann-Britt was never too busy to attend other events whether at the University of British Columbia or the Scandinavian Centre. Moreover, she was elected and served as Secretary of Dania Home in Burnaby.

I met her for the first time at my own installation in 2017, when I conducted my very first Sunday Service in the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby. She made me feel exceptionally welcome. Besides, she was always ready to give me advice on how to maneuver in the heavy Vancouver traffic and where to buy the best doughnuts in town!

The last time we met, we were all dressed for a festive occasion, having breakfast with Danish Crown Princess Mary. Ann-Britt had everything organized so well, and she was really excited about the occasion. I noticed how her family were all looking so dapper and ready for family photos. It truly was such a beautiful day for all of us!



Danish Crown Princess Mary, in Vancouver, spring 2019
Ann-Britt in a pink jacket next to Crown Princess in navy blue dress

Here I am writing to pay tribute to Ann-Britt's life, because we all know that there is so much more to her life than her illness and passing; we won't forget that she had a wonderful life here in Vancouver with all of us, a life full of adventure and special moments.

At her Celebration of Life we sang a special song, a much-loved Danish song about freedom. It is a song written by a well-known pastor and freedom fighter, Kaj Munk, who came from Lolland, the same part of Denmark as Ann-Britt came from. Her family sang this same song when Ann-Britt's grandparents in Denmark died. We have now passed on the tradition and listened to the song in her memory here in her new hometown of Vancouver.

The song is about a little flower uprooted and moved from its well-known and safe home to a new place on the West Coast of Denmark. Similarly, our Ann-Britt moved here to the far west and she found a new home. She showed us all how it is possible to have roots in two countries; to love your homeland and cherish your heritage and at the same time how to make new friends and settle down, embracing a whole new world. The song is *Den blå Anemone*. Included above are some of the lyrics translated into English.

The bright colour of this tiny little flower
seems to me just like it holds all of Spring,
and it lets me inherit an eternity of hope.
So, I bow down my head,
and tenderly stroking its silky bloom,
it fills me with peace and with wonder.
In this *tiny little* flower,
I see the *greatness* in God's creation…

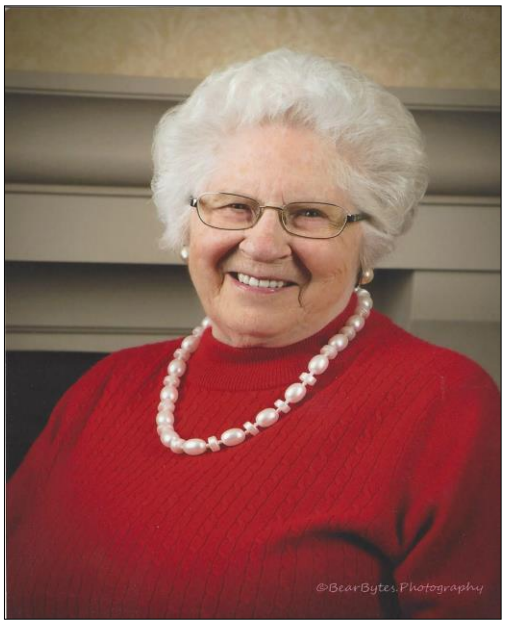
Ann-Britt leaves behind a wake of grief spanning continents and oceans. Born on June 12, 1973 in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark, she moved to Vancouver in 2001 where she passed away in 2019. To honour her life and her background, her ashes will be scattered partly in Vancouver and partly in Denmark. We commit her into the hands of God. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! All honour to her memory! Amen.

Betty Kjearsgaard

June 19, 1928 – June 22, 2019

Larry Kjearsgaard

Betty Kjearsgaard was born in Edmonton, Alberta to Vera and Thorvald Nielsen, a sister to Elsie who was 2 years old. Vera and Thorvald (Tom) had immigrated to Canada in 1924 from Copenhagen, Denmark. After a series of itinerant jobs on farms in Saskatchewan, Tom and Vera settled on a farm near Spruce Grove, Alberta, where Tom worked as a hired man and Vera cooked for the other hired men.



By 1929, Tom had saved enough to buy a small farm three miles east of Ardrossan, Alberta (near Edmonton) and began farming on his own - just as the Depression hit. The family survived thanks to their large vegetable garden, meat from their animals and Tom's inventive ability to pick up odd jobs in the community.



Betty's first years at school were difficult – mainly due to the fact that Danish was the language spoken at home and there was much to learn, about the English language. It was also difficult physically as there was a three mile walk involved every day. She finally convinced her dad to allow her to quit school halfway through grade ten and she was more than happy to spend her days doing household chores and looking after the little ones in the growing family: John was born in 1931, Helen in 1936 and Dennis in 1939.

When she was sixteen she moved to Edmonton, staying with family friends and working as a Ward Aid at the Col. Newburn Veterans Hospital. She eventually moved out on her own, renting a room at a boarding house. When her shifts permitted, she would often help out with supper duties at a large boarding house owned by another Danish couple, Mr and Mrs Paul Hansen. The Hansens often had 18 to 20 male University of Alberta students who ate there, and she became the favourite server for one of the students in particular – Anders (Andy) Kjearsgaard, a farm boy from Dickson, Alberta. Andy was recently discharged form the Canadian Army, having served overseas during WWII and now taking advantage of the free University tuition offered to veterans.

The Youth group at Ansgar Lutheran Church had organized a sleigh ride and Betty was paired with a nephew of the Hansens while Andy went with a girlfriend of Betty's. Somehow, Betty arranged a switch and the two ended up together by the end of the hayride, and, as it turned out, for the next 65 years! Betty and Andy were married on Aug 28, 1948 at Ansgar Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Larry came along in 1949. Sister Linda was born in 1951, followed by Sonja in 1953.



Betty is standing on the left

In 1955, the family bought a house in the new subdivision of Woodcroft, in west Edmonton, near where Westmount Shopping Centre would eventually be built. They also became charter members of the new Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in the neighbourhood.



Betty and Andy

The final addition to the family arrived in 1959 when Sharon was born.

In 1969, Betty returned to the work force for the first time in over 20 years, becoming a maid at the Lister Hall Residence at the University of Alberta. She was much more than a maid however, becoming almost a surrogate mother for some of the lonely first year students. She was given quite an emotional farewell party when she moved on.

Betty bought a self-help book and borrowed a typewriter, teaching herself how to type. ("keyboarding" for you younger ones). She then started a new career as a secretary, first at Kirk United Church, then Robertson-Wesley United Church, and eventually at her home church, Mt. Zion, where she worked for ten years.



Wedding Day
August 28, 1948

In 1996, Betty and Andy sold the Woodcroft house and and moved into a seniors complex near West Edmonton Mall. After Andy passed away in 2011, Betty was finding it increasingly difficult to live alone, so in 2014 she moved to an assisted living facility in Calgary which was great because all three daughters also lived in Calgary. As her dementia progressed, there was a need to move again and she spent her final 10 months at AgeCare Skypointe in Northeast Calgary.

So there you have the highlights of the life of Betty Kjearsgaard, but I'd like to read between the lines of those highlights and hopefully give you some insight into the woman she was.

Actually, I'll start by telling you about the woman she wasn't. Betty grew up on a farm but was definitely not a farm girl. I mentioned earlier about her family scraping by during the Depression relying on what was produced on the farm. She did not like chickens, they seemed to always be chasing her, even when they were supposed to be dead; her brother John enjoyed teasing his horrified sister with headless butchered chickens.

Even the vegetables conspired against Betty. When the cabbages were harvested, they were hung in the root cellar beneath the house. Within those cabbages seemed to be an abundance of fat green worms, which would eventually drop from the hanging cabbages onto the floor, or the head of someone unfortunate enough to be standing below. Betty hated being sent to the root cellar to retrieve vegetables!



Back: Betty, Andy, Larry
Middle: Sonja, Sharon, Faye (holding grandson Ian), Front: Linda

The family had no electricity or running water in those early days and one of the worst parts of farm living for Betty was the outhous, especially so if nature called during the night or during a thunderstorm.

She did learn something from her farm up-bringing though – her gardening skills. There was always a huge garden at the Woodcroft house and the family reaped the benefits with fresh, canned or later frozen vegetables all year long. There was always a colorful array of flowers in the beds, especially sweet peas and gladiolas. She also did an amazing job of tending to her indoor plants.

Betty was not, by her own admission, an athlete. She never did learn to ride a bicycle – the closest she came was a rather adventurous ride on a tandem bike for about 100 meters during a family reunion. Throwing was not her forte either. In the early 90's there was a family work party at the Woodcroft house to reshingle the roof. Betty's grandson, Ian, was on the roof and getting bothered by mosquitoes. He asked Betty to toss up a can of repellant. She tried an underhand toss, but miscalculated the release point, and the can crashed into the garage – behind her!

To be fair though, Betty was quite an accomplished 5 pin bowler. She and Andy bowled in leagues for about 40 years and she maintained a very respectable average in the 180's.

Again, by her own admission, Betty was not musical. Anyone who ever convinced her to get up on the dance floor, (a very rare feat) can attest to her unique sense of rythym. She was also very self conscious about her singing having been intimidated early in her relationship with Andy by the prowess of her sisters -in-law. She did love music however and would sing along very softly in church or at family reunion campfires. On a personal note, it was special for me during the later months of her life when communication was difficult, or actually non-existent, to be able to play my guitar and see her eyes light up when she heard a familiar favourite.

Thanks to lessons learned during the Depression years, Betty was imaginative and frugal. She told of a childhood with no toys, but she and her sister Elsie would cut out figures from the Eatons Catalogue and then cut out clothes to dress them with. This creativity served her well during the early years of her marriage when money was scarce. She made good use of the resources from her garden and would use cheap cuts of meat in stews – the kids did protest though when she tried to sneak chunks of liver into the stew! One of the family rituals was kneading the bags of white margarine so that the coloring would mix properly, as well as mixing the powdered skim milk.



Betty at the typewriter

Her creativity and imagination were most apparent in her writing. Betty loved poetry and could always be counted upon to come up with a special poem for a special occasion. She even had several of her poems published. She was also a writer, having published two novellas and a short book called "The Way It Was, The Story of My Life" in 1995.

Betty was also an excellent cook, although in deference to Andy's rather bland palete most of her meals were very well done meat and boiled or mashed potatoes with a side of garden vegetables. Where she excelled though was with her baking! I've still not found Danish rye bread that matches Mom's! Her pies and cookies were always a special treat – especially at Christmas time. My mouth still waters when I try to say "rabarbergrod" . . . pudding with rhubarb fresh from the garden!

Betty was very proud of her Danish heritage. Her first language was Danish and she was especially proud that in 1991 when the Queen of Denmark visited Canada for the opening of the Dickson Store Museum she and her mother, Vera were able to have a brief audience with the Queen – speaking Danish! The Queen actually commented that she was impressed that Betty spoke remarkable Danish. On the other side of that coin, however is the following anecdote: Betty's mom, Vera, obviously spoke Danish, having been born there. As the years went by, she forgot some of the words, but improvised when teaching her children. For instance, in Danish, the word "the" is indicated by adding an "en" or "et" to the end of the noun, thus 'car' is 'bil' in Danish, and 'the car' becomes 'bilen' . Vera had forgotten that the word for stove is "komfur" so she simply added an 'en' to the English word. This seemed logical and worked for many years until a trip to Denmark where the relatives looked incredulously at Betty when she talked about the "stoven".



Betty greets Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark

In her last few months, when the ability to communicate had left her, one could always get a smile by speaking a few words of Danish, especially, "Yeg elsker dig, mor".

Betty was an active member and supporter of the Danish National Museum in Dickson. She also

served for two years as the secretary of the national Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. She and Andy attended over 20 national Danish conferences across Canada, and even a couple in Denmark and one in the US.

She was also devoted to her life in the church. She did not attend church as a child, but after meeting Andy, she was baptized in 1947 at Ansgar Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Until her passing, she was the last surviving charter member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. She held numerous executive positions on the local church council, the Westmount Christian Council of Churches, as well as Lutheran Women's Groups both locally and provincially.

Her most recent involvment at Mt Zion was as a mover and shaker with the Mt. Zion Seniors Drop-In Centre.

Betty also held volunteer executive positions with the Woodcroft Home and School Association, and two different Ladies Bridge Clubs. One of her favourite volunteer activities after Andy died was as a 'baby cuddler' at the Misericordia Hospital.

One of Betty's best qualities was her patience. Raising four kids with an often absentee partner (Andy's work with Soil Survey meant that he spent most summers on the road, sometimes gone for up to four weeks at a time) must have been hair-raising at times. Each of the sisters, have their own stories about trying mom's patience, but in the interest of limited space, I'll relate one of mine. In my late teens, I played in a very loud, rock 'n roll garage band and for a few months we commandeered the Kjearsgaard basement rumpus room as our practice facility. Mom never complained about the procession of long haired weirdo hippies in her house, or about the incredible noise level. She did draw the line, however, when several of her ornaments tumbled from the shelf due to the vibration from the bass!

Betty loved to have company – even the long haired variety, and her home was always open with an abundance of food, especially delicious desserts. Mom was a bit of a "fuss-budget" when company was around, but in a good way – she went out of her way to please people. The grandkids especially, all have stories of times spent at Grandma Betty's.



In conclusion I'd like to try to decribe Betty's most endearing quality – her devotion to her family. In the overall scheme of things it may seem insignificant, but one of the things we've missed over the past few years and will continue to miss, is that birthday card that arrived in the mailbox of every son, daughter, in-law, grandchild and great grandchild (36 descendants and in-laws in total!) every year without fail.

