

2017 HERITAGE BOOK



‘Step into the Saga’



The Danish Canadian Museum

FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



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

36th DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Red Deer & Dickson, Alberta
May 25-28, 2017



Step into the Saga in 2017!



'Step into the Saga'

The theme for this year's conference, 'Step into the Saga' arises from the development and refinement over the last four years of the Danish Canadian Museum's vision and mission followed by the launch of rebranding and an updated logo in 2016.

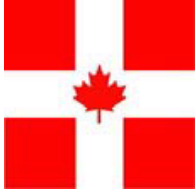
'Step into the Saga' is our invitation to you to be part of this exciting new future and builds strongly on the original vision to 'Give Our Past a Future'. 'Step into the Saga' harks back the strong oral traditions from the early days of the first Danish incursions into Canada during the Viking era around 1000 AD, well before the establishment of the current boundaries of Scandinavia to the period of Kings, from the area that later became Denmark. Even today much of the story is still strongly intertwined as an oral history with the stories of Danish Canadians.

With the museum hosting this year's conference, the invitation is meant to include the various waves of incursions, the later ones including our immigration to Canada. At the conference we are planning an event where you will walk into our site and experience the stories, see and be part of the progress being made as well as enjoy our shared cultural food experience.

As many of you are no doubt aware, the story of Danish Canadians and their contribution to Canada is rapidly disappearing, not only the story of the early incursions and settlements about 100+ years ago, but even the story of the more recent post World War 2 arrivals and their integration into the cultural mosaic of Canada. As a result, this invitation is much broader than just participation. It is about 'Capturing the Story' before it is washed away with the sands of time. So 'Step into the Saga' is also an invitation to you to consider how you can help and an invitation to take action to capture what you know or are a custodian of in this most important story.

We plan to announce an exciting new step for the saga at the conference this year which will further our mission and vision. Stay tuned, great things are about to happen!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2017 Heritage Book

36th Danish Canadian Conference

Red Deer & Dickson, Alberta, Canada. May 25-28, 2017

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A special thank you to: Rolf Buschardt Christensen for being the major contributor of articles, pictures and ads.

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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EDITORS OF ANNUAL HERITAGE BOOK

Editors of the Annual Heritage Book 1982 – 2017

Vancouver	1982	Poul B. Christensen
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New Denmark	1985	Glenna Jensen & Judy Armstrong
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GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

May 25-27, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2017 national Danish Canadian Conference.



This meeting brings together Danish Canadians from across the country and offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's many achievements. This year's conference, with its theme *Step into the Saga*, will feature a visit to the Danish Canadian Museum, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. I am certain that everyone in attendance will enjoy this award-winning museum's portrayal of the history of Danish migration to Canada.

I would like to commend the members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, past and present, for their efforts to preserve and promote the Danish language, heritage and culture in Canada. You can all be proud of the significant contributions Danish Canadians have made in building and sustaining our strong and vibrant multicultural society.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

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

GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 25 au 28 mai 2017

Chères amies, chers amis,

Je suis ravi de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à tous les participants à la Conférence dano-canadienne nationale de 2017.



Cette rencontre rassemble des Canadiennes et des Canadiens d'origine danoise provenant de partout au pays et constitue une excellente occasion d'évoquer les nombreuses réalisations de la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada. La conférence de cette année, sous le thème *Step into the Saga*, comprend une visite du Danish Canadian Museum, qui célèbre son 25^e anniversaire. Je suis certain que tous les participants seront sensibles à l'interprétation que fait ce musée primé de l'histoire de la migration danoise au Canada.

Je tiens à faire l'éloge des membres actuels et antérieurs de la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada pour les efforts qu'ils ont consacrés à la préservation et à la promotion de la langue, de la culture et du patrimoine danois au Canada. Vous pouvez tirer une grande fierté des importantes contributions apportées par les Canadiennes et les Canadiens d'origine danois pour bâtir et soutenir notre société multiculturelle solide et dynamique.

Je vous souhaite une conférence des plus agréables et fructueuses.

Cordialement,

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

GREETINGS



Ottawa, March 2017

It is with great pleasure that I send my greetings to the annual conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada taking place in Red Deer and Dickson, Alberta this year.

2017 is an important year where we celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. On July 1, 1867 the *British North America Act* was signed, creating the Dominion of Canada and laying out the cornerstones of Canada as we know it today. It originally consisted of four provinces and in the past 150 years, six provinces and three territories have joined, and many immigrants have arrived – all adding to the diversity of Canadian culture and heritage. Immigrants from Denmark and their descendants have been important in weaving the fabric that is today's Canada.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Danish Canadian Museum in Red Deer, Alberta. The museum recently received the *2017 Wynn McLean Rural Tourism Champion Award* showing the continued interest in Danish heritage in Canada and emphasizing the longlasting close ties between Danes and Canadians.

Throughout the year – and throughout the country – Canada's 150th anniversary will be celebrated and I as well as the entire team at the Royal Danish Embassy are happy to participate in these celebrations.

2017 truly is a special year for both Canadians and Danes, and I wish you all a great year of celebrations and a great conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niels Boel Abrahamsen'.

Niels Boel Abrahamsen
Ambassador of Denmark

GREETINGS



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada



Message from Honourable Rachel Notley Premier of Alberta

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the 2017 Danish Canadian Conference.

Alberta is the province it is today thanks to the hard work and valuable contributions of immigrants over many generations. In 1903, the first group of Danish homesteaders came to Alberta, and the Danish culture and traditions have left a lasting mark on Alberta's communities.

I am delighted that participants at this conference will have the opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and share in the accomplishments of Danes in Alberta and across our country. I hope this evening is a magnificent celebration of the history and heritage of Denmark.

Thank you to everyone in attendance for supporting events essential to the preservation of your unique heritage and for enhancing the extended cultural family that makes our province one of the best places to call home.

Special thanks to the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and the Danish Canadian Museum for organizing and hosting this important event.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Notley'.

Rachel Notley

May 25, 2017

GREETINGS



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada



Message de l'honorable Rachel Notley Première ministre de l'Alberta

Au nom du gouvernement de l'Alberta, j'ai l'honneur de saluer les délégués réunis pour la Conférence dano-canadienne de 2017.

Si l'Alberta est la province que nous connaissons aujourd'hui, c'est grâce au travail acharné et au précieux apport de maintes générations d'immigrants. L'Alberta a accueilli son premier groupe de pionniers danois en 1903. Depuis, la culture et les traditions danoises ont laissé une marque indélébile sur les collectivités de la province.

Je suis ravie que les participants à cette conférence aient la possibilité d'explorer et de célébrer ensemble les réalisations des Danois en Alberta et ailleurs au pays. J'espère que cette soirée sera pour vous une magnifique célébration de l'histoire et du patrimoine du Danemark.

Merci à tous et à toutes d'appuyer des activités essentielles à la préservation d'un patrimoine exceptionnel et d'enrichir cette grande famille culturelle qui fait de notre province l'un des meilleurs endroits où vivre.

Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada et le Danish Canadian Museum d'avoir organisé cette activité importante.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RN'.

Rachel Notley

Le 25 mai 2017

GREETINGS



Welcome Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Red Deer City Council, The City of Red Deer and the over 100,00 local citizens we serve, it is a privilege to welcome delegates and participants to the 2017 Danish Canadian Conference.

I would like to personally thank and commend the leadership, staff, volunteers and generous sponsors of our local Danish Canadian Museum for choosing Red Deer as your host city. Red Deer has a strong, proud history of Danish culture that is celebrated through the Museum thanks to the contributions of citizens like you.

This year marks a special year to serve as your host city with the local Danish Canadian Museum celebrating their 25th anniversary.

I hope that those of you who are our guests to our community will enjoy all that Red Deer has to offer during your stay in Alberta's emerging city.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tara Veer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Her Worship Mayor Tara Veer
The City of Red Deer

GREETINGS



Message de bienvenue du maire

Au nom du Conseil municipal de Red Deer, de la Ville de Red Deer et des plus de 100,000 citoyens locaux que nous servons, c'est un privilège d'accueillir les délégués et les participants à la Conférence danoise de 2017.

Je tiens à remercier personnellement les dirigeants, le personnel, les bénévoles et les commanditaires généreux de notre musée canadien danois pour avoir choisi Red Deer comme ville hôte. Red Deer a une histoire forte et fière de la culture danoise qui est célébrée à travers le Musée grâce aux contributions de citoyens comme vous.

Cette année marque une année spéciale pour servir de ville hôte avec le Musée canadien danois qui fête son 25e anniversaire.

J'espère que ceux d'entre vous qui sont nos invités à notre communauté apprécieront tout ce que Red Deer a à offrir pendant votre séjour dans la ville émergente de l'Alberta.

A handwritten signature in red ink, which appears to be 'Tara Veer'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Son Honneur Maire Tara Veer
La ville de Red Deer

GREETINGS



Earl Dreeshen, MP 2017 Danish Canadian Conference May 25-28, 2017

As Member of Parliament for the Red Deer – Mountain View Riding, I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to the attendees of the 2017 Danish Canadian Conference taking place in Red Deer this weekend.

As Danish people, you have a long, rich history in our country - with original contact dating back centuries before Confederation.

That history has a special place in Central Alberta, with Dickson being one of the focal points that attracted Danish settlers in the early 1900s.

I am extremely pleased to have such a strong Danish community in my riding – a truly positive impact on the multicultural fabric that has made Canada such a tremendous place to live, work, and raise a family.

Once again, thank you for your continued dedication to your community and your heritage on behalf of the over 200,000 Danish Canadians. I wish the best of luck in the future for your organization.

Welcome to Red Deer and welcome to Central Alberta.

En tant que député de Red Deer - Mountain View, je suis heureux d'offrir mes sincères félicitations aux participants de la Conférence canadienne danoise de 2017 qui aura lieu à Red Deer ce week-end.

En tant que danois, vous avez une longue et riche histoire dans notre pays - avec un contact original datant de plusieurs siècles avant la Confédération.

Cette histoire a une place particulière dans le centre de l'Alberta, Dickson étant l'un des points forts qui ont attiré les colons danois au début des années 1900.

Je suis extrêmement heureux d'avoir une communauté danoise aussi forte dans ma circonscription - un impact vraiment positif sur le tissu multiculturel qui a fait du Canada un endroit formidable pour vivre, travailler et élever une famille.

Encore une fois, merci pour votre dévouement continu à votre communauté et à votre patrimoine au nom des plus de 200,000 Canadiens danois. Je souhaite la bonne chance à l'avenir pour votre organisation.

Bienvenue à Red Deer et bienvenue Chez Central Alberta.

GREETINGS



May, 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to Step into the Saga in 2017!

On behalf of The Danish Canadian Museum as host of the 2017 Conference of the Danish Federations of Canada and the Danish Canadian Museum, we are thrilled to welcome you to our 25th Anniversary Step into the Saga 2017! This will be a memorable conference, where we share our National Treasure with you and your friends and family!

We have an exciting weekend starting Thursday night and continuing through to Sunday afternoon. You will hear more about the waves of incursion celebrate the remarkable legacy of the Danish immigrants to Canada at our serene wooded setting in rural Dickson, Alberta. We also have arranged for you to experience our partner sites along the Scandinavian Trail and sample real Danish/Danish Canadian Cuisine. In Red Deer on Friday, the Federation hosts you including a grand banquet and dance in the evening at the Sheraton Hotel.

Plan to enjoy interpretive hosts, a Viking village and battle re-enactments as well as a very special pioneer heritage supper.

I personally look forward to this rare chance to spend time with you at your National Treasure!

Hilsen,



Svend E Nielsen,

President, DCM Board of Directors

O Canada

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

Canadä

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



DENMARK
DANMARK

DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

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

 Og gamle Danmark skal bestå
 Så længe bøgen spejler sin top i
 bølgen blå
 Sin top i bølgen blå

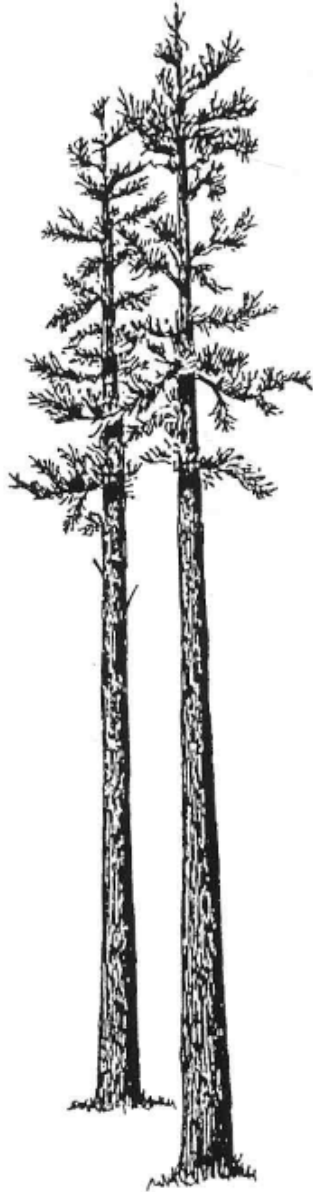


FEDERATION



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

Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

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

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

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

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

Inger K. W. Andersen
Kingston, 1983

FEDERATION



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

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FEDERATION



Members of the

FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

1. New Denmark Historical Society, New Denmark, N.B
2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.
3. The Danish Club of Montreal
4. The Danish Club of Ottawa
5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto
7. Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto
8. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada
9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch
10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch
11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby
12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John's Church, Waterloo
13. Pass Lake Historical Society

14. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg
15. The Battlefords Danish Canadian Club, North Battleford
16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary
17. Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association
18. Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary
19. Dana Village, Danish Senior Citizens Apartment Foundation, Calgary
20. The Naver Club, Calgary
21. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada
22. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson
23. Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson
24. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
25. The Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton
26. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton

27. The Danish-Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia
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32. Danish House Society, Burnaby
33. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey
34. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver
35. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo
36. Danish Social Club of Victoria
37. Canadian American Friendship Association, Denmark
38. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
39. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
40. Danish American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa
41. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa



The Purpose of the Danish Federation

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

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

Danish Federation Activities

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

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

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

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

National Museum in Dickson

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



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

Annual Report

2016 - 2017

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Danish Federation for the year 2016-2017. As last year, I am tempted to say that our membership still stands at 41 member organizations. However, I am fully aware that several of our member organizations are struggling to remain active, and will at some point not be able to continue to operate, due to declining membership and interest. One organization suspended operations for six months during the past year, and another has indicated that it is planning its dissolution. The situation has been dire for several years, and I was therefore pleased when The Danish Club of Montreal chose the theme Renewal and Sustainability for our 2016 Conference. A workshop, to be continued, was held, addressing these issues. It goes without saying that we will continue to address the issue of the viability of Danish organizations, both at the local and national level. Moreover, the twice-yearly meetings in the Regions can also play an important role in invigorating our various organizations.

The Conference in Montreal, held from May 26-29, 2016, was hosted by The Danish Club of Montreal, and supported by the Danish Canadian Society, Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church and DABGO Montreal. Chair of the organizing committee was Kren Clausen, president of the Montreal Club. The Conference Theme Renewal and Sustainability was addressed in a workshop, as it related to Danish organizations, as well as in various presentations relating to transportation (Champlain Bridge) and entertainment (Quartier des Spectacles) in Montreal.

The Conference was opened by Kren Clausen, Ka'nahsohon Deer (Faith-keeper and Native Elder) and Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen, who officially opened the Conference. The Danish Federation and the Danish Canadian Museum also addressed the opening reception.

Friday was Museum Day, where the Danish Canadian Museum held its annual general meeting, ending with a silent and live auction in the evening, with the proceeds going to the Museum in Dickson. Saturday morning the Danish Federation held its annual general meeting, chaired by Gert Andersen. At the election, chaired by Larry Kjeersgaard, Rolf Christensen, Gert Andersen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard were elected president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer respectively. Aase Christensen, the Danish Federation webmaster, also showed the delegates the Federation's new website www.danishfederation.ca.

Again in 2017, Ed Kuhlman has edited our Heritage Book. Thank you, Ed, for looking after the editing, printing and mailing of the Heritage Book! As well, thank you to our National Secretary, Aase Christensen, for looking after the 2017 Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada.

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The Conference ended with a Church Service and Lunch at Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church. The Danish Federation fane and mailbox were then handed over to Svend E. Nielsen, president of the Danish Canadian Museum, which is hosting the 2017 Conference. That ended a superb conference in a busy and exciting city.

Immediately after the Conference, from May 30 to June 4, the ever-popular Danish Heritage Seminar was held at the Auberge aux 4 Saisons in Orford in the Eastern Townships, with Jørgen and Kirsten Flensted-Jensen as headmasters. A record 30 participants attended. Three things stand out from the Seminar: the food, the fellowship and the fun.

During the past year, I have attended Regional Meetings in Ontario and Alberta, as well as the Weekend Retreat at the Museum in Dickson. I have visited Danish organizations in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Grimsby, Calgary, Dickson, Edmonton and Vancouver. At a visit to the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton I came across some poems by the Rev. Jes Christian Gundersen, Dickson's first pastor. I was intrigued by him and his life! You can read about my findings in an article in this year's Heritage Book – which includes three of his poems.

Moreover, on a visit to the Glenbow Archives in Calgary I discovered that they had four copies of our Heritage Book. In speaking to one of the curators I learned that they would be very much interested in acquiring a complete set of our Heritage Books, from 1982 to 2016, as they document the history, accomplishments, as well as hardships, of the Danes and their descendants in Canada, including Alberta. A complete set of Books was subsequently donated to the Glenbow Archives, which generously paid for the shipping of the Books.

This is quite a year for anniversaries. It is 500 years ago since Martin Luther nailed those theses on the church door in Wittenberg. Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary. One-hundred years ago Denmark sold the Danish West Indies to the United States, Canadian soldiers took Vimy Ridge and the Russian Revolution broke out. Sixty years ago, the Treaty of Rome was signed, launching the Common Market, now European Union. It was also sixty years ago, in 1957, that over 7,000 Danes immigrated to Canada, the most ever in a single year.

As well, several of our member organizations are celebrating anniversaries this year. The Danish Club of Montreal is 95. Udvandrerarkivet in Denmark is 85. The Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver celebrates 80 years. The Danish Lutheran Churches in Toronto and Grimsby are 60 years old now. The Danish American Heritage Society is 40 this year. And the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto as well as the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson can celebrate 25 years. Congratulations!

In April 2017 Solvejg Nielsen and Margaret Chester stepped down as respectively president and secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Region. Thank you for your many years of dedication and hard work! At the same time, welcome to respectively Margit Hansson and Jannet Tricarico.

In sum, thank you to all the members of the Board of Directors for your work and commitment. And thank you to all the member organizations for your work and dedication. You are helping to maintain and promote our rich Danish heritage. Thank you!

Rolf Buschardt Christensen
President
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Danish Canadian Conference in Montreal

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



The 35th Danish Canadian Conference was held in Montreal from May 26 to 29, 2016. The host was the Danish Club of Montreal, which had chosen the theme Renewal and Sustainability. The delegates stayed at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The Conference started with a Reception in the atrium at the charming Nelligan Hotel in Old Montreal, where Kren Clausen, the president of the Danish Club of Montreal, and Ka'nahsohon Deer, Faith-keeper and Native Elder bid welcome, followed by Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen, who officially opened the Conference. Words of welcome were also given by the president of the Danish Federation and by Ann Manson, vice-president of the Danish Canadian Museum. It was a chance to meet and greet.

Friday was Museum Day, devoted to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. The Museum held its Annual General Meeting in the morning, chaired by the president Svend E. Nielsen. It was held upstairs at the Vieux Port Steakhouse. At lunch the key note speakers were Ka'nahsohon Deer and Darrel Pronovost. During dessert Navarana Sorensen, Greenlandic Native Dancer, played a Greenlandic drum and sang some Greenlandic songs. After lunch the Museum presented its Virtual Museum Project. The delegates then left for the Ramezay Museum, a chateau built in the 18th century as a prestigious residence, and situated across from Montreal

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City Hall. The delegates were free to eat dinner, and then returned to the Vieux Port Steakhouse for the evening program 'Step into the Saga' which consisted of a PowerPoint presentation about the Museum; as well silent and live auctions. Tickets for the Donate a Brick lottery were also sold.



Kren Clausen, Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen, Faith Keeper & Native Elder Ka'nahsohon Deer and Federation Pres. Rolf Christensen, open Conference

Saturday morning the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada held its Annual General Meeting, chaired by Vice-President Gert Andersen. The Financial Statement was approved, as was the Annual Report. The Danish Federation now consists of 40 member organizations. Regarding the elections, (chaired by Larry Kjeersgaard), Rolf Christensen, Gert Andersen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard were re-elected as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Soren Sondergaard was re-appointed reviewer. Lastly, Aase Christensen demonstrated the Danish Federation's new website.

Luncheon speaker was Danish architect Poul Ove Jensen who spoke about his firm's new Champlain Bridge over the St. Lawrence River. He had flown to Montreal just to speak to the delegates at this Conference. This was followed by a presentation about Montreal's Quartier des Spectacles, that is, Montreal's entertainment district which had been created right downtown. Afterwards a Panel Discussion about Renewing and Sustaining Danish Clubs in Canada was moderated by Kren Clausen. The panel consisted of representatives from the Montreal Club, Dania in Edmonton, Danish House Society in Burnaby, the Museum and the Danish Federation. The day concluded with a festive banquet in the Vieux Port Steakhouse, where Svend Berg was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for being editor of the Heritage Book for many years. The music got everyone on the dance floor.



*Kren Clausen & Alexandra Maier
With architect Poul Ove Jensen*

Sunday morning a bus took the delegates to St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, where Pastor Samuel King-Kabu conducted a beautiful Service. At the end of the Service the congregation sang Happy Birthday to a couple of people, including Soren Sondergaard, who was celebrating his birthday that day. A traditional Danish lunch of smørrebrød, beer and snaps was served after the Service. For dessert there was a choice of Danish apple cake or Danish pastry. A couple of very talented singers, Thomas Leslie and Iranian singer Feryan, entertained. At the lunch Kren Clausen of the Montreal Club handed the Fane and mailbox to Svend E. Nielsen of the Danish Canadian Museum, who will host the 2017 Conference. The conference ended with a two-hour bus tour of Montreal. Thank you to all the conference organizers and volunteers!

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*Kren Klausen welcomes Danish Ambassador
Niels Boel Abrahamsen*



*Pastor Samuel King-Kabu, Ka'nahsohon Deer
& Kren Clausen*



Luncheon Entertainment: Navarana Sorensen



*Larry, Joel, and Rachel Kjearsgaard enjoying
Auction Night with Gordon Petersen*



Rolf auctioning off a bottle of snaps



Soren Sondergaard, guests at Auction Night

Photos for this article courtesy of Steve Morck and Rolf Buschartt Christensen

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Larry Kjearsgaard, Anne Lise Pedersen and Svend E. Nielsen



Tom Hedekar from Nanaimo



Listening to a Conference presentation



Aase Christensen showing delegates new Danish Federation website



Joel Kjearsgaard, Edmonton



Banquet Night: Anne Lise Pedersen and Carl Sorensen

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Delegates and Guests enjoying Banquet Night Dinner and Dance



Banquet Night: Sonja and Orest Myroon



Banquet Night: Kren Clausen and Ed Kuhlman



Church Service with Pastor Samuel King-Kabu



Lunch in the St. Ansgar Lutheran Church Hall

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Banquet Night: Elise Hansen dancing with Frank Engelbrecht



Banquet Night: Rolf and Vita Christensen



Kitchen crew at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church



Montrealers enjoying Sunday Luncheon



Thomas Leslie sings at Sunday Luncheon



Rachel and Joel Kjearsgaard on the bus

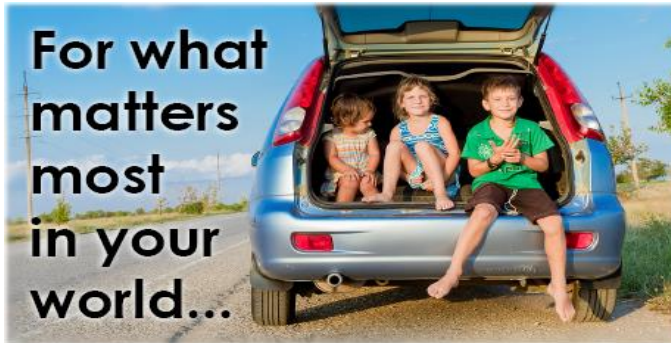
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Kren Clausen handing over the Fane and Rolf Christensen the Mailbox to Danish Canadian Museum President Svend E. Nielsen



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Pit Roast and Fundraising Auction May 27th
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Canada Day July 1st
Danish Service & Old Fashioned Picnic July 2nd
Æbelskiver 'n 'Jam July 9th
Viking Days August 19th and 20th
Feast of the Vikings August 19th
Volunteer Appreciation TBA



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Reports from the Member Organizations

Given at the Annual General Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, on May 28, 2016

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 2016 reports from the member organizations:

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

Greetings from New Denmark, New Brunswick! Some of the events that took place in 2015 included a Founders Day celebration in June which began with a non-denominational church service on the immigrant grounds, followed by a Danish Lunch for purchase from the canteen. Entertainment during lunch was by local musicians with New Denmark roots. The program in the afternoon was with special speaker John Larsen who grew up in New Denmark and now lives in Perth-Andover, N.B. John recalled many events of his life in New Denmark and emphasized his pride in his Danish heritage.

Two students, Vanessa Johnsen and Aaron Christensen, worked in our museum during the summer months and these positions were paid for by a federal grant and a provincial grant to be used for the operations of museums. Our museum had a good number of visitors during the summer months.

During the holiday season, an "Old Fashioned Christmas" party was put on by the Historical Society as a fundraiser, and as a reason for a community gathering. This was our second annual and a Danish lunch was served which included open-faced sandwiches, Danish coffee cake, Danish apple cake and other sweets.

A lovely program of short stories was presented plus a Christmas story from the Bible was read in Danish and English. We were entertained by local musicians and the event concluded when Santa Claus arrived for a visit and photos. This event was enjoyed by all. In early March a new board was elected for the year 2016.

The Historical Society has decided to erect a memorial stone in remembrance of the pioneers who lived and died on the immigrant grounds during the first few years when they lived in the Immigrant House. This memorial stone will be unveiled in June 2016.

We are looking forward to another busy year for the New Denmark Historical Society.