Like most families, things were not always wonderful, but mom was always a constant with her

love, caring and willingness to listen, no matter the situation. She was absolutely devoted to the “love of her life”, Andy, and together they set a profound example of what it means to be committed to one's marriage vows. It wasn't until his death that they parted, and now with her death they're together again.

We will all miss you terribly, mom, but it's a comfort to know you're in a better place.

Vi elsker dig og Aere Vaere hendes minde.

Short Obituaries

Aage Andersen, Edmonton
1932-2018

Aage Andersen, son of Jens and Johanne Andersen, passed away at the age of 86 on February 27, 2018. Aage is lovingly remembered by his brother Jens Andersen of Denmark, and by his extended family and friends. Aage was predeceased by his sisters Agnes, Jane, Anna, Inga and his brother Poul. A celebration of Aage's life was held on March 10, 2018 at South Side Memorial Chapel, 8310-104 Street, Edmonton.

Carl Ove Andersen, Edmonton
1925-2018

Carl Ove Andersen passed away in Edmonton on April 8, 2018, at the age of 92. Carl was born in Denmark on July 28, 1925. He came to Canada in 1957 with his loving wife Else and two children, Erik and Lone. He had a great life in Edmonton working as an electrician and raising his family, having two more children, George and Brian. Carl embraced life in Canada and loved being a part of the Danish community through Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church. Fishing and enjoying the cottage at Long Lake was a great love, as was gardening and stained glass. Carl also loved spending time with family and his grandchildren. Carl leaves behind Else, his loving wife of 67 years; children, Erik (Lori), Lone (Noel), George (Colleen) and Brian (Charlene); four grandchildren; Julie-Ann, Brad (Nicole), Lance and Brielle; sisters, Lise Johansen, Birthe Nielsen and Jytte Petersen; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Elly and Axel Andersen; and two brothers, Ole and Kaj Andersen. A memorial service was held at Park Memorial Chapel, 8709-111 Avenue, in Edmonton on May 5, 2018.

Jens Kristian Andersen, Port Colborne
1924-2016

Jens Kristian Andersen was born in Hennerup, Denmark, on November 27, 1924. He immigrated to Canada in 1957 and settled in Port Colborne, Ontario. He worked for the City of Port Colborne for 26 years, mainly with water and sewer. He and his wife spent sixteen winters in Florida. Kristian had many hobbies, including woodcarving and basket weaving from pine needles. He passed away at the Welland General Hospital on July 17, 2016, after a lengthy illness. He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Karen, née Hansen, and his son, Erik Andersen of Port Colborne. He was predeceased by his parents, a sister in Denmark and a brother in Norway. He was interned at the Oakwood Cemetery in Wainfleet, Port Colborne.

Jytte Andersen, Calgary
1927-2018

Jytte (Judy) Andersen of Calgary passed away in Olds on Monday, January 29, 2018 at the age of 90. She was born Jytte Magnussen in Ringsted, Denmark, on December 25, 1927. Jytte, her husband Karl-Johan (Andy) and three of their children, immigrated to Canada from Denmark in 1957. They then moved from Lethbridge to Calgary in 1960, with two more children. In Calgary they built their home where Jytte resided until 2014. Judy loved to knit, dance and travel with family and friends. Her greatest love was her family. She moved to the Mountain View Lodge and then Sunrise Encore in Olds for care and to be more central to all her family. Judy is survived by her children, Maj-Britt (Stan) Price, Susanne (Doug) Anderson, Rose-Mary (Allan) MacRae and Peter John Andersen; grandchildren, Rob (Cindy) Price, Tammy (Glen) Sorley, Christopher Anderson, Amy (Mike) Anderson, Ryan (Kim) Andersen, Andrea (Doug) Morrison Katie (Rob) Hazel, Tara (Matt) Sawatsky and Curtis MacRae; great-grandchildren, Nick, Jacob, Abby and Owen Price, Hailey and Ella Morrison, Hudson and Elishia Sawatsky, Frankie Anderson, Daxton and Brinley Hazel; sister Eva Bay of Victoria B.C.; nephew Greg (Kim) Bay of Vancouver; niece Ann (John) O'Connor of L.A. U.S.A.; and nephew Poul Bay of Calgary. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Karl-Johan (Andy) Andersen in 1995; her son Tonny Andersen in 2014; her father Poul Magnussen in 1987, mother Mary Magnussen in 2001 and brother in-law Ole Bay in 2007. Funeral services were held at Park Memorial in Calgary on February 8, 2018.

Kristine Benedikte Andersen, Calgary
1948-2017

Kristine Andersen passed away in Calgary on November 21, 2017 at the age of 69. Kristine Benedikte Andersen was born in Mølby, Oksenvad Parish, Haderslev, Denmark, on February 1, 1948. She will live on forever in the hearts of her daughter and two sons, her family in Denmark and countless others who she touched in so many ways. Kristine was a Jill of all trades and always gave her best effort no matter the task. She never hid from any challenge whether it was raising three children or helping run a successful business, or both at the same time. She was good at everything she did and was always willing to try new things with the people she loved such as golf, eventually scoring two holes in ones. She enjoyed helping others and gave much of her time to help plan and organize events at the Danish Lutheran Church and her children's extracurricular activities. Kristine loved spending time with her friends who were more like family and throwing awesome parties so they could be together. She was very knowledgeable about many things but perhaps most when it came to her gardens and the many varieties of plants, she loved so dearly and was always willing to help a friend with advice or a plant from her garden. She loved the Rocky Mountains and used any excuse to go west and spend time on the many trails whether with the girls hiking group or the many Danish visitors she loved hosting. Although we mourn our loss, we must also celebrate the life of a strong, loving, wise, but more than anything, a nice woman. A Funeral Services was held at Danish Lutheran Church on November 25, 2017.

Lisbeth Bencze, Surrey
1951-2018

Lisbeth Jeanette Bencze, née Christensen, passed away at Surrey Memorial Hospital on December 31, 2018, at the age of 67. Liz was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 10, 1951. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Sonja Christensen. She is survived by Allan, her loving husband of 42 years. They were married in Vancouver on March 6, 1976. She graduated from high school at North Surrey Secondary in 1970 and went on to study at Kwantlen while working at Western Foam Supply. She later worked for Field's and Zellers. Liz loved to travel to Hawaii and shared many memorable trips with her family. Liz is lovingly remembered by her children Mike and Jen Bencze (Gary), her sister Susan Christensen, brother-in-law Doug Bencze (Arlene), niece Christina and relatives in Denmark. A Celebration of Life was held at First Memorial Fraser Heights Chapel, Surrey, British Columbia, on January 19, 2019.

Eleanor Christensen, New Denmark
1918-2018

Eleanor Christensen passed away at the Victoria Glen Manor, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, on April 19, 2018, in her 100th year. She was the widow of Lewis Christensen. She was born in New Denmark in 1918, a daughter of the late Hans and Anna (Nielsen) Jensen. She is survived by her son, Gordon (Linda) of New Denmark, daughter-in-law, Laurel (late Douglas) of New Denmark, seven grandchildren, Peggy, Laurie Ann (Peter), Patricia, Donald (Barbara), Ronald, David (Tina) and Stephen (Kelly), great grandchildren, John, James, Jana, Jordan, Ryan, William, Tiffany, Brittany, Courtney, Cody, Cassidy, Justin, Christopher, Brayden, Tyler, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two sons, Delbert and Douglas, great grandson Corey, five brothers John, Carl, Niels, Edward and Donald and eight sisters, Agnez, Hilda, Olive, a second Olive, Amelia, Vickie, Carrie and Johanne. Her funeral service was held April 21, 2018, from St. Ansgar's Anglican Church, New Denmark, with Father Stephen Harnish officiating. Interment was in the adjoining cemetery. Pallbearers were Donald, Ronald, David, Stephen Christensen, Brayden Rideout and Tyler Clark.

Lis Kryger Christensen, Killam, Alberta
1931-2014

Lis Kryger Christensen was born on April 26, 1931, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Lis was the older of two children. Lis lived in Denmark for 43 years raising her three children, Bente, Jan and Jesper, from a previous marriage. Lis worked as a supervisor for a data company, which was owned by Bent Christensen. Through company functions, Lis got to know the Christensen family well and became good friends with Bent's sister, Ellen. Ellen insisted that Lis would be the perfect match for her brother, who lived in Canada. In December 1972, Lis and Svend met for the first time. Four months later, Lis quit her job, and moved to Killam, Alberta, to become a farmer's wife. Lis and Svend were married on July 17, 1973. Lis quickly learned that life on the farm was vastly different from her life in Copenhagen, and her job description quickly grew. She

became everything from Svend's right hand woman to gardener, bookkeeper and master chef. Family was important to Lis and her and Svend hosted many family get-togethers at their house, particularly around Christmas time. One special tradition during Christmas, among others, was creating and decorating gingerbread houses with her grandchildren. When Lis wasn't occupied with her family, she enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, and bowling. She and Svend also enjoyed travelling, and they visited many places in North America, Europe and Australia. Lis passed away peacefully on July 22, 2014, after a brief battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Svend, brother Ove Rasmussen (Yvonne), Denmark, daughter Bente Lunty (Melvin), Sedgewick, AB, sons Jan Nielsen, Denmark, and Jesper Nielsen (Meredith), Killam, AB, grandchildren Tina Lunty, Denmark, Anders Lunty (Michelle), Edmonton, AB, Nikkie Kryger, Denmark, Lasse Nielsen, Denmark, Chelsea Nielsen, Strathmore, AB, Brittany Nielsen, Camrose, AB, Alex Nielsen, Killam, AB, and great-grandchildren Piper Lunty, Edmonton, AB, Loa Kryger, Denmark, and Oliver Lunty, Edmonton, AB. A memorial service was held at Sedgewick United Church.

Niels Ernst Hansen Dresen, Kamloops and Burnaby 1922-2014

Niels Ernst Hansen Dresen passed away on April 14, 2014 in Burnaby, BC. He was born July 22, 1922 near Wayne, Alberta. He was the second of four surviving children born to immigrants from Denmark. Speaking Danish as a boy, only learning English at the age of six, Niels had a dual patriotism that embraced the old, Denmark, and the new, Canada. He had a life-long love of laughter, joking, word play and music. Swept up by World War II and crossing the North Atlantic as a depth charge man on Canadian corvettes, Niels in peacetime worked from the Lakehead in Eastern Ontario, through the Prairie Provinces, to the BC Coast and Vancouver Island, as rodman, surveyor, and engineer. He was City Engineer in Courtney, BC, the town of Merritt, and also in the district of Valleyview before its amalgamation into Kamloops; after that he sold, water mains and sewer systems to towns, villages and cities throughout BC until he retired in Kamloops; in his last three years he moved to the coast to be closer to his family.

Predeceased by his parents, Marie and Karl Hansen Dresen, brother Esbern, sisters Eleanor Krogh and Ellen McDougall, and his son Joel; Niels is survived by sons Neil, Ken, Ross, and daughter Angela, his grandchildren Jeremy, Katrina, Harlen and Erik, and great grandchildren Kelly, Aidan, and Bria. A Memorial Service was held in the Lakewood Room at the Trout Lake Community Centre in Vancouver, BC, on May 10, 2014.

Ole Elmer, Vancouver 1948-2018

Ole Sylvest Elmer passed away suddenly on July 11, 2018, at the age of 70. Ole Elmer was born in Lyngby, Denmark, on January 11, 1948, where he attended the Ulrikkenborg School. He apprenticed as a French Chef, receiving his training in Copenhagen and Paris. Ole then moved to Canada where he spent most of his career in the food industry from cooking in logging and mining camps, to owning a successful catering company, to presiding over North America's

fastest growing waffle company. He started Western Waffles in 1990. It started as a small waffle shop on Annacis Island in Delta, British Columbia. The business expanded rapidly from a small shop to two modern manufacturing facilities in Delta and in Moncton, New Brunswick. At one point each of the two facilities produced over a million waffles and pancakes each day. After the sale of the waffle company, Ole Elmer started on a journey of adventures with a passion for rowing and biking. He biked on long treks in South America. He rowed the McKenzie River. In 2010 he rowed across the Atlantic, with fellow rower Serge Roetheli of Switzerland. They rowed from La Gomera in the Canary Island to English Harbour in Antigua, a distance of about 5,500 km. Woodvale, a boat manufacturer in England had crafted the covered canoe (row boat), according to Ole's specifications. Rowing across the Atlantic has been voted the most difficult endurance event in the world. Ole twice rowed across the Atlantic (again in 2011). A formal funeral service was not held. Instead there was a celebration of life at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Vancouver on July 29, 2018.

Carl Haakon Feilberg, East Braintree, Manitoba 1905-2003

Carl Haakon Feilberg passed away peacefully at his home in Beauséjour, Manitoba, on his 98th birthday, October 27, 2003. Haakon was born in Malt, west of Askov, Southern Denmark, on October 27, 1905, to Ditlev Nikolaj Feilberg and Julie Johanne Feilberg, née Mørch. Ditlev, a machinist by trade, was born in Odense. Julie had been born in Hillerød. In 1910, at the age of 43, Ditlev immigrated to Canada, travelling ahead of his family. The following year his wife, Julie, and their children, including Haakon, came to Canada, to join him on the homestead in Nokomis, Saskatchewan. In May 1927 the Feilberg family moved to East Braintree in Manitoba. Then in about 1932, Haakon married Lena Martha Feilberg, née Marquart. They had two boys, Dorwin and Carl. Lena would live to be 101. She died peacefully at the Villa Youville in Ste-Anne, Manitoba, on January 3, 2011. Haakon's mother, after her arrival in Canada in 1911, wrote letters to her family in Denmark, which were later published in Denmark as *De derovre* (1912) and *Hjemliv paa Prærien* (1917). A couple of these letters were published in the Danish Federation's 1988 Heritage Book. An interesting and substantial article about Nikolai Feilberg, Haakon's brother, was written by Chris Christensen of Winnipeg in the 1989 Heritage Book.

Michael Fog, Montreal 1947-2019

Michael Fog was born in Copenhagen on September 26, 1947. He passed away peacefully in Montreal on October 30, 2019, after an extended illness. After graduating from art school in Basel, Switzerland, Michael settled in Montreal in 1974 to pursue a prolific career as an artist and graphic designer, where he subsequently met the love of his life, Nathalie McKenzie, the mother of his three remarkable children: Eva Fog, Michele Fog and Thomas Fog.

Michael lived life with passion and gusto, with elegance and modesty. Irrepressibly good-natured, Michael enchanted people with his humor, curiosity, and perspectives. He treated all whom he met with kindness and dignity. His observations of the world around him were unique -

he could draw what most could barely imagine. His musings were poignant and authentically revealing of his sense and sensibility. "If you are lucky enough to get a window seat, enjoy the view!" "Why drink water when you can drink beer?" "Doesn't get any better than this!" "No good time is wasted!" He was a proud Dane. He will be deeply missed.

Bjørn Jønsson Hansen, Toronto
1951-2017

Bjørn Jønsson Hansen passed away in Toronto on November 13, 2017. He was born in Denmark on November 11, 1951 and came to Canada as a young boy. He was a Platoon Chief with the York Fire Department when he retired in 2007. As a boy he developed a lifelong love for guitars, tennis and sailing. He is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, one sister, three nephews, one niece and his wife. He was unfailingly honest and kind, traits he inherited from his beloved parents.

Eric August Hansen, Pass Lake
1929-2017

Eric August Hansen passed away unexpectedly on April 9, 2017. Eric was born on June 5, 1929, in his parent's, Charlie and Agnes' home right beside where the Community Hall is now. He was the first grandchild born to the first family who settled in Pass Lake, the Andersens. Eric had a great sense of humour, loved to tell stories, discuss current events, nature and dogs. Eric held various jobs, a few being a cabinet maker, driving the Port Arthur North Belt bus and streetcars in Toronto, the Toronto warehouse purchaser for the Department of Highways for ten years, until their business, Campers Corner took off! Eric and Alma were pioneers in do it yourself recreational campers, from 1967 to 1989. Eric drew up the camper plans and they sold the supplies to enable people to build their own. He was so excited when they returned to show the finished product! Their passion for camping took them all over Canada and the USA. They found contentment in their home in Pass Lake over the last 24 years, some of those wintering in Florida. Eric was happiest when he was in his shop making sawdust. Eric is survived by his wife of 67 years, Alma, née Clayton, his sister Judy Smiegielski, nephew Dale (Patricia and their son Benjamin) and niece, Denise. The funeral service was held April 13, 2017 at Salem Lutheran Church, Pass Lake, conducted by the Rev. Ed Long.

Grethe Marie Hansen, Innisfail and Hawaii
1938-2013

Grethe Marie Hansen, née Hansen (yes, it happens) passed away in Innisfail on May 5, 2013. In respect of Grethe's wishes, no formal funeral service was held. Her ashes were returned to Hawaii to join those of her beloved John. Grethe was born on December 7, 1938 in St. John, New Brunswick. When Grethe was eight her family moved to Michigan; eventually settling in Grand Rapids. She spent her childhood there, where she demonstrated a number of talents, most notably her art. Grethe also learned her love of travel as a teenager when she visited Denmark

with her Mom. Grethe graduated from South High School, following which she began work as a telephone operator. Her career was short-lived however, as she met the love of her life, Jens (John) Hansen (no relation!), a friend of her brother Eric's, shortly before her graduation. Grethe and John were wed on March 28, 1958, and moved to Canada that November, along with her brother and his wife Marsha. They began their married life on the family farm west of Dickson, which was an eye-opening experience to the city girl! She had to work hard to learn how to be a farm-wife. She eventually mastered everything from gardening and canning to upholstery, furniture refinishing, house building, sewing and child rearing. After a few years on the farm John and Grethe moved first to Spruce View and then to Dickson, where they lived and raised their son, three daughters and numerous foster children over the years. Grethe continued to expand her creative abilities, producing many beautiful paintings, cross-stitch, arts and crafts and winning numerous flower-arranging competitions. Grethe was well known for the beautiful Christmas tree ornaments she created every year for her children and grandchildren. In 1976 John experienced a heart-attack and as part of the healing process Grethe and John decided to vacation in Hawaii. They fell in love with the Island of Kauai and immediately began the process of moving there permanently. They spent much of the next three years travelling back and forth between Alberta and Kauai, buying land, building a house and looking for business opportunities. In the spring of 1980 they made the final transition and moved permanently to Kauai. Grethe and John purchased a small, one-woman, plant rental business with which to earn a living. They built it up into the largest of its kind on Kauai. They tried to persuade their children to join them in Paradise. Though all of Grethe and John's children visited them, it was their oldest daughter Kathy, and her husband Rick, who eventually joined them in Hawaii permanently. Grethe was devastated when John passed away in 1989. She never remarried, instead focussing on her children, grandchildren; her bed and breakfast "Bed of Roses"; as a Hospice volunteer; her friends and travel. She continued to spend as much time as possible with her family in both Hawaii and Canada, eventually moving back to Innisfail in 2005. Grethe was predeceased by her father Hans, mother Nina, husband; John and brother-in-law; Paul Hansen. She leaves her son Russell Hansen of Red Deer, daughter Kathy (Rick) Haupt of Kauai, daughter Christie (Darrell) Edgar of Innisfail, daughter Connie (Chris) Hyles of Bowden, stepdaughter Loretta (Garry) Leonhardt of Calgary, eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Hans George Hansen, Lacombe, Alberta
1925-2017

H. George Hansen passed away peacefully at Royal Oak Village in Lacombe, Alberta, on February 11, 2017. Hans Georg Hansen was born July 11, 1925, in the village of Faxe Ladeplads, to Anders Viggo and Johanne Marie Hansen. As a boy, he worked on his parents' farm, attended school, and was in several plays in a local drama club. As a young man, he took formal education for Agriculture at Dalum Landbrugsskole and served with the Royal Danish Guards in Copenhagen. In 1951 he came to Canada on a Farm Exchange Program and worked on Farms in Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. George fell in love with Central Alberta. George and his wife Annalise (Lise), also from Denmark, became Canadian Citizens and made Lacombe their home. George worked for a while at a logging camp west of Rocky Mountain House; then began his career as a carpenter working for Ellis Construction in Lacombe; building everything from homes to large commercial buildings; and then later doing smaller projects for Lacombe

County. As well as working full time; he enjoyed the farm where they had range cattle, hay and grain. George enjoyed volunteering at church and was a 4H Leader. He enjoyed time with his extended family and being around people. His hobbies were going to auctions, coffee time with friends and hockey games. George was predeceased by his parents Anders Viggo and Johanne Marie, his brother Olav, and two sisters Ruth and Elise Marie. He is survived by his wife Lise; their children Steann (Joan), Benita (Ken) Kalinsky, Eric (Kelly), David (Christy); his Grandchildren Justeann, Joel, Jordan, Kevin (Kristen) Kalinsky, Collin Kalinsky, Carly (Brett) Moore, Kyle (Maria), Annalise, Sophia, Madden; his great-grandchild J.J. Kalinsky; his brother Henry (Agnes) of Kelowna and their extended family; and his large extended family in Denmark. The funeral was held at Wilson's Funeral Home, Lacombe, on February 18, 2017.

Poul-Erik Skovsbo Hansen, Mississauga
1940-2019

Poul-Erik Skovsbo Hansen passed away on November 8, 2019 at the age of 79 at Trillium Memorial Hospital. A proud Dane, Poul immigrated to Canada at the young age of 21 with $50 and a dream. Speaking no English he struggled to be taken seriously as a tool and dye maker and began sweeping the floors at a toy factory at night. A strong work ethic carried him far, and within a decade, he had built a successful multinational auto parts company. His relentless entrepreneurial spirit also led him to start, acquire and lead many other successful companies in a host of business fields - forklifts, elevators, flatbed trucks, restaurants, and even a bakery. Poul was known for his extreme generosity, unwavering loyalty, and his intense determination to work hard and play even harder. He had an uncanny gambling savviness that baffled casinos around the world. With that same persistent will, he fought Parkinson's unflinchingly to the very end. He leaves behind a proud and loving wife Susan (Jacuzzi), daughters Melissa and Pia, his son Flemming and innumerable friends and family. A celebration of his life was held on December 8, 2019 at the Waterside Inn, 15 Stavebank Road, Mississauga.

Svend Lindskov Hansen, Campbell River, BC
1923-2018

Svend Lindskov Hansen passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 20, 2018. Svend was born in Denmark on March 2, 1923 and grew up in Holstebro. He trained as a cabinet maker and worked at Elk Falls, outside Campbell River, British Columbia. With Inga, his wife of 66 years, and their four children he shared his love of travel, skiing and sailing. He loved to see his whole family gathered for a meal or ice cream, even during his stay at Yucalta Lodge.

Paul and Agnete Hatorp, St. Anns, Ontario
1927-2009 and 1930-2016

Paul Hatorp was born Poul Hatorp Christensen in Sønder Omme, Jutland, on July 7, 1927. When he was five years old the family moved to Vor Frue, south of Roskilde, to take over Hastrupgaard, the family farm. After finishing school he attended the agricultural college in

Dalum, where he specialized in dairying. In school he had dropped Christensen and became just Hatorp; and in Canada Poul became Paul. In 1949 he was a corporal in the artillery, and while on manoeuvres on the island of Bornholm he noticed a young woman cleaning the windows of a local hotel in Nexø. That is how he met Agnete. They were married at Saint Ib's Church in Svaneke on May 2, 1953. Agnete Hatorp, née Gudbergsen, was born on the island of Bornholm on August 24, 1930. She apprenticed as a mason, which was quite unusual for a girl. They immigrated to Canada in 1953. They obtained work on the Moyer Farm, an orchard and vineyard in Grimsby, Ontario. He worked on the farm and she worked inside the house. After a year they moved to Guelph, where they both worked at the university's experimental farm. Here Paul was responsible for a herd of dairy cows. A year later, in 1955, Paul and Agnete bought a farm in St. Anns, near St. Catharines, where their children, Carsten and Ann-Marie were born. They operated the farm until Paul had to quit farming for health reasons. He then entered the real estate business, setting up Paul Hatorp & Associates Limited on James Street in St. Catharines. They remained on the farm, where Agnete put her masonry training to good use, building the main house re-using old bricks. The Hatorp family attended the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby and each year they invited the congregation to celebrate Saint Hans on their farm. A tradition their son, Carsten, continues. Paul passed away on May 10, 2009, in his 82nd year, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Agnete passed away on November 30, 2016, 86 years of age. They were dear parents of Carsten Hatorp and family of St. Anns and Ann-Marie Svendsen and family of Omemee, Ontario, and loving grandparents to seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Erik Hogh, Toronto
1926-2018

Erik Hogh passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 1, 2018. He was born in Vejgaard, Denmark, on May 16, 1926. He came to Canada in 1964. He was a long-time friend of the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto, serving as deacon, editor, treasurer and president. Erik Hogh was also involved with the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, serving in the Ontario Region. In the period 1983 to 2003 he served on the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation for seventeen years, serving as director, secretary, treasurer and in 1984-85 as president of the Ontario Region. From 2006 to 2014 he was the Danish Federation's auditor. He is survived by his cousin in Ottawa, his sister Birte, his niece Anette, and his grandniece Christina in Denmark. He will be missed by family and friends and by members of the Toronto Congregation, Danish Federation, the Royal Danish Guards' Association and the Orangeville Horticultural Society. His memorial service was held by Pastor Jørgen Flensted-Jensen on Monday, December 17, 2018, at the Danish Lutheran Church on Finch Avenue West in Toronto. Soren Sondergaard delivered the eulogy and the Royal Danish Guards brought the Danish and Canadian flags. Erik was interned at Sunset Mindepark. His biography appeared in the 2017 Heritage Book.

Aase Hueglin, Niagara Falls
1942-2018

Aase Hueglin was a proud Dane, a wonderful dance partner, a loving grandmother and a devoted monarchist, who died on July 23, 2018. Aase Hueglin, née Erntgaard, was born in Charlottenlund on October 25, 1942. She was known to many as the wife of Joseph Fred Hueglin, her husband of 56 years, former Member of Parliament and local school teacher. However, Aase made her own mark in politics as president of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Association of Women. She also served as president of the Niagara Promotions Committee and as a commissioner on the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. Aase had a knack for making special occasions even more special. Whether she was sending a card on someone's birthday or making a cookie tray at Christmas, Aase never missed a chance to honour a friend or message a loved one. This list includes her children Lise (the late Eugene O'Laughlin), Erik (Kim Hueglin) and Janet (Chris Hartwick), grandchildren Erik, Stephen, Kayla, Tanner, Kathleen, Olivia and Abby, and her sister Annette (Dan Buss). Aase was a proud Canadian who celebrated her Danish heritage with passion. Well known for her love of saying "skål" at family meals. A celebration of life reception was held on July 29, 2018, at Taps On Queen Brewhouse & Grill. Aase was a proud member of the Sunset Villa Association and she was interred at Sunset Mindepark, with her parents Poul and Edith Erntgaard in a private ceremony.