Respectfully presented by Glenna Hitchcock

2. Danish Canadian Society Inc. of Montreal

Danish Canadian Society Inc. of Montreal is very fortunate that Janet and Peter Nissen so generously open their grounds and greenhouses in Napierville for the Sankt Hans Aften celebration. As usual all the tables were filled with members and their guests enjoying a bring-

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your-own-food-and-drink picnic. As has become the custom many brought extra food and beverages so there was a constant sharing of food and drinks across the tables throughout the meal. After coffee and dessert, the bonfire was lit and an imaginary witch was sent off to Bloksbjerg while everybody joined in singing a collection of our beautiful Danish songs. Thank you to Janet and Peter for their continued hospitality.

July 1st and Canada Day brought pouring rain, but a pleasant temperature. The parade was well attended by an army of Vikings and their families all dressed in Viking costumes. Our Viking ship, "Vineland" and its Vikings are popular with the spectators and were admired for keeping smiling in the pouring rain. A warm thank you goes to Nis-Anker Jessen for pulling the float this year. There was a get-together arranged at the Legion after the parade however, every single Viking was drenched to the skin and most went straight home to dry out and warm up.

In mid-September, members and friends enjoyed a beautiful dinner at the Legion in N.D.G. Authentic Danish food, prepared by friends and members, was served. Thank you to everyone – especially to Nis Jessen, who has become our in-house expert in preparing pork roast with crackling. Thank you: to our generous and faithful florists for the beautiful flowers and thank you to all that brought door prizes. It was an enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to all who prepared the food, who helped set the tables and cleaned up after the party.

The Christmas party in December brought a full house. As usual Bjørg and Svend Berg got the party off to a great start by serving gløgg and Christmas cookies. Thank you for serving and providing the gløgg and the cookies. The traditional Christmas dinner of roast pork, caramelized potatoes and red cabbage was served and of course followed by ris-a-l'amande with cherry sauce. Newly married Nicole and Nis worked hard in the kitchen making sure the food was perfect. Entertainment was provided by Nicole and Bernard who sang in Chinese. After dinner, everyone danced around the Christmas tree singing our treasured Danish Christmas songs accompanied by Derek Yaple-Schobert.

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

A heartfelt and well deserved thank you goes to the Christensen family, 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 Wilhelmina Tiemersma who always prepares something special for the service.

Fastelavn was celebrated with a potluck lunch and many different desserts. Almost everyone was dressed up in costumes from princesses to Super Heroes and all had a good time. Young and young-at-heart used their imagination to decorate fastelavnsris and in the end the fastelavns barrel got a beating until all the candy spilled and a Fastelavns King and Queen were crowned. It should be mentioned that the dishwasher was broken that day and Nicole spent most of the afternoon in the kitchen helping Anne cleaning up after the potluck lunch.

New Danish and Canadian flags for our tables have been purchased as the old ones disappeared, either stolen or borrowed by someone who never brought them back.

Many thanks go to Karen Abaziou, so we now have beautiful tablecloths for our tables. Karen donated ten Georg Jensen Damask tablecloths to DCS. They are the red "Vinterdug" designed by Charlotte Lynggaard and inspired by the Danish "julerose".

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This year the Danish Canadian Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada is taking place in Montreal hosted by The Danish Club in collaboration with the Danish Canadian Society of Montreal, DABGO Montreal and St Ansgar's Lutheran Church. The theme of this year's conference is "Renewal and Sustainability".

The Danish Heritage Seminar will be held in the beautiful Mount Orford National Park at Auberge aux 4 Saisons about 120 km east of Montreal. The theme of the Seminar is "Take a Trip around the World" and the Headmasters are Jørgen and Kirsten Flensted-Jensen.

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

Respectfully submitted and presented by Ole Larsen, President

3. The Danish Club of Montreal

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Danish Club of Montreal from June 2015 to May 2016. In June, St. Hans Aften was celebrated together with members of the Danish Canadian Society and members of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church with a large dinner and the sending of the witch off by bonfire.

The annual Canada Day Parade in Montreal was enjoyed together with the Danish Canadian Society, with 28 Vikings either on the street or on the Vinland Viking Ship Float. This event attracts young families and older generation Danes wishing to participate in Viking costume either on the ship or parading alongside the ship on rue St. Catherine.

The Danish Club annual soccer tournament was held at Ovide Park where games were played against the Norwegian Club, and our intra-Denmark games kicked off excitement within our community. At each of the games, a large picnic followed with many Danish foods, beer and snaps.

Our Annual Morten's Goose Dinner was held at the Atwater Club; a good sized gathering of over 60 people attended having a great deal of fun, with many up on the floor dancing. We had a nightclub DJ who was balancing between the golden oldies and the latest hits. He opened the night with the latest single release from MØ, a hot young talented artist from Denmark. We subsidized the event to attract a good number of younger people and thereby stimulate interest in our club.

Our AGM was held in November, and the Board Directors were re-elected. Our club enjoyed continued growth in new membership.

The annual Christmas lunch was held at the Royal Canadian Legion with approximately 75 people in attendance where a piano performance was enjoyed and Danish carols were sung.

Our 4th Annual Scandinavian Dinner was a great success co-organized with the Norwegian Club. We had 154 people for dinner and 35 people on a wait list. Our favourite DJ Youseff made sure most were dancing and there were many young people, and a good cross-section of attendees from the Nordic community. We also subsidized this event shared equally with the Norwegian Club to attract younger people.

The annual Valentine Lunch at Royal Canadian Legion had a great turnout as usual.

The Danish Club proudly organized and hosted the Annual Danish Canadian Conference in Montreal where we had up to 100 people in total across four days and events. We brought Poul

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Ove Jensen from Copenhagen, the architect and designer of Montreal's new Champlain Bridge Project, as our keynote speaker on May 28, where Poul presented a very interesting overview of the Champlain project and the many other projects worldwide that he and his company have created. The opening reception on May 26 at Hotel Nelligan featured Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen officially opening this year's conference, and included our May 27 keynote speaker Kahnsohon Deer, Federation President Rolf Christensen and myself, Conference Chair, Kren Clausen. Museum Day was held on May 27 at the Vieux Port Steakhouse's Conference Room followed by the auctions and fundraising held that evening. Friday's lunch included Montreal's Danish Honorary Consul, Andre Vautour, presenting opening and welcome remarks. Keynote Speaker, Kahnsohon Deer, Darrel Pronovost, and Navarana Sorensen provided a First Nations presentation including Viking history in Canada, faith-keeping traditions and customs, and meaningful drum dancing. Saturday was the Federation day also held at the Vieux Port Steakhouse Conference Room, including the AGM. We hosted a first-time ever panel discussion, moderated by Kren Clausen, including a number of younger aged panelists from across Canada's Danish Clubs, with open discussion about the future of Danish communities in Canada and how to battle declining membership. Guests stayed at the Embassy Suites Hotel. A tour of the Ramsey museum was organized, followed by an Old Montreal walking tour that was cut short due to rain. The Conference Closing Night Dinner was attended by many and dancing was enjoyed with entertainment provided by the Danish Club's DJ Youseff. The Conference finished by attendees enjoying a delicious smørrebrød lunch on May 29 at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, that was preceded by a Church Service, and followed by a bus tour of Montreal.

Kren Clausen, President, and Chair of the 2016 Conference Organizing Committee

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

The Danish Club of Ottawa has had a good year so far. Our membership is up slightly, numbering well over 200 people. New members include several families with young children as well as older Danes who want to share traditions from back home with their grandchildren.

Financially we are in good shape. Profits at our major fundraiser, November's Christmas bazaar, were close to the all-time record.

Participation in our big events has been excellent. Attendance was up at both the Christmas Party and Fastelavn and it was wonderful to see so many children having fun, along with their families. The Queen's Birthday Party in April drew a good size crowd, although it of course couldn't quite match the previous year's special anniversary celebration of both the Club and Queen Margrethe.



The numbers tell only part of the story. Even more important is the very positive feedback by members, who tell us how much they enjoy the events. Part of the success is undoubtedly due to the increased use of electronic communication. Emails are sent out regularly to remind people of upcoming Club events, share information from the Danish Embassy and other Nordic clubs, tell them about other events and news that may be of interest and call out for volunteers for specific

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events. This works well ... it increases participation and members tend to feel more involved and better informed.

It is clear that this is a time of transition for the Club – a transition that is taking place over some years. Increasingly, the oldest members of the Club are staying home or choosing to come to only some events. Increasingly this will create gaps that have to be bridged and necessitate changes to how things are done, without losing what is precious and meaningful to members.

This year's Board of Directors is smaller than outlined in the bylaws – only seven people. The challenge was to demonstrate that the Club can be run with fewer directors – an important consideration for the future, as fewer people seem able or willing to make this kind of commitment. We did it, I believe!

Looking ahead, a big challenge for future boards is to find ways of reducing the work and effort required to manage the Club's agenda. Perhaps creating a more thoughtful transition between boards, perhaps changing the board year, probably letting go of outdated ideas ... this may be part of it.

So is convincing members that being a director can be fun, interesting and fulfilling. It is a chance to be part of the Danish community in Ottawa, and to help shape the Club of the future. This year has shown beyond a doubt that there is an ongoing interest among Danes and their descendants in Ottawa, to stay in touch with their roots, and to share aspects of their culture with their families and friends. Younger people may not have the same commitment or desire to make the Club a focal point in their lives, as those who founded the Club did 40 years ago, but they are ready and happy to be part of it on different terms. It's up to us to keep that enthusiasm alive.

Respectfully presented by Rolf Christensen on behalf of Vibeke Reid, President

5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto

The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto is a very busy place, with lots of different activities going on. First and foremost, we are a church, and as such we have our Sunday service each and every week – no summer vacation or other excuses for us! Last year we had a total of 58 services throughout the year, and the average attendance was about 50 people, up slightly from the previous year. The church has 220 registered voting members, which is also up from the year before – by about 10%.

In addition to the Sunday services the church hosts several other weekly or bi-weekly activities: Church Café on Tuesdays with lunch, songs, fellowship and a game of cards, Golden Age Club every other Thursday, with lunch and a speaker or entertainment, and Folk dancing on most Friday nights. Other regularly scheduled church activities include Sunday-School for kids, Church Choir, Book Club, Movie Afternoons, Clean-up Days, Dinner parties, Bazaars, and celebrations of annual events such as Fastelavn and Halloween, just to name some of them.



But the church building is not only being used by us Danes. A Korean congregation is renting the church on Sunday afternoons as well as on a couple of evenings every week, and our neighbour, a clinic which helps head injury victims, is using the meeting rooms and our park on a regular basis. The MG Club of Toronto (yes, the cool sports cars!) hold their meetings at the church, “Danskskolen”, which is monthly Danish lessons for kids, have their classes in the church, and

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the Girl Guides have meetings in our rooms once a week, and they even have an annual sleep-over there too!

In the past year, we have introduced “Music Sundays”, where we have guest appearances by professional singers or musicians during the church service. This musical element really adds to the beauty of the service, and we hear lots of happy feed-back.

A recent and very memorable event was on Sunday April 24th, when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the church building on Finch Avenue. The event was attended by 130 people, including the congregation from Waterloo, whom we had invited as our special guests, as a birthday present for their 50th anniversary.

Although we are very happy to have seen a small but positive development in attendance and membership this past year, we are very aware that we must pay attention to the needs and wishes of present and potential members. Therefore, we recently created a survey to ask for feedback, not only from our regular church goers, but from everybody who is on any one of our mailing lists of 550 newsletter subscribers and more than 300 e-mail recipients. The survey was available online as well as in paper-format, to ensure that we reached the widest possible group of responders. We have yet to compile the final results of the survey, but a first glance indicates that people really enjoy the bazaars, the big dinner parties and the movie afternoons, and that they would like us to arrange Danish cooking classes, as well as Danish lessons for adults.

Upcoming and ongoing initiatives include incorporation of the church – which is a legal process that has been progressing for the past year, as well as extensive physical upgrades to the various church facilities, inside and out.

As our church is 100% self-funded we need to always remain very active when it comes to fundraising. Our biggest fundraisers are the bazaars in March and November, when several hundred (sometimes 500+) people attend and enjoy our many booths and our great lunch. The bazaars are massive projects, with preparations literally going on around the year, and about 70 people actively at work on the days of the events. Two annual lotteries also serve as major fundraisers, and the regular and ongoing generous donations on Sundays by church-goers bring in much needed funds too. On week days, we rent out parking spots to commuters from the GTA, and as something relatively new we are now also providing catering (mostly of Danish smørrebrød) to private parties, at the church or in people’s homes.

We estimate that as much as, an average of 300 people, walk through the church doors each and every week. Some of these groups are tenants, but many of them use the church free of charge, or at a very modest, and voluntary, annual fee. This is our way of giving back to the community around us, and it is also a way for us to ensure that we give life to the words spoken by our founding Provst, Poul Overgaard-Thomsen, at the inauguration of our church building 50 years ago, when he said: “Now let us really use this church!”

Respectfully presented by Helle Overgaard

6. Danish Women’s Association, Toronto

Danish Women’s Association, Toronto was started by Ninna Folb and Kirsten Glasser, two Danish immigrants who met at the Beach area in Toronto in 1979. They were both married to non-Danes, so their objective was to get together and speak Danish, and share their connection with their home country. This was before the Internet and Skype. Ninna and Kirsten started

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contacting other Danish women, networking started and within six months they were ten women who met regularly for dinner every month.

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

The club is still going strong after 37 years, we are at the moment 44 members, many from the Greater Toronto Area, two new members joined this year, and they were not new emigrants. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, for dinner, a chat and a drink, and we have a strict rule about only speaking Danish.

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

On June 16 of this year we will enjoy a lunch at Sunset Villa. Over the years, we have celebrated St. Hans with bonfire at the Beach of Lake Ontario, Picnics at Toronto Island, Lunches and “Grundlovsdag” celebrations at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, and Christmas Celebrations in private homes and restaurants. Husbands, children and friends are always invited to those events.

We are at the moment six members of the committee, who until January 2017 will meet and plan the events, and send out a newsletter. At our general meeting in January 2017, we vote for a new committee. Our members’ fee is \$25 per year, and some of that money goes to pay for special events, and charities. For example: The Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto, and the Danish Canadian Museum in Alberta.

Respectfully submitted by Mette Uffe, President, and Presented by Anne Lise Pedersen

9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch

Hello and Greetings from Sunset Villa Association in Ontario!

For the last few weeks we have been busy preparing for our 61st annual Danish Constitution Day Celebration on Sunday June 5th. This is our most significant fund raising event for Sunset Villa and a truly social gathering where Danes from near and far meet up with old friends.

Sunset Villa has similar challenges as some of the other Danish clubs, like fund-raising, attracting more members, in particular young ones. We have 50 seasonal camp sites and ten seniors’ apartments which are fully occupied. There are 452 active members. The Danish Place Restaurant at Sunset Villa is very much part of the Club serving great Danish cuisine.

We have St. Hans Festival with fireworks and in June, July and August we have dinners and dances, with many other activities throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by Poul Lange, President, and presented by Karin Thorlund Larsen.

10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch

Sunset Mindepark-Ontario is by now (probably), the urn cemetery with the most urns containing remains of Danish Immigrants in Canada interred in one cemetery. The current Cemetery total capacity is 273 Niches and 349 plots for a total of 622 spaces, each with room for two urns, a capacity of 1244 urns, however some are single urns to a plot or niche.



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Of the 622 spaces only 78 remain unsold at this time. Plans are underway to increase the number of urn spaces in the next year. The number of interred urns is currently 425, with the addition of 20 to 30 interments of urns per year.

The Sunset Mindepark urn cemetery is solely operated and maintained by volunteers, making its operation very low cost. It is a beautiful and peaceful final resting place for Danish immigrants to Canada.

Respectfully submitted by Soren Sondergaard, President and Interment Director

11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby

Friendly greetings to all participants from our congregation!

Our congregation still has approximately 160 members, some more active than others. We still have one Danish service and three English services each month, less during the summer months with the long weekends, with an average attendance of 20 to 22 people.

Our many and varied activities during the year keep us busy and in touch with one another. Our Friendship club, every second Tuesday and our dinner-movie club, every second Wednesday are still very popular and the Parish Circle once a month still draws interested participants.

On June 28th, we had the pleasure of a visit from Pastor Jørgen Flensted-Jensen and Kirsten of Brylle, Fyn, and celebrated with a pot-luck lunch after the Sunday Service.

Our Sankt Hands celebration at the Hatorp Farm was just perfect with beautiful weather for the outdoor evening service by the little pond and later the ice cream, strawberry and pastry feast before the enormous bonfire was lit and we sang till the stars were bright in the late evening sky.

During the last week of August Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen, his wife, Lis, and I attended the DSUK America conference in Vancouver. It was a nice, friendly and informative brainstorming session, where we found out that most of the other churches under the DSUK umbrella in Argentina, USA and Canada face the same challenges, but find many innovative answers that we shared and hope to be able to work with. The working language for the whole conference was Danish, very impressive considering that the delegates from Argentina are now 5th and 6th generation descendants of Danish immigrants and most of them have never been to Denmark.

In September, our Friendship Club had a luncheon excursion to the Royal Botanical Garden in Burlington, and conducted the fall edition of our Frikadelle Bingo.

On October 15, Pastor Lars invited the whole congregation to help him celebrate his 75th birthday with a delicious full three-course dinner plus – plus. Admission was a gift to the church.

The fall was very busy preparing for and celebrating our Anniversary dinner, Christmas Bazaar, Lucia Pageant, and Christmas Party; they were all very well attended and gave a nice boost to our economy and also showed our great team spirit. It was nice to see so many happy faces, but we still need to involve the children more. Fastelavn did bring some out, all nicely dressed up and having a lot of fun trying to break the barrel that Tage Friis built during the winter.

In March, we had our Frikadelle Bingo, sharing good food and fellowship.

We have now had all of the badly needed new windows installed, the parking lot has been expanded and paved and thanks to Pastor Lars and Tage Friis, we now have new sturdy back steps leading to the nice new back door.

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With Pastor Lars and Lis in Denmark for part of February and most of March, we are so fortunate to be able to call on Pastor Charles Dechert to help us out, and we now know that Pastor Lars and Lis have agreed to stay with us for the next year and a half.

On Saturday May 7th, we had a very successful “Welcome Spring”, with lots of delicious open-face sandwiches, entertainment and good fellowship.

Looking ahead, we will have our AGM on June 12, after the regular Church Service.

Respectfully submitted by Edith Wulff, and Presented by Elise Hansen

12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John’s Church, Waterloo

It is with regret that I am unable to participate this year, but Inge Andersen will report on behalf of the Danish Canadian Community at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Waterloo.

We continued monthly Church Services; and for the year of 2015 there were approximately 300 people in attendance. Of special note this year was the celebration of 50 years of Services in the Danish language. The procession was led by Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen, followed by Pastor Kenneth Berg and Pastor Fred Ludolph. The chapel was full and Pastor Skjødt-Jakobsen officiated at the Service. The celebratory service was followed by a festive dinner and speeches and greetings from far and wide.

On behalf of the community in Waterloo, I would like to extend our appreciation to those who came to celebrate with us either in person or sent the many best wishes we received.

Submitted by Esther Garde Pedersen, presented by Inge Andersen

16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary

Greetings: from the shareholders, members, and staff of the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary.

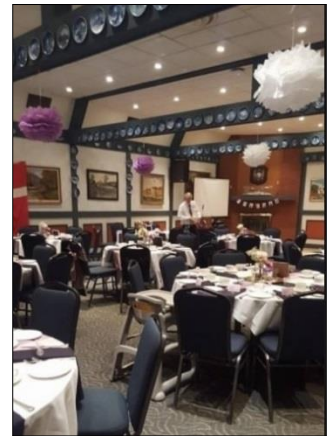
Since the 2015 Federation Report, the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary has continued to be active, but has been adversely affected by collapse of the oil prices and the subsequent economic downturn resulting in fewer business luncheons, seminars, and corporate functions such as employee Christmas parties.

We have been able to work through this downturn through prudent management by our General Manager, Peter Christensen, and his management staff.

Our club hosted a Casino on April 18th & 19th, under the stewardship of Lars Lehmann and his many volunteers. Funds from this casino are critical to the club so that we can continue to award scholarships, donate to charities such as the Danish Lutheran Church and the Danish Canadian National Museum, and also provide funds to the club for necessary maintenance items.

The annual shareholder meeting was held on September 16, 2015. There were 55 active shareholders at the AGM. At this AGM, I was elected President of the club for a one year term. The club is actively working toward updating the website and other social media initiatives to keep members current on club happenings.

Social activities at the club included: Stampede Breakfast, the 40th annual Viking Stag, Children’s Halloween and Christmas parties, Grey Cup party, Christmas dinners, New Year’s



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Gala, Valentines dance, “Katten af Tønden”, Mother’s Day brunch, and again we streamed the Eurovision contest on May 14th. As always, the success of these events relies on many volunteers, the board of directors, our social director Bente Dalberg, and participation by members plus the dedicated DCC management and staff. We currently have about 1,350 members, and 1430 shareholders, of which 290 are active members.

Respectfully presented by Annette Jochumsen on behalf of John Steffensen, President

19. The Naver Club, Calgary

The Calgary Naver Club had its first meeting on February 5, 1958. The Club was started by Carpenter Arne Christensen and Shipbuilder Ferdinan Christensen in the fall of 1957, when they first began talking about starting a Naver Club in Calgary.

Currently we have 45 members who meet the first Thursday of the month in the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary at 7:00 p.m. At most of the meetings there are between 19 and 26 Navers, who show their happy faces.

During the year we have several events, the Annual General Meeting in April (med gule ærter); in July, we host a Stampede breakfast for the members and their families plus a few guests from Denmark; in August, a BBQ is held at one of the member’s homes, as the Danish Canadian Club is closed; in November, we enjoy Mortens Aften at the DCC with a great dinner and dance; and finely in December we host our big Julefrokost at the DCC, which is always a great success.

Med kno. Formand, Jens Laursen.

Respectfully presented by Steen Jochumsen

20. Royal Danish Guards’ Association, Western Canada



The Royal Danish Guards’ Association, Western Canada, currently has twenty members, spread out over the western provinces, but with the majority in Alberta. Unfortunately, we are seeing very little immigration of Danes to our area, especially Danish Guards. We are curious if other Danish associations are facing similar difficulties as the older generation passes on without being replaced by new members.

On August 8, we held our annual Garden Party or as some call it “Garder Party”. This year it was hosted by the children of the late Guard Alf Jensen. It was special to see the Canadian generation still take an interest in their heritage and in the Royal Guards. People started arriving at 2 p.m. and soon we were gathered around with a cup of Danish coffee and homemade baking. As many of us had not seen each other since last October, there was a lot to catch up on, and before long it was time to light up the BBQs. The steaks were grilled, and the coffee was replaced by a generous selection of wine, and as usual there was plenty of food and laughter.

On October 24, we held our annual general meeting at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. While the men went through the agenda over a cup of coffee, the ladies met for coffee at the club as well. Often, the manager, Peter spoils the ladies with fresh æbleskiver. The official meeting was followed by a Danish luncheon with “special guests” such as Tuborg, Carlsberg and Aalborg Akvavit. The luncheon part was enjoyed in the company of our spouses, families and invited friends. Each year the feedback is extremely encouraging, especially from the guests, whether they have a Danish heritage or simply enjoy Danish food and company.

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

Sincerely submitted by Jens Lind, President, and presented by Steen Jochumsen

22. Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson

The past year was an amazing year in the life of the Museum. It began with concerns over the deficit from the previous year and ended with a small profit, formation of a Sustainable Business Model, and plans to hire an Executive Director.

A few comments about the highlights of the year, for which you will find detailed information in the reports prepared for the Museum's Annual General Meeting.

In January, the Board decided not to host the Conference of the Federation in 2017. This decision was rescinded in June, and the conference will be hosted by the Museum and the Red Deer Danish Club the latter part of May 2017. This will also be an opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Danish Canadian National Museum.



March saw the introduction of the Duality Project and as the summer progressed, the scope and breadth of this project was further defined. The implementation of phase one of the project a new website, began in September.

Co-operation and joint planning with Urban Matters created a Sustainable Business Model that was accepted in June. It provides for long-range planning and direction for the Museum to ensure viability for the future.

Thousands of volunteer dollars and hours of construction resulted in the completion of the Naust during the summer, the exquisite building housing the *Freydis Joanna*. Much work was done in the restoration of grounds and buildings following the three hailstorms of the 2014 season.

A new fundraising initiative, Friends of the Museum, was begun. You may choose three levels of contributions and receive recognition as Odin, Thor or Freya. The Friends of the Museum replaces the annual gift campaign. We encourage participation in this initiative by every museum member.

At the annual fall retreat of the directors of the Board many hours were spent in discussion and planning for the new leadership position of Executive Director. The Board is pleased to report that Brian Desjardins assumed this position on May 2, 2016.

On behalf of the Board I invite each of you to participate in the 2017 Federation conference, and to experience the Museum, gardens and exciting programming that you will find in Dickson. Our Danish immigrant heritage as portrayed at the Museum is thriving, and waiting for you to explore, to enjoy and to spread the word to others. See you next May at the Museum!

Respectfully submitted and presented by Sonja Myroon

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23. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club

The Red Deer Danish Canadian club membership continues to hold steady between 70-80 members. We hold a number of events throughout the year including:

- Annual General Meeting in February
- Spring Campout on the May long weekend (Where now we are introducing Danish Culture! - herring and Akvavit)
- St. Hans Fest in June
- July 1 Heritage Days in Red Deer
- Golf Tournament in August
- Fall Campout on the September long weekend with Danish Culture
- Harvest Party (We now make our own sandwiches)
- Weekly Danish Lessons

We also provide three \$1,000 Bursaries to graduating high school students in our area annually.

The Red Deer Club is also sending six members to the Montreal Conference, which the Red Deer Danish Club is a proud supporter of.

All our events and activities are described in detail on our website at: www.rddcc.com. A must see! Please visit us.

Submitted by Kari Noete, President, and presented by Joanne Nielsen

24. The Danish Canadian Society “Dania”, Edmonton



At our AGM in October 2015 we were unable to constitute a Board due to low turnout. The decision was made at the October AGM to place the club into hiatus for six months and call another meeting in March 2016 to determine if a Board could be constituted. A Board was constituted in March 2016 and we have been able to salvage the remaining activities for the year which includes our June camp out and Fall dance.

Our events are always well attended; however, we have found it a struggle the last few years to find volunteer Board members to run the club. Total membership is less than 100 (normally over 200). Membership numbers were on the decline this year as the club was in hiatus for six months and all remaining annual activities had initially been cancelled.

There were 67 attendees at our annual June Campout and 182 attendees (78 members) at our annual Fall Dance which were prior to our 2015 AGM.

Most memorable event was our Annual campout and Horseshoe tournament – 67 attendees for a weekend of camping to celebrate St. Hans Aften.

Submitted by Lisa Christensen and presented by Joel Kjearsgaard, Communications Director

26. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia

The activities of the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. (DCCC) in 2015 were similar to what they have been for the past several years.