Aage Iversen, Olds
1924-2017

Aage Iversen was born on a farm in the Parish of Astrup near Hjørring, Northern Jutland, Denmark, on November 23, 1924. He was the sixth of nine children born to Aksel Iversen and his wife Emilie Karoline Andrea Iversen. Aage was baptised in the old Astrup Church, built between 1200 and 1250, but not given a middle name. In May 1946 he was called up to serve in the Royal Danish Guards, based on Sjælland and in Copenhagen. In 1950, Aage and his older brother, Paul, immigrated to Canada, landing at Pier 21 in Halifax on June 3, 1950, after having endured a terrible storm at sea. Aage arrived with two suitcases and $45. Aage and Paul soon found work on a dairy farm in Ontario. Later Aage found work as a grounds keeper at a lodge. In 1951 Aage and his brother then worked their way west by car and ended in Calgary. Here Aage started a concrete business, which provided him with a chance meeting with his future wife, Christine. On June 27, 1958 Aage married Christine (affectionately known as Stinne), and they had two sons, Erik and John. In 1962 they moved to DeWinton where they rented a farm and milked a few cows. In 1968 they bought a farm near Olds, which they, together with their two sons, made into a model farm with excellent Holstein dairy cows. With Aage's feel for breeding cows and the family's work ethic they were awarded the Master Breeder Award for the best herd in Canada in 2006. Aage was known for his smile and sense of humour – Danish humour – and funny comments. He was a member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association Western Canada, as was his brother in law, Jens Leth. At the age of 92 he could still drive a tractor. He lived on his farm until the end. He died on July 15, 2017. His funeral service was held July 24 at the First Baptist Church in Olds, with Pastor John Lentz officiating. Internment was at the Hainstock Cemetery in Olds.

Hans Robert Sejer Jensen, Montreal
1931-2019

Hans Robert Sejer Jensen of Montreal passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on January 15, 2019. He was born on April 16, 1931. Hans Robert (Bob) Sejer Jensen, aged 87, was the beloved husband of Ann Friis Christensen and devoted father of Andrew, Kathy and Mark. Bob will be cremated, and a memorial service will be held at The Mount Royal Funeral Complex at a yet-to-be determined spring date. Bob worked for many years at the General Motors parts warehouse in Pointe Claire, finishing his career there as a well-respected supervisor. Bob was an active elder and a popular lay preacher in Presbyterian churches throughout the region. He will be dearly missed.

Jimmy Jensen, New Denmark
1943-2018

Jimmy Jensen, born in 1943, passed away at his home in St. Almo, New Brunswick, on May 28, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Cooper) Jensen, daughters: Jana Hanson (Stacey), Julie Anne Quinn (Kevin), Jaye Lee Jensen; step-daughter Jennifer Cooper; grandchildren: Ryan, Lucas, Carter, Eric, Lily and Juliana, his sister Barb (Paul Mulherin), nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister Joan Jensen. His funeral service was held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New Denmark, on May 31, 2018. Interment was in the adjoining cemetery.

Ken (Knud) Jensen, Victoria
1932-2017

Knud Jensen, who was born in Denmark on October 18, 1932, passed away peacefully in Victoria, British Columbia, on June 14, 2017. He was predeceased by his son Richard and is survived by his wife of 41 years, Susan, as well as son Michael (Diane), granddaughters Diana, Shayla and Carly May and great-granddaughters Krystal and Isabella. In Denmark he was an Olympic swimmer and a pilot in the Danish Air Force. He came to Canada in 1956, attended Simon Fraser University and taught in Delta, south of Vancouver, for thirty years. A celebration of his life was held at St. Mark Anglican Church in Ocean Park, Surrey, British Columbia on July 14, 2017.

Niels Herman Jensen, Forestburg and Strathmore
1927-2012

Niels Herman Jensen, beloved husband of Nina Jensen of Strathmore, passed away in Strathmore on April 21, 2012 at the age of 84 years. Niels was born in Svinding, Denmark, on October 10, 1927. He was raised there to the age of ten years, when he was hired out as a farm labourer. Niels continued his education while working, and as was the custom, finished his schooling and went out to work on his own at the age of 14 years. He graduated as a licensed carpenter and

continued in his trade for some time. Niels married Inga Nielsen in November 1952 and they lived in Denmark for several more years. In the spring of 1957 they immigrated to Canada as farm workers at Throne, Alberta, for five years. They rented a farm at Galahad for a further five years then moved to Forestburg, where Niels went back to his original trade, carpentry. In 1991 Inga passed away. Niels later met Nina and they were married on August 28, 1993. They continued to reside in Forestburg, and Niels retired in his early 70s. His special interests had always been fishing and model trains. He maintained a strong interest in flower gardening, once he retired and had the time to do it. In 2001 at Forestburg, he received "Best Floral Garden" for the town. In 2003, he and Nina moved to Strathmore. His gardening efforts continued and gave him much pleasure as did his carpentry projects. Niels was predeceased by his parents Ole and Jensine Jensen, first wife Inga, brothers Viggo and Børge, sisters Astrid, Lisbeth and Doris. He is survived by his wife Nina; stepchildren Donna Reimer, Sherry Reimer, Allan Reimer, Karen Reimer, Denise (Terry) Thompson, Arthur (Mary) Reimer and Gilbert (Jolene) Reimer; 23 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; sisters Hilda (Axel) Olsen and Ellen (Mondrop) Kristensen and many other family members in Denmark. Funeral services were held on April 27, 2012, from St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rev. Jane Rowland officiating. Internment followed at Bassano Cemetery.

Anne Lise Johansen, Nanaimo
1930-2012

Lise Johansen passed away in Nanaimo on May 17, 2012, after an eleven-year battle with cancer. Anne Lise (Jensen) Johansen was born outside of Nykøbing Falster, Denmark, on March 8, 1930. She completed her schooling and graduated from her dressmaker's apprenticeship in 1949, to become a master seamstress. In 1950, she was married to her partner of 65 years, Per Johansen. Per and Lise welcomed their only daughter, Lone Harms Johansen, in 1953. The family arrived in Canada from Denmark in 1958. They sailed across the Atlantic to arrive in Eastern Canada, speaking only Danish. The Johansens traveled west by train to settle in the town of Kitimat, British Columbia, where they encountered harsh winters, a new language, and foreign customs. Lise embraced the saying "Home is Where the Heart Is" and made lasting friendships during her time in Kitimat with Per and young Lone. In 1960, the Johansens came to Nanaimo. Per found work as a groundskeeper for the City, and Lise made Nanaimo their new home. Lise became a Canadian citizen in 1966, and the same year, supported Per as he started his business: Johansen's Landscaping. As well as being a wife, mother and homemaker, Lise became actively involved in the bookkeeping for the business, and prepared hand-written invoices for the company for over 40 years. She also flourished as a seamstress, creating every type of garment from wedding gowns to hand-knit doll clothes, often without a pattern. Over the years, Per and Lise enjoyed traveling, but entertaining in their home was always a greater joy for Lise, as she preferred to open her home and her heart to those close to her. Lise was a gracious hostess, and visitors were always invited in for a cup of coffee and some delicious baked goods. Anne Lise would not let obstacles hinder her - not the challenges of starting a new life in Canada, not her diagnoses of Multiple Myeloma, nor the painful loss of her only daughter, Lone, in 2010. She was a fighter, a silent warrior, through her last days. Perhaps what Lise's friends and family will miss most about her will be her generosity, her welcoming nature, her kind listening, or her

warm smile. Perhaps it will be her sly wit, her fierce loyalty, or her unfaltering gentle strength. There was no service by request.

Andreas Jorgensen, Campbell River, BC
1985-2018

Andreas Michael Dybsted Jorgensen passed away peacefully on October 21, 2018 after a long battle with a very rare neurodegenerative disorder. Andreas was born in Vancouver on June 13, 1985 and spent most of his youth in Denmark where he received his B.A. in geography. He returned to Canada in 2009 to continue his studies at the University of Victoria. The progression of his illness prevented this from happening and he moved to Campbell River where his mother was living. He participated as best as he could in various activities. He was an eager participant in Toastmasters and delivered many interesting and humorous speeches. Andreas had a keen interest in geography, politics, environmental issues, photography and languages. Andreas attended North Island College but found it difficult to continue his courses as his functions deteriorated. Instead he studied tourism through correspondence with the loving support from Maggie O'Sullivan. In 2013 Andreas was bestowed the Medal of Bravery by the Governor General for saving his mother's life despite Andreas already being severally affected by the disease. Andreas was a sweet and sensitive person who went to great lengths to help others. He was a positive person despite his increasing difficulties and enjoyed a good laugh. His mischievous smile would always tell his listeners that some type of ironic comment was on the way. In 2013 Andreas became a resident of Yucalta Lodge when he could no longer be cared for at home. Andreas is survived by his mother Katherine, father Henrik and his sister Karen, nephew Andreas whom he loved but only had 18 months to enjoy and family in Denmark and Canada. A memorial service was held in the United Church in Campbell River on November 1, 2018.

Marie Kappel, Innisfail
1922-2009

Marie Kappel, née Poulsen, of Innisfail passed away March 31, 2009, at the age of 87. Born in Denmark she came to Canada with her mother and youngest brother to join their family already in Wetaskiwin. In 1941 she married John Kappel and together they built a house in Spruce View to raise their family, later moving to the Arrowhead Ranch in Kevisville. In 1959 they moved to Calgary, then Cochrane where John worked at the saw-mill. In 1964 they bought an acreage west of Spruce View, later moving into Spruce View to retire. They then traveled back to Denmark for a long overdue visit with family. Following John's passing; Marie moved into Innisfail and enjoyed more trips to Denmark as well as across Canada and the USA. She is survived by her son Lloyd (Bernadine) of Coalhurst; daughter Doris (Fred) of Red Deer; grandchildren Joanna of Lethbridge, Jorgen (Jennifer) of Medicine Hat, Leann (Sean) of Edmonton, Adam (Tamarea) of Blackfalds, Great grandchildren Kyle, Brandon and Gabriella. She was predeceased by her husband John, brothers and sisters-in-law Paul (Helga) Poulsen, Kristen (Elly) Poulsen, Martin (Ricci) Poulsen, Laurits (Signe) Poulsen, Christian (Myrtle) Poulsen.

Halfdan Kastaniegaard, Winnipeg
1923-2013

Halfdan (Danny) Kastaniegaard died, after a brief stay, at the St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg, on August 21, 2013, at the age of 89. He was born in Denmark on November 17, 1923, the son of Kristian Kastaniegaard and Karen Marie, née Sørensen. In 1949 Danny came to Canada from Hobro, Denmark. He started work farming in Cochrane, Alberta, then moved to Winnipeg and has called it home since. He soon became an active member of The Danish Canadian Club. He worked for the City of Winnipeg. Danny is survived by his sister Dagny and his nephew Flemming; and he will be fondly remembered by his many friends, who were invited to Young United Church, 22 Furby Street, Winnipeg, for coffee and remembrances on August 28, 2013.

Ejgild Kirkegaard, St. John
1928-2018

Ejgild "Gild" Kirkegaard of Quispamsis passed away on February 24, 2018 at the Kings Way Care Centre, located in the Kennebecasis Valley in the town of Quispamsis. Ejgild Kirkegaard was born in Vemb, Jutland, Denmark, on April 27, 1928, a son of the late Søren Kristian and Erna Kirkegaard, née Skovhede. Gild attended formal school and then Business College in Copenhagen. He served in the Danish Army, 1st Battalion Infantry, from 1949-1950. He also received formal training in Denmark's NATO Forces in 1951, just prior to immigrating to Canada in November of 1951. Upon arrival in Canada, Gild worked as a salesman for Electrolux Canada and the Canada Life Assurance Company. In 1956 Gild married Barbara Jane Leslie. They, with their five children, operated several food outlets including a restaurant on Thorne Avenue, in St. John, a small lunch counter in Rothesay, and a canteen for a number of years on the Saint John Exhibition grounds. The family established and operated "Mother's Inn" at 700 Rothesay Avenue for twenty years, until 1987. Gild subsequently went to work for Central Trust Real Estate, and in 1993 joined Canada Trust/Prudential Property Specialists. Gild was deeply involved and committed to his church. He was Superintendent at Glen View United Church Sunday School in the early years of marriage. Three years later the family moved to St. Andrews, returning to East Saint John in 1962, where Gild and the whole family became involved with Park Avenue United Church. Gild was Sunday School Superintendent for many years, and he served on the Board and was a member of Session for most of the next twenty years. In 1982, Barb and Gild transferred membership to the Church of St. Andrew and St. David on Germain Street. At his passing Gild was a member of the Kennebecasis Baptist Church. He was a former member of the Kiwanis Club of St. Andrews, and he served for a number of years on the advisory board of the Salvation Army. He helped out in community efforts when called upon. Gild and his family visited his native Denmark several times over the years. He loved and enjoyed his family and extended family, second only to his God, whom he tried to serve to the best of his ability. In addition to his wife, Gild is survived by five children, Rev. Hugh Kirkegaard (Dr. Lois McGibbon) of Bedford, N.S., Rev. Daniel Kirkegaard (Sandra Hook) of Delta, B.C., Annalise Larsen, Rebecca Kierstead (James) and Katrina Lee (Brian), all of Quispamsis; 15 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Gild was one of nine sons, the other eight remaining in Denmark. He is survived by Niels, Jørn, Knud, Per, Bent and was predeceased by his loving parents; brothers Egon, Olav and infant brother,

Vagn. Gild's funeral was held on February 28, 2018 from the Kennebecasis Baptist Church. Interment took place at Fernhill Cemetery. His biography appears in the 1997 Heritage Book.