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In June 2015, the joint Danish House Society/Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. scholarship committee awarded ten \$1,200 scholarships to the same number of deserving students. The presentations were made at the June Kroaften at the Scandinavian Centre.

Also in June, we celebrated the Grundlovsfest – Danish Constitution Day – on the grounds of the Scandinavian Centre. The turnout was excellent with people bringing their picnic baskets to a cozy tables and chairs setting. There was a short speech providing some history for the commemoration of the Danish Constitution. The kids entertained themselves on the big grass field with various toys provided by the DCCC while the adults mingled.

In November, the DCCC awarded the maximum number of grants for the maximum amount of dollars possible to various Danish community organizations in British Columbia. The application deadline for these annual grants was October 30th.

In December, the DCCC and DHS, organized “Christmas by the Fireside” which was held at the Scandinavian Centre. Again, this was a very successful event with the adults and the children enjoying the Lucia girls, a performance by the “nisser”, Christmas carols around the Christmas tree, Santa Claus with bags of goodies for the children, children’s crafts and then gløgg and other refreshments together with æbleskiver and pastry.

In closing: Our next upcoming event in 2016 will be on June 5th, when we will again celebrate the Grundlovsfest at the Scandinavian Community Centre.

Submitted by Margit Hansson, President, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

27. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver

Lodge 328 has two outstanding athletes as members. President Niels Jensen, age 72, runs marathons; the last two were in Copenhagen and Barcelona. Board member Keld Jensen, 65, is a long-distance cyclist. This year, again, he and 50 others are cycling from Kelowna to Vancouver, a 400-km distance (250 miles), a 20-hour ride. The ride is to raise money for cancer research.

Lodge 328 maintains a membership of around 80 members. In the past year three brothers sadly passed away, while four new members were initiated into the Lodge.

Kate Prægel’s excellent sandwiches continue to be a big draw and consequently 40 to 45 members attend the monthly meetings.

Lodge 328 sponsors two yearly dinner dances. A spring dinner dance at Valentines and a dinner dance in November. Between 110 and 125 guests usually attend these dinner dances.

In the month of July, Manfred Hoff, a long-time brother and a past president of the Lodge, opens the gates to his acreage and invites interested members of both the brotherhood and sisterhood to a picnic/barbeque. About 50 guests participate in that get-together.

Lodge 328 continues to donate funds to several good causes: A couple of food banks in the lower mainland, the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, the ladies’ auxiliary at Dania Home and the Danish Lutheran Churches.

Lodge 328 maintains a very good website thanks mainly to long time member Bent Østergård, with the help of member Arne Møller, at Danishbrotherhood.ca.

The Lodge continues to be in a sound financial position.

Best wishes for a successful Conference in Montreal!

Submitted by Kjeld Christensen, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

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28. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest

On behalf of my fellow Royal Danish Guards and associated members of the Royal Danish Guards Association in the Pacific NW, it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings to all the delegates attending this year's conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada in the beautiful city of Montreal.

It is truly an honor for us to have been part of the Federation for so many years, and in Solvejg Nielsen's rare absence this year, we greatly appreciate that Ed Kuhlman from Vancouver will be representing us at the conference – of course next to our own Royal Guard and your president, Rolf B. Christensen.

Founded in 1968, the Pacific Northwest Guards' Association currently includes a strong membership of twenty-four former Royal Guards, who loyally served the regiment during the reign of the last three monarchs of Denmark, from 1943 through 2000. The Association also enjoys the support of four associate members and one honorary member, and over time we have formed great friendships across the world, amounting to more than 10,000 members, as part of the Royal Danish Guards' Associations in Denmark (DG) and Foreign Countries (DGU).



Most of our members live in Vancouver and on Vancouver Island, as well as in Washington State. A few members who used to work in British Columbia or live in the Pacific NW, now reside in California, Arizona, Norway and Denmark.

During the year, members and families meet at 'Garderstuen' in the basement of Knud and Doris Nielsen's home in Langley, B.C., just north of the U.S. border. Meetings always includes a delicious home cooked meal by Doris and her little sister, Lene 'Tut' Christensen, and either includes traditional Danish 'split pea soup with pork' in February, a potluck picnic luncheon in their garden during the summer; herring and open-faced sandwiches after the AGM and a wonderful Christmas dinner of pork roast and duck with all the traditional trimmings, including rice pudding dessert. In recent years, the members and guests have also been treated to Knud's own exclusive vintage of white and red grapes – carefully bottled and already in high demand by local wine produces.

For some years, the members and their families in Victoria and Nanaimo have enjoyed seasonal lunches together at local restaurants to celebrate birthdays and Christmas – and though moving around may not be as swift as in the past, the camaraderie among Royal Guards remain strong and spirits are always high when the seasoned veteran Guards meet and exchange stories from back in the day when 'the real tough Guards' served.

For several decades, the Danish communities in Vancouver and Seattle areas have been treated to celebrations co-organized by the Royal Guards to honor Her Majesty Queen Margrethe's birthday. The traditional celebration with uniformed Guards, who are marching in the flags before the playing of the three national anthems of Canada, USA and Denmark, including toasts to the sovereigns of the three countries and the nearly 358 years old regiment in Denmark, have been especially colourful when two young members of the Royal Danish Guards Drum Corps

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have been able to travel from Denmark to join us in the celebration and to entertain the guests. It is especially a proud moment for our members and the Danish communities, when both the personal birthday greeting sent to Her Majesty and the heartwarming 'thank you' in response, are shared with the guests.

Supported by several generous donations and volunteers, the Danish communities have since 2005 enjoyed the visit in April, all of seven times, of two active Guards of the Drum Corps in Denmark – and at this year's celebration at the Scandinavian Community Center in Burnaby, as well as at the NW Danish Association in Seattle, we probably had the two best musicians of them all, when they impressed guests in age ranging from 3 to over 90 with their performances. A special treat performance was also enjoyed at the Danish Church in Burnaby, as part of the Sunday service followed by the social hour of the congregation.

For many years, Remembrance Day in November has had a very special meaning for our members to meet and parade in front of Dania Home in Burnaby in solemn memory of all those in uniform who did not return alive from past battles.

Finally, as we are preparing for a great summer in the Pacific NW, a few of our members have already returned from a Spring trip to Denmark in late April to attend the anniversary parade of the regiment on May 1. We are looking forward to the upcoming AGM in Langley, B.C. on June 18 and many happy visits with our seasoned fellow Royal Guards during the year.

Enjoy your conference and Danish fellowship this weekend!

Submitted Kenneth Olsen, President, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

29. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Greetings from the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver!

We have had a busy year upgrading our facilities with new chairs and curtains in our church hall. Then on the first Sunday in May we had our traditional Flag Day. It was a festive service as usual. It was also a poignant reminder of the end of the Second World War, 70 years ago.

Later in May, we had the pleasure of welcoming participants of The Danish Federation's Conference in Vancouver to our church, first for breakfast, and later they joined us in the Church Service.



In June, we had Dansk Samvirke giving a presentation on the new Danish rules regarding dual citizenship, and the congregation had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen at the same time.

In July, our Youth Choir had a very successful visit to Denmark. They gave concerts in Nørre Omme, Bredballe Church, and Sct. Johannes Church in Aarhus, and moreover in Bredballe at Bakkeager nursing home and Sct. Maria Hospice. The choir also had time to do some sightseeing and visited Vedersø and Kaj Munk's grave. They saw the North Sea, the dunes and bunkers from WWII. In addition, they visited Ringkøbing, Legoland, the Jelling Stones and Egeskov Castle, and rounded it off by visiting Moesgaard Museum by the Bay of Aarhus. Moreover, the choir participated in Cirkus Flik Flak's circus-week in Odense where they together with some 240

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Danish kids and youths learned the trade and put on six shows over the week-end. Many new friendships were formed and old ones renewed across languages and distance.

In August DSUK (Danske Sømands- og Udlandskirker) held its Americas Conference here in Vancouver. Since 2014 our planning committee had been co-ordinating this event with Granly. From comments made from the participants, it became clear that they really appreciated the arrangements. This conference which takes place every three years, gave us an opportunity to meet representatives of the other four Danish congregations in Canada, outside B.C., plus three from Argentina, and one from California. It was three good days to be together, and learn from all the participants.

We were fortunate to have two volunteers from Denmark at different times last year, and it was a pleasure to have them around. As well as the obvious benefit of having an extra pair of hands to help us in the Church activities, it also gave us a view into what is going on in today's Denmark.

Once again, many activities were held in the church during 2015, and a heartfelt thank you goes to all our volunteers, without whom this simply would not be possible.

Submitted by Jorgen Rohweder, President, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

30. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby



A year ago, the residents at the old Dania Home began moving into the new Dania Home. A Grand Opening of the new home took place on June 9, 2015, with politicians from the Burnaby area and dignitaries from the city attending. Also present was the Danish Ambassador to Canada visiting from Ottawa, his Excellency Niels Boel Abrahamsen. The new home is a 102-room facility, arranged in six neighbourhoods.

The Grand Opening was a big day for several reasons. The old home was really a tired old home. Moving into the new home was like a fresh start. In addition, the new home added 34 spaces for residents, at a time when the demographics in Burnaby justify additional rooms.

The new building was carefully planned, meticulously constructed and finished on time and on budget. Dania Home is recognized in Burnaby, and by Fraser Health, as a well run Complex Care Home, with further services offered in two other buildings on site: Carl Mortensen Manor and Dania Manor.

The year 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of Dania Home. We can all be very proud of Dania Home and Dania Society.

Submitted by Kjeld Christensen, President, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

31. Danish House Society, Burnaby

For the Danish House Society, 2015 was another fabulous and exciting year, with membership of approximately 435 holding steady, and our very popular Kro Aften, our monthly pub nights, where members get to enjoy a fine selection of open-faced sandwiches together with aquavit and Carlsberg beer to wash it all down, sold out most months. At the June Kro Aften, the DHS together with the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C., awarded ten \$1,200 scholarships to a very deserving group of young people and will award another ten scholarships again in June of this year.

Other events during the year included: the annual European Festival, in which we join with the other four houses of the Scandinavian Centre welcoming guests to the Scandinavian Tent; the

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Midsummer Festival, held on June 20th and 21st, a big summer party where we enjoyed two great days together with the other co-owners of our Scandinavian Centre entertaining the approximately 9,000 guests that attended; and the big summer cap off, the Danish House Family BBQ in August. In October, we hosted the Randers Big Band from Denmark and together with the Scandinavian Cultural Society served as the host country for the Annual Leif Erikson Festival. Then it was on to the Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction in October and finally Christmas by the Fireside, held jointly with our Danish Canadian Community Centre friends. All of these events with the exception of the big band concert are being repeated in 2016, and are generously supported by the members of our society, as well as non-members.

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

Respectfully submitted and presented by Ed Kuhlman, President

32. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey

Greetings from Granly!

All activities are carried out at the Granly Church and/or Hall in Surrey, British Columbia. We have weekly Church Services, and as well, special Church Services. We have a Bible Study Group, and a Study Group studying Danish Literature. We have a Wednesday Club which shows Danish movies. Moreover, our Spring Dinner and Fall Dinner are both well attended, as are our Sankt Hans Bonfire and our Julestue.

Our most recent event was the Spring Dinner, held April 22, 2016, with the Tivoli Choir and Hawaiian dancers entertaining. It was also a farewell party for Pastor Claus Franck and his wife Merete, our pastor for the past two years. It was a great party with lots of emotions showing. Pastor Claus was a big voice in our Tivoli choir.

Our new Pastor Mogens Mye and his wife, Anne Marie Søndergaard, arrived on April 29th and will serve Granly for a two-year term. He was installed on May 8th at a 4:00 pm service. We were happy to have Claus and Merete and look forward to being served by Mogens and Anne Marie.

Have a successful conference!

Submitted by Manfred Hoff, President, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

33. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver



The Danish Sisterhood of America Dogwood Lodge 179 in Vancouver is busy sharing our Danish Heritage and showing heart by supporting women in our region. We hold nine meetings a year on the 3rd Thursday each month (except July, August and December). Various Committees have been set up to have more input and ideas into our activities.

We have sadly lost two members this past year; which now brings our membership to 31. We continue to work to have new members join our organization.

We set up display tables at many various functions in the community and hand out our application forms and new business cards.

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In order for our Lodge to grow, we are now holding our meetings earlier at 5:30 and offering everyone a small dinner made up of Danish Sandwiches or something pertaining to the theme of our meeting. Our new Social Committee is now in charge of those festivities and game nights and various other fun activities - and there are always prizes to the lucky winners at each event. We also have pot-luck dinners, Danish sandwich making, and presentations of cultural interests, so our Lodge members learn to understand and enjoy our Danish heritage and traditions, with film night about Danish travel destinations, and much more.

Our local newsletter, the Dogwood Newsletter, is sent out four times a year: spring, summer, fall, and winter, informing us of upcoming events and lots of other interesting and pertinent news. We now email this to all members.

Our Website <http://www.danishsisterhood.ca> was created and launched in 2008 together with a new email address: lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca. Both are used to attract new members and advise potential new members of the benefits of belonging to our lodge.

Being a member of the Sisterhood means being part of an organization which supports women in our community, and strives to share our Danish heritage, and the spirit that “Danes are all heart”.

Submitted by Sandra Alexander, President, and presented by Linda Kuhlman, Past President

34. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo



Our club is located in Nanaimo, B.C., and is one of two Danish clubs on Vancouver Island. Currently we have approximately 185 members, many of whom are seniors, so we are continuously encouraging younger people to join our club. Our membership numbers seem to be holding in the 180 to 200 range and we are conducting a membership drive at the time of this writing. Most of our members live in Nanaimo, but we have members all over Vancouver Island, as well as a few in various cities on the mainland.

Our club is basically a social club and each year, we hold three dinner/dance events with live music, two “Andespil” (bingo) events, a Skt. Hans Celebration, a “Pandekage Afternoon” and an “Æbleskiver Afternoon”. In addition, we have a small choir group that gets together informally and a dedicated group of card players

who meet regularly at a local establishment. Our dinner/dance events typically attract 90 to 120 and our other event numbers vary from 40 to 110 (depending on what sort of food is served!). We publish and mail a newsletter to our members five times a year. Fees from our advertisers and our \$15 membership fee, covers the expenses of printing and mailing our newsletter.

This year, we tried combining our Pandekager Afternoon with our AGM; but the membership has indicated that they prefer to have these events held separately, so we will be going back to our tried and true event schedule for the time being.

We do not do any targeted fundraising, so we do our best to break even financially on all of our social activities, and



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that policy seems to keep our club nicely afloat.

The photos were taken at our Skt. Hans Celebrations at Transfer Beach in Ladysmith, B.C.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Tom Hedekar, Treasurer

35. Danish Social Club of Victoria

The Danish Social Club of Victoria has held its regular meetings throughout the year, with the associated Danish-inspired meals and drinks.

The Club is seeing a slight increase in membership and seems to be growing. The Club was deprived of its former President, Jørgen Kierkegaard, who was also one of the founders. The membership indicated its gratitude for the work done by Jørgen over the years and welcomed the continued presence of his widow, Karen.

A new Board of Directors was elected in April 2016, with Hans Frederiksen as President. Our new President foresees that the Danish Social Club of Victoria will continue to remain a gathering point for Danes in the area.

Respectfully submitted by Bendix Andersen, and presented by Ed Kuhlman

Reports from Regional Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Ontario Region

The Ontario Region of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada consists of ten member organizations, including The Danish Club of Ottawa, The Danish Church in Grimsby, The Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, The Royal Danish Guards' Association, The Danish Church of Toronto, The Danish Women's Association, Sunset Villa Association, Sunset Mindepark, The Danish Congregation in Waterloo and Pass Lake Historical Association.

About 25 interested people meet twice a year, once in the spring and then once in the fall, at which time the elections for president, secretary/treasurer and director are held. Sunset Villa, The Danish Church of Toronto and The Danish Church in Grimsby take turns hosting these events on a Saturday afternoon. In the evening following the meeting they usually provide a dinner. The Ontario Board meets prior to each meeting and establishes the agenda. News from the various groups is shared and upcoming local events are elaborated on. Danish Federation President Rolf Christensen, and his wife Vita, attend each meeting and Rolf informs us about the upcoming Conference and Heritage Seminar. We try to include some type of Cultural Input at each meeting, often consisting of a guest speaker, or a presentation by one of the participants. The meetings last nearly three hours, which includes a generous coffee break with pastry and buns, in addition to lively chatter. During the coffee break we conduct a lottery. Participants bring a bottle of snaps or wine, or home-made jam, a book or a decoration for the lottery. The participants are very generous, donating items as well as buying tickets for the lottery. The proceeds from the lottery are divided in three, with 1/3 going to the Ontario Region, 1/3 to the Danish Federation and 1/3 to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. The Museum is a permanent item on the Ontario Region's Agenda, and the Region is a strong supporter of the Museum, also financially.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Liselotte Ostergaard, Secretary

Alberta Region

The Alberta Region, recognized officially as *The Alberta Association of Danish Canadian Organizations* by the Alberta Corporate Registry, continues to meet on a semi-annual basis.

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Meetings are held at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, which is centrally located for travel purposes. The reason for our meetings is laid out in the Objects and By-laws as follows:

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

Current projects include the development of a website and improving communication among all eleven member organizations. It is necessary to show the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission that the Objects (noted above) can be measured with concrete examples. It is our hope that once we can show tangible examples of our overall value to the Alberta Clubs, we can then apply for a casino license. Casino funds would permit us to dramatically increase financial support for the various projects and activities of member organizations. It is also our hope to establish a Scholarship Fund for worthy Alberta students.

In 2016, the Board of Directors consists of:

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, Danish Canadian National Museum
Director	Lisa Christensen, Dania Edmonton

Submitted and presented by Larry Kjearsgaard, President, Alberta Region

Pacific Region

We have two meetings a year. In March, we have our Annual General Meeting with elections for President, Secretary-Treasurer and one Director. At the meeting one person representing each of the members of the Pacific Region gives a short report. We discuss the past Danish Canadian Conference and the upcoming Conference and articles for the Heritage Book. After the meeting, we enjoy a typical Danish Lunch. Mention is also made of the Heritage Seminar. Our meeting in September is always on Vancouver Island. We follow the same format as the meeting in March, with reports from the member organizations etc.

The members of the Pacific Region are: The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver (in Burnaby); Granly Church in Surrey; The Danish Sisterhood; The Danish Brotherhood; Dania Society; Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia; Danish House Society; The Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest; Danish Social Club of Victoria; and the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, based in Nanaimo.

We very much enjoyed hosting the Danish Canadian Conference in Vancouver in 2015. We extend greetings to everyone attending the Conference in Montreal.

Submitted by Solvejg Nielsen, President, and presented by Ed Kuhlman.

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CONVERGE

Danish Heritage Seminar at Quebec Auberge

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The theme of the Danish Heritage Seminar at Auberge aux 4 Saisons in Orford, Quebec, was Take a Trip around the World. The headmasters were Pastor Jørgen Flensted-Jensen and his wife Kirsten of Brylle, Fyn, formerly of Grimsby, Brussels and Edmonton.



Jørgen and Kirsten spoke about the Amish and the Mennonites, showing a video they had recorded themselves in the Mennonite area around St. Jacobs near Waterloo and Kitchener, Ontario. They spoke about the Danish Church in Brussels, showing a video of the many church activities. They then brought us to Ethiopia and elaborated on the work they had once carried out in this beautiful but poor country. Jørgen and Kirsten then told the Seminar about the former National Danish Gym Team and showed a film from their trip around the world.

Jørgen gave a brief biographical sketch of Hans Christian Andersen and showed slides of the estates on Fyn which he visited, where he read to the family and wrote fairytales. Many of these

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families belonged to the nobility. Jørgen and Kirsten showed a video of the places they had served in Canada (Grimsby and Edmonton) and of the Danes they had met across Canada. Kirsten spoke about her childhood on Fyn, and read a couple of stories relating to the isle of her birth.

Aase Christensen spoke about her Danish ancestry, discovering her roots through DNA, and genealogical research. Aase also quickly showed the Seminar participants the new Danish Federation website. Rolf Christensen spoke about trade agreements, trade policy and trade disputes as well as about Alberta Dairy Commissioner Christian Marker. Naomi Kramer of Montreal spoke about her work regarding Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention. Most lectures were accompanied by PowerPoint presentations. There was also a Show and Tell session, some memorable items being the small coal irons Liselotte Ostergaard brought. There was a song evening with songs in English and Danish. One evening the Danish movie, Adam's Apples, was shown. There were two workshops, one devoted to new patriotic songs and the other to the various topics of the week. As well, there was free time where the participants could relax, rest or go for a walk. Wednesday afternoon was free and many of the participants took the opportunity to visit the Benedict Abbey in Saint-Benoît-du-Lac, a monastery overlooking Lake Memphremagog, and founded in 1912 by monks, under Abbot Dom Joseph Pothier, exiled from St. Wandrille, France, under the Associations Bill of 1901, which enacted the supremacy of civil power in France.

The last evening the participants threw a party and entertained each other with music, songs, dances, and a lottery. At the party Erik Hogh was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for



Nelly, Vita, Erik, Niels and Aase in study group on the veranda

serving on the Board of the Danish Federation from 1983 to 2003, as director, treasurer and president and from 2006 to 2014 as auditor. The Headmasters were also thanked for a wonderful week, and were presented with a reproduction of Ethel Seath's painting The White Barn Eastern Townships.

The Seminar was held from May 30 to June 4, 2016. The location was in a hilly wooded area of the Eastern Townships. The excellent food was French cuisine at its best! The fellowship among the thirty participants developed quickly, and they agreed that they had had a lot of fun.



Alf played while Orest & Sonja danced

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Ole Jensen, Aase Christensen, Sonja Myroon



Lilly Nielsen, Jytte Kristensen, Lise Shearer



Ole and Lis Beyer



Alf Gregerson and Niels Bang



Birgit Bakgaard and Glenna Hitchcock



An evening dinner served in the cinema room

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Lilly Nielsen and Erik Hogh



Lis Bang and Liselotte Overgaard



Study group sitting on high chairs



Mary Jorgensen and Anne Lise Pedersen



Orest Myroon, Karen Colby, Nelly Pedersen



Soren Sondergaard and Vita Christensen

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Rolf Christensen and Lis Sondergaard



Elizabeth Kennedy and Hanna Christensen



Henrik Langer and Jytte Kristensen



Kirsten and Jørgen Flensted-Jensen



*Alf Gregerson, Jørgen Flensted-Jensen and
Orest Myroon*



Lise Shearer and Lili Gregerson

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Mary Jorgensen, Soren Sondergaard and Lis Beyer



Liselotte Ostergaard & Kirsten Flensted-Jensen, with Jørgen Flensted-Jensen & Lis Beyer standing



*Another Study Group hard at work
All photos in this article courtesy of Rolf Buschardt Christensen*



Ole, Sonja, Lili, Hanna and Birgit in study group



Ladies entertaining at Good-Bye Party



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Museum Update: What's New at the Museum?

Award Winning Museum

In the past year, we were recipients of the 2016 Heritage Recognition Award (category 1 - built and natural heritage conservation, protection, and preservation) from the City of Red Deer and Red Deer County for new developments including an authentic Naust 'Ship House' and Freydis Joanna 'Viking Ship'. The Museum also received the 2017 Wynn McLean Growing Rural Tourism Champion Award in Alberta for increasing exhibits and tourist traffic to the region.

Media Attention

This past year the Museum has received impressive media coverage (local and national) including Canadian Press, CBC, Red Deer Advocate, RD News Now, Innisfail Province and more. This is a result of regular and consistent media releases. The Alberta Motor Association will include a travel feature in their May issue with almost one million subscribers. We expect recent and planned future media attention will measurably increase traffic this summer season.

Nielsen CPR House Grand Opening

The 2017 Danish Canadian Conference will feature the grand opening of our newest permanent exhibit – the Nielsen CPR House. Donated by Don Sungaard with the move and restoration funded by the Aksel Nielsen family, the house was moved from Standard, Alberta to the Museum property. Finding competent and available restoration expertise was a challenge for its first years on the property, but now the house has been restored to its 1920s appearance. These were 'ready-made' farmsteads many with barns and fences provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway for a reasonable cost to settlers in the early 1900's. The Canadian Pacific Railway is largely responsible for advancing the settlement efforts in Western Canada during this robust era which included a significant wave of Danish immigrants to many locations in Western Canada. The grand opening will take place on Saturday, May 27 (2:30 pm) as part of the Danish Canadian Conference.

Museum Face-lift

In October 2016 the Museum experienced a face-lift. New stucco siding replaced the old vinyl siding on the building as a result of repairs from the three major hail storms in 2014. The new stucco should have superior resistance to hail storms, as this is the second time the vinyl on the building had to be repaired in the last decade. With its new look harking back to resemble Danish farm-houses; we look forward to showing it off this summer season.

ORGANIZATIONS



Walkway and Trails Development

With the support of the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, the Museum has made huge strides and continued development of accessible walkways and trails including a new section to the Nielsen CPR House. This continues the vision and the spirit of inclusion of Danish Canadians in a site that will be both physically and remotely accessible to all.

Special Events

We continued to host several of our popular special events. Of note, the Father's Day Pit Roast, a new approach providing an historical cuisine experience, resulted in a dramatic new attendance and revenue record for the day. Two new large special event tents were bought at an auction and now give us significant additional outdoor capacity and flexibility for special events and private bookings.

New Infrastructure Announcement

The museum President, Svend E Nielsen will be making a special announcement at the Annual General Meeting about a significant addition to the museum infrastructure with the goal of solving a couple of our recent challenges. Be sure to be in attendance to hear more about this exciting new step in our saga.



Museum Facelift



*Nielsen CPR House ready for the Grand
Opening*

Garderstuen

Jørgen Birk Andersen, Corporal 170226 NOV 1953

Why is Garderstuen, the Guards Room, at Sunset Villa called Garderstuen? Many people have asked this question. I shall try to answer it. As you can imagine, it has something to do with the Guards' Association.

The Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada, was founded by seven former Guards in April 1958. While all of us had served in Den Kongelige Livgarde, a regiment established by King Frederik III in 1658 to guard the royal family and to serve as a front-line combat unit, none



of us had served at the same time. The oldest, Lauritz Melchior, the Metropolitan Opera Heldenenor, had served in 1911, and the youngest served in 1953. As former Guards became members they were given an entry number. We recently signed up number 119, and the same number is not used again. The Association had the largest

membership between 1965 and 1985. At one time, we had 44 active members. That number has dwindled to fourteen at present. I should mention more than half are now over 80 years of age.

At an Annual General Meeting in the late 1970s it was brought up that it would be nice to have our own club house, or at least a room, Garderstue, where we could meet. Two of our members, Harry Rasmussen and Erik Bach Sørensen, were involved with house and factory construction, as well as tearing down buildings. One of them said he could get a hold of windows, the other said he could get used building material. Now, all we required was money, and a place to build! The rest of the members where willing to throw into the kitty between \$100 and \$150. The next question was where to build?

We approached Sunset Villa Association in Puslinch, Ontario, asking if they were interested in having an addition built to the outer wall of the Library, which in turn would expand the seating area of the Sunset Villa Restaurant. We already used Sunset Villa as a meeting place, and used their shooting range. The Garderstue could be built at very limited cost to Sunset Villa, as it would be mainly paid for by the Guards. It was taken up at a Sunset Villa board meeting, and approved. President of Sunset Villa at the time was Herbert Rasmussen, who was very supportive of the project. Work began on the addition, and Garderstuen was inaugurated on November 18, 1979. The Guards were naturally given the right to decorate the room with flags, photographs, trophies and other memorabilia for all to see and enjoy.

Granly Church celebrates 50th Anniversary

Article by Manfred Hoff with Photographs by Arne Møller

In 2016, the Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, British Columbia, celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Prior to the celebration, on April 29, we welcomed our new Pastor, Mogens Mye, and his wife, Anne Marie Søndergaard, to be our spiritual leaders for the next two years. Pastor Mogens, like his predecessor, Pastor Claus Franck, is employed through Danske Sømands- og Udlandskirker (DSUK) in Denmark, as a retired Pastor for a small congregation, with limited work load. However, Mogens and Anne Marie were immediately thrown into all the extra activities due to the anniversary, and performed the requirements to perfection.



Granly Danish Lutheran Church, in Surrey

The first stage of festivities started on June 19, when our three founding members, Inger Andersen, Dora Larsen and Frode Jensen, were introduced during the Sunday Service. They have been part of the diligent core group building and maintaining Granly until today. At coffee, following the Service, they cut the anniversary cake, and our webmaster, Arne Møller, took pictures.

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The second stage of the celebration was at Midsummer (June 23, on the Eve of Saint Hans), when we had two menu choices for dinner and were lucky to have two hours of dry weather, to sit at the bonfire and listen to the traditional speech by Pastor Mogens, songs by singer Henry Hansen, accompanied by Ib Nielsen's accordion. Sixty church members and friends attended the enjoyable evening.



Inger Andersen, Frode Jensen and Dora Larsen cutting the birthday cake.



The band Gammeldavs entertains.

The third stage was our Fall Dinner on October 22, which we entitled Granly's 50th Anniversary Special Dinner, where we provided a special menu and great entertainment. With 90 people in attendance, the Hall, adjacent to the Church, was filled to capacity. We had a wonderful evening with the live band Gammeldavs, playing some old favourite songs as well as lively dance music.

The fourth and final stage of our celebration was when we were honoured by a visit by the Danish Ambassador from Ottawa, Niels Boel Abrahamsen, and the Honorary Danish Consul in Vancouver, Ann-Britt Everett, who joined us on November 3, 2016, for a meeting and reception with wine and refreshments. It was an informative, yet casual, meeting, where the Ambassador informed us about the current political and economic relations between Canada and Denmark. About 20 members attended. As well, the Ambassador gave enlightening answers to our various questions. In return we told him about Granly's 50-year history.



Vancouver Danish Consul Ann-Britt Everett, Dora Larsen, Inger Andersen, and Danish Ambassador to Canada, Niels Boel Abrahamsen

The Church Board and the Ladies Auxiliary looked after all the arrangements to commemorate the 50th anniversary. They did a great job, ensuring a successful celebration!

The present Church Board consists of Manfred Hoff, Kjeld Frederiksen, Else Jensen, Ann Larsen, Emmy Wegner, Henry Hansen, Herman Grøn, and Alternates Lisbeth Madsen and Arne Møller. President of the Ladies Auxiliary is Bente Pastro.



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Biographies

Johansen Family arrives at Pier 21 on *MS Stockholm*

Birthe M. Parker and Kurt Johansen



It was during the mid-1950s that our parents, Niels and Margrethe Johansen, began to realize that their dream of owning their own home was not likely to be fulfilled in Denmark under the difficult economic circumstances that prevailed at the time. Our parents owned a truck and made a modest living providing hauling services for area farmers and recycling scrap metal. We lived in a rented apartment (half of a former farm house) in the little town of Skads, near Esbjerg on the southwest coast of Jutland. However, it was our father's farming experience, having grown up on a farm near Ribe, which determined their decision to emigrate. It gradually became obvious to them that "*Amerika*", specifically Canada, would offer better opportunities for the whole family.

Niels Johansen had been born on a farm near Gørding-Ribe on June 25, 1920. Margrethe Johansen, née Berg, had been born on a farm in Erlev, just south of Haderslev. The above photo of Niels and Margrethe Johansen was taken before leaving Denmark.

Decision to Emigrate

After the Second World War Canada's economic prosperity as well as need for farm workers and skilled trade people invited Danish immigration. Our parents became aware of this, after conversations with fellow Danes who were making the move. Therefore, in 1957, they decided to leave the relative comfort of their low-middle income life in southwest Jylland and immigrate to Canada for a better future. This was no easy decision, especially for Mom, as they had five

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children by the time they left Denmark (Kurt aged 12, Henning 10, Fred 6, Birthe 3 and Bente 2). Mom would sometimes say to friends and neighbours, half jokingly, that she was not against moving to Canada as long as she didn't have to fly or sail. The journey to Canada and a job awaiting our father at a dairy cattle operation in Alberta was arranged through the Canadian National Railway's Department of Colonization and Agriculture. According to information we recently gathered at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, our family was part of the "Third Wave" of Danish Immigration (post WWII - 1948 to 1970's).

Transatlantic Voyage to the New World

Finally, the big day came, June 20, 1957, when we were scheduled to leave Denmark by ship, with all our possessions, sailing from the harbour city of Aarhus on the east coast of central Jylland. Our ship was the *MS Stockholm*, the first and smallest ship of the Swedish America Line's "White Viking Fleet". Its passenger capacity was only about 550. As the photo shows, the *Stockholm* was a white, elegant looking ship, relatively small for an ocean liner ... really an oversized yacht!



Mom's anxiety about traveling to a new land with five young children was heightened by the knowledge that we were about to board this particular ship. The year before, on July 25, 1956, sailing out of New York, the *Stockholm* had collided with an inbound Italian luxury liner, the *Andrea Doria*, in thick fog about 100 miles east of New York. The *Andrea Doria* sank within hours, but the *Stockholm* remained afloat, despite heavy damage to its bow, and returned to New York under its own power ... but not before she had rescued and carried 327 passengers, and 245 crew from the *Andrea Doria* to New York, in addition to her own passengers and crew. There she was repaired, fitted with a completely new bow, and returned to Sweden in November 1956 for resumption of service.

In the photo, we are on board the refitted *Stockholm*, all wearing our new *Stockholm* sailor caps (L-R: Fred, Henning, Mom with Bente on knee, Kurt and Birthe, our father taking the photo). Mom found that the seas during the Atlantic crossing were very rough. Most of us experienced seasickness, particularly through the Skagerrak Strait between the northern tip of Denmark and Norway-Sweden.

Toward the end of our transatlantic voyage, we encountered dense fog east of Atlantic Canada ... a common condition in that area and the same condition that surrounded the July 1956 collision of the *Stockholm* and the *Andrea Doria*. Through the dense fog, the *Stockholm* moved very slowly and sounded its fog horn at regular intervals, as did other ships in that busy shipping corridor. Overall, it was an eerie experience ... the atmosphere on deck was suspenseful, as we listened and looked for other ships near our lane. We eventually passed



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through the fog without incident and proceeded at normal speed toward Halifax.

Our last night at sea was on June 26, 1957. After we enjoyed a wonderful “farewell” dinner, we mingled with other passengers and exchanged good luck wishes, autographs, contact information, and so on. All in all, it was the kind of magical night that you didn’t want to end ... although our parents were already thinking ahead to the following day when we would be arriving in Halifax.

Arrival at Pier 21 in Halifax

Late the following day, June 27, 1957, the *Stockholm* docked at Pier 21 in Halifax harbour. After leaving the ship and entering the Pier 21 building, we were guided to a big Examination Hall where we waited for our names to be called. There were several immigration and other officials at different tables to process the over 300 passengers that had just arrived. Eventually, our names came up and our parents were interviewed by one of the immigration officials, aided by a translator. In the end, we received our Canadian Immigration Identification Cards stamped to show our status as “Landed Immigrants”. From the Pier 21 complex, we then walked through an overhead walkway to where a Canadian National Railway (CNR) train was waiting to take us to our promised job in Western Canada, in the Calgary area of Alberta.

Three-Stage Train Ride from Halifax to Calgary

The CNR train cars waiting for us were old, with wooden benches. The transition to a more modern train occurred in Montreal. However, before we got there, we had to endure the wooden benches and other deficiencies in what some people called the “cattle train”. We arrived in



Montreal early to mid-day on June 29, 1957. Here we were delayed several hours by flooding caused by a hurricane later identified as *Hurricane Audrey*, a tropical storm which had just arrived from the Gulf of Mexico, bringing strong winds and torrential rainfall. It was later described as one of the most deadly and destructive hurricanes on record, until Hurricane Katrina in 2005. No wonder the trains weren’t moving on schedule.

The photo shows our family waiting outside the Montreal train station during the flood delay ... Mom looking understandably stressed.

Second Stage: Montreal to Edmonton

Eventually, our train was allowed to move and our journey west resumed. This train was more modern and much more comfortable than the “cattle car” from Halifax. During periodic train stops, we were allowed to get out and stretch our legs, which was most welcome. We nearly lost our younger brother, Fred, during one of these stops. He had gotten off the train, without Mom

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noticing, to get himself a piece of ice which had chipped off the big ice blocks that had just been loaded on to the train. Fortunately, a railroad employee and the train conductor got him back on board just as the train was beginning to roll. It goes without saying that a happy reunion followed.



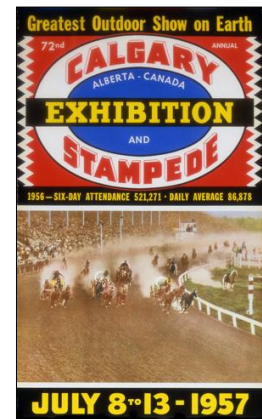
Mom had been napping as we neared the town of Capreol, just north of Sudbury, Ontario. She woke in a panic as she heard the sound of flowing water and looked out the window...the train was surrounded by water. As we found out later, this was more flooding caused by the combined effect of Hurricane Audrey and another storm front moving up from the Chicago region (see photo obtained from the Capreol newspaper). Despite our initial impression and alarm, the reality was that the tracks were just barely covered by flood water and the

train was rolling slowly along the tracks, causing water to be pushed out and away from the train, thus producing the sound of flowing water that had caught our attention. We were delayed for the better part of a day at the Capreol train station until the water level receded enough that we could proceed to our next stop, Edmonton, Alberta.

Third Stage: Stop-over in Edmonton before Continuing to Calgary

During a week-long layover in Edmonton, our father went ahead to Calgary by himself to check out the promised job situation, leaving the rest of the family temporarily at a small hotel (ironically named the Grand Hotel) in Edmonton. After a week or so, he returned with bad news ... the job had been given to someone else. The farmer apparently claimed that, because we were late in arriving (in fact, no more than 1-2 days due to the flooding in Ontario-Quebec), his dairy cattle operation couldn't wait. Our parents, Niels and Margrethe, decided to proceed to Calgary anyway, trusting (hoping) that the CNR/DCA would help them find other employment in that area.

After we arrived at the Calgary train station, our luggage and trunk, containing all our worldly possessions, were unloaded on the platform. Where to now? Fortunately, some kind Danish-Canadians saw our predicament and helped us get to the Danish Canadian Club (DCC) in downtown Calgary where we would be able to regroup. On our way to the DCC, eldest son, Kurt (age 12), noticed the streets were full of "Cowboys and Indians", some on horseback and some on foot. He thought to himself: Wow, we've found the "Wild West", which he had read about in Denmark. What we didn't know at the time, but soon found out, was that we had arrived in the middle of the annual Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.



After we arrived at the DCC, another kind person ordered a round of porridge for the kids as we hadn't eaten anything for hours. Porridge never tasted so good. With the help of the proprietors

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at the DCC and caring Danish-Canadians who happened to be there at the time, our father was guided to the local employment office. While he continued looking for another job, the rest of the family stayed at the DCC where we were allowed to amuse ourselves playing a piano among other things. After a while, our father returned with good news. He had found a job working on a turkey farm located near a small town named Carbon, about 90 km northeast of Calgary. The turkey farm was owned by an elderly Norwegian-Canadian gentleman named Alfred Hoivik, who also owned a second farm located on higher land (referred to as the “upper farm”) a little further from the town of Carbon.

That first night in Calgary, July 10, 1957, sleeping accommodations were arranged for us through DCC members. Mom and the girls (Birthe and Bente) were taken to the home of one kind family for the night while our father and the boys (Kurt, Henning and Fred) were taken to the home of another family. The hosting families made us all feel at home ... Kurt remembers seeing his first TV western that night (reinforcing his perception of having found the “Wild West”).

The next morning, we were all taken back to the DCC where we waited to be picked up and taken to the Hoivik turkey farm...the whole family was excited about finally being on route to our first home and job in Canada.

Two Years of Farm Life near Carbon

We were picked up in a big farm truck by a man named Karl Gundlach who worked for Alfred Hoivik taking care of the “upper farm”. He and his wife, Helga, had emigrated from Germany in 1951. As our parents could speak some German, their relationship with the Gundlach’s proved to be very helpful, socially as well as practically, during our first year in Canada.

As we approached the turkey farm on July 11, 1957, it looked almost idyllic, located on a hill overlooking a creek that we came to know as Kneehill Creek. However, as we got closer, and with their previous expectation of a job on a dairy farm still in mind, our parents soon realized that this was going to be a big adjustment. The scene before us came as a shock. There were turkeys everywhere as the fencing was in poor condition.

The photo shows the house we lived in at the turkey farm as it looked a few weeks after we arrived, by which time our father had repaired the internal fence to keep the turkeys away from the area right around the house. The house was furnished when we arrived. The furnishings were not fancy, but all the basics were there, including an old-fashioned coal and wood-burning stove and a small bar-sized fridge. We had free housing, a cow for milk, coal for heating,



the use of a pickup truck and a \$160/month salary that our father earned for managing the turkey farm and helping out at the upper farm. In addition, Mr Hoivik allowed us to slaughter a turkey once in a while and to eat all the turkey eggs we wanted. So, despite the bewilderment and doubts at arrival, it wasn’t long before we were all beginning to feel more optimistic about

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our new home and life in Canada. My parents felt very grateful to the many generous neighbours by the farm and people they met in Carbon, who helped us out in various ways.

Balancing Turkey Farm and Upper Farm Workloads

In addition to turning the house into a comfortable home, there were a number of jobs around the turkey farm that needed to be done before winter: the fences still needed major improvements, the barns needed paint, and a vegetable garden needed to be started, in addition to the daily chores of feeding and otherwise taking care of the 3,000 turkeys. However, our father was also expected to help out on the upper farm, which was a relatively big operation (including over 700 hectares of land, about 70 cattle, a horse and other animals). His daily routine would usually consist of feeding the turkeys in the morning, then driving up to the upper farm where he would help Karl Gundlach as required, and returning to the turkey farm at the end of the day.

As that first eventful summer was winding down, and fall was just ahead, it was time to prepare for the boys to start school in the town of Carbon, about a 2 km walk from the turkey farm. Kurt was going into grade 6, Henning into grade 4 and young Fred was just starting grade 1. Because we had lived at the turkey farm since July, the community had gradually become aware of our presence, so the teachers were prepared for immigrant students who would need special assistance for a while. Each day, the boys would bring new words home that they would share with their parents and young sisters. As one of the teachers told Mom, “the boys are learning fast”. Gradually, more and more English was spoken around the house.

In the fall of 1958 we moved to the upper farm, as Karl Gundlach had resigned and moved his family into the town of Carbon to work for the municipality. This was a big change for our parents as it meant a significant increase in their workload, having to take care of both Hoivik farms. In addition, the house at the upper farm, basically a converted chicken coop, was not as spacious or comfortable as the one at the turkey farm. The boys, especially Kurt, who knew how to drive motor vehicles despite being three years from licensing age, helped their parents with the farm work as best they could, particularly during the summer months when school was out.

Our youngest sister, Irene, was born on December 16, 1958, at the hospital in Drumheller. She is the only one of the Johansen children who was born in Canada and the only one born in a hospital.

Dream Finally Realized: Our Own Home

By mid-summer of 1959, inspired by a Danish friend already living and working in Calgary, our father decided there was an opportunity to make more money working in the home construction industry in Calgary. He and Mom therefore thanked Mr. Hoivik for two wonderful years and left the upper farm for good.

Approximately four years after arriving in Canada, in July 1961, we moved into our own home in southwest Calgary, thus fulfilling a dream that our parents, Niels and Margrethe, had carried with them from Denmark. While some families that we had met or heard about decided to return to Denmark for various reasons (job problems, transition problems, or just simply because they missed life as they remembered it in Denmark) the Johansen family, on the other hand, never looked back and flourished in Canada. All six Johansen children went on to enjoy productive and rewarding lives, justifying the risk that Niels and Margrethe had taken in 1957 when they decided to immigrate to Canada with five children. Niels passed away in October 1984.

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Margrethe, nearing the age of 93, is in reasonably good health and continues to enjoy her family which has now expanded to include her children's spouses, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Despite our move to Canada, we still value our Danish heritage and culture. As our family has expanded over the years, we can now truly call ourselves a multicultural family, which we all enjoy.




From left: Irene, Kurt, Henning, Fred, Birthe, Bente and sitting, Margrethe, celebrating her 90th birthday at the Danish Canadian Club

Postscript

The above article consists of excerpts taken from "Our Danish Heritage" by Birthe M. Parker and Kurt Johansen, with help from our Mom, Margrethe Johansen.

For the Johansen's and our extended families, the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary has felt like part of the family since 1957. Many of us are members and we have enjoyed many events, meals and family celebrations there over the years. The wonderful food and atmosphere is so traditionally Danish. We never tire of going there. We would also like to thank the residents of Carbon, Alberta, and our neighbours while living on both farms, several of whom helped us in those early years with their warmth and generosity.

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Gunnar Kristensen

Lidt fra mit liv gennem otte årtier

Det er et imponerende og beundringsværdigt projekt, der fandt sin start for 150 år siden. Resultatet kræver og fortjener den dybeste respekt, og nu i året 2017, hvor Canada som nation kan fejre sin et hundrede og halvtres års fødselsdag, står den som et strålende eksempel med sin oprindelse, sin historie og i sandhed også som et fint samarbejde mellem borgere i et multikulturelt land.

Rigtig mange danskere har gennem mere end tres år besøgt dette fascinerende land, ofte som turister, men også rigtig mange for at besøge familie og venner. Dermed har vi opdaget, hvor betagende, stor og mangfoldig landets natur er. Og så møder man en gæstfrihed, der huskes!

Den store indsats, der er ydet i opbygningen af Canada som en moderne nation over mere end 150 år, er forårsaget af mange energiske menneskers flid og energi. Landets historie gennem hundreder af år viser også den beskedne, men solide indsats, der er gjort af danske emigranter. At indsatsen af canadiere med danske rødder har været beskeden er jo kun set i forholdet til de mange andre etniske gruppers større antal. Viljen til at integrere var meget stor hos disse danskere, der blev gode loyale canadiere.

Jeg har haft glæden af at møde mange af dem der kom i 1920'erne, og jeg husker min betagelse af, hvad de havde præsteret i et langt liv. Det var en stor oplevelse at møde dem i 1959, da jeg første gang var i Canada. Der er i dag generelt ca. dobbelt så mange indbyggere i det store land, som der var ved mit første besøg.

Opfordringen til at skrive lidt om min historie tager jeg da op i glæde over de mange gode oplevelser, der er blevet mig forundt gennem så mange år.

En kold 29. januar i 1936 blev dagen for min fødsel på en gård i Jels i et sønderjydsk landbrug, som mine forældre var forpagterpar på indtil 1942. Min mor, Anna Hjort, var fra en lille gård vest for Kolding og min far, Marius Kristensen, var fra samme egn. En af mine tidligste og klareste erindringer fra den periode er, da jeg engang sad på min fars arm og betragtede nogle flyvemaskiner, der i en gruppe fløj nordpå. Min mor og min bror Hans var også tilstede, og et par karle stod ved leddet ude ved hestefolden. Da jeg senere spurgte min far, hvad mindet handlede om, svarede han: "Det har været den 9. april 1940".

Et andet klart minde er en dag i 1942, hvor jeg sammen med min mor havde fået lov at sidde inde i lastbilen hos chaufføren, da familien skulle flytte til en anden forpagtergård. Det meste af dyr og materiel tog min far og karlen sig af - at flytte de godt ti km - og med hestevogn. Det var stadig i Sønderjylland og på en gård, der også skulle drives med dyrehold og et markbrug, men denne gård var noget større end gården ved Jels. Kontrakten på forpagtningen med mine forældre lød på 8 år, og min skole de næste 8 år blev så i Rødding.

Skoleårene i Rødding var virkelig begivenhedsrige - på godt og ondt. Da de tyske besættelsestropper de sidste par år af krigen havde okkuperet skolen, fik min skoleklasse

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undervisning i en spisestue på en nærtliggende gård, hvilket dog står som en god oplevelse i min erindring. Gymnastik og anden sport havde vi så på Rødding Højskole, der er et mindeværdigt sted på flere måder, og som jeg husker med stor glæde. Sang og musik blev virkeligt også et godt bidrag hermed, idet denne skoles lærere var prægtige mennesker at blive undervist af, og de fik en rigtig god indflydelse på vores liv. Det medvirkede bl.a. til, at mine forældre gav mig en lille violin, da jeg var otte år. Selvom jeg ganske vidst senere selv erhvervede mig en voksenviolin, var mit talent dog mere til praktisk arbejde. Men de gode minder forsvinder jo ikke af den grund.

BBC meddelelsen på radioen om aftenen den 4. maj 1945 husker jeg klart, grundet reaktionen fra familien og de ansatte i folkestuen. Jubelen og ekstasen de næste dage, da engelske soldater ankom til Rødding Torv, var meget stor, ikke mindst blandt os drenge, og nogle af os var stolte, da vi kom op i en jeep. De efterfølgende dage og uger indskærpede de voksne os faren ved de mange våben og den ammunition, der var efterladt af tyskerne, og som vi drenge jo syntes var spændende at finde. Heldigvis kom ingen til skade, ud fra mit kendskab. Disse dage og år gav os minder, der satte sig dybt også hos os, der var børn under krigen, selv om vi trods krigen, levede i et ”roligt” land i forhold til børn i mange andre lande.

I 1950 var det igen tid til at flytte til et nyt sted for familien. Det var dog ikke nødvendigt at skifte skole denne gang. Min skoletid var forbi, og landbrugserhvervet viste sig derefter at blive min tilværelse de næste 56 år. Mange begivenhedsrige år, med de sidste 45 år som selvstændig landmand. Og det blev et godt liv.

At det blev landbruget, der blev min levevej, skyldes delvist, at jeg havde svært ved at beslutte mig for, hvordan en skolegang udover de syv år, som var en almindelig skolepligt dengang, skulle foregå. Landbrug havde egentlig ikke fanget min interesse som barn.

De pligter, der naturligt nok var ved at være til hjælp ved forårsarbejde, høst eller efterårsarbejde, var ikke de mest populære; Såsom at samle kartofler op i marken efter maskinen; Eller hjælpe i laden, når der skulle tærskes om vinteren. Det bestod i at holde halm borte fra værket og stable det, og det støvede meget. Og selvom der var rindende vand, var der på disse forskellige forpagtergårde ikke megen luksus ved badeværelser.

Vi børn havde altid været vænnet til at skulle yde en tjeneste til familien hver dag, enten før eller efter skoletid. Eksempelvis ved at hente brænde ind til komfuret, efter æg i hønsehuset, lugearbejde i køkkenhaven eller lære at malke med hånd i vinterhalvåret. At begynde i en ny skole var jeg ikke glad for, så jeg fik i stedet flere pligter med at gøre nytte bag ved hestene og efter en harve, eller i stalden og lignende. At blive landmand var jo så mit lod!

Lediggang er jo ikke af det gode, så en tak til min far for den holdning. Der er intet at fortryde desangående, og mit liv som landmand blev alt i alt et sundt godt liv.

Tilværelsen som bondekarl og landbrugsmedhjælper de næste 8½ år forløb så på forskellige gårde hos landmænd, der kunne læres noget af. Men også med ophold af to gange fem måneder på henholdsvis efterskole og landbrugsbrugsskole. Der var i de 8½ år også en militærtjeneste på godt 18 måneder. Med start hos Livgarden, der resulterede i befalingsmandsskole. Her blev jeg så udtaget til tjeneste hos Militærpolitiet. Efter 6 måneder på skole der, blev jeg sendt til tjeneste hos MP ved den Danske Kommando i Tyskland i 7 måneder. Disse gav mange rigtig gode oplevelser, hvor jeg blev sendt paa forskellige opgaver flere steder i landet, blandt andet opgaver sammen med det engelske MP.

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Efter soldatertiden var det mit valg at tage plads i landbruget igen, så efter et lille års tid som karl var jeg fem måneder på landbrugsskole, hvor jeg derefter tog beslutningen om i marts 1959 at starte på udveksling på en farm i Wisconsin, gennem Danmark Amerika Fonden. Herfra rejste jeg i august på en "orlov" til min brors bryllup i Edmonton. Denne oplevelse blev starten på en forbindelse til Canada de næste mere end femti år. Derom har der været berettet lidt i anden sammenhæng i bl.a. Scan Can News. I næsten 2 år havde jeg jobs med farming 7 forskellige steder i USA. Det halve af tiden ved dairy, resten ved crop farming. Det gav erfaringer til brug hele livet, som jeg sætter stor pris på.

Efter et par år i det nordamerikanske som farm exchange student, befandt jeg mig på et herligt nyere passagerskib paa Atlanten. Det var en helt anden luksus end sejladsen med "Stavangerfjord" 22 måneder tidligere, som havde taget 11 dage fra København i overfart til New York. "Stavangerfjord" var bygget i året op til 1. verdenskrig, så aldersforskellen på de to skibe var ca. 45 år, og det kunne tydeligt mærkes. Dette nyere skib tog mig så fra New York til Bremerhaven. Derfra rejste jeg saa med tog videre til Kolding. Herligt var det at se familien i julen derhjemme, efter de næsten 2 år i udlandet. Efter et par måneder på Askov Højskole, forpagtede jeg så en gård i Vonsild ved Kolding fra den 15. marts 1961.