Margaret Knudsen, Pass Lake
1916-2013

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 2013, Margaret Knudsen, age 96, passed away. Margaret, daughter of Peter and Sofie Friberg, was born to city life in Silkeborg, Denmark, on March 16, 1916. At the age of 11, she and her family immigrated to Pass Lake, Ontario – an area which was designated as an agricultural area for Danish immigrants to settle. A "city girl" at heart, she always yearned for city life. Gradually she warmed up to living in the country but was always on the lookout for those lurking bears as she walked to school and even later when she warned her children of them. Finished with elementary school, Margaret stayed at home looking after her family, especially her beloved little sister, Ruth. Margaret obtained intermittent employment in Port Arthur, but she was called back repeatedly to take care of her family. Later, she met, fell in love with and married local Danish immigrant, Thorvald Knudsen. They had five children whom she loved to assist with their homework, as she was scholastically inclined. Throughout her life, Margaret was happiest when she was with her family and special friends. Her famous graham wafer cake was a regular item for the Sunday get-togethers. Friends and family all have their own special memories of Margaret. She had a great love for children and animals. Children were welcomed with milk, cookies and other goodies and experienced the good life at a farm which included its share of dogs, cats, cattle, horses, etc. and in the early days, one of the first TV's. She moved into Thunder Bay as she became less mobile, residing the last years at Pioneer Ridge Home for the Aged. Her family regularly visited and took her out on enjoyable excursions. She is survived by her youngest sister, Ruth Holliday; her son Peter Knudsen (Helen), grandsons Lyle (Tarja), great grandchildren Lia and Kai; Scott (Linda) and Jay; daughter Elsie Burgoyne (Dan), granddaughter Lana, great grandsons, Andre and Dawson; daughter Ellen Knudsen, granddaughter Hannah, great grandchildren Summer and Logan; daughter Nancy Knudsen and Paul Knudsen (Joyce), grandchildren Cheryl (Richard), great grandchild Courtney (Brad), grandson Jeffrey and great grandson Jace and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews in the Thunder Bay area, southern Ontario and British Columbia. She is predeceased by husband Thorvald Knudsen, parents Peter and Sofie Friberg, her sisters Asta Isaksen and Olga Poulsen, brothers Ernie and Eric Friberg and granddaughter Sarah Woodcock. Private interment of Margaret's ashes will be at Pass Lake Cemetery, as she had wished.

Torben "Toby" Kristoffersen, Nanaimo
1931-2018

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Torben Kristoffersen on December 5, 2018. Toby is survived by his lifelong best friend and wife of 66 years, Grethe, and sons: Ken (Nancy), Gord (Leila) and daughter Kim (Chris), grandchildren; Keyra, Kirk, Dana, Kyle and Kirsten, as well as seven great grandchildren in Vancouver and California, and brothers-in-law; Hank, and Ole (Barb). He was predeceased by his younger brother Finn in Denmark ten years ago. Toby led

a complete and full life with Grethe. Toby was born in Denmark on November 24, 1931. He immigrated to Canada in 1951 with his in-laws to-be (Nielsen's) and settled in Nanaimo. Working briefly on the old Black Ball Ferry run to Vancouver, as well as other jobs, Toby eventually started a small business which evolved into Kristoffersen's European Delicatessen, a Terminal Park icon for 27 years. For 55 years Toby was an active member of the Nanaimo Yacht Club, and loved sailing, including a trip to Alaska and circumnavigating Vancouver Island, as well as a sailing trip from California to Hawaii with friends. Every five years or so Toby and Grethe would make a pilgrimage back to Denmark to see friends and relatives, as well as travels to the UK, France, Russia and Samoa and a sailing adventure in the British Virgin Islands and St. Thomas. Retiring at the age of 55, Toby and Grethe spent summers in Nanaimo, sailing the strait on the ketch Nijoni Ato, exploring the islands meeting new people and connecting with old friends, followed by winters in Mexico in their converted bus SunSeeker. Over the years they circumnavigated Mexico twice, as well as driving coast to coast across Canada and the US. Toby and Grethe, always an inseparable duo met and partied with friends and family across the world. Welcomed by all, and free with their own hospitality everywhere they traveled. Toby will be sorely missed by friends and family. It was his wish that there be no formal memorial service.

Jens Christian Larsen, New Denmark
1917-2011

With family and friends present, Jens Christian Larsen of New Denmark passed away peacefully at Hotel Dieu of Saint Joseph Hospital, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, on April 4, 2011. Born in New Denmark on November 26, 1917, he was the son of Hans and Signe (Madsen) Larsen of New Denmark. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-eight years, Gwendolyn Grace, daughter of Errold and Jessie (Dunster) Wilson of Grand Falls, N.B.; son, John (Beth Inman), Perth-Andover, N.B., brother-in-law Vaughan Wilson (Mary), Fort Erie, Ontario, and many nieces and nephews. Jens was predeceased by his parents and three brothers, Philip, Kenneth, and Donald. Jens was an active member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, all his life; New Denmark Historical Society; 67-year member of Colebrooke Masonic Lodge; 60-year member (senior active) of Grand Falls Rotary Club; and early member of Grand Falls Chamber of Commerce. He was very proud of his Danish heritage. Jens enjoyed a potato farming career in New Denmark, with daily trips to surrounding areas after retirement in 1985. He and Gwendolyn enjoyed their camp in Riley Brook and many friends in that area as well. His funeral service was held April 7, 2011, from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New Denmark with Pastor David Knudson officiating. Interment was in the adjoining cemetery.

Elin Lauridsen, Beamsville
1924-2017

Elin Lauridsen, née Knudsen, was born on a farm near Skjørring, a small town between Århus and Silkeborg on January 1, 1924. She was the oldest of four sisters. She married Karl Arvid Frostholm Lauridsen on November 10, 1946, and they had two children, Oluf, born on June 6, 1948 and Bo, born on August 12, 1956. They moved to Norway for three years and then returned to Denmark, living in Aalborg until they immigrated to Canada on June 2, 1957. The family

settled in Mount Forest, Ontario, and Elin started working at General Instruments, where she quickly became Floor Supervisor. Later she was Housekeeping Supervisor at Louise Marshall Hospital for many years. Elin was always an active person and during their time in Mount Forest she and her family became seriously involved in the badminton and tennis clubs, including serving on the clubs' executives and thus being the driving force in their growth and development. In January 1974 the family moved to Waterloo where Elin helped Karl look after a large apartment building owned by Standard Life as Superintendents. Elin soon joined the Danish Lutheran Church in Waterloo. In 1992 when Elin and Karl retired, they moved to St. Catharines to be closer to the family and then in 1996 to Beamsville. Elin and Karl became members of the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby and spent many volunteer hours helping in anyway they could. Elin was very skilled at knitting and doll-making and made many items for the annual Bazaars and fundraising events. She also helped in the kitchen as needed. She loved her time socializing at the church and Friendship Circle. Elin Lauridsen passed away at Albright Manor in Beamsville on July 16, 2017, at age 93. A memorial service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby on July 28, followed by interment at Sunset Mindepark next to her husband Karl, who had passed away on August 3, 2007. Elin was predeceased by her daughter-in-law Patti (nee Saxton). She leaves behind Oluf Lauridsen of Beamsville, Ontario, and Bo and Rachel (née Ross) Lauridsen of Spruce Grove, Alberta. She is the loving grandmother of Erik and Kim (nee Swan) of Whitby, Ontario; Joshua and Laurence of Montreal; Hannah and Mike Chrapala of Toronto, and Sarah and Andy Hubert of St. Lawrence, as well as loving great-grandmother of Briana, Alexia and Quinn.

Erik Laursen, Calgary
1934-2018

Erik Laursen of Calgary passed away on July 4, 2018 at the age of 83 years. Erik was born in Struer, Denmark, on November 21, 1934, and came to Canada to make his life here in 1956. Erik is survived by his wife Margaret, sons Rick (Susan) and Cliff (Lorrene), grandchildren Laura (Josh), Heather (Dani), and Jennifer, and his beloved great-grandchildren Brooke, John, Mason, Janine, and Oliver as well as his sisters Aase (John) and Anne Marie. Funeral services were at the Ascension Lutheran Church, Calgary, on July 7, 2018.

Jens Christian Jensen Leth, Olds
1935-2017

Former Guard 284-NOV-1946, and member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada, Jens Christian Jensen Leth, joined Rye's Brigade on May 31, 2017. He was 92 years of age. Jens Leth was born on May 10, 1925 in Ravnstrup near Viborg. After serving in Livgarden (the Royal Guards) from 1946-47, Jens immigrated to Canada in 1947 and acquired a farm outside Olds, where he was well-liked by generations of family, friends and neighbours. He became a member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association Western Canada the same year. Jens always attended the Annual General Meetings and the subsequent party. For many years he also invited a large number of friends to experience Danish traditions and Danish food. Jens was always ready to give a helping hand if someone needed help. Until his last year, where he lived

in nursing homes in Olds, he lived on his farm outside of Olds. The funeral service took place in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Olds, with old Guardsmen present, and with the Maple Leaf and the Association's standard (fane) to the left of the coffin.

Jakob Mortensen, Calgary and White Rock 1928-2018

Frits Jakob Mortensen passed away peacefully on November 11, 2018. Jake passed on unexpectedly, just short of his 90th birthday. He was born in Copenhagen on December 5, 1928. He was predeceased by his wife, Inger Lilly Mortensen, née Vendelboe, who was born on May 8, 1929 in Copenhagen and who died on January 20, 2007 in White Rock. Jake was the proud father of Beth (Norman), Svend (Donna), and Kathy (Peter), loving grandfather of Lisa (Danny), Julie (Robert), Erik and Christian, and great-grandfather to Benjamin and William. Ever the proud Dane, Jakob grew up in Copenhagen where he became a carpenter by trade (and would later go on to build four houses). He is also survived by a loving extended family in Denmark, including his brother Johannes Mortensen. In 1956, Jakob immigrated to Canada with his wife and their two toddlers, where he established a rich and rewarding life for his family in Calgary. A trailblazer in charter flights, the crowning achievement of his career was the creation of Nordic Travel, a travel agency which enabled many European immigrants to make a visit to their home country. Jake was also an active member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary, the Danish Canadian Club and Dana Village. When Jakob and his wife retired, they moved to White Rock. For many years Jakob drove to his dear Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver once or twice every week. A celebration of his life was held there on November 26, 2018.

Anders (Andy) Nielsen, Calgary and Kelowna 1925-2017

Anders Nielsen passed away at Overlander Extended Care in Kamloops, British Columbia, on November 24, 2017, with his family by his side. He was born in Denmark on January 13, 1925. He was the eldest of nine children born to Kresten and Rasmine Nielsen in Kærby, Denmark. Andy immigrated to Calgary, Alberta, as a young man and then worked as a surveyor for the City of Calgary. He was a member of the Calgary Danish Canadian Club, the Elbow River Masonic Lodge No. 180, the Acadia Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Al Azhar Shrine Temple. Upon retirement, Andy and his wife, Anne-Maria, moved to Kelowna in pursuit of a warmer climate. Their retirement years were spent travelling through Canada and the United States, and to Germany and Denmark to visit family. Upon Anne-Marie's passing in 2012, Andy moved to Kamloops to be closer to his daughter and family. He is survived by his daughter Maryanne (Kingsley), step-daughter Kim (Lee), step-son Greg (Synte), grandchildren (Graham, Kirsten, Joshua, Brandon, Cameron, and Zoe), and great granddaughter (Kali), as well as two sisters (Elisabeth and Maria) and three brothers (Peter, Aage, and Leif). He was predeceased by his wife, his sister, Ella, and two brothers, Johannes and Eric. By request, there was no service.

Cecilia Nielsen, Drumheller
1924-2010

Cecilia Nielsen, née Kargard, passed away in Strathmore on March 24, 2010, at the age of 85. Born in Støvring, Denmark, on June 8, 1924, Cecilia came to Canada at the age of two, with her family. They arrived in Wayne, Alberta, and then settled in the Hussar area. Cecilia received her education in Adam's Lake and Hussar. She joined the Canadian Air Force as a cook and was stationed in Calgary, Guelph and Newfoundland. Cecilia later worked at Bow Lake Num Ti Jah Lodge as a waitress for four summers. She married Soren Nielsen on December 9, 1950, in Calgary and they resided in Calgary and later Makepeace, Alberta. They farmed there for 39 years before retiring to Strathmore in 1989. Cecilia loved horseback riding, gardening, visiting with family and friends. She loved to express her artistic ability and was very dedicated to her grandchildren. Cecilia will be remembered for her hardworking and caring nature and for always putting everyone ahead of herself. She was predeceased by her parents Marie Cecilie and Viggo Kargard and a brother Svend. She was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother who will be missed by her husband Soren; two sons Eric and his wife Sherri of Hussar and Melvin and his wife Wendy of Hussar; six grandchildren Brad, Steven, Owen, Reed, Spencer and Leeza and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held on March 29 from Knox Presbyterian Church, Bassano. Rev. Dan Hendrickson officiated. Honorary Pallbearers were all friends and family whose lives were touched by Cecilia. Interment followed at Bassano Cemetery.

Inge Nielsen, Calgary
1933-2004

Inge Nielsen of Calgary passed away at the Bow View Manor on January 26, 2004. She was born in Denmark on May 9, 1933. In Calgary she worked at the Calgary General Hospital for twenty-years. She enjoyed dancing and was a member of the Danish Canadian Club. Her urn was interned in the family plot in Denmark.