Gunnar Kristensen's gård Dalbygaard, uden for Kolding, 2005

foreningen overtalt til at være formand, idet han var en lidt ældre person, som havde erfaring i at kunne "åbne døre" – altså kendte til systemer, bl.a. i det offentlige. De gode idéer indebar nemlig, hvis de skulle have en mulighed for udførelse, naturligvis og nødvendigt at gå korrekt til. Som skoleforstander var han en god sparringspartner til bestyrelsen i nogle år. Foreningen fik hurtigt stor medlemstilslutning og dermed en fin økonomi, så vi kunne købe et maleri af kongen, der til hest rider gennem København under krigen. Det forærede vi til Scandinavian Centre i Edmonton. Det har nu i mange år hængt i festsalen på hjemmet Ansgar Villa til glæde for beboerne. Maleriet har været vist i Forbundet af Danske Foreningers 2013 konference bog.

Min bror i Edmonton havde været aktiv i Scandinavian Centre, også med sit forslag om at arrangere en fællesrejse med charterfly til Danmark for medlemmer, der gerne ville besøge

Under en vandretur i Jasper Park i september 1959 var der opstået en idé mellem min bror og jeg - kunne det ikke gøres bedre, end blot med breve? For ikke mange kunne dengang rejse på besøg så langt borte. Vi havde da ikke set hinanden i 4 år. Og en aften i marts 1962 i Kolding var det fire personer, der ud fra denne idé formede en lille forening, som vi kaldte Dansk Canadisk Venskabsforening. Forskellige andre gode idéer kom til, da min bror og hans familie var hjemme på besøg fra Edmonton i sommeren samme år. Blandt andet blev et nyt medlem af

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familie i det gamle land. DCV i Kolding fik på det grundlag en god kontakt mellem dansk canadiere og familie i Danmark, og dermed få adresser.

Der blev holdt medlemsmøde første gang på Hotel Kolding med 45 interesserede, som havde familie i Canada, og en gæst fra Den canadiske Ambassade i København fortalte om det store land. Da min bror to år senere fik arbejde i Danmark og flyttede til hovedstaden med sin familie, blev vi flere om at klare den store medlemstilgang idet min svigerinde så kunne hjælpe. Der havde i de to foregående år været et stort pres på stuen i Vonsild, hvor alt arbejdet var foregået indtil da. De efterfølgende år kom rigtigt mange besøgende fra landet mod vest for at holde foredrag til Canada-aftenerne. Venskabsforeningens fungerende sekretær gennem 20 år indtil 1984 var Karen Kristensen, der med sine mange år i Canada som baggrund, var til stor gavn for de efterhånden mange medlemmer i de tre lande. Fra 1985 til 2002 blev en stor del af opgaverne med den daglige kontakt til medlemmerne varetaget af Rita og senere Arne i Holstebro. Disse tre personer var gennem næsten fyre år med deres seriøsitet i deres job af stor værdi for Venskabsforeningen. For en bestyrelse er dette et utroligt stærkt aktiv. Bestyrelsen bestod alle årene af et norsk, et svensk og tre danske medlemmer. I 1990'erne var SCV i en periode delt op i tre foreninger. SCV var initialet for organisationen gennem alle disse aar.

Et meget solidt bindeled til medlemmerne blev Venskabsforeningens blad Scan Can News, som ved slutningen af 1900 årene fik tilnavnet My Planet Magazine. Kort før 50 års jubilæet blev navnet ændret til Curious, men er stadig medlemsblad for Dansk Canadisk Venskabsforening. Venskabsforeningen forblev i alle år en kulturel og non-profit forening. Den fik mange medlemmer i kraft af bl.a. gode samarbejdspartnere, men også med respekt for selvstændighed. Som i al anden foretagsomhed var justeringer nogle gange nødvendigt. Tiden kræver det.

Flere gange var der også udfordrende og krævende opgaver for mig; bl.a. Canada Ugen i 1969 i Kolding; eller da Venskabsforeningen SCV inviterede Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada til at holde konference på Koldinghus i 1987. Jeg vil her indskyde en tak for den tillid, vi blev vist, og for de mange der deltog, som dermed også bidrog til Venskabsforeningens 25 års jubilæums festligholdelse.

Et træ blev plantet af den canadiske ambassadør, Dorothy Armstrong, i Geografisk Have i festugen. En udstilling om den første emigration til New Denmark i Canada, som blev gennemført ved hjælp og støtte af den Canadiske Ambassade stod på Koldinghus i en måned, og blev åbnet af ambassadøren i festugen.

Dansk Canadisk Venskabsforening blev medlem af Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada i 1982. Personligt har jeg haft megen glæde af at deltage i mange af Federationens konferencer. Det var også en glæde for os, at medvirke til idéen om en udgivelse af bogen om "Danish Emigration to Canada" som SCV fik en tak for i 1990 fra Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv. Ved min deltagelse i The Danish Federation's Conference i Montreal i 1983 foreslog jeg Federationen at tilbyde et højskoleophold i Helsingør, hvilket var inspireret af min deltagelse i den første konference i Vancouver i 1982.

De seks til ti Canada aftener der afholdtes forskellige steder i Danmark om året tog også megen tid at tilrettelægge og at besøge, selvom jeg ikke var på hver gang.

Et par spændende dage i vinteren 1964 havde jeg besøg af min bror, hvor han ville have mig til at se på hans oplæg til IAEA – International Agricultural Exchange Association. Den blev en

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rigtig god exchange organisation for unge landmænd til Canada, men også til mange andre lande derefter. Det gav mig også interessante oplevelser gennem årene, og herligt var det at møde nogle fra pionerholdet forrige vinter til 50 års jubilæet.

Fra midten af 1960'erne, hvor noget af sekretærrarbejdet i Venskabsforeningen blev varetaget af Karen Kristensen, blev der mere tid til mit egentlige erhverv, hvilket jo trods alt var min eneste indtægtskilde.

Mine forældre var i 1955 blevet ejere af en gård, der var i en meget dårlig forfatning. Den havde min far efter 14 år bygget op med en stor malke besætning i moderne stalde, og i 1969 blev jeg ejer af den første halvdel af denne gode ejendom. Forpagtningen af den anden gård fra 1961 kunne drives sammen med mit nye ejerskab.

Udover at jeg blev selvejer, gik min tid også med tillidshverv i landbrugsorganisationer. Først i ungdomsafdelingen, men derefter i den for området eksisterende Landbrugsforening. Dette blev nogle år senere også til bestyrelsesarbejde i områdets mejeriselskab. Også på landsplan blev jeg vist tillid, og det blev til mange spændende år, der gav indblik i en utroligt indholdsrig, men også udfordrende verden.



Jens, Michael, Gunnar, Anna, & nederst Jacob og Lars

Som alt udviklede sig, lykkedes det at blive ejer af hele Dalbygaard i midten af halvfjerserne. Det blev til i alt 37 år som ejer, fra 1969 til 2006 og i alt 45 år som selvstændig landmand. Dalbygaard er nu, som udviklingen er forløbet, ikke mere en gaard. Den er opløst og indgået med en del under Koldings byudvikling.

De seneste godt 10 år har jeg nydt at være en lille del af en støtteorganisation til Kolding Landbrugsmuseum, der blev skabt gennem mange år af Johannes Elbæk.

Gennem alle disse år er jeg blevet velsignet med fem gode børn, der alle har arbejde indenfor hver deres uddannelses område, og de har givet mig 8 børnebørn, 4 piger og 4 drenge. Alle har det godt og beriger min pensionist tilværelse rigtigt meget. Den ældste, Lars på 54, blev uddannet med elektronik i Odense og er selvstændig; Jens, 51, er sociolog i Lyngby/Taarbæk; Anna er uddannet skuespiller og skolelærer; Michael er økonom og har en god stilling i en

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italiensk koncern; og Jacob, den yngste søn på 40 år, er gymnasielærer under SDU og kaptajn af reserven i Det danske luftforsvar.

I 1983 blev jeg involveret i endnu en organisation, Rotary, som jeg har haft meget glæde af. I 2001 blev jeg udpeget til at være Teamleader for unge mennesker på et fem ugers ophold under GSE programmet i Australien, hvor vi fik nogle uforlignelige oplevelser, i forskellige private hjem i den sydøstlige del af landet. Turen var forberedt over nogle måneder og var en udveksling med unge australiere. Opgaven var, at de unge skulle være gode ambassadører for hver deres branche og for Danmark, og holde nogle foredrag derom. Mit medlemskab i denne organisation har givet mig rigtig mange herlige oplevelser, og gør det stadig. Nu er jeg et af de meget få fra trediverne, hvorfor trefjerdedele af klubbens medlemmer er yngre mennesker med spændende jobs, der giver mig et dejligt indblik i hvad realiteter og virkeligheden er hele tiden. Det har naturligvis også givet et netværk til nytte og glæde under mine mange rejser.

Efter rigtig mange år i Venskabsforeningens bestyrelse fik jeg i det nye århundrede nu fornøjelsen, af at have tid til at lave nogle tre ugers ture til det vestlige Canada med medlemmer af foreningen, som gerne ville se nærmere på, hvad jeg vidste og kunne berette om i det storslåede land. Vi fulgte så ”I Emigranternes fodspor”. Vi besøgte mange af de gæve canadiere, der har danske rødder. Efterfølgende er jeg ofte blevet mindet om deltageres glæde over at have besøgt, eller mødt emigranter, eller efterkommere derovre. Udover at se de imponerende bjerge vestpå er oplevelsen ved at møde canadierne personligt af stor betydning for deltagerne. Der var da også lidt forskel mellem en dansk og en canadisk farm!

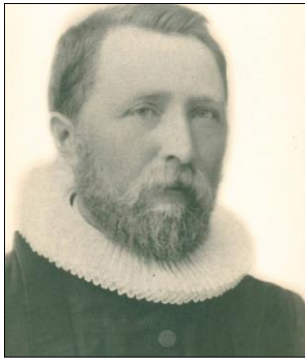
Efter salget af min gård i juli 2006 var jeg jo nu pensionist, og 70 året var nået i fuld vigør. Min landmandstilværelse har været meget indholdsrig, og jeg er taknemlig for at have haft et spændende liv som landmand, og for at have mange gode medhjælpere jeg kunne stole på, for uden disse gode mennesker ville det ikke have været muligt, med de tillidshverv dette tillod. Og eftersom jeg har levet alene siden 1983 var gode kolleger en nødvendighed.

På turene i emigranternes fodspor havde vi naturligvis også den glæde at se Dickson Museerne beskytte den danske emigranthistorie - og også nyde lidt af den gode mad i DCNMs lille restaurant. Det har givet mig mange gode oplevelser at have været DCNMs danske repræsentant i Danmark i mange år. Den ildhu og imponerende indsats, der er vist fra de canadiere med oprindelse eller interesse for historien bag den danske emigration til Canada, er så værdifuld både for efterkommere og for andre besøgende. I et land med så mange vidt forskellige etniciteter og kulturer har det danske islet så afgjort også sin plads, hvorfor det arbejde fortjener stor påskønnelse. Og indsatsen har da også resulteret i en tydelig ”markering på landkortet”. Det er blevet af stor betydning for hele området, hvilket også er blevet hædret med provinsens tilkendegivelse heraf. De 65 år jeg har været voksen, har været en tid, hvor det at rejse, opleve og lære, har givet utrolige muligheder for rigtig mange. Næsten hele kloden har været åben for os, og om det er europæiske, asiatiske, afrikanske eller amerikanske lande, så har oplevelserne og forbindelserne beriget mig meget. Men Canada vil altid være min favorit.

Jes Christian Gundersen – Dickson’s first pastor

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Already as a teenager Pastor Gundersen was a gifted poet. He didn’t just write his poems on a scrap of paper, but neatly in a notebook. He would acquire a notebook, writing his name, place and date on it, and then fill it with poems. He must have written several hundred poems; more likely a thousand. He wrote about everyday things, the four seasons, faith and even politics.



*Pastor J.C. Gundersen
wearing traditional
Danish ruff and robe*

In the 1870s, while working on a Danish farm in German-ruled Nordschleswig (in Danish *Sønderjylland*), he filled a whole notebook with poems about *Sønderjylland*, which is also the title of that collection. *Sønderjylland* (Southern Jutland) was part of Germany from 1864 to 1920, and the fate of this part of Denmark concerned him greatly. In other words, the poems were not just about the natural beauty of Southern Jutland, but rather a commentary on the War of 1864, the loss of *Sønderjylland* and the social and political conditions prevalent there during the German period.

While attending the Augsburg Seminary he would write poems about his professors, usually tributes praising them. He composed poems about the lectures he attended. He wrote reports about meetings in verse. Even letters to friends were often written in verse.

While at college he started submitting his poems to the synod newspaper *Dansk Luthersk Kirkeblad*, as well as the newspaper *Danskeren* (The Dane), which had been founded by the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. *Danskeren*, with Pastor J.M. Jersild as editor, was based in Neenah, Wisconsin, and contained a variety of general news and religious matters. One column was always devoted to news about *Sønderjylland*. In 1899 *Danskeren* moved to Blair, Nebraska, to be near Dana College, and a theological student from the University of Copenhagen, Harald Jensen, was hired as editor.

Danskeren was pleased to receive Gundersen’s poems and published many of them. Gundersen cut his poems out of the paper and saved them. He submitted poems to this paper, and others, from 1884 to at least 1918. The poems in *Danskeren* were printed in a gothic font, as was the case for the whole newspaper in the beginning. Needless to say, the poems were in Danish.

Some of the poems are captivating, as the rhythm and rhyme are excellent. It is therefore easy to remember some of the lines, even verses. His poems were popular as many of them capture the essence of a sentiment or issue. Some of his theological colleagues praised them, saying his

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poems had fervor, depth and power, which reminded them of the Danish hymn writer Hans Adolph Brorson (1694-1764).

His name on the cover of the notebook from when he worked on the Svelbjerggaard farm in *Sønderjylland* is Jes Christian Nielsen. The name on the notebook with his poems from his time at Augsburg Seminary in March 1887 is also Nielsen. This was natural, as his father's name was Niels, so he was a Nielsen. But there were a lot of Danish students named Nielsen, so he took his father's last name, which was Gundersen, while at the Seminary.

Jes Christian Gundersen was born to Niels Gundersen and Kirsten, née Christensen, on September 21, 1856, on the small farm Elkierhus in Frøstrup, Denmark. His father, Niels Gundersen, had been born in Neder Fidde, Henne Sogn, on December 16, 1825. His mother, Kirsten Christensen, had been born in Frøstruphede on March 24, 1817.

Niels Gundersen and Kirsten Christensen were married in Nørre Nebel Church in 1851. They had two sons, Chresten and Jes. The oldest, Chresten Nielsen, married a local girl, Margrethe Hansen, and settled in the area, working as a labourer.

Jes Christian Gundersen attended school in Frøstrup until he was confirmed at age fourteen in 1871. In the winter, he attended school six days a week, while there was little or no school in the summer. He was a very good student and obtained A's in reading, writing and religion. Having finished school, he started working in a store in the town of Varde. He then worked on a Danish farm south of the German border, on the island of Als. In 1876 he was working on the farm Svelbjerggaard and in 1878 on the farm Solbjerggaard, both farms on Als in *Sønderjylland*. In his spare time, he read a lot.

The year 1879 brought much sorrow to the young Jes. In August, his father died. Then on December 9, 1879, his mother died. About a year later, in late 1880 or early 1881, he immigrated to the United States, to stay with his uncle. It's possible that his uncle paid for the passage.

The voyage took him from Denmark to England; and from there he was supposed to proceed to New York City. However, after only a couple of days at sea the ship ran into a gale, which quickly turned into a hurricane, and the ship was wrecked, unable to continue. As the ship was tossed around on the open sea, the passengers thought they were facing certain death. This dramatic near-death experience at sea changed Gundersen's life. He had called out to the Lord for help; and he was saved! Gundersen learned that when fear and disaster strike, God may use that experience to strengthen your faith. After floating aimlessly on the vast Atlantic Ocean, the wrecked ship was found and subsequently hauled back to England; where after Gundersen boarded another vessel for America.

Gundersen headed straight for Elmdale, Minnesota, to live with his uncle, who could certainly use him in his business ventures. Elmdale was a Danish settlement, surveyed by Jens Hansen in 1866. Elmdale Township was covered with excellent timber, with occasional patches of bush and prairie. A small river meanders through the county, the soil consisting of a rich, dark loam.

His uncle, Knud Hans Gundersen, spelled his last name with an R, and often used the name Gunderson. Knud Gundersen, born in Denmark in 1841, had come to the United States in 1867, where he settled in St. Cloud, Minnesota. In 1871 he moved to Elmdale Township in Morrison County, where he bought a farm. In 1872 the Elmdale Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. Knud Gundersen started a store at his farm, the first general merchandise store in the

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community. In the beginning, he carried supplies on his back from St. Cloud to Elmdale. Due to the fact that he built a proper store in 1878 and became the first postmaster, he is known as the founder of Elmdale. Gundersen also started a creamery, which he sold to the patrons in 1910, so it could become a cooperative; today the creamery is a historic site.

Uncle Knud welcomed him and Jes felt very much at home. His enterprising uncle was an inspiration, and while working for him, Jes decided to further his education. The young Jes Gundersen worked during the day and attended school in the evening; later in 1882 attending the Bible School at Augsburg Seminary outside Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was eventually accepted into the Augsburg Seminary, which had been founded by the Norwegian Lutheran Free Church. He was a diligent student, excelling in history, Danish, German and Greek. It was at this time that he started submitting poems to Danish American newspapers, which the papers readily published. He meticulously kept a diary, and also started working on a book.



Gundersen Bros. store in Elmdale, Minnesota

He made many friends at the Augsburg Seminary, which had been founded by Norwegian Lutherans in 1869. In the 1870s Georg Sverdrup and Sven Oftedal, two scholars from prominent Haugean families in Norway joined the faculty, bringing with them a radical view of Christian education that was centered on Scripture and the simple doctrines of Christianity. The Haugean movement took its name from Norwegian lay evangelist Hans Nielsen Hauge, a critic of the established Lutheran Church in Norway. Sverdrup and Oftedal were critical of the Church establishment and hierarchy within the Christian Church, as well as of the prescribed study of the Bible. They believed that the local congregation was the correct form of God's Kingdom on Earth. Their vision was a church that promoted a "living" Christianity, emphasizing an evangelicalism that would result in changed lives, which would enable members of the congregation to realize their spiritual gifts.

In Minneapolis Jes met Petrea Thomsen. He wrote over twenty poems dedicated to Petrea, expressing his love. He married Petrea Johanne Kristine Thomsen in Minnesota on December 28, 1889. She was a practical and efficient woman, with courage, who was not afraid to work.

Petrea Thomsen was born in the Lime Parish in Salling Herred, Jutland, on February 15, 1863. When she was about twenty years old, Petrea and her mother left Denmark and immigrated to the United States, settling in Hutchinson, Minnesota, a Danish settlement, where they stayed with Thomas Thomsen.

The same year he married, Jes Gundersen published the book *Herren ser dine veje* [The Lord sees your ways]. It was published by C. Rasmussen Publishing Company in Minneapolis. While Gundersen did not self-publish, he had to put up money to get Rasmussen to print the book. This meant Gundersen had to help sell the book in order to get his money back. This chore actually fell

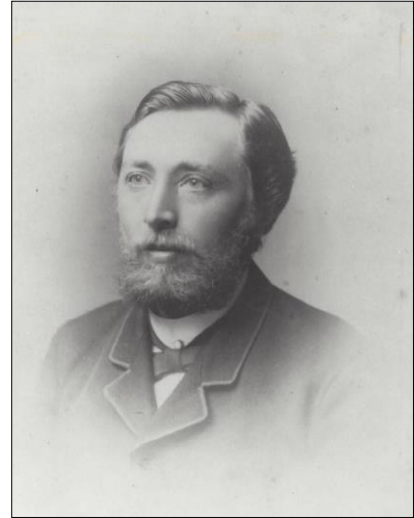
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to his wife, who became active in marketing the book, selling it around Minneapolis and later in Wisconsin. Gundesen too would walk for miles, trying to sell Bibles and his own book.

His 336-page book is a poem in six songs. On the title page, it says the book was written by N.N. - and not J.C. Gundesen. He might have been too timid or too humble to appear as the author, as he had not yet graduated from the Seminary. But with all his previously published poems in *Danskeren* most buyers of the book knew he was the author.

Gundesen's book is autobiographical. The foreword, also in verse, was written by Pastor Melchior Falk Gjertsen, one of his favourite professors at Augsburg. Some of the headings, roughly translated, are Childhood, Confirmation, Mother, Jutland, West Coast, *Sønderjylland*, Marriage and Among Strangers. One part is called Christian Homo's Birth and Death, which brings to mind Danish poet Frederik Paludan-Müller's work *Adam Homo*, which is also a book-length poem, divided into songs, which was first published in 1842.

Jes Gundesen was ordained as a minister in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1892. Already, the year before he had received a call from St. Pauli Danish Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The Gundesen family then moved to Menomonie in Dunn County, where they bought a forty-acre farm to support themselves. First they had to clear the land, and then turn it into a farm. The St. Pauli congregation had been formed in 1886, and during the first five years it had three different pastors. Pastor Gundesen would provide some stability and continuity, serving St. Pauli for thirteen years. The Gundesens lived there until they moved to Dickson in the Alberta District of the Northwest Territories, another pioneer settlement, where they had to start all over again.



Jes Gundesen as a young man

Dickson was founded in 1903. In a way, it had been founded a year earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, or rather, the congregation had been formed the year before their arrival in Canada. Fred Pedersen and some other Danish immigrants in and around Omaha were in 1902 looking for free or cheap land. An agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway was willing to set aside a tract of land west of Innisfail, for a Danish settlement. Fred Pedersen, who was president of the Church Council, suggested that they seriously consider the CPR proposal. Jens Larsen, a bicycle-smith, and Henry Larsen, a bricklayer, were sent up to Dickson to investigate the area and report back. They found the area suitable and corresponding to their expectations. The ground was frozen, but grass was sticking up through the snow here and there. They returned to Omaha and recommended that they move there as a group.

Pastor Gottlieb B. Christiansen in Omaha, an active pastor, successful missionary, and President of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UDELIC), suggested that the settlers form a congregation prior to moving to Canada. That would strengthen their fellowship and faith, and give them strength to face the future in the Canadian West. The Pella Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was founded at the home of Carl Christiansen in Omaha in February 1903. They named it Pella after their congregation in Omaha.

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The first to leave Omaha for Dickson, already in March, were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pedersen and Mr. and Mrs. Laust Christensen, as well as John Jensen, a bachelor. In July 1903 Carl Christiansen, Henry Larsen, Chris Christiansen and Christian Larsen, all from Omaha, arrived in Dickson and pitched their tents on their homestead. The settlers brought with them their Bibles, Danish hymn books and a book of sermons by Danish Home Missionary Pastor Vilhelm Beck, the leader of *Indre Mission* (the Home Mission).

At the end of the summer in 1903 Pastor Gottlieb Christiansen paid a visit to Dickson to see how the colonists were doing. He was impressed, and promised he would ensure that the Pella congregation would acquire a resident pastor.

Jes Gundersen received his call from Dickson on April 8, 1904. Pastor Gundersen never forgot that date as it was King Christian IX's birthday. The letter was written by Carl Christiansen, the secretary of the congregation.



Gundersen family before leaving the US

After about thirteen years in Menomonie, the Gundersen family was ready to move on, so Pastor Gundersen accepted the call. All the Gundersen household goods were shipped by train from the United States to Innisfail. The Gundersen family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. and five children, too took the train to Innisfail, arriving in early September 1904. They were met at the station by Fred Pedersen and Hans Buck. It was then a twenty-mile trek from Innisfail to Dickson, where en route they had to ford the Red Deer River and then the Medicine River.

As the community was not able to pay him a salary, Pastor Gundersen had been advised to obtain a homestead, so he could provide for his family. This was not an issue as he had farmed in Denmark, Germany and the United States. As advised, Gundersen took up a homestead, located on the same section on which the first Dickson Church was to be built. He bought the property from Pastor Gottlieb B. Christiansen, who had bought it from the CPR. Moreover, Pastor Gundersen went to Red Deer and bought an adjacent quarter-section for ten dollars.

At first the Gundersen family was housed in Henry Larsen's one-room log house, called *Sorgenfri* (free from sorrow), which was available, since Larsen was away, working in Calgary. The next day members of the colony showed Pastor Gundersen the small hill where the church was to be built – a beautiful and well-drained place.

When the Gundersens arrived, there were only three horses in the colony. Some of the settlers, using the three horses, helped the Gundersens cut and haul logs for a house to be built on their property. Already in early December, well before Christmas, the Gundersen family was able to move into their new home. It was a big and impressive house (see photo below), unlike many of

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the log cabins with sod on the roof which could be seen everywhere in the colony in the beginning.

Until he acquired horses of his own, it happened several times that Pastor Gundesen had to walk to Innisfail and back with groceries or other supplies on his back.

As Pella had not been registered it was decided to form a new congregation, Siloam, on September 11, 1904. From then on Pastor Gundesen led the Services; in time, they were held mostly in his home, as it was the roomiest.

Gundesen held his first Service in the home of Laust Christensen, with nine adults present. The low turnout was due to the fact that many of the men had taken work in Calgary or on the railroad. The next day the people met again, and the Siloam Congregation was formally organized.



At the Service held in the home of Fred Petersen on October 2, 1904, they organized a Sunday School, with Pastor Gundesen and Fred Petersen as teachers. The Sunday Schools consisted of five children, four of them belonging to the Pastor.

With Pastor Gundesen's arrival, "A vigorous church program with Sunday School, adult Bible class, and mid-week prayer meetings was launched. Most of these meetings were well attended". Pastor Gundesen did not see his ministry as just a job; it was a mission. He was a missionary, out to convert sinners and the doubtful, thereby saving souls.

On December 8, 1904, the first Service was held in the Pastor's home, where they had just moved in. The Gundesen family was very hospitable. Many newcomers would contact the Pastor or just show up at the door, when they arrived in Dickson. Often these newcomers would stay with the Gundesen family for a few days, until they could find other accommodation or get settled on their own land.

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Jeg lader i dag tankerne flyve tilbage
til barndommens aar, til de henfarne dage,
blandt dem er meget, jeg aldrig vil glemme,
ja, meget som tanker til mor kan stemme.

Jeg mindes en jul, ja, jeg mindes saa mange,
skønt hjemmet var fattigt og tiderne trange,
vi følte os glade af Herren beskyttet,
og fader sang salmer, så englene lyttede.

Aftner saa skønne, saa klare og lange,
mit hjerte slog glad under jublende sange.
Og aldrig som lille for mørket jeg bæved,
jeg følte mig tryk af Guds engle omsvævet.

Jeg syntes jeg saa dem paa lynsnare vinger,
for budskab om glæde til jorden at bringe.
Da saa jeg en himmelsk hærske i klynge
om freden paa jorden saa lifligt at synge.

Så kom jeg en Jul, da de gamle var døde.
Og hjemmet det lille, det kære, stod øde.
Mit hjerte var sygt og det kæmpede med
sorgen,
men ses skal vi atter på evigheds morgen.

Så stod jeg en jul muttens ene og fremmed
i den larmende by, langt borte fra hjemmet.
Da savned jeg mest disse kærlige arme!
Hvor verden var kold, hvor det skorted på
varme!

Og mangen gang siden jeg følte det samme,
naar ene med Bogen ved natlampens flamme,
jeg sad der på skolen, lunt var det derinde,
men hjertet det skjalv for de isende vinde!

Autobiographical poem by Jes C. Gundesen

I let my thoughts fly back today
to childhood years, those bygone days,
amongst them so much, I will never forget,
so much to remind me of mother's ways.

I remember one Christmas, remember so many,
though our home was poor, and times were
tough, we felt happily by the Lord protected,
and father sang hymns, while the angels
reflected.

Evenings so lovely, so clear and so long,
my heartbeat kept time with each joyful song.
And never as young did the darkness me scare,
for I felt protected by God's angels there.

I felt that I saw them on their swift pinions,
bringing tidings of joy to the earth below.
I then saw a heavenly multitude singing
joyfully of peace, they on earth would bestow.

Then came the Christmas, the old ones were
dead,
and the dear little home was empty and quiet.
My heart felt sick as it struggled with sorrow,
but again we shall meet on the eternal tomorrow.

One Christmas I stood, just a stranger alone
in a big noisy city, so far from home.
I missed them so much, those loving arms!
The world was so cold, when I needed their
warmth!

And many times I have felt the same,
when alone with the Book, by a flickering flame,
I sat at the school, all was cozy within,
but my heart shivered in the icy wind!

Translation by Edith Wulff, Hamilton, 2017

In 1905, Mrs. Gundesen went to the United States to fetch her mother, Mrs. Thomsen, or “Bedste” as she was called in Dickson. With the money realized from their farm in Menomonie, Mrs. Gundesen was able to buy ten cows, in addition to other things needed on the farm and in the home.

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Indeed, 1905 brought many firsts to the settlement. On May 28, the first confirmation was held in Dickson; of the three confirmands, one was the Pastor's daughter, Kristine. The first marriage was performed. As well, Henry Larsen's daughter, Clara, was baptised, the first baptism in Dickson.

A Bible Class was started, led by John Tromburg, a Dane from Kenmare, North Dakota. John Tromburg also performed another valuable service to the community, being the first in Dickson to haul cream to the creamery in Markerville, which provided much needed cash to the farmers.

It was also in 1905 that Alberta became a province, at the beginning of September. The first general election to elect members to the Alberta Legislature was held on November 9th. The Liberals won the election, winning 23 out of 25 seats in the new Legislature. The first Premier was Alexander Rutherford.

For Christmas in December 1905, the Dickson congregation came to the Christmas Eve Service at the Pastor's home. A Christmas tree had been set up, decorated with home-made decorations. Seventy-four people, including the children, attended the Christmas Eve Service. As well, Dan Morkeberg, the Danish butter maker at the creamery in Markerville joined the celebration. Mr. and Mrs. Morkeberg, wrapped in blankets, had arrived in a horse-drawn sleigh.

The Christmas celebration had begun with Pastor Gundersen reading the Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 [*Men det skete i de dage, at en befaling udgik fra Kejser Augustus, at al verden skulde skrives i mandtal*]. Then the Christmas tree was placed in the centre of the room and the assembled walked around the tree and sang Danish Christmas hymns and carols. The singing was led by Fred Pedersen. For Christmas, all the children received an apple. It is likely that Pastor Gundersen also read a poem, which he would have composed for the occasion.

There was an urgent need for a church and thus Fred Pedersen had already donated five acres of land a mile east of where the Bethany Church was eventually built. Some logs had already been gathered on the site.

The colony continued to grow. Dickson was advertised in the Danish newspapers in the United States, and the CPR, which wanted to sell the land, had a very active Immigration and Colonization Department which enthusiastically promoted Dickson. During 1905 and 1906 there was therefore an influx of Danish homesteaders, who had to settle South and West of the first pioneers, as Icelanders had occupied the land North and East of Dickson. The centre of the Danish colony thus shifted whereby the proposed location of the future Church was no longer in the middle of the settlement, which became a major problem for the newcomers. The fact that the future church would not be in the centre developed into a nasty dispute, ending with the congregation being split into two factions.

Feelings ran high and in May 1906, the two factions started to meet separately. In July 1906, the old Pella congregation was revived. Now there were two congregations, Siloam and Pella, in the small colony.

Since there was no other minister, Pastor Gundersen carried on the ministry, and faithfully tried to serve both factions during this difficult period. In the interest of the church, he attempted to remain strictly impartial. But the situation was untenable. Pastor Gundersen might have been pastor to both congregations, but a leader of neither. Against his will, pastor Gundersen became

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involved in the dispute. He tried to be neutral and to mediate, but thereby pleased neither side, and he therefore felt it was his duty to resign, which he did.

Essentially, Pastor Gundesen was a happy person, with a contented disposition. He was an earnest, devoted man, poetically inclined. He was a peace-loving man, who desired harmony. By nature, he was meek and introverted, but also reserved, honest and very humble. He was humiliated by the turn of events, and the dispute and his resignation broke his heart.

Pastor Gundesen sat down and wept, tears flowing down his face. He wrote a poem about it, which truly shows his heartache.



Left to right Helene, Else and Christine (Helena, Elsa and Christina)

His resignation left both congregations without a pastor, and basically without the prospect of a church. Both factions needed a church, and neither would be able to finance the building of a church on its own.

It was a sad situation, and embarrassing for the Pastor, who had recently written a glowing report to the church paper in the United States, about the colony and the people in the congregation. In any case, Pastor Gundesen now had more time to tend to his farm, but he would also preach in the surrounding area, among them, Calgary and Olds.

Pastor Gundesen could have looked around for another congregation in Canada or the United States, and simply have left Dickson. But he had invested all his money in his farm, and was even in debt. He had children going to school in Dickson and Innisfail; and giving his children an education was extremely important to him. Moreover, he had made many friends and felt that he was part of the community. Despite the circumstances, he decided to stay in Dickson.

In December 1906, no doubt through the Holy Spirit, the two factions came together. It was decided to disband the Siloam and Pella congregations and start anew. On December 12, 1906, the new joint congregation held a Service in the school house, which had just been built. At a meeting in early 1907, the new congregation was officially organized as the Bethany Lutheran Church.

To settle the issue of where the church should be located, the two factions agreed to ask three pastors in the United States. They also agreed to abide by the decision of these three pastors. Two of the three voted to place the church one mile west of the site originally planned. It was a more central location.

Marius Eliassen had generously donated five acres of the Northwest corner of section 36 to be used for a church and cemetery. Equally important, Laust Christensen donated five acres of land for a parsonage.

The leadership problem was solved by selecting Soren Lonneberg as president of the church council, as he had only arrived in Dickson, from Chicago, the year before.

At this time the congregation also began to look around for another pastor. A number of calls were sent out to ministers, but nobody wanted to come. One, they had heard about Pastor

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Gundesen, and knew he was still living in Dickson. Secondly, there was no parsonage. The congregation soon realized that they would only be successful if they could offer a potential pastor a parsonage. The building of a parsonage was therefore a priority.

In 1907 Pastor Gottlieb Christiansen came to Dickson to dedicate the church building site, while Pastor Gundesen laid the cornerstone of the new church. At the same time, the Dickson Cemetery was inaugurated by Pastor Gottlieb Christiansen, assisted by Pastor P.M. Petersen, President of the North Dakota and Alberta District, as well as by Pastor Gundesen.

The Danes in Dickson were determined to spread the gospel among other Danes and form new congregations. As well, the settlers had felt strongly about supporting foreign missions; thus, in 1907 a Mission Society was started, with 33 members.

Moreover, the young people organized a grand Dominion Day picnic with sports and refreshments. This picnic became an annual social highlight, attended by members of the surrounding communities. Every girl expected a new dress for this occasion. Often, they were fashioned from hand-me-downs, or in some cases made from dyed flour sacks.

In 1907 Fred Pedersen, who had taught himself to play the violin, organized a choir. He led the choir for thirty years. Once the church was built, a yearly concert would be held there. As well the Ladies' Aid would hold suppers and a fall bazaar in the church basement.

It was a major event when Carl Christiansen opened a store on the corner west of the school in 1909. That same year the parsonage was finished, built across the road from the store, with wood donated by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The four buildings, the store, the church, the school and the parsonage now composed the nucleus of the colony.

Pastor Gundesen had retired, but whenever the congregation needed a pastor, he obligingly stepped in and served the church. Pastor Gundesen continued to look after the work of the congregation until April 1909, when Pastor Julius Magnussen arrived, after accepting the call from Bethany.

Pastor Julius Magnussen's salary was to be \$350 per annum, plus the offering from each of the three great church festivals, in addition to a free parsonage and firewood. These were much

Sønderjylland.

XXIV.

Mel.: Tak for disse naaderige.
Oder, hvor man dræber, jaarer,
Svor med Vold frem Lykken for
Vædet er med Blod og Taarer
Belgiens og Frankrigs Jord. —

Brave Sønderjyder stride,
Dreven frem paa Lykkens Bud,
Danste paa den anden Side
Fra Amerika gaar ud.

Danste staar paa begge Sider.
Skæbnens Vej sig saa mon sno.
Danste imod Danste strider;
Brødre dog de er fuldtro.

Tragisk er det, hvo forandre
Kan det sørgelige Spil?
Jungen kan de Danste klandre,
Det maa gaa, som Herren vil.

Og naar dansk mod dansk, kan
hænde,
Mødes der i Gaandgemæng,
Mon de kan hinanden kende?
Af den Tanke er saa trang. —

Særene lig tvende Floder
Bælter mod hinanden ned,
Brøder kæmper imod Brøder,
Uden at de selv det ved. —

J. C. Gundejen.

*Sønderjylland XXIV, poem published in
Danskeren on September 25, 1918.*

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better conditions than those which had been offered to Pastor Gundesen. However, the letter of call to Pastor Magnussen also stipulated that he could not expect to receive free hay for his horses.

Julius Georg Vilhelm Magnussen was born in Hobro, Denmark, on September 12, 1872. He was married to Vilhelmine Jespersen, who had been born in Hørning, near Randers, Denmark. He served Dickson from April 1909 to April 1914.

There was very little money to build a church, but all the settlers had cattle. Most settlers gave the congregation a calf in the spring and pastured it during the summer. When the calves were sold in the fall it amounted to a fair sum of money, which went into the building fund. Pastor Magnussen, who was very supportive of the church project, travelled to the United States on his own and collected \$600 from various congregations.

Bethany Lutheran Church was finished and dedicated in 1911. Soren Lonneberg, a carpenter by trade, supervised the building of the church. He also helped build the first parsonage, the girls' dormitory and numerous houses and barns. Upon its completion, the church immediately became the spiritual, social and recreational centre of the community.

In 1911 Pastor Gundesen started to work among the Danes in Calgary, laying the groundwork for Sharon Lutheran Church. Pastor Magnussen continued this work, and in 1913-14, he contributed much to Sharon Lutheran Church, travelling to Calgary on a regular basis. Pastor Magnussen was well versed in synodical customs and laws, and was chiefly responsible for establishing Sharon on a solid spiritual base. He led many of the first Services and installed the first board of officers in 1913.

In 1912 a congregation was organized in Kevisville, southwest of Dickson, to be served by the pastor from Dickson. Pastor Magnussen even served on the first church council.

In 1914, Pastor Gundesen started to work among the Danes in Olds, which eventually resulted in the establishment of a congregation with its own church and minister. Gundesen supported himself by farming and at the same time, by being a pastor. Once a month, summer and winter, he walked from Dickson to Innisfail, where he boarded a train and arrived at Olds for the weekend. Apparently, on several occasions he walked to Olds and back. His walks were an opportunity to get away from the commotion at the house and to think – and compose poems.

Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson belonged to the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UDELC), the synod based in Blair, Nebraska. UDELC was instrumental in starting many congregations in Western Canada. UDELC had been formed in 1894 when a group of Danish Lutheran pastors and congregations left the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to form their own synod. The split reflected the situation in Denmark, where there were two influential revival movements, one led by N.F.S. Grundtvig, and the other by Vilhelm Beck. In Denmark, the Lutheran Church was able to remain a big tent, able to accommodate the two movements. This was not the case in the United States, where the two movements parted ways and each formed its own synod. In North America, the followers of Grundtvig have been called the Happy Danes, in contrast to the members of *Indre Mission*, who were called the Holy Danes.

The Grundtvigians followed the teachings of N.F.S. Grundtvig, who placed great emphasis on Danish culture and language. This was in stark contrast to Vilhelm Beck and *Indre Mission* (the Home Mission), where the focus was on a Christian life, piety and personal holiness,

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emphasizing repentance, conversion, and a personal experience of faith. Members of UDELIC frowned upon drinking, dancing, playing cards and took the Bible literally.

The members of Bethany may claim that the first viable Danish Lutheran congregation in Canada was established in Dickson in 1903. In a sense, the story of the Danish Lutheran congregations in Canada begins with Dickson, even though attempts had been made in New Denmark, New Brunswick, since the early 1870s. Finally, in 1905, St. Peter's Lutheran Church was successfully established in New Denmark, with help from UDELIC, who sent Pastor Anders Peter Hansen.

For well over its first thirty years, the Bethany Church in Dickson provided leadership and inspiration, spreading the Christian gospel far and wide within the Danish community in Canada, but also outside the Danish community as well as outside Canada.

The Gundesen family became a part of the Dickson community, particularly the children, who all received a good education. Jes and Petrea Gundesen had four daughters, who became teachers, and a son, who became a doctor of medicine and surgery. The oldest daughter, Kristine (Christina) (1890-1952), married Andrew Ingvar Larsen, and they settled in the area. The second daughter, Helene (Helena) (1893-1985), married Jens Schmidt, a Danish immigrant, a Dickson farmer and gardener, and lived in the vicinity. The third oldest of the children, Else (Elsa) (1896-1995), taught at the Dickson High School from its modest beginnings in the church basement. Sixteen years later she was asked by MP Robert Thompson, to take charge of a Teacher Training School in Kaffa Province of Ethiopia, of which he was then the Director of Education for the Ethiopian Government. She worked in Ethiopia for sixteen years. The only son, Christian (1899-1932), became a doctor and practised medicine in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. The youngest daughter, Dagny (1904-1978), married Andreas (Andy) Dyrholm, a Danish immigrant. For several years, they lived on the old Gundesen place, until they became managers of the Bethany Home and Hospital in Calgary.

Bliv ikke træt, I brave Sønderjyder,
Selv om end tiden falder lang og trang.
Det synes alt at lyse i det fjerne
Mon vi vel alt ser dagens morgenstjerne?

Vor gensynsdag dog komme maa engang!
Vor fremtidshåb på Herren fast sig grunder,
Et folk, som bliver tro, kan ej gå under,
Vor Gud en gang vil føre det til sejr.

J.C. Gundesen

When Julius Magnussen had completed his five-year stay at Bethany Lutheran Church in April 1914, Pastor Gundesen again took over and served the congregation for a year, until Pastor H.P.A. Andersen accepted the call and became minister at Bethany in July 1915.

In his retirement, Pastor Gundesen would take a Service whenever called upon. Otherwise he tended to his farm and wrote poems. The last poem he submitted to *Danskeren* was published in the paper on September 25, 1918, towards the end of the First World War. It consisted of six verses and was simply entitled *Sønderjylland*. It dealt with *Sønderjylland*, the terrible war in the trenches and how "brothers" were killing each other. Pastor Gundesen treasured the Danish language and delighted in playing with it, writing poems, songs and hymns. He did write poems in English, but his preference was Danish. He would undoubtedly have loved to visit Denmark and *Sønderjylland*, visiting the places he wrote about. Unfortunately, his finances did not allow it.

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Queen Margrethe with Prince Henrik place wreath at Pastor Gundesen's headstone in Dickson Cemetery

Old age also took its toll. In May 1919, he underwent an operation at the hospital in Innisfail, being signed out after thirty-seven days. In July representatives of the Bethany congregation came to his home and gave him some money to help pay for the operation. He never truly recovered his health and remained bed-ridden. In fact, he suffered much, but without complaining.

Gradually he grew weaker and on January 29, 1920 he passed away in his home. The memorial service and burial took place on Sunday, February 1st. There was a Service in Gundesen's home where Pastor Andersen said some well-chosen words, followed by singing one of Pastor Gundesen's favourite hymns, Lina Sandell's *Ingen er så tryk for fare*. Then there was a procession to the Dickson Cemetery, where a large crowd had gathered. With Pastor Andersen officiating, a couple of hymns were sung before the coffin was lowered.

Pastor Gundesen died about two weeks before the 1920 referendum in *Sønderjylland*. Regretfully, he never did experience the joy of this part of Denmark being re-united with the kingdom, in a decisive vote, which has never been questioned. The outcome would have pleased him immensely.

After her husband's passing, Petrea Gundesen decided to empty the house and barns. She did this by holding a public auction at the farm on Saturday, March 26, 1921. She hired auctioneer F.S. McKean, who also looked after publicizing the event. Lunch was served on the farm at 12 noon and then the auction started at 1:00 p.m. The auction included seven head of cattle, three two-year-old steers, four yearlings, one mare, forty chickens, three geese as well as implements and household effects. For many years, she would stay with her daughters. She lived until 1937, when she passed away. Petrea Gundesen was buried next to her husband in the Dickson Cemetery.

In 1929, to honour his memory and to thank him, the congregation erected a large headstone on Pastor J.C. Gundesen's grave. Then in October 1991, when Queen Margrethe II of Denmark visited Dickson to inaugurate the Dickson Store Museum, she paid Dickson's first pastor the ultimate tribute. Prior to inaugurating the Museum, she unwaveringly walked into the Dickson Cemetery, and surrounded by the Gundesen family, laid a wreath on his grave.

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

Gunnar Pedersen

President of the Danish Federation's Atlantic Region

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Gunnar Pedersen of New Denmark became President of the Danish Federation's Atlantic Region in 1994, after Robert Brinkman stepped down. Gunnar was interested in the Danish Federation holding its annual Conference in New Denmark in 1997, as the oldest Danish settlement in Canada was celebrating its 125th anniversary that year.



The 1997 Danish Canadian Conference was held in New Denmark, and celebrated the Danish settlement's 125th anniversary. The delegates in front of the motel in Grand Falls. Photo: RBC

The 1997 Conference was hosted by the New Denmark Historical Society whose President was Sterling Jensen, while the Treasurer was the energetic Judy Armstrong. To incorporate all the planned activities, the 1997 Conference started already on Wednesday evening, June 18th, with registration at the Près du Lac Motel in Grand Falls. By the time the Conference ended on Sunday afternoon, the participants had seen a re-enactment of the arrival of the first Danes to New Denmark in 1872; viewed the collections at the New Denmark Historical Museum; attended a Church Service at St. Peter's Lutheran Church; launched a fundraising campaign for the Danish Canadian National Museum; participated in Founders' Day; watched the Founder's Day Parade; dined at a BBQ at the New Denmark Recreation Centre, followed by a Saint Hans Bonfire; held an Annual General Meeting; and taken a tour of New Denmark.

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In March 1997, just three months prior to the Conference, Gunnar Pedersen had moved into the New Denmark Seniors Complex, located in New Denmark on Highway 108, between Grand Falls and Plaster Rock. The Complex, containing ten apartments for seniors, had just been built. Some years later it was expanded with four more apartments. When Gunnar moved in all the residents, save one, were from the New Denmark area, and of Danish background. Today only about four of the residents are of Danish heritage, so there are fewer residents who Gunnar can speak Danish with. The current President of the Seniors Complex is Heather Jensen of New Denmark.

The apartments are self-contained, all with a kitchen and a separate bedroom. Gunnar is lucky, he has two bedrooms. Like Gunnar, many of the residents have a caregiver come and help with cleaning and food preparation. At the same time, many own a car and are still able to drive, and thus do their own shopping.

Gunnar likes to go for a drive in the afternoon, perhaps going to Tim Hortons in Grand Falls, while bringing along his walker. Here he'll meet his sister and/or friends. In the evening he will play his violin. He plays by ear, and is very good at it. His hobby, indeed passion, is building replicas of buildings. He has built replicas of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, the Foley Brook School, the New Denmark Railway Station, the Valhalla Restaurant and the Seniors Complex. His display at the New Denmark Memorial Museum in 2015 totalled twenty-two pieces. At present he is building a replica of the old potato houses by the New Denmark railway station, where the potatoes were stored prior to being exported.



*Gunnar Pedersen with his replica of the New Denmark Seniors Complex,
Photo by Mark Rickard, The Victoria Star, Grand Falls, N.B.*

Gunnar Dyrland Pedersen was born in Rorup, a parish southwest of Roskilde, Denmark, on September 3, 1922, as the son of Victor Pedersen and Ellen Pedersen, née Andersen. The Pedersens were smallholders, and knew their sons would never be able to own or operate their own farm in Denmark. When Victor Pedersen received a letter from a friend in Canada, probably

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in 1927, he decided to emigrate with his young family. In March 1928 the family left for Canada on the *SS Frederik VIII*, the flagship of the Scandinavian American Line, which was owned and operated by DFDS of Copenhagen. The food was Danish and the menus were printed in Danish. Yet, the transatlantic journey was not pleasant, as Gunnar's mother was seasick most of the time, and his father had to tend to the four children, ranging in age from five years to seven months. They arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in March 1928. Pier 21, the new immigration processing centre in Halifax, had just opened that same month. From Halifax the Pedersens took the train to New Denmark, where they were met at the station by their friend. The Pedersens stayed with him until Victor Pedersen bought a farm in Drummond, the French-speaking area across the Salmon River from New Denmark.

In September Victor Pedersen came down with typhoid fever. He had to go to the hospital, where they kept him for a month. His wife was only able to visit him twice. Besides, she was very busy looking after the farm, and the children. After he had been signed out he was still too weak to work, even to walk, so Pastor Emil Nommesen of St. Peter's and Bethany Lutheran Church took him in and helped nurse him back to strength. In order for the family to be nearby, Pastor Nommesen rented a house on Klokkedahl Hill near the parsonage, where Ellen Pedersen and the children could stay. By the spring Victor Pedersen had recovered, and the whole family could return to the farm in Drummond.

Gunnar was five-and-a-half years old when he arrived in Canada. He soon reached school age and was placed in a two-room school in Drummond. He only spoke Danish, and the school was French, in a French-speaking area, so Gunnar had his schooling in French, from grade 1 to 5.



*Lillian Pedersen
1927-2013*

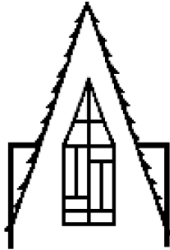

It was a surprise to the Pedersens that the farms in Drummond did not have electricity. Most of the farms back in Denmark had electricity by this time. After seven years the Pedersen moved to a farm in Foley Brook, which was a Danish settlement, across from Drummond. On the farm in Foley Brook they got electricity in 1955, but had to help pay for the erection of the power poles.

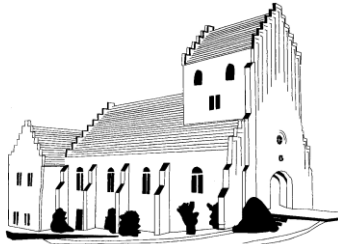
When the family moved to Foley Brook, Gunnar attended school in the winter for three years. The school in Foley Brook was English. Then in 1939, Gunnar went to work on Oscar Larsen's farm. Here he met Lillian Laursen, who he knew from school. Lillian Laursen had been born in New Denmark in 1927, the daughter of Arthur N. Laursen and Johanne, née Nyborg. Her father had been born in New Denmark in 1900, while her mother had been born in 1904 in Aalborg, Jutland, – and had come to Canada when she was about twenty years old. Gunnar Pedersen and Lillian Laursen were married on June 1, 1946. Together they had four children, Peter, Inga, Asta and Ingrid. Two of them, Peter and Asta, live in New Denmark, and Inga lives in Fredericton, while Ingrid lives in the state of Illinois.

Gunnar and Lillian bought a 233-acre farm in Foley Brook, where they lived for forty-eight years. It was a cattle and potato farm. To augment his income, Gunnar would also truck pulpwood and haul logs. He and Lillian would also take turns driving a local school bus, that is to say, at first it was a station wagon, later a mini-van, which was painted red.

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Lillian was a Girl Guide leader and District Commissioner for Victoria County; and was made an honorary member of the Girl Guides of Canada. Lillian played the piano, and could play by ear. At the beginning of 1996, Lillian's health began to decline. For some years she was confined to a wheelchair. She passed away at the Hotel-Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital in Perth-Andover on May 10, 2013. Her funeral service was held at Bethany Lutheran Church on Foley Brook Road, with Pastor Ralph Weigold officiating. She was buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Foley Brook. Gunnar and Lillian have been life-long members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

	<h1>Granly</h1> <p>Danish Lutheran Church - Surrey, B.C. 1966 – 50 Years - 2016</p>	 <p>DSUK</p>
<p><u>Address:</u> 15144 – 92A Ave., Surrey, B.C., Canada V3R 7A6 <u>Tel:</u> (604) 581-0628 <u>Email:</u> granly@shw.ca <u>Website:</u> www.granlychurch.ca</p>	<p>Sunday church services are alternately in Danish and English Other Activities are: Ladies' Auxiliary, Wednesday film Club, Bible and Literature Study Groups Granly Newsletter is issued quarterly!</p>	

<p>WELCOME to The Danish Church in Vancouver B.C. 6010 Kincaid Street Burnaby B.C. V5G 4N3 Tel.: (604) 298-6112</p>		<p>Church Service every Sunday morning. The first and third Sunday each month in Danish, the other Sundays in English, unless otherwise announced.</p>
<p>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</p>		

Chris and Kirsti Andersen

Else Jensen, Karin Buurmeester, and Andrew Harback

Arne Kresten Andersen, also known as Chris Andersen, was born in Them, Denmark, on January 24, 1909. Chris was the oldest of three children born to Christian and Maren Andersen. He was raised on the family farm in Them.