Ketty Johanne Eleonora Nielsen, Kelowna
1919-2013

Ketty Johanne Eleonora Nielsen passed away peacefully in her hospital bed in Kelowna with her son John at her side on February 10, 2013. Ketty was born in Copenhagen on August 3, 1919. She came to Canada in 1951 to start a new life with hopeful prospects for a good future for her family. She was predeceased by her loving husband Poul Nielsen of over 30 (50?) years in 2003. She will be sadly missed by her two sons Richard Eliasen (Kathy) and John-Allan Eliasen (Barbara); her grandchildren Lana Mihell (Steve), Noah Eliasen (Fiona), Jason Eliasen (Karlee) and Aleta Eliasen; her great-grandchildren Natasha, Aoife, Callum and Naviah and her godson Trevor Madsen. Ketty spent much of her youth active within the Salvation Army and continued to support them through life-long charitable donations. Her work was spent mostly in clerical positions as a bookkeeper and later as a condominium sales representative. She was very involved with the Junior Chamber of Commerce and fully supported her husband Poul when he

became a senator in the organization. Ketty's greatest joy was her family. A memorial service was held on February 22, 2013, at Granly Danish Church, Surrey, BC.

Kurt Nielsen, Maple Ridge
1945-2018

Mr. Kurt Nielsen was born in Galten, Denmark, on April 13, 1945. He passed away in Maple Ridge, B.C. on January 31, 2018. He is survived by his beloved wife Mary, son Marc, daughter-in-law Anne and sister Lone Koehler.

Poul Brogaard Nielsen, Kelowna
1932-2003

Poul Brogaard Nielsen was born in Hørdum, Thy, Denmark, on February 6, 1932. He passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 5, 2003 at the age of 71. He will be sadly missed by Ketty, his loving wife of 50 years; his two sons John-Allan (Barbara) and Richard (Kathy); sister Else-Marie in Denmark; granddaughters Lana (Steven) and Aleta; grandsons Noah and Jason; great-granddaughter Natasha; niece Linda (Bobby); nephews Kenneth (Majbrit), John, Chris (Denise) and Teddy (Joan); goddaughter Judith (Kim) and godson Trevor. The Funeral Service was held on April 11, 2003, at Avalon Surrey Funeral Home, Surrey, BC.

Sonja Nielsen, Toronto
1938-2017

Sonja Nielsen passed away on February 22, 2017. She will now join her soul mate and the love of her life, her husband Arne (October 8, 2006). Sonja was born in Denmark on June 15, 1938. Sonja will be missed by her daughter Grethe (Mike Sabourin), her son Tom (Suanne) and her daughter Sarah Green (Dan). Her absolute joy, were her four grandchildren, Hanne and Jakob Nielsen and Morgan and Shelby Green. Sonja also had a great family in Denmark. She had a fantastic career as a real estate broker for 49 years and she loved every moment of it. As per Sonja's wishes, there was no memorial service and her funeral was private for the family.

Svend Nielsen, Calgary
1927-2017

Svend Nielsen, beloved husband of Helen Nielsen passed away in Calgary on December 30, 2017 at the age of 90 years. Svend was born in Horsens, Denmark, on April 19, 1927, and went to school until the age of 14. In 1951 he moved from Denmark to Calgary where he worked for many years for Thor Construction. He married the love of his life Helen on November 18, 1966, and together they raised their three children. Svend was a member of the Naver Club and the Calgary Danish Canadian Club for over 25 years and never forgot his heritage. Svend is survived

by his loving wife Helen Nielsen; his children Roxanne Gray, Alf Nielsen and Doug Nielsen all of Calgary. He was predeceased by his parents Ellen Marie and Christian Nielsen; and his brothers, Gunnar and Ejnor.

Peter J.M. Pallesen, Calgary
1944-2019

Peter J.M. Pallesen, M.Ed., M.Sc., M.A., of Calgary passed away on January 26, 2019, at the age of 74 years. Peter John Michael Pallesen was born in Lacombe, Alberta, on September 6, 1944. He was the son of Florence Evelyn Pallesen (née Mannix) and Norman Peter Ostrom Pallesen of Calgary, and a grandson of Calgary business pioneers Fred S. Mannix and Niels Peter Pallesen. Peter attended Strathcona School for Boys in Calgary and Vancouver College. He was a graduate of Mount Royal University, earned degrees from the Universities of Calgary, Portland and Great Falls, and completed sessions at Harvard and Salzburg, Austria. He was inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma fraternity and the National Scholastic Honor Society of St. Paul, Minnesota. He served as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and was a past member of the board of the Calgary Division of the RCMP Veterans. Peter was a Melvin Jones Fellow and a member of the Lions Foundation of Canada, a PGK and an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus. Peter was also a Paul Harris Fellow and became a Major Donor member of Rotary International in 1983. He was a senior member of the Ranchmen's Club, Calgary; a life member of the Danish Canadian National Museum Society, Dickson; a senior associate and member of the Historical Committee of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede; and a non-resident member of the Union Club of British Columbia, Victoria, and the Meadowlark Golf and Country Club of Great Falls, Montana. Peter was a third-degree diver of the CMAS Paris, France, through BSAC training in Swanage, Dorset, England. Peter often had an ad or article in the Danish Federation's Heritage Book. He also gave generous donations to the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, the Historic Markerville Creamery and others. Peter was predeceased by his father in 1994 and his mother in 2006, as well as his two sisters, Laverne Marie Chrumka in 1971 and Patricia Eleanor Ann McCaffrey in 1994. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony's Catholic Church (5340 – 4th Street S.W., Calgary) on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Graveside Service followed at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carla Sofie Pedersen, Brampton
1924-2019

Carla Sofie Pedersen, née Andersen, passed away on January 29, 2019 at the age of 94. She was predeceased by her husband, Jacob Emil Pedersen. She was the beloved mother of Ilse, Henning, Robert, Ulla, Vibeke, Paul and John, as well as grandmother and great grandmother of several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Born in Denmark on November 11, 1924, Carla and five children joined her husband in Canada in October 1958 and expanded the family with two more children. She will be cremated and her remains will reside by her beloved husband at Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario. She was a member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto.

Henny Pedersen, Strathmore, Claresholm and Calgary 1928-2015

Henny Kirstine “Ditte” Pedersen passed away peacefully in her home in Calgary on August 20, 2015, at the age of 87. She had been born in Verninge on Fyn on March 16, 1928. Ditte was a nickname her father gave her as a child, but at the age of 83 she started to introduce herself as Henny. Her husband Kjeld lovingly called her Ditte Pige (Ditte Girl). Ditte was born to Jens and Vita Jensen, the 5th of 8 children, she would say, "I'm number 5!" As a young girl, she loved cycling, handball, gymnastics going to dances, and had always dreamed of becoming a hairdresser. Ditte met Kjeld when she was 13, and he would be by her side for the next 70 years. In 1949, they both set sail for Canada with their 2-year-old twins and a 4-month old baby. Life was hard and she missed her family, but they built a wonderful life in southern Alberta. She and Kjeld raised their kids faithfully in the Lutheran church and her trust in God was unshakable. From Parkland to Lomond to Vulcan, they moved their growing family, eventually putting down roots in Strathmore for 25 years. In 1996, Ditte and Kjeld returned to the foothills to enjoy their last home together in Claresholm. After losing Kjeld in 2011, Ditte moved to Calgary to be closer to family. She always looked forward to a good visit and had frozen frikadeller (Danish meatballs) on hand for people dropping in, especially the grandkids. She was a voracious reader and was consumed with current affairs. She enjoyed sewing, and in her past few years she has knitted hundreds of hats. Her true passion was gardening, and she was known as the resident gardener in her building. Ditte loved pictures, especially of family and she had them everywhere in her home. She was so happy to have one last trip to Denmark in 2012 to see her two sisters, Lilly and Iris. She enjoyed exploring the back roads leading to her childhood home, primary school, family church, and the dance hall where she danced many hours with Kjeld. Ditte was a kind and caring soul who loved her family with all her heart. She loved the simple things and she embraced all things. She will be dearly missed by her children Henning (Bev), Leif (Veronica), Bent (Barb), Anne (Denis), Tim (Gloria), Cindy (Rene') and a special chosen son Kenneth (Grace) Wong and family. She also leaves 15 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, and 4 incredible great-great-grandchildren. Ditte was predeceased by Kjeld, her loving husband of 65 years; son-in-law Richard, daughter-in-law Patricia; Grandsons Kent and Ethan and Great Granddaughter Darby. A celebration of life was held at the Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary, on August 29, 2015.

Nickolaj Holm Pedersen, New Denmark 1922-2009

Nickolaj Holm Pedersen passed away on May 8, 2009, at the Grand Falls Manor Veteran's Wing in his 86th year. He was predeceased by his loving wife Marion (nee Murchison) Pedersen in 2004. Nickolaj was born in Denmark on June 8, 1922. At the age of four he came to Canada on the *HMS Montclaire* with his parents Caroline and Niels Pedersen along with his siblings Ole, Greta and Elise. Dear father of Dr. Mary Pedersen of Kingston, Ontario, Joyce (Peter Embleton) Pedersen of Fredericton NB, Joan (Jim) McCue of Woodstock NB, Cheryl (David) Sutton of Aurora ON, Dorothy (Graeme) Lovatt of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Nikki (Daniel) Wood of Timmins ON. Loving grandfather of: Jamie, Nickolaj, Christopher, Alexander, Krista, Kimberly,

Benjamin, Mark, Danielle and Nickolaj. Great-grandfather of: Ella. He is also survived by his two sisters Greta Hansen of New Denmark, NB and Ester (Vince) Kennedy of Red Rock ON. He was predeceased by brothers Ole and Herluf and sister, Elise Vincent. Nickolaj completed agriculture school in Fredericton and later spent five years in the army. He was an accomplished signal man for the North Shore Regiment. After D-day, he made it back to the homestead (New Denmark, NB) where he met the local school teacher at a Valentine's dance. Marion and Nick were married on June 3, 1949 and celebrated 54 years of joyous union. Nickolaj dedicated his life to his family and a successful potato farm. He was an active Legion, Mason and Elk member. Funeral services were held on May 12, 2009, from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New Denmark with Pastor David Knudson officiating. The organist was Sonja Petersen. The pallbearers were Nickolaj McCue, Alexander Brown, Kimberly Sutton, Danielle Wood, Christopher Brown, Krista Sutton, Benjamin Wood and Nickolaj Wood. Interment was in the adjoining cemetery.

Vagn Ravn Pedersen, Montreal
1926-2018

After a short illness in Florida, Vagn Ravn Pedersen passed away on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Born May 4, 1926, in Copenhagen, Denmark, Vagn sailed to Canada with his brother, Finn, in 1951 with the intention of going back after two years. He never did. Vagn was a chemical engineer. His first job was with Lowe Brothers (Sherwin-Williams) in Toronto, then Montreal. He left in 1961 to become the Technical Service Manager of British Titan Products (Canada) Ltd, later called Tioxide Canada Ltd. He loved his job but was happy to retire in 1991. He started golfing in his 70s and enjoyed it almost every day while in Florida and was known for his joie-de-vivre. Loving husband of Liette Chénier and survived by his children from a first marriage to Ruth Pither (deceased), Karen Pedersen Bayus (Steve) and Paul (Suzanne). He was very proud of his grandchildren: Sean (deceased), Erin, Christian, Gabrielle and Geneviève. Mourning him in Denmark are his sister-in-law, Kirsten, and nephews and nieces, and grand nephews and nieces that he was always happy to visit when there. A celebration of life was held on May 12, 2018, from 2 to 4 pm at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, 4020 Grand Blvd., Montreal.

Peter John Petersen, Strathmore and Enderby
1909-2004

Peter John Petersen, known as Johnny, passed away peacefully at Parkview Place in Enderby, British Columbia, on May 10, 2004, at the age of 94. Born in Denmark in 1909, he lived in Strathmore, Alberta, where the family owned Strathmore Cold Storage Locker for over 50 years. Being a Butcher all his life, he met lots of people. He moved to Grindrod, BC in 1991 and then lived in Parkview Place after a stroke for 11 years. Johnny was predeceased by his wife Louise in 1983 and son William (Bill) Petersen in 1988 and daughter-in-law Edie Petersen in 1994. Survived: by his wife Viola Petersen, daughter Marilyn Patton, and seven grandchildren - Darrel, Deen, Steven, Kristen, Vance, Ken, and Lynn. Stepsons: Richard and Robin in Alberta, stepdaughter Joyce (Dan) Seip in Grindrod and also other step-grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held May 20, 2004, at Parkview Place, Enderby.

Eleanor (Candy) Pierce, Calgary
1937-2017

Eleanor "Candy" D. Pierce passed away in Calgary on December 8, 2017, at 80 years of age; cherished wife and best friend of Robert "Bob" L. Pierce (d. 2012) Beloved mother of Greg (d. 1975), Brad, Jennifer (Ross Wonnick), and Susannah (Peter Gibson); proud and dotting Gammy to Ben, Jake, Robert, Gabriela, Charlotte and Harrison. Candy will be remembered for her glamour, creativity, lust for life, and fabulous parties in the Bahamas, Mexico and especially her Calgary Stampede parties which included live music, balloon rides, goat milking contests, panning for gold, and pig in pipe races. A professional entertainer before marrying her husband Bob, she was not shy to pick up a microphone and entertain friends if a live band was playing. She was also a generous patron of a number of charities including the Salvation Army, the University of Saskatchewan School of Law, Easter Seals, Silver Linings, and Valour Canada. Candy Pierce, née Hansen, was born on August 2, 1937, in Odder, Denmark. Her family immigrated to Canada in 1939 when she was two years old. They settled in Brantford, Ontario. Candy was a registered nurse by profession. While nursing and raising two small sons as a single mother, she also had a successful professional singing career under the names of "Candy Hansen" and "Diamond Lil" during the 1960s. After marrying Bob, she moved west; first to Regina and then on to Calgary in 1973, where they continued their love affair and raised their family. Candy was most proud of her family. Amazingly strong and resilient, Candy survived the death of her eldest child, the loss of the love of her life, and a rare form of cancer. Her family thanks all the medical professionals, caregivers and friends that supported and cared for Candy over the last several years. Without their help, Candy wouldn't have been able to travel the world, see her grandchildren grow, and live life as she wanted. Candy's life was celebrated at a private service in accordance with her wishes at the family's home on December 17, 2017.