Chris met his future wife, Kirsti Bak, during a “Træsko Bal” (wooden shoe ball) at the local community centre. Kirsti Bak, who was born in Aarhus on June 20, 1912, had been adopted by Ejler and Maren Bak in 1915.



Kirsti and Chris Andersen, 1989

Chris and Kirsti were married in 1935 and had two children, Poul (1936-2008) and Else (1939-). They spent the first few years farming. Some years later, Chris took over Kirsti's father's sawmill and carpentry shop in Balle.

In 1957, Chris and Kirsti, as well as their eighteen-year-old daughter Else, immigrated to Canada. They sailed from Aarhus, on June 20th on the *MS Stockholm*. They were amazed by all the different food on board; and every night there was dancing to a live band. On June 23rd the whole ship was decorated with lights and flowers in celebration of Saint Hans. As they sailed north of Scotland they ran into a four-day storm. Kirsti was seasick, but Chris and Else managed to ride it out. Some days only between 20 and 30 people came to eat in the dining room. As a precaution the swimming pool was emptied and couldn't be used.

They arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax on June 29th and were “landed”. They then travelled by train to Edmonton, Alberta. In Edmonton they were reunited with their son, Poul, who had immigrated two years earlier. Chris claimed that it was the children's idea to come to Canada. They considered Canada to be a land of great opportunity. However, it was not without hesitation that they left Denmark. It was a great distance, and they didn't know any English. The family leased their Danish property for five years, giving them an opportunity to return to Denmark if they changed their mind. Those five years would solidify Canada as their new home, and Chris briefly returned to Denmark to complete the sale of his property.

Seeking employment Chris and Poul looked into carpentry jobs, ending up working on the Chetwynd Hotel, in Chetwynd, British Columbia, under a man named Don Titus. The hotel bunkhouse was their first accommodation upon arriving in Chetwynd. Chris completed other small building jobs in town and continued to work for Don in Willow Flats. Chris also purchased a property from Don, and in his spare time built a small house in Chetwynd.

In October 1957, Chris briefly returned to Edmonton to fetch Kirsti, who had been working there as a housekeeper. Together they travelled back to Chetwynd, where Kirsti was hired as a

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chambermaid and general helper at the hotel. She worked there for seven years until illness required her to take early retirement. Kirsti filled her spare time with needlework and the maintenance of a garden that was considered to be one of the prettiest in Chetwynd.

During their first year in Chetwynd, Chris and Poul formed their own company, which they called Chetwynd Construction. They built the Bank of Commerce, Campbell's Grocery Store, a Hardware Store and a Service Station. Chris continued to buy property, and purchased two lots on the main street in Chetwynd. On the first property Chris and Poul built a Hardware store. They rented it out, but retained a workshop for Chetwynd Construction in the back of the store. After many years of hard work and renovations, they sold the small house, hardware building and workshop in 1967.



Chris and Kirsti with son Poul, fall 1957

In the fall of 1959, Chris and Poul had begun developing the second lot. They built a beauty salon for Else, who had just graduated from a Beautician school in Edmonton. Else operated Chetwynd Beauty Salon, until she married Soren Christian Jensen, an electrician who had emigrated from Copenhagen in 1956. The Chetwynd Beauty Salon was closed, when Else and Soren moved to Dawson Creek.

When Chris and Poul arrived in Chetwynd it was called Little Prairie, but the name was changed to Chetwynd by the British Columbia government when the railroad came through in 1959. Moberly Lake, about 20 km north of Chetwynd, was a First Nation community. Dawson Creek was over 100 km to the east, and that is where they had to go for groceries, on gravel road. In fact, it was gravel road all the way to Edmonton at that time.

Chris' move from a well-established home in Denmark to a pioneer town such as Chetwynd was a drastic change, and he professed that they experienced a great deal of culture shock as a family. Chetwynd appeared to be nothing but dirt roads and shabby, unfinished houses. Kirsti's flower garden was a totally unique addition to the town, as no one there had ever seen one like it. Fresh milk and butter were a Danish memory, as the family now had to mix canned milk with water. Plumbing was also an issue. The family spent their first year getting water from the creek. A man began to deliver water to a barrel on the family's front porch during their second year in Chetwynd. It wasn't until 1960 that the family was able to install indoor plumbing and receive running water. Living in Chetwynd also had its share of medical challenges, as there was no doctor in town. If anyone needed medical attention they had to drive to Dawson Creek, or in case of an emergency, call upon the first aid man at the lumber mill. In spite of the humble nature of the town, Chris discovered that one thing was certain: the people of Chetwynd were always genuine, friendly and helpful; they just didn't care for gardening!

In 1968, Poul pulled up stakes and headed for Oklahoma in the United States, where he was offered a superintendent position with Kewitt construction. In 1969, with their son and daughter no longer living nearby, Chris and Kirsti decided to sell everything and move to White Rock, south of Vancouver. They appreciated the milder climate, and the reduced amount of snow. They

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bought a house that was already framed, and lived in a motel while Chris put the finishing touches on it. The Andersens were soon able to put down roots and enjoy community life with some fellow Danes. They were invited to come to Granly, the Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, and enjoyed good fellowship there.

Not yet ready for retirement, Chris and Kirsti became caretakers of the newly built Dania Manor in Burnaby, B.C. As they were required to live at Dania Manor, they rented out their newly finished home. At Dania they met many lovely people and enjoyed becoming more involved in Vancouver's Danish community. After two years of working at Dania Manor, Chris and Kirsti moved back to their home in White Rock, but only for a brief time. In 1972, they built a new larger home in nearby Ocean Park, where Chris kept busy doing small renovation jobs. They enjoyed their garden which was always full of colourful flowers and beautiful hanging baskets. Besides the garden, Kirsti's main hobby was embroidery, and the craft tables at the Saint Hans Fest and the annual Julestue at Granly Lutheran Church were always loaded with pieces of her cross-stitch work.



A Family portrait - 1989

Back row: Bill, Kirsten, Linda and Soren.

Front row: Karin, baby Julia, Kirsti, Chris and Else.

Volunteer work at the Granly Church was very important to the couple. When the Church needed to expand, Chris helped to build both the church hall and parsonage. Chris also served on the church board. Chris and Kirsti considered their fellowship at Granly Church to be a pure blessing. Their friends and fellow immigrants were like family, and they had many happy memories from Granly.

Their daughter Else, son-in-law Soren, and their three granddaughters, Karin, Linda and Kirsten lived close by. Together, they enjoyed a close family bond. Chris and Kirsti enjoyed many road trips during their retirement. They drove as far as Oklahoma, where their son Poul, his wife, Joan, and their two children, Poul Erik and Michelle, lived. They enjoyed visiting the United States, but were always glad to return to Canada, the place they now called home.

Kirsti passed away on December 24, 1994 at the age of 82. She was writing Christmas Cards for the grandchildren when she suffered a stroke. The following year was a lonesome one for Chris. He and Kirsti had been due to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary. He died just over one year later, on December 29, 1995. The cause was congestive heart failure, but his family often thinks that he died of a broken heart. Chris Andersen was a pillar of Surrey's Danish community, and is dearly missed by both his Danish and Canadian friends.

Deep Roots in Dickson

Gordon Petersen

Growing up in Dickson in the 1950's and 60's, it was my good fortune to know where I came from – what my roots were – family, ethnic heritage and community. Although I never learned to speak Danish, I was very much aware of my Danish heritage on both sides of my family; Danish customs, Danish last names of most neighbours, and Danish accents were still common in the community.

As a boy, I was fascinated by the stories that were told at family gatherings about the early days in Dickson when it was a new settlement – family stories and how everyone had to pull together to overcome the many adversities they faced. Many of the stories had a humorous twist – reminiscing about the antics of family members, fellow settlers and the many eccentric characters that seemed to abound in this pioneer community.



*Bestefar Georg Nissen
1879-1970*

Although both sides of my family were Danish [the Petersens and the Nissens]; how they came to live in Dickson was dramatically different.

My dad, Harlan Petersen, was a member of the Christiansen clan – a prominent family group in Dickson among what is now referred to as the “first wave” of Danish immigrants who came to Western Canada before WWI – mostly from the United States. Dad was the youngest of six children of John Petersen and Lavinia Petersen [Christiansen]. He was born in 1914 in Dickson, very close to the present site of the Danish Canadian Museum. My grandparents, John and Lavinia came to Dickson in

1906 from Blair, Nebraska, along with my dad's three oldest siblings as well as my great-grandmother Marie Christiansen – Lavinia's mother. They were following in the footsteps of the original settlers to Dickson three years earlier in 1903. These original settlers included family members – my grandmother's sister [Laura Christiansen who was married to Carl Christiansen] as well as her brother, Chris Christiansen.



*Great Grandmother
Marie Christiansen
1853-1936*

My great uncle, Chris Christiansen – who we all called Uncle Chris – was quite a story teller who liked to reminisce about those early days. As a young man of 17, he was among the group in 1903 that came to Dickson in what was then still part of the Northwest Territories [Alberta didn't become a province until 1905]. He rode in the freight car with the household effects, equipment and livestock – a train journey that started in Blair [near Omaha], north to Winnipeg, then west to

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Calgary on the CPR mainline, and then north to Innisfail on the fairly new Calgary – Edmonton line. One of his legacies is a family history he wrote called “The Christiansen Outfit”. Here is an excerpt from that book about their first journey west from Innisfail to Dickson in 1903.

“On July 4th, 1903, the passenger train drew to a stop at the Innisfail station. How glad I was to see Carl, Laura and Homo [their infant son] emerge from the train. It cheered me like a shot in the arm. The sun shone brighter now. The wind blew with less sting.”

“A day or two later, we all set out for the land of promise, in three lumber wagons loaded with kitchen utensils, children and womenfolk. The men were supposed to walk. For two days, we headed westward, bumping over rough trails, wading mud holes, threading willow thickets, and spending the first night in a hall at Markerville. Up early the next morning, we continued the trek, arriving at Fred Pedersen’s place at about four o’clock in the afternoon. There was rejoicing, and some weeping, I believe, on part of the timid, and less venturesome.” [Note: Fred Pedersen was from the same group originating in Blair, but they had arrived earlier in April of that same year]. Just by comparison, that same journey from Innisfail to Dickson can now be easily done in less than 20 minutes.



*On the family farm at Dickson:
Harlan and Lydia Petersen,
Children: Linda, Roger, Elaine and Gordon,
Bestefar Georg Nissen Jan. 1952*

“The following day, the men went out to locate their homesteads, and very likely Carl and I pitched a tent on Carl’s homestead. The tent would provide our living quarters until a log house could be built. But building was more than an overnight job. It would take many days, and much hard work. This Carl and I began a few days later by chopping down the first logs; thus the routine of daily labour had begun, and the glamour of life in this new land began to fade, as some of its rigours made themselves felt.”

Many stories were told about my great-grandmother Marie Christiansen, the family matriarch. She came to United States from Slagelse, Denmark in 1870 as a young woman of 18. She along with her parents [Anders and Mary Petersen] and 10 siblings settled and farmed in Nebraska – in the vicinity of Blair. She married Peter Christiansen in 1873, a Danish immigrant, and raised a family of seven daughters and one son. She was widowed at the age of 37 when her children were still young, and had to provide for her family in the days before welfare. So she moved from the farm to buy a small house in Blair, where she took in the washing [mainly from students attending Dana College and Trinity Seminary], besides growing a big garden. She had quite a reputation in our family. Uncle Chris wrote:

“My mother was the 10th child of the Petersen family. She had a strong mind and did not suffer in silence. Her interests were centered on her household, her family and her church. She was intensely loyal to a cause and to a friend, affectionate and kind; but her affection was of the cool intellectual variety. Hers were sterling qualities that enabled her to bring up her family with nothing at her disposal but moral courage and hard work.”

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My grandmother Lavinia was the eldest of the Christiansen sisters.

“She was pretty with dark eyes and black hair. She was slender and of medium height. She married John Petersen. He had just come from Denmark [in 1895 from the island of Fyn near Odense] and was a curly-haired good-looking young man, who went to church. He was a tailor by trade, and knew a lot about women’s fashions, and could talk shop with the sisters. He soon owned his own shop, and they were married in 1899.”



*My grandparents,
Lavinia Christiansen and
John Petersen
Wedding in Blair, NE,
May 1899*

John and Lavinia started their family in Blair [Dad’s three oldest siblings Gerhold, Ernest and Vita], but apparently the poor economic conditions at the time in Nebraska, the appeal of homestead land in Canada, and the desire to reconnect with family combined to draw them to a new life in Dickson in 1906.

Before too long, all but two of my great-grandmother’s children came from Nebraska to Dickson, at least for a time. Several of my grandmother’s sisters had families of their own, so my dad had lots of cousins, aunts and uncles. He would often tell about their family gatherings, the biggest and most important of course being the Christmas Eve celebration which was always held at Carl and Laura Christiansen’s home, located in the upstairs floor above the Dickson Store which they ran, now the site of the Dickson Store Museum.

In those early years, Dickson was a cohesive community, with the Danish Lutheran church, their Danish heritage, the school, Dickson Store and Post Office, plus strong family connections bringing and holding them together. Also, with the poor roads in the early years, they were quite isolated. Among the early settlers, most had no experience with farming — Fred Pedersen was the only one with a farming background. So the others, like my grandfather [a tailor], Carl Christiansen [a storekeeper] and others who were tradesmen, looked to him for advice. Overall, getting established on the new homesteads was very challenging. Although they had to work very hard to build up their farms, once the land was cleared of trees and the drainage district was established to drain the many sloughs, it proved to be good productive loam soil suitable for both crops and livestock. So, they were able to make a living – everyone was still quite poor, but they got by and continued to work hard and build for the future of their families.



*My parents Harlan and
Lydia Petersen
Wedding in Calgary,
April 1940*

Because of these attributes, many other families of Danish heritage, both from United States and Denmark, were attracted to Dickson. This included both the first wave immigrants before WWI and the second wave group, mostly in the 1920’s but some in the 1930’s although the depression of the 1930’s hit Alberta and the Dickson area very hard. A sampling of family names that arrived to make their homes in the Dickson district included the Pedersens, Petersens, Christiansens, Christensens, Morcks, Hindbos, Adamsens, Kures, Kjeersgaards, Laursens, Larsens, Norres, Thomsens, Westergaards, Lonnebergs, Jensens, and the Nissens. An interesting phenomenon that was common was the arrival of young bachelors from Denmark who came to

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find land, and also found wives. Examples included Viggo Johnsen and Viggo Nielsen who married into the Hindbo family, and Niels Thesberg, Hank Kemtrup, and Axel Brink who married into the Morck family. They all remained in Dickson and raised families of their own.



*The Nissen family when they arrived in Canada from Denmark
February 1928, at Pier 21 in Halifax
Mom [Lydia] is the girl with the bow in her hair*

And that brings me to my mom's side of the family – the Nissens. The Nissen's were "second wave" immigrants directly from Denmark to Dickson in 1928. Our Bestefar Georg Nissen, Bestemor Sophia Nissen [Fredericksen] and their eight children lived in Oster Logum in South Jutland – which was part of Germany from 1864 and then repatriated to Denmark in 1920. Bestefar was of German background and Bestemor was Danish. They sailed by ship from Denmark, disembarked at Pier 21 in Halifax, and then took the CPR immigrant train across Canada – from Halifax to Calgary, then

north to Innisfail where they were met by a group of Dickson residents – fellow Danes who helped them with the final leg of their journey west to Dickson by horse and wagon.

The Nissens settled on a small farm a few miles southwest of Dickson, just down the road from the Morcks. My mom recalled how disappointed her mother was when she first saw the house they would be living in – she thought it was the chicken house. Bestemor had come from a well-established family in Denmark and did not thrive in the frontier life of Dickson. Bestefar on the other hand, loved the adventure of it all and fit right into the community.

My mom, Lydia, was 13 when they arrived in Dickson. In school, she had to start at grade 1 level for language, while in the other subjects she would have been at the grade 7 or 8 level. She spoke fondly of her first teacher – Ruth Norre – who could speak Danish and helped greatly with learning English.

The Nissen family, with 5 daughters and 3 sons, had quite a presence in their new community – particularly in the Danish Lutheran Church [Bethany congregation], which played a very important role in the development of Dickson. Four of the Nissen daughters married sons of the early settlers: Christine married Homo Christiansen, eldest son of Carl and Laura Christiansen, Sophia married Richard Pedersen, only son of Fred and Stena Pedersen, Helen married Gordon Christiansen, younger son of Carl and Laura Christiansen, and my mom Lydia married my dad Harlan, youngest son of John and Lavinia Petersen. All these couples remained in Dickson and raised families of their own, and that's how I came into this picture in 1949. Homo and Gordon Christiansen ran the Dickson Store and Post Office [and the Locker and Meat Processing Plant after 1947], while Richard Pedersen and Dad carried on with farming.

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My aunt Margaret Nissen was an amazing lady with an adventuresome spirit she must have inherited from Bestefar. She never married, and started her career as a school teacher. In fact, she was a teacher for some time at the newly established Dickson High School and I believe also served as house mother at the “girls dorm” where the Danish Canadian Museum is now located. What she was best known for was her service for many years as a missionary in Nigeria in



The Christiansen family at the Dickson store in 1916. Matriarch Marie Christiansen with five of her daughters, Lavinia, Laura, Augusta, Nora and Hannah and their spouses, one son, Chris, and 12 grandchildren. My dad Harlan is the 2-year-old in the bottom right hand corner looking back at my grandfather John Petersen.

Africa. Margaret was a born teacher, leader and story teller, with a very strong faith, much loved and admired by everyone who had anything to do with her. I remember as a boy looking forward to her furlough visits back home to Dickson, where she would bring artifacts from Africa to show us [the python snake skin was my favourite], and tell stories about her work there.

The three Nissen sons all reached outside of Dickson when it came time for marriage. Hans and John married sisters from Sedgewick, Alberta [one of the Norwegian communities in the Camrose area] and took up farming at the home place down by the Red Deer River. I remember many family gatherings at John’s place, and the big

attraction for us as young boys [4 cousins the same age – James Nissen, Clint Nissen, David Christiansen, and me] was the river. Despite warnings from our mothers that it was dangerous, the draw was irresistible – we just couldn’t stay away from it. The youngest son, George, left home to serve in the army during WWII, then married and lived on Vancouver Island most of his life – at the time of this writing, he is the only one still living at age 98.

Of my four grandparents, the only one who was still living when I was growing up was Bestefar Georg Nissen – I have many fond memories of him. Although I was one of many grandchildren, Bestefar had a special way of connecting and making me feel special. Bestefar loved his large family and would often come to our place for meals, would preside over many Nissen family gatherings, and we saw him every Sunday at church. Bestefar was a champion for education and was one of the driving forces behind establishing the high school in Dickson [I believe one of the first of its kind in rural Alberta], as well as getting the “girls dorm” built [now the site of the Danish Canadian Museum]. According to my cousin, Clint Nissen, it was Bestefar who planted the spruce trees which are now so prominent on the Danish Canadian Museum site. Bestefar’s generosity was legendary – he was always doing something to help someone else out. Because of his German background, he had a soft spot in his heart for immigrants from Germany who came after WWII, were very poor and struggling. Although there weren’t many in the immediate Dickson area, there were some in the larger region.

My mom and dad were married in 1940 at Sharon Lutheran Church – the Danish congregation in Calgary. The wedding was in Calgary rather than Dickson, because that is where my grandfather

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John Petersen was hospitalized with terminal cancer – he died shortly after. They took up farming at John and Lavinia’s home place 1 mile west of Dickson and lived there for several years. My oldest siblings, the twins Linda and Roger, were born in 1941. Several years later, they bought land one mile north of Dickson and established the farmstead where I grew up. My sister Elaine was born in 1947 and I showed up on the scene in 1949. Ours was pretty typical of families in the Dickson area in the 1950’s and 60’s. There were lots of families with lots of kids about our same age – the post-war baby boom was in full evidence in Dickson.



Harlan and Lydia on Dad's 90th birthday with children Roger, Linda, Elaine and Gordon, and spouses, Florence, Dick, Lin and Maxine

By this time, the farms in the area were well established and farm families were making a decent living, although no one would be considered wealthy – the era of land consolidation that led to larger and fewer farms was just beginning in the 1960’s. I recall my dad saying that the original settlers who came in the early 1900’s never really had the chance to enjoy the fruits of all their hard work and struggles to overcome the many hardships they faced. While the 1920’s were promising with good progress, the depression of the 1930’s was brutal for small farmers in Alberta, including Dickson. While no one went hungry, they had no money, and it was very demoralizing for those early settlers who by this time were getting on in years. So, it wasn’t until the next generation of farmers, of my dad’s era who came of age during and after the war years and who knew far more about farming than their parents, that they were able to get better established and see some financial rewards for their efforts.

My first 4 years of school was at the Dickson School. This was the era of rural school consolidation, and in 1959, I shifted to the new Spruce View School 2 miles north of Dickson, and went there from grades 5 to 12. The Dickson School, like other schools in the region such as Markerville, was closed. The school building was later incorporated into the construction of the new church building which is there today.

Beside school, other activities I was involved with included Cubs and Boy Scouts, church, Luther League. Like my sisters and a great many other Dickson area children, I also took piano lessons from Arla Morck. For me, the old outdoor skating rink at Dickson was like a giant magnet. Every chance I got, I would be there skating and playing hockey. The rink was a big part of the social and recreational life at Dickson, as it had been when my dad was a boy decades earlier. As we got a bit older, we would help with clearing the snow and flooding the ice – sometimes bringing our sleeping bags and staying over all night at “the shack” in the early winter when building up the ice thickness. One of the things that might seem unusual today is that most of the kids learned to drive on the farm at an early age, and by the time we were 14, most of us were driving by ourselves on the local roads, even though it wasn’t exactly legal.

While my growing up years were good in so many ways, I knew from a fairly early age that I did not want to stay in Dickson and follow in my dad’s footsteps as a farmer. So, when I finished high school in 1967, I left Dickson for more schooling, and then on to my career. I married, and have lived for the past 43 years in Kamloops, BC where my wife Maxine and I raised our family of 3 children, who have now left home and are raising families of their own, blessing us with 8

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grandchildren. We would come back to Dickson from time to time, but after my mom and dad left to retire elsewhere, our visits were only occasional. One such occasion was the Christiansen family reunion in 2003 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Dickson in 1903 when the first of the Christiansen family arrived. My dad and mom both lived to old age – dad died in 2005 at age 91, and mom lived to age 98, passing away in 2013.

In 2008, I agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Danish Canadian Museum, including three years as President. This brought me back to Dickson much more often, reconnecting with fellow Board members who were also from Dickson, including Sharon Thesberg, Steve Morck, Harvey Brink and my cousin Clint Nissen. In addition to dealing with the affairs of the Museum, I reacquainted myself with the area and people I knew many years ago, recollecting many experiences [both good and not so good], and while driving around trying to remember which family lived on which farm. In 2013, the Museum did an outstanding job of hosting our 40th wedding anniversary. One of the things we did as a family then was to visit the cemetery at Dickson. I was able to show my children and grandchildren the graves of all my grandparents plus many relatives and others who had pioneered in Dickson.

At the Board meetings during lunch breaks and social time, those of us Board members with Dickson roots would sometimes talk about family connections, both direct “blood relatives”, and what we call “shirttail relatives” – that is, relatives by marriage. I think sometimes other Board members must have thought it sounded a bit like the Ozarks when we talked about being somehow or another related to pretty well everyone in the community. But nothing could be further from the truth. At that time, with the strong influence of the church, the Dickson community followed a very strict moral code, where any hint of intermarrying among blood relatives was absolutely taboo.

But the fact remains there were a lot of connections among the families through marriage. Here are some examples to illustrate the point. Steve Morck and I have a connection as follows – his mother Arla Morck [Norre] was a first cousin to my aunt Anna Petersen [Norre], who was married to my dad’s older brother Evelyn. This connection through the Norres to the Morcks also extended to the Westergaard and Kjearsgaard families through other marriages, although the path was somewhat circuitous.

Another example of connections among some of the larger family groupings involved my great aunt Hannah Adamsen [Christiansen] who married into the Adamsen family, another significant family in the early years of the Dickson settlement. Her daughter, Sylvia [my dad’s first cousin] married Hans Hindbo, from the very large family of Jeppe Hindbo. This in turn resulted, through Hans’ sisters, to connections with the Kure, Johnsen and Nielsen families. Through the Adamsen family, there was also a connection to the Lonneberg family, significant in the history of Dickson because “old man Lonneberg”, a carpenter, built homes for many of the early settlers in the area.

On reflection, I feel very fortunate to have grown up in Dickson. I have great admiration for the strength of character and tenacity of those who went before – my grandparents and the other settlers. I owe a debt of deep gratitude to these early pioneers and my parents – who worked so hard and diligently out of love for family and a strongly held conviction that this is just what you do – to be contributing members of society. There is no question in my mind that they, like pioneers across the country, prepared the way for the prosperity and good life we enjoy today. Paraphrasing a quote from Isaac Newton, *“it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants – those early pioneers – that this has been made possible”*.

Willy Andersen

Knud Petersen

In 1951 two Danish immigrants, Willy and Jytte Andersen, stepped ashore in Montreal, equipped with C\$100, (the maximum amount of foreign currency they were allowed to take out of Denmark), and no jobs waiting for them. Through an aunt of a friend they found a small furnished apartment, available for a month, but jobs were harder to come by. Jytte finally landed an office job, but was promptly laid off the next day, as her English was not considered fluent enough. But the \$10 she received with her pink slip was still a break, as by now they were down to their last two dollars.

Shortly after, Willy managed to get a foot in the door at Saguenay Terminals, a steamship company, with which he subsequently stayed for the next several years, while solidifying his formal education at night at Sir George Williams (later Concordia University), graduating with a B. Com in 1956.

Willy was born in Vejle on October 15, 1923, and brought up ‘to becoming Jutlandic modesty and dry humour’ (klædelig jysk beskedenhed og tør humor’), something that stayed with him throughout his life. After high school, Willy started an apprenticeship in shipping with a local company of ship brokers and agents, lasting from just before and through most of Denmark’s occupation by Nazi Germany. While peacefully employed in an office during the day, he was deeply involved with the resistance movement at night, risking his life as a member of a group trained in receiving and passing on arms and explosives dropped by British planes.

The year 1944 saw Willy in Copenhagen, starting at Niels Brocks Handelsskole (a well-known commercial college), from where he graduated in 1946, a year after the end of World War II. At a dance one night during this period he was introduced to Jytte, a charming young lady. They married in April 1949. Before the marriage he had spent a year in Belgium, as a trainee at a company of ship brokers, partly to learn more about his chosen profession and partly to improve his French. Willy was already proficient in German and English. However, his military service couldn’t be postponed any longer.

Out of the army 18 months later, Willy found work with a Copenhagen shipping company, while Jytte pursued her commercial education and training. When Canada opened its doors for immigration, the two of them, along with many other Danes, decided that it was time to try their wings abroad in this enticing new country. Incidentally, some time after being laid off from her short lived office job in Montreal, Jytte was called back by the same company; they needed a qualified bookkeeper, and her lack of fluency in English was not considered critical. Later she moved to a new job with the CBC’s International Section. In other words, things were looking up for them with two incomes. So in 1958 they built a house in Roxboro as their family had started to grow: one boy, Stephen, had arrived to be joined later by Peter and Christine.

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Before that in 1956, Willy had been approached by the large German conglomerate, Stinnes Shipping, offering him a position to head their new subsidiary opening in Montreal. However, as part of the deal he (and Jytte) first had to spend nine months at Head Office in Germany, so Willy could familiarize himself with and absorb company information, procedures, and guidelines. Towards the end of this German tenure, the Suez Crisis erupted and threatened to become a major international conflict, so it was time to get home - fast! And now home was no longer Vejle or Copenhagen, but Montreal. Fortunately, a major war was averted, and Willy could concentrate on establishing the new Stinnes subsidiary.



*Willy and Jytte Andersen
were married on April 13, 1949*

In the early 1970s Willy Andersen started his own company, Anship Ltd. It became a corporation on July 28, 1981. Acting as the Montreal agent for various shipping companies could also, aside from being an ‘around-the-clock-occupation’, present all kinds of challenges, such as looking after all the paperwork and all the needed provisions and other supplies, but also looking after sick sailors, or sailors that didn’t make it back onboard before departure; or, for instance, to replace a pair of crushed glasses for a key person onboard, within 24 hours! In the shipping community, nearly everyone knows everyone else around the world; if they don’t, they’ll know someone else who does. In other words, your reputation is everything! If your customers are happy with your service, more potential customers will hear favourably about you, just as the reverse also holds true. And so, step by step, Willy’s company, Anship Ltd., became known for its reliability and for providing excellent service, and as a result the company grew.

Credentials, tie-ins and connections also count. After having successfully passed a written examination at the British Consulate General in Montreal, Willy could add ‘I.C.S’: after his name, i.e. ‘Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Ship brokers of London’. He was also a member of the ‘Jaycees’ and the Shipping Federation of Canada, as well as a quarter-century member of the Traffic Club of Montreal.

With all these involvements and attending to his own new business, one might think that there wouldn’t be time for ‘extracurricular’ activities. Yet, Willy was also active in various other associations, such as The Danish Club in Montreal, serving as President twice. He introduced the Club to the current highly popular ‘Danish Lunch’ with ‘smørrebrød’, beer, Danish Akvavit and Danish pastry, having noticed that whereas normal luncheon meetings were poorly attended, invitations to Club members to come for ‘Danish lunch’ aboard a Danish ship in port would - with barely 24 hours’ notice - result in every single member showing up.

When he involved himself in something, he would inevitably end up at the top, being the natural leader he was. Thus, for many years he was President of ‘Foreningen Niels Brock Canada’, an alumni association connected to his old school in Denmark. He was President of the

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Rotary Club of Montreal, plus later, in 1998, after having sold Anship Ltd., District Governor of Rotary International District 7040. He was particularly attracted to Rotary's international projects in Third World Countries and worked on numerous ones over the years, helping less fortunate people.

After retirement Willy functioned as an arbitrator for the Association of Maritime Arbitrators of Canada, and at one time also served as its President. Some of Anship's lesser known feats included Willy's initiation of, and involvement with introducing freight contracting to Canada's shipping market. Over the years his company had a very positive influence on the balance of payments of his old country, by chartering Danish ships for international transports.

The language at home was always Danish. In this way, the Andersen children grew up to become tri-lingual, attending English school and French immersion classes and, in due course, pursuing university educations.

Willy passed away on May 23, 2002, after a lengthy struggle with cancer. But even in hospital, towards the end, his flashing smile and dry humour didn't completely leave him. To a visiting friend, he quipped: 'you know, by now I've spent time in every single ward of this hospital; except maternity'. His sense of humour, and timing, was renowned. For instance, without him, the Annual General Meetings of The Danish Club were never again the same. While observing every prescribed form of decorum, he would with a deadpan face intercept or question points of order, and have the entire membership in stitches; time and time again! He gave life his very best, which is what it's all about! And we are all the richer for having known him.

THE DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY "DANIA"

Our objectives are to promote friendly social and cultural activities;
To provide suitable meeting places for various cultural functions;
To keep in contact with Danish and Scandinavian Clubs in the
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Jytte Margrethe Andersen

Peter Andersen and Jette Blair

Jytte Margrethe Andersen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, on August 25, 1926, the second daughter of Christian Jacobsen and Astrid, née Hansen. During the Second World War, Jytte and Willy Andersen met in Copenhagen, at a dance, no less.

For a year Willy lived in Belgium, where, he claimed, he learned the correct way to cook French fries. However, he was there to learn French! On his return to Denmark in April 1949, Willy and Jytte were married. At the time it was easy for Danes to immigrate to Canada, so they decided to give this a try. After arriving in Montreal in 1951, Jytte managed to land an office job in a Danish corporation, and stayed there for the next five years, working in accounting, which was her field of expertise. She then worked at CBC International Radio, where she did short wave broadcasts in Danish.

Their children Stephen, Peter and Christine, were born in 1957, 1959, and 1965. While the children were growing up, Jytte stayed home to raise them. But when Willy started his own company, Anship Ltd., in the 1970s, Jytte went to work in their company as the accountant/bookkeeper, once again making use of her training.

During the 70s Jytte became involved with an organization called STOP – Society to Overcome Pollution. They had a glass recycling depot at their house in Roxboro where people could drop off their glass bottles, jars, etc., which were then picked up and sent to a recycling facility. This was years before recycling became the norm. Jytte was a concerned citizen and ahead of her time.



Jytte Andersen at the microphone at CBC International Radio, broadcasting on short wave to Denmark in Danish

While the children were young, Jytte kept her Danish citizenship, in case anything happened to Willy. Should something happen to him, she would be able to return to Denmark and have the support of her family. Then in 1980, the Referendum on Quebec's sovereignty loomed. Ever the concerned citizen, Jytte moved heaven and earth and became a Canadian Citizen in time to cast her vote in the referendum. Canadians from coast to coast were captivated by the referendum campaign. It was a great relief when nearly 60% of Quebec voters chose to remain in Canada. Jytte did her part, once again!

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In 1979 the Andersen family moved to Westmount, so the commute to work and school (Concordia and McGill Universities) would be easier for everyone. Jytte continued to work at Anship. For a time, Stephen and Peter also worked there.

Jytte and Willy were extremely generous with their friends. One time when close friends - who had moved back to Denmark - were in Montreal for a visit, Jytte and Willy let them stay in their house even though they were away. Willy even let them use his car for the duration of their stay.

After Willy passed away, Jytte moved, in 2003, to Ottawa to be closer to Peter and his family and lived in a condominium that she and Willy had purchased some years earlier as a rental property. But by 2013, Jytte was no longer able to live on her own, due to dementia and moved into the Ravines Retirement Residence in Ottawa. She lived there until she passed away on December 1, 2016 at the age of 90.

Jytte left behind her three children and their spouses. Her three grandsons, Eric, Trevor and the late Evan, knew her as their farmor. As well, she left many dear friends. She is fondly remembered by all.



Erik Høgh

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The year after the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto was inaugurated; Erik Høgh was elected to the Church Council. During the next forty years he would sit on the



Church Council for 22 years in total. In the period 1967 to 2007, he served seven years as director, seventeen years as treasurer and four years as president (from 1982 to 1985). For over twenty-five years he also served as deacon, preparing for the Service, reading the prayers and leading the singing of the hymns. Moreover, for twenty-five years he served as editor of *Kirkehilsen*, the church bulletin, producing it on his Mac computer. For ten years he was also editor of the *Kirkehilsen* published by the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby. As well, Erik printed numerous illustrated programmes and song sheets.

Erik Høgh has also been 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. Erik has attended many Danish Canadian Conferences, but it was not until 2016 that he finally attended a Danish Heritage Seminar. At that time he was 90 years old.

Erik Høgh was born in Vejgaard, east of downtown Aalborg on May 16, 1926, the son of Svend Jensen and Jensine, née Larsen. Svend Jensen was known as Høgh, a name the family had used for a couple of generations. Erik was baptised Erik Høgh Jensen, but legally dropped the Jensen as an adult.

Erik has a younger sister, Birte, who still lives in Aalborg. She is married with one daughter and two grandchildren. Erik and Birte are very close and often speak to each other on the phone.

Erik's father worked at a large cement factory in Aalborg, the town being known nationally for its cement production. When Erik was five years old the family moved to Nørre Tranders, east of Aalborg, where Erik grew up. He received Realeksamen from Realskolen, the High School in Vejgaard.

After graduating from Realskolen he apprenticed in the office of H.H. Kjærulff, a Morris car dealership in the centre of Aalborg, which also sold Willys, an American car. Willys later

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became well-known for military jeeps. He was an apprentice for four years, and in the evening he attended Handelsskolen, the commercial school in Aalborg.

During the Nazi occupation of Denmark the dealership refused to repair vehicles belonging to Danes who worked for the Wehrmacht. In retaliation in the fall of 1944 the show room and



Danish Federation's Ontario Meeting at the Danish Church in Toronto, January 1985. Ontario Region President Erik Høgh is in the middle, back row.

offices of H.H. Kjørulff were blown up by the Schalburg Corps, an SS unit. Surprisingly the Schalburg Corps did not blow up the large repair shop. Erik remembers coming to work that morning, with glass all over the street and show room. His office was badly damaged, but he and the rest of the staff cleaned up the mess and carried on as well as they could.

Erik still remembers the evening of May 4, 1945, when he and his mother heard the news of the liberation on the radio. After the late shift that evening, his dad travelled home on his bike surrounded by jubilant Danes celebrating on the streets. When his dad arrived home the family quickly proceeded to tear down the blackout curtains. A dark period was now behind them.

In 1948 Erik was called up to serve in the army, which was compulsory at the time. He was chosen to serve with the Royal Danish Guards in Copenhagen, an elite infantry regiment tasked with protecting the royal family and the royal residences. But after three months of basic training with the Royal Guards at Sandholmlejren he was transferred to Forsvarets Intendanturkorps, the Danish Military Supply Corps, where he learned the army accounting system. Then after a further three months of training and education he was stationed in Tønder, just north of the Danish-German border, with the Fodfolkepionerkommando.

After his tour of duty in the army Erik returned to H.H. Kjørulff in Aalborg, working as an accountant. They had asked him to come back, which pleased Erik, as his return wasn't certain when he was drafted. He was glad to be back in familiar surroundings. But after some years he was not treated well and moved on to another job in Grenå.

In 1956 Erik started working for A. Schjøth in Vejle, one of Jylland's largest steel and iron companies. It was a promotion because all of a sudden Erik had a staff of seven bookkeepers, four of whom were apprentices. The total staff of the company consisted of about 40 people. The Schjøth family in Vejle were movers and shakers. Mr. Schjøth was Swedish Consul and the Schjøth family had taken the initiative to build Our Saviour Church in Vejle at the turn of the century. Erik spent many years there and was well liked. On his last working day Erik was invited for a goodbye drink to a local restaurant by some of the ladies. Erik was surprised to find the whole staff and management there for the farewell party before he left for Canada. One of the farewell gifts was a pair of Georg Jensen silver cufflinks engraved with his initials, initials which Erik had designed himself! Those cufflinks are today one of his most prized possessions.

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Erik came to Canada in 1964 at the age of 38. He had been on a trip to Rome in 1963 and here he met a Canadian, Bill Rundle. They hit it off and later met again in Vejle. For Christmas 1963 Bill sent Erik a key to his house in Toronto, and Erik immediately decided that he was going to immigrate to Canada. Erik consequently moved to Canada to live with Bill. Erik worked for Bill Rundle's wholesale company on Yonge Street, Toronto, which imported and sold gift items across Canada. Many of the gift items were bought in Europe. So this was a new life for Erik.



Erik Hogh receives the 40-year medal from Hank Bangild, President of the Royal Danish Guards Assoc., Eastern Canada, Oct. 2010.

For the first eight years in Canada, Erik and Bill lived in Toronto. But already in 1964, Bill had bought the old Rosehill School House in Caledon, north of Toronto, situated on a one acre lot. They would go to Caledon on the weekend. It was a way to get out of the city and enjoy the country side. When they bought Rosehill it was one big rectangular classroom with a 15-foot ceiling. The contractor suggested dividing the room into two squares by building a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, keeping the full ceiling height in front and making two levels behind, with a kitchen and dining room below, and a bedroom and bathroom above. By chance the stonemason who built the large fireplace was Valdemar Ostergaard, Liselotte's father.

In 1972 they made the School House their primary residence, meaning a two-hour drive to work in Toronto. They then sought to put an addition on the back, which was approved as long as they didn't change the façade. Later when the adjacent farm was divided into ten-acre lots, they bought ten acres, which ensured a country setting, but also involved more yard work.

The School House was renovated and expanded, making it a real home. The house was gradually filled with antiques, artwork and interesting artifacts, some even from the original schoolhouse. It was like a living museum with tasteful decorations. Most of the items were "Canadiana", but with a touch of Danish, such as the blue Royal Copenhagen Christmas plates. The house was a show piece and was at one point featured in the *Canadian Living* magazine.

Erik loved his garden and tended lovingly to the trees, bushes, lawn and beautiful flowers. He was a member of the Orangeville Horticulture Association from 1984. In August 2007 Erik was presented with the Silver Medal Award, which is accompanied with a framed certificate. It is the Ontario Horticultural Association's highest award, which is given for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the aims of the association. This is his most cherished award.

For his work for the Federation he has received the Ontario Volunteer Award and has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Danish Federation.

For years Erik would invite the congregation of the Danish Church in Toronto to come to his house in Caledon for Saint Hans in June. The first invitation to this mid-summer festival was extended by Erik and Bill in 1978, and a tradition was started, which continued for the next

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twenty-five years. It was a popular event with a bonfire, singing and lots of food. Many Danes have happy memories of enjoying the event, the school house and the peaceful surroundings.

For twenty years Erik worked with Bill. They had a good life together. Sadly, Bill passed away in 1984. This was a big blow and change for Erik. It was also at this time that Erik started working for Teddy Pedersen in Toronto as an accountant. Erik worked for Teddy Pedersen from 1984 to 1996. Originally the idea was for Erik to replace the bookkeeper while she was on maternity leave. However, she never came back and Erik ended up working for Teddy Pedersen for 12 years. Teddy had three companies: a bus company; the travel bureau Unity Travel; and Teddy Pedersen World Travel, which was a wholesale company selling to other travel agencies. Teddy arranged charter flights to Denmark for Danish Canadians. Teddy Pedersen did well and was known throughout the Danish community. Teddy was also generous and donated airline tickets to churches and clubs, which were drawn as door prizes at bazaars and dinner/dances.



Attractively carved bureau in the Rosehill School House

Teddy rented airplanes from Sterling Airways, a Danish company. But when Sterling Airways went bankrupt in 1993, it eventually pulled Teddy's companies down as well. Teddy approached other airlines in order to charter flights, but they were more expensive, making it difficult for Teddy to operate a viable business.



The historic Rosehill School House in beautiful surroundings, was both cozy and elegant.

In 1984 Erik and Barry Dimock became partners, living at the old Rosehill School House in Caledon. Barry was from Kitchener, Ontario, and had travelled extensively in Europe. In 1967, Barry, who had worked in public relations at a Shakespeare theatre company in England, helped restore and renovate the old impressive St. Lawrence Hall on King Street East in Toronto, as part of a centennial project. Barry was also a whiz on the computer. They had a good life together. However, in September 2010, Barry, dear partner of Erik for 26 years, passed away in his 78th year. According to his wishes, he was interred at Sunset Mindepark.

After Barry's passing, Erik started to consider downsizing, and he explored several options in Caledon and Toronto. After forty-two years in Caledon the upkeep of the house and property was too much of a burden for one person who was getting on in age.

In 2014 Erik started to empty the Rosehill School House. Erik had some professionals come in, who organized an auction to dispose of a substantial portion of the equipment such as rototiller, riding lawn mower and snow blower. Then there were the walnut dining chairs with arms and upholstered seats, armoires, chests, sofas, mirrors, cupboards, book shelves, desks and cabinets. Lastly there was the copper weather vane, brass fire nozzles and water jugs, not to mention the

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many pieces of artwork. The auction brought in a nice sum of money. Erik was pleased with the result.

It was a sad day when Erik left the School House and moved to Etobicoke, to be closer to Toronto. Nevertheless, Erik found a suitable penthouse on Clement Road, from where he can easily get to the Danish Church on Sundays. In his beautifully decorated apartment he is still surrounded by some of the lovely antiques which are so dear to him.

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Tage Kurt Andersen

1927 – 2016

Per and Vicki Andersen

Tage Kurt Andersen was born in Copenhagen to Bengt and Petra Andersen on a windy Wednesday, March 9, 1927. Tage spent his early years in the small town of Store Heddinge, where his father, Bengt Andersen, operated a successful blacksmith business.



Tage was the first of four children. Together with his sister Agnethe and his two brothers, Helge and Asger, he was raised in a yellow smitty on a small farm adjacent to the business. Although the original windmill is still standing, the forge and bellows of the blacksmith shop have long since disappeared, replaced by a more modern enterprise, a farm machinery sales and service operation. Tage was always pleased and proud of the fact that the business and the farm remained in the Andersen family over the years. Today, his nephew, Anders, and his family, live in the same yellow smitty and operate the family business.

Although Denmark overcame the Great Depression relatively easy compared to some other countries, being a young boy during the 1930's meant that things didn't come easy. In exchange for a moderate allowance, Tage was required to do chores around the farm and help out in the shop after school. The heat of the shop mixed well with Tage's entrepreneurial spirit. When local farmers brought their horses in for new shoes it was a long and hot wait for them. In addition to helping his father, Tage would offer to help out the thirsty farmers while they waited, by retrieving a cold beer from the nearby store - for a price.

Tage was always proud of the fact that his driving record was near perfect. He attributed this to the fact that he had been driving since he was 12 years old. At this young age Tage again supplemented his allowance with after-school and weekend employment, but this time rather than driving his bicycle, he was driving the truck for a local business man, who delivered beer to farmers in the countryside.

Tage's teenage years coincided with the German occupation of Denmark. He was just 13 years old when Denmark was invaded and occupied by Germany in April 1940. During that period times were difficult. However, Tage managed to continue his education and entered into the trades in 1943. He completed his apprenticeship as a painter in 1945.

At 18, Tage joined the Danish army as required. Although never much of a hunter he became a champion marksman and won many awards. While in the military Tage's cousin invited him to join him at a country dance. There, by chance, they encountered a friend who introduced his

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cousin, a young lady named Ruth Hansen. Tage and Ruth danced all night and soon began dating. The romance flourished, and not long after they were married at Højerup Church. They were blessed with 48 years of marriage, until Ruth passed away in 1998.



Petra, Tage & Bengt Andersen

In the beginning of their marriage Ruth and Tage lived in a modest home in Louisenborg. Both were goal-oriented and industrious. They worked hard and saved until they were able to move into a single-family home in Store Heddinge. There they welcomed their first child, a son, Per. Two years later a daughter, Anita, was born.

Tage opened a shop in Store Heddinge where he worked as a commercial painter, painting signage on cars and buses as well as doing some sideline automotive repair. On weekends, they enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Tage was delighted when he was finally able to purchase their first car, a Ford of course.

In February 1957, seeking change, adventure, and with prodding from Knut and Lily Lauritsen in Red Deer, Alberta, Ruth and Tage decided to make the leap and join their friends in North America. Although it was only meant to be a temporary move, they sold most of their belongings before packing two wooden crates, built in his father's workshop (they would later become their first coffee tables), to take across the Atlantic. With luggage in hand, and two small children (ages 6 and 4) in tow, they boarded the *MS Stockholm* in Copenhagen, and set off for Canada. On May 22, 1957, they stood on the deck of the ocean liner and waved good bye to family, not knowing when, or if, they would see each other again.

In 1957 ocean liners were small in comparison to today's cruise ships. The seven-day journey was marked by one of the famous north Atlantic storms that used up the ship's supply of gravol, taken against motion sickness. This made for much story telling over the following years. Overall the crossing was relatively smooth and the travel comfortable with a cruise-like atmosphere. There was skeet-shooting over the side and deck shuffle board. Tage and Ruth dressed for formal dinners and danced while the children were entertained with many on-board activities. Friends were made on that crossing, which continued in Canada, and lasted for years as the new arrivals adjusted to the new country together.



Andersen farm in Store Heddinge, Stevns

On Per's seventh birthday, May 29, the *Stockholm* docked at Pier 21 in Halifax. A spectacular show to celebrate the final day of the journey was given with smartly dressed waiters entering the dining hall carrying ice statues lit by candles. Per was delighted, thinking it must have something to do with his birthday! Many years later Tage had the opportunity to visit Pier 21 and saw their names on a passenger list within the museum, which now commemorates the large waves of immigration to Canada when immigrants arrived by ship.

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With the trans-Atlantic crossing completed, the final destination of Red Deer, Alberta was still a week away by train. On May 30, 1957, translation book in hand, and less than \$100 for re-settlement, Tage and family climbed on the train headed for Red Deer. Opportunities for getting off the train were few and far between, so when it stopped in Winnipeg, Tage was sent off to buy some “non-train” food. His English at a minimum, he used his translation book to decipher the length of the stay in Winnipeg. He thought 40 minutes, but the conductor meant 14. The train left Winnipeg with Ruth and the kids on board, but without Tage. Stress has a way of showing itself and fellow passengers rallied with words of support and donations of food and goodies for the kids as the person with the money, passports and translation book went missing. Back in Winnipeg officials with the CNR and the RCMP were problem solving for Tage and family, as they tried to figure out how to re-unite them. Uncharacteristic of anything that would happen today; they commandeered an old locomotive



Tage in the army

with coal car attached to “chase” the CNR Day-liner to Saskatoon with Tage and engineer as sole passengers. For Ruth and the kids the delayed stop in Saskatoon was puzzling, but became obvious when a soot-stained, grinning Tage boarded the Day-liner to the applause and cheers of the entire car!

With Knut and Lily Lauritsen hosting the family in Red Deer, Tage found work immediately as a farm hand, but it was not long before was able to return to his trade as a painter working for a Dutch immigrant contractor. Between the two of them, English was out of bounds, so sign language ruled the day, and they managed to get the right colours on the right walls (if you believe everything he said)!

Living in Red Deer, along with numerous other Danes, provided the Andersens with abundant connections to the Danish community and Danish culture. To this day, Red Deer and the surrounding area remains a major centre for Danish culture. For many, including Tage, Ruth and kids, their first homes were sparsely furnished, but meticulously clean and tidy. Ruth became terribly homesick, and though she refused to fully unpack for better than a year, they managed to persevere. Friends were always welcome at their home and an evening with coffee, cake and cards were regular occurrences. As soon as they were able to afford a car (another Ford) their spare time was spent exploring the country going on picnic drives, camping trips and gathering with friends for traditional celebrations. Eventually Canada became their permanent home and in 1960 they welcomed a second son, John.



Canadian Immigration Identification Cards for the Andersen Family

In 1962, Ruth’s only sister, Greta, arrived in Canada to see what all the fuss was about. Soon Greta married, had children and also made Canada her home. Together the two families shared many good times, celebrating birthdays, Christmas and other occasions for nearly 40 years.

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In 1962 Tage chose to apply his trade in a different way when he was hired to teach incarcerated young men the painting trade at the Bowden Minimum Security Institute. The family moved to staff housing at the Institute and happily remained there until another career shift took place. Tage was offered a position in 1964 with the Alberta Government as a display painter at the Royal Alberta Museum where he remained until his retirement. Tage enjoyed his years of employment at the museum where he cultivated friendships with co-workers which lasted well beyond his retirement and on to the golf course and coffee shop.

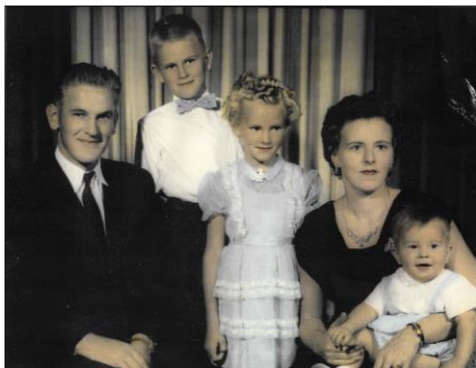
When the family relocated to Edmonton, a third son (Raymond) was born. Tage and Ruth were seldom idle and they loved home, hearth and decoration. They bought house after house, painting, papering and renovating each one before selling and moving to another to repeat the process of continuous improvement.

While in Edmonton Tage and Ruth continued to maintain their Danish roots by attending Danish events, dances, and camp outs. At the dances Tage was usually the first to hit the dance floor and probably the last to sit down. He played crib regularly and enjoyed a good poker game and a cold beer.



*Certificate of
Canadian Citizenship*

Although Tage and Ruth retired to Kelowna, they soon returned to Edmonton where they again busied themselves with renovating houses. During one of these ventures they discovered a house they had previously owned and loved, in Sherwood Park that was back on the market. They snapped it up and never bought another. The property featured a huge yard and vegetable garden which they maintained to perfection. The garden was given diligent care and attention with each row perfectly parallel and each seed planted equally spaced. Generally, Tage accomplished his tasks in his favorite foot ware, his træsko. Needless to say, the home and yard were meticulous, and the yard always well watered and weed-less. One Thanksgiving, they were visited by Lily Lauritsen, who had encouraged them to come to Canada, when Ruth dropped the dessert. Lily, always quick, quipped, “Just pick it up Ruth. I’ve always said I could eat off your floor!”



Tage, Per, Anita, Ruth & John

Once settled in Sherwood Park, Tage and Ruth caught “the travel bug” taking their first cruise through the Panama Canal. Sadly, not long after, Ruth lost her battle with cancer!

For awhile Tage travelled alone, before he was fortunate to find a travelling partner, loving companion and good friend, Ellen Nielsen. Over the years, they travelled extensively visiting many places in Canada and the United States, as well as Europe, Russia, Croatia, Indonesia, Cuba, Mexico, and even Guyana. Tage managed to experience most countries, with the exception of countries in Africa. Tage also managed to return to

Denmark several times on holiday to reacquaint himself with family and old long-time friends. He was fond of his niece, Anne Olsen, and was happy to enjoy many a visit with her and her family in Denmark, and then once again, as she and her family visited Canada last year.

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While Tage was never much of a risk taker, he did like to gamble on occasion, nothing serious, just poker games and chance tickets. Over the years, he