Carl Erik Plet, Montreal
1938-2018

Carl Erik Plet died peacefully in his 80th year on May 27, 2018, at St. Mary's Hospital in Montreal. Myelodysplasia, a form of blood cancer, had been diagnosed in February of 2017. With him were his beloved family, partner Marion Leroux, son Erik (Stephanie), daughter Melanie (Ryan) and grandchildren Audrey, Clara, Bea and Killian, his source of great joy. He is survived by brothers Fred and George, both of Ottawa, numerous in-laws, and other relatives in Ottawa, Ohio, Denmark and New Zealand. Born in Ottawa on July 20, 1938, and raised there, Carl had resided in Montreal since 1962. His career involved firms now known as Price Waterhouse and KPMG, then the Expo 67 Corporation and Chemcell Ltd., followed by thirty years with Air Canada. Carl was an active musician in the 1950s and '60s; an enthusiastic skier, hiker, traveller, and summer resident of Eagle Mountain Harbor, Vermont. "I've had a truly wonderful life with few regrets. What could be better than that?" A celebration of that life took place at Mount Royal Funeral Complex, 1297 Chemin de la Forêt, Outremont, Quebec, on June 16, 2018. Carl Erik Plet is a descendent of Carl Wilhelm Plet (1851-1920), who came to Ottawa from Horsens in 1882. For information on Carl Wilhelm Plet see the 1989 Heritage Book.

Anton Pray, New Denmark
1926-2006

Anton Lemuel Pray passed away at Grand Falls General Hospital on September 25, 2006, with his family at his side. He was born at Portland, Maine, on April 5, 1926, to the late Edna (Johansen) Carroll and the late Phillip Pray. He was predeceased by his wife, Marion Elizabeth (Christensen) and his mother, Edna (Johansen) Carroll, step-father, Lawrence Carroll and father, Phillip Pray. Anton was survived by his children, Kathy (Brian) McKenna of Willowdale, Ontario, Stephen (Sharon) and Susan (John) Kukurski of New Denmark, NB, Joy (Wilson) Briggs of Sisson Ridge, NB and Joanne of Edmonton, Alberta, grand-children, Colin and Emily McKenna, Chris and Sarah (Pray) Shirley, Ben Kukurski, Amy, Beverly and Jennifer Briggs, great grandchildren, Connor and Aaron Pray, Matthew and Taylor Kukurski. Anton was dedicated to his family, community and business. He was employed by Canada Packers for 12 years. Along with partners he began New Denmark Potato Growers. He formed A. L. Pray & Son Potato Company Limited in 1974, supplying markets throughout North America with seed and table potatoes as well as seed potatoes for the Cuban market. Anton was a seed grower, potato shipper, distributor and a dedicated man with vision and leadership. He was a Director and Past President of the New Brunswick Potato Shippers Association, an active member of the New Brunswick Potato Exporters Association, the Farm Products Marketing Commission, Board member of the New Brunswick Potato Agency and Director of the Canadian Business Development Commission. Anton was a dedicated member of the community, serving on various organizations: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New Denmark Seniors Complex, New Denmark Ski Lodge, New Denmark Recreation Council, Colebrooke Lodge No. 39, F. & A. M.; and a loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Anton leaves a legacy of love, friendship, business and service. He will be sadly missed by his family. His funeral was held September 28, 2006, from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New Denmark, with Pastor David Knudson officiating. He was interned in the adjoining cemetery.

Alf Rasmussen, Ottawa
1925-2018

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Alf John Kristian Rasmussen passed away peacefully after a brief illness at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre on November 5, 2018, at the age of 93 years. He was the loving husband of 64 years of the late Helen Louise Rasmussen, née Cieszynski (1930-2018), the beloved father to Tina, and the late Karen and Chris. Alf Rasmussen was born in Hjørring, Denmark, on October 1, 1925. In the Second World War he served with the Royal Norwegian Air Force. After the war, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces and served with distinction until retirement. Alf then joined the Canadian Civil Service. Upon his retirement, Alf volunteered with The Friends of the Canadian War Museum. He was an active Director of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum from 1994 to 2009, when he retired as Office Manager. As a Director, he dedicated himself to helping the War Museum fulfil its mandate of remembering, preserving and educating. He conducted numerous tours of the Canadian War Museum for both adult and children's groups, and he has given presentations on the museum to various organizations to familiarize them with the museum's mandate and goals. Commencing in

1994 Rasmussen served as the Deputy Campaign Director for the Friends' "Passing the Torch" campaign, working tirelessly on the fundraising campaign to raise $15 million towards the construction of the new Canadian War Museum, which was finally opened on May 8, 2005. He was an Associate Member representative on the Mess Committee of the Ottawa Army Officers Mess and also served as Vice Chairman of the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Regiment Association. Rasmussen's untiring effort to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifice and achievements of Canada's Veterans was an inspiration to his fellow citizens and to the Veteran community at large. In recognition of his outstanding record of dedicated service Alf was made an Honorary Life Member of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum at its 19th Annual General Meeting in 2006.

Edgar Svingel Rasmussen, Winnipeg
1932-2017

Edgar Svingel Rasmussen was born on April 21, 1932, at home, in Ross, Manitoba. His father, Carl Emil Rasmussen, was born June 26, 1884, in Horsens, Denmark. His mother, Ingrid Marie Christiansen, was born February 11, 1892 in Silkeborg, Denmark. He spent his early years on the homestead in Ross, Manitoba, and attended church at the Ostenfeld Lutheran Church. He attended school in Ross, Manitoba, until Grade 7 when the family moved to Winnipeg; he then attended Luxton School and St John's High School. Edgar was predeceased by both of his parents; his wife Marian (née Cebula); son Rev. Dr. Barry Grant Rasmussen and his older brothers Carl Christian and Jens Emil. He is survived by Liz Schaerer; sister Margit Astrid Walker; daughters Debbie and Deana Rasmussen; "like a daughter" Tania Schaerer; daughter-in-law Karen Rasmussen-Oke; granddaughters Amy Rasmussen Waluk and Michelle Grant; and great-grandchildren Rowan Waluk, Jude Waluk, Rylan Grant, and Marek Grant. Edgar joined the Winnipeg Police Force on February 10, 1955. He served until his retirement September 10, 1988. He was an active member of both Sherwood Park Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church. After retirement he was a part-time driver for Child and Family Services, transporting children to appointments. He enjoyed his relationships with these kids immensely. He also delivered mail part time in rural Springfield. He loved playing games and often played in cribbage tournaments. Prior to arthritis he enjoyed many rounds of golf. He and his sweetie played in a weekly Golden Age Whist club in Garson, Manitoba. He was an animal lover and had many beloved pets. He even kept dog biscuits by his bedside for any visiting dogs in the hospital. He loved carpentry and made many projects for himself and all of his family members. He had a dry sense of humour and, even in the last days of life, he'd say "no matter what, you gotta have fun." He lived this way himself, enjoying perfecting the best batch of wine, savoring chocolate and always taking time to make each family event fun. He had a unique way of making everyone close to him feel special and have a laugh, whether it be making a batch of 'grandad cookies' for his grandchildren or composing a personal and hilarious poem for any occasion. He also made up nicknames for pretty well everybody he knew. The Funeral Service was held on Saturday, April 8, 2017, at Peace Lutheran Church, 350 Gilmore Street.

Margrethe Rasmussen, Summerland
1926-2013

Margrethe Rasmussen passed away peacefully on September 28, 2013 at the age of 87 years. She will be remembered by her loving children; Allan Rasmussen (Susan) of Merritt, B.C., Berit Hack (Ron) of Summerland, B.C. and Conny Betuzzi (Greg) of Calgary; also survived by her sisters; Tove Redies (Hans) of Summerland, Gerda Rasmussen and Inger Egelund, brothers; Poul Nielsen and Helge Nielsen of Denmark, grandchildren; Kristine, Lori (Travis), Luigi (Tanys) and Raymond; sadly predeceased by her husband Gunnar (1991). Margrethe was born on April 5, 1926, and immigrated to Canada from Denmark in 1953, making her home in Summerland where she lived for almost 60 years, raising her family and making many friends. She took great pride in her work as a nurse and her involvement as a community volunteer. A Memorial service was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summerland on October 12, 2013.

Rasmus Peter Rasmussen, Vancouver
1921-2004

Rasmus Peter Rasmussen passed away peacefully on July 29, 2004, with his family at his side. He was born in Gyllingnæs near Odder on March 26, 1921. He was survived by his wife, Lissi (Bitten) Rasmussen, his son, Kim Rasmussen, and daughter, Karin Moscato (Joe), and grandchildren, Katrina, Michael and Matthew. A memorial service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby, on August 5, 2004. His wife, Lissi, had been born on November 28, 1928. She passed away in Vancouver on March 31, 2011.

Martha Andersen Rawling, Dickson and Nigeria
1930-2018

Martha Andersen Rawling was born in Dickson, Alberta, on October 27, 1930 and passed away on September 12, 2018. Her parents and four siblings emigrated from Denmark to Dickson in the 1920s with hopes of a new life and a brighter future. Martha was born a short time later. She was raised and nurtured in a loving Christian home on the banks of the Red Deer River where her parents cleared land and started a small farm. Though times were hard, and they often went without. At a church youth event in Camrose, Alberta, Martha met Elmer Rawling and it was love at first sight. Sadly, Elmer had to board the bus for Saskatoon that afternoon, and Martha was distraught as she was sure she would never see him again. A short time after a sad goodbye, Elmer showed up at her side and asked if she had time to show him around town. He'd jumped off the bus just before it took off and blown off his job in Saskatoon, as he knew he just had to get that girl. It proved to be a good decision, and after getting married in Camrose, Elmer and Martha embarked on a life full of adventures, which included time, spent in Nigeria as missionaries. They raised five children, Eleanor, Doug, Marlene, (born in Nigeria), Vivian, and Bruce. Above all else, Martha loved the Lord and trusted in His Word. She taught by word and example the practice of putting "Jesus first, others second, yourself last." Martha loved music and loved to sing. She taught voice lessons and directed many choirs in the communities where

she and Elmer lived. She loved her nieces and nephews dearly and rose at 5 am every morning so that she would have time to pray for them and anyone else God brought to her mind. She invited local children to Sunday-School and organized church youth groups that met in their home. Elmer and Martha's last years together were spent at Livingstone Mountains west of Pincher Creek. Always a team, they worked together to build a home and log cabins for a family retreat centre. Elmer passed away in January 2002, and the retreat centre was taken over by Wilderness Ranch. Martha later met and married Garnet Leach, a retired pastor from Calgary, who had also lost his first spouse. They shared some happy years together before Martha's Alzheimer's forced an involuntary separation. Martha's final days were spent at Vista Village. Martha was survived by husband Garnet Leach, her five children and spouses, eighteen grandchildren, and 33 great grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by husband Elmer, and grandson Daniel Lenko.

Grethe Rein, Ottawa
1935-2018

Long time member of The Danish Club of Ottawa, Grethe Rein passed away peacefully on March 20, 2018, at the age of 83, after a long battle with Alzheimer. She was predeceased by her husband, Valdemar Rein, who died on January 23, 2014, at the age of 78. Grethe leaves behind her daughters Annette, Susanne (Rob), Linda and Susan and was the loving Mormor of Josh, Cody, Jenna, Taylor, Keli, Julianna and Jessie. Grethe Rein, née Mikkelsen, worked in a bank where she was known as Greta. She was an avid gardener and maintained a lush garden around the family home in Orleans. She was an active member of the Club's Bazaar Group, where she excelled at sewing and embroidering beautiful pieces. Her specialty was mounting bell pulls. She had a positive disposition, a great sense of humour and readily laughed.

Kirsten Roy, Montreal and Nanaimo
1934-2019

Kirsten Marie Roy, née Buchert, passed away suddenly at a nursing home in Nanaimo on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at age 85. She was born in Copenhagen on February 7, 1934. She sought adventure and work in England at the age of 19, where she met her husband Nirmal Roy. In 1956, she moved to India, and spent seven years there. She had so many fond memories of and attachment to India. From 1963-1966, she went back to Denmark, and then moved to Canada. From 1966 to 2000 she lived in Montreal, and then came to British Columbia to enjoy her grandchildren and the climate. Her husband Nirmal passed away in 1995 in Montreal. Kirsten is survived by her son, Indrojit; daughters, Anita, Nina and Maya. She has loving relatives in India and Denmark. Kirsten served as director on the board of the Danish Canadian Society in Montreal for many years. She was secretary and also editor of the newsletter. She was a key person in the production of the 1997 history book, Faces of Change, and spent many hours typing the manuscript. The Danish Canadian Society will be honouring her at the 2019 Seniors Fall Luncheon by adding her name to the Hall of Fame plaque. The Memorial Service and Green Burial took place on March 11, 2019, at Yates Memorial Services, 1000 Allsbrook Road in Parksville. Ære være hendes minde. Om Shanti.

Albert Wilfred Sorensen, Winnipeg
1903-2001

Albert Wilfred Sorensen passed away peacefully at Riverview Health Centre on December 6, 2001, at the age of 97. Wilfred, who was born on December 31, 1903, was survived by Molly Edwina Sorensen, née Woytowich, his wife of 67 years. He was also survived by his sister Pearl Hermanson, his brother Alex (Velma) of Toronto and niece Noella (Ken) Broadberry of Winnipeg, as well as many nieces and nephews. Wilfred and Molly owned and operated Newway Cleaners for thirty years. Wilfred's last ten to twelve years of employment were in sales with the Manitoba Motor League. Wilfred was proud of his Danish heritage and he and Molly were members of the Scandinavian Centre for thirty-five years. He and Molly were avid travellers and they enjoyed spending the last ten winters in Arizona. Wilfred also enjoyed golf and had a passion for cars. He and Molly were constantly together and were always dressed like a gentleman and a lady. A memorial service was held for Wilfred on December 9, 2001 at the Riverview Health Centre Chapel, Morley Avenue, Winnipeg.

Carl E. Sorensen, Edmonton
1929-2018

Carl E. Sorensen passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in Calgary on September 17, 2018. Carl was born in Nørresundby, Denmark, on July 16, 1929. He left Denmark in 1950 to begin a new journey in North America. He first started in Iowa, working on his uncle's farm, returned to Denmark, and then decided to come to Canada. He arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax, crossed Canada, and finally set down roots in Edmonton in 1952. His love of the sea took him to Mexico where he met his beloved wife, Maria Dolores, on a sunny, sandy beach. They married in Mexico City in December 1957, and then returned to Edmonton to start a life together. Carl leaves behind his children, Lisa, Alfred, Gina (Gary) and Lara and his grandson, Eric Christian. He also leaves behind family members in Canada, Mexico, Denmark and the United States. Carl was a hard-working, kind, gentle man, with a sense of adventure, a wry sense of humour and a generous spirit. He will be fondly remembered for his love of aquavit and song, his wood, lovely flowers as well as his amazing potatoes. At his request, there was no formal funeral.

George Sorensen, Winnipeg and Kamloops
1918-1999

Mogens Georg Lodberg Sorensen, known to friends in Canada as George, was born September 9, 1918 in Copenhagen, Denmark. George emmigrated with his family from Denmark to Winnipeg in 1951; was a skilled tool and die maker with various firms, retiring from the C.N.R. Transcona Machine Shop in 1983. He enjoyed the outdoors and took great pride in his stamp and coin collection. He was a member in good standing with the I.O.F. and I.A.M. In 1996 George and his wife, Valle, moved to Kamloops to be closer to their family. George passed away peacefully on December 24, 1999, at his home in Kamloops, at the age of 81. He was predeceased by his son, Tom, in 1968 and brother, Orla, in 1995. He was survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Valborg, son Kim (Barbara), granddaughters Tracey (Wayde) Simpson, Shauna

(Lance) Kissack and Jodi; great-grandchildren, Alexa and Shayne Simpson and Erika Kissack, and numerous relatives in Canada, Denmark and Sweden. George was a gentle and kind person who touched the hearts of those who knew him. No funeral service by request of the family.

Irma Ellinor Sorensen, St. Catharines
1924-2017

Irma Ellinor Sorensen passed away peacefully on May 11, 2017, at age 93. Irma was born in Aarhus, the oldest of three sisters. Her father was in the merchant marine and her mother was a seamstress. After finishing high school and English studies she worked in a kindergarten, as a proof-reader for a small English news publication, and during the war, in a paper finishing plant. On September 21, 1945, she married Hilmar Sørensen, and soon their son, Ole, and then their daughter, Jette, were born. In 1951 the family immigrated to Canada, along with Hilmar's two brothers, Ejgil and Regnar, together with their wives and children. They all settled in St. Catharines, Ontario. By 1955 Hilmar had started Sorensen's Upholstery and in 1958 they moved into the Welland Avenue location, where both Hilmar and Irma worked, until they retired in 1988. Hilmar and Irma built a bungalow in West St. Catharines as their retirement home. When Hilmar died on June 26, 2005, just months before their 60th wedding anniversary, Irma continued to live in her home until three weeks before she died. The family has spread out, with Ole and his wife, Lynn Elmes, living in Sherwood Park, Alberta, while Jette lives in Hamilton. Irma died at the Hamilton General Hospital and her ashes have been interred with Hilmar's in Victoria Lawn Cemetery in St. Catharines. She was predeceased by her son-in-law John Bodenham. She is survived by her sister in England and nieces and nephews in England and Canada.

Peter and Lise Sorensen, Edmonton and Victoria
1927-2016 and 1929-2018

Peter Sorensen passed away in Victoria on February 11, 2016. He was born in Denmark on March 29, 1927. Before immigrating to Canada in 1952, Peter served in the Royal Danish Navy, earned a degree in architecture/engineering, and most importantly married Lise, his wife of 65 years. Peter and Lise first settled in Vancouver, but soon relocated to Edmonton where they raised a family of three children. After that, they lived in Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, and Sidney. Peter worked in the construction industry for over forty years, many of them with his two sons, Ian and Stephen. Peter was an avid skier, tennis player, golfer, and all-around sportsman. He enjoyed playing gin rummy with his pals at Mayfair in Edmonton and, together with Lise, attending and hosting dinner parties.

Lise Sorensen passed away in Victoria on October 9, 2018. Lise Sorensen was born in Denmark on June 8, 1929. She came to Canada with her husband, Peter, of 65 years, in 1952. After raising her family of three in Edmonton, Lise began another journey, first by quickly becoming a crackerjack tennis player and then by demonstrating a previously untapped talent for watercolour painting. Upon leaving Edmonton in 1987, the tennis playing allowed both Lise and Peter an opportunity to meet new friends as they relocated to Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, and finally to Tatlow Road in North Saanich. Friendships were also easily made by Lise given her good-

natured and fun-loving demeanor and her tendency to put the needs of others before her own. She nurtured her circle of family of friends in many ways but was perhaps best known for hosting lively cocktail and dinner parties. Whether she was whipping up a last-minute meal for guests that Peter brought home without warning or hosting a sit-down dinner party for 40, Lise graciously welcomed her guests and fed them well. She was renowned for her delicious desserts. Lise will be deeply missed by her children Stephen (Nancy), Ian (Patty) and Marianne and her grandchildren Douglas, Christopher (Brittany), Anna, Hanne (Joe), Erik and Max.

Knud Bent Thaagaard, Nanaimo
1933-2019

Knud Bent Thaagaard was born in Sæsing, Denmark, on January 28, 1933. He passed away in Nanaimo on February 13, 2019. Bent came to Canada at the young age of 22. His adventurous streak took him from construction work in Calgary to farming in Claresholm, and Hotel ownership in several Alberta towns and Nanaimo. In 2001, he settled into his own piece of paradise at Pryde Vista Golf Course. Bent loved to travel and saw many parts of the world with Thelma, his wife of 59 years. He was a member of the Kinsmen in Alberta and Gyro in Nanaimo. An avid hunter for many years he often traveled back to Alberta for duck and pheasant hunting. Among his greatest pleasures was a great meal with good company. In 1989 he was a founding member of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club. Predeceased by his four brothers, he is survived by his wife, Thelma, son David (Louise), and daughters Marianne (Bruce) and Karen (Mark), eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A memorial service was held February 24 at the Royal Canadian Legion #256, Nanaimo.

Rigmor Thompson, Calgary
1926-2019

Rigmor Thompson, née Larsen, passed away in Calgary on May 11, 2019 at the age of 93 years. Rigmor was born in Denmark on April 15, 1926. Her family immigrated to Canada in 1928 when she was two years old, eventually settling in the Dickson area. As a young woman, she moved to Calgary and married Joseph Thompson in 1950. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1972 and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in 1980. For many years, Rigmor worked for the federal government in the finance department. At the church she attended, Rigmor enjoyed singing in the choir, playing the piano, and teaching Sunday-School. One of her greatest loves was volunteering with the Tele-Care Ministries. Rigmor is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Joseph Thompson; her parents, Odin and Anna Larsen; and her brother Aage Larsen.

Edith Timm, Montreal, Burlington and Timmins
1924-2016

Edith Timm was born in Eskildsgade near Kødbyen in Copenhagen on February 29, 1924. It was in Kødbyen (location of the slaughter houses and the Meat Market) that she met Jørgen Timm, a butcher, who had been born in Istedgade on October 30, 1924. Edith and Jørgen were married on November 5, 1945. Two weeks later he was drafted into the Royal Danish Guards. Their son, Leif, was born in Copenhagen. After his military service Jørgen went back to his trade. But in 1951 they immigrated to Canada and settled in Montreal, where in 1953 they added their daughter, Kate, to their family. Jørgen also served on the board of The Danish Canadian Society, Montreal. After Jørgen retired in 1987, he and Edith moved to Burlington, Ontario, to be closer to their children who had already left for Ontario. Leif lives in Toronto and Kate lives in Timmins. In Burlington they joined the relatively nearby Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby as well as Sunset Villa in Puslinch. Jørgen of course joined the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada. In 2010 Jørgen and Edith moved to Timmins, Ontario, to be near their daughter and her family. Meanwhile, Edith still kept sending her embroidery and lovely handmade works of art to the Church in Grimsby, that were sold during the Church fundraisers. Then on July 22, 2016, Edith passed away peacefully, with her children at her side, in the hospital in Timmins. Edith leaves behind her husband of 70 years, their two children as well as six grandchildren plus great-grandchildren and many friends. A short biography of Jørgen and Edith appeared in the 1995 Heritage Book.

Flemming Vestergaard, Calgary
1940-2018

Flemming Vestergaard passed away in Calgary on December 22, 2018, at the age of 78. He was born at Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, on January 18, 1940. He was a hairstylist and owner of Flemming Hairstyles. He enjoyed the outdoors and could often be found golfing and going for walks. His family was his life. He loved spending time and celebrating with family and friends. He was deeply involved in the Danish community and served as president of the Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association in 1987-88. Flemming is survived by his loving wife, Anne Merete Vestergaard; his daughters, Helle Christensen, Louise Kladnik and sons-in-law, Peter Christensen and Darren Kladnik; his grandchildren, Emely Christensen, Mia Kladnik and Emma Kladnik of Calgary. Flemming was predeceased by his parents, Louie and Emely Vestergaard; and his sister Jytte Lybke. A funeral service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church on 10th Avenue, Calgary on January 4, 2019, followed by a reception at The Danish Canadian Club.

Harry Winther, Ostenfeld
1918-2015

Harry Winther passed away peacefully in Steinbach, Manitoba, on November 8, 2015 at the age of 97. Harry was born on October 22, 1918 in Tversted, Denmark, on a farm in Vendsyssel that has been in the Winther family since about 1600. His family immigrated to Ostenfeld, Manitoba,

in 1927, to farm. Ostenfeld was a Danish colony, founded by Pastor Niels Damskov of Winnipeg in 1926. Damskov had named the colony after Harald Ostenfeld, the Danish Bishop and president of the Danish Church Abroad, who had visited Winnipeg in 1923. With the outbreak of war Harry Winther volunteered for the Canadian army in 1940, serving first with the Winnipeg Light Infantry and then with the Saskatoon Light Infantry. He served overseas in Sicily, South Africa and England, and fought in the battle of Ortona in Italy. The Battle of Ortona in December 1943 pitted the Canadian 1st Infantry Division against two battalions of elite German paratroopers. The battle was known to those who participated as the "Italian Stalingrad" for the brutality of the close-quarters house-to-house combat, which was worsened by the chaotic rubble of the town. The battle resulted in 2,300 Canadian casualties, including 500 dead. Harry received five medals for his war-time service: The Service Star, Italy Star, Defense Medal, Volunteer Service Medal and the War Medal. Harry returned from the war on August 4, 1945. Shortly after, he married Frances and they settled on the family farm in Ostenfeld, which they maintained until 1990. Harry was predeceased by his loving wife, Frances Rose Winther, his sister Edith Brown, and sisters-in-law Janie Winther and Stephanie Stoye. Harry left behind two brothers: Kai Winther and Ernie (Susan) Winther. Harry was the proud father of son Neil Winther (Gisele) and two daughters Donna Dickey (Robert) and Corinne Edwards (Robert). He was a devoted Bedstefar to four grandchildren: Colin Dickey (Krista), Jonathon Dickey (Kyla), Andrea Winther Klippenstein (Kevin) and Stephanie Winther (Allan). He also enjoyed his six great-grandchildren: Brooklyn, Brianna, Cooper, Sydney, Natalie and Brynn. A celebration of life was held at the Birchwood Funeral Chapel in Steinbach, Manitoba, on November 14, 2015. Donation in Harry's honour was made to Ostenfeld Lutheran Church. Jeg elsker dig, Bedstefar.



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Insul**innovation**



In 1921, Doctors Banting and Best were the first to isolate insulin from the pancreas of a dog. A year later, their discovery was used to save the life of a 14-year old boy with type 1 diabetes. But that innovation was just the beginning.

We started with Banting and Best and made it better.
In 1936, Novo Nordisk was the first to introduce slower-acting insulins. By the 1970s, synthetic insulins had been developed and by the early 1980s, the first biosynthetic human insulin was commercially available.

And we didn't stop there.
The history of insulin is one of continuous innovation. And it will continue until there's a cure.

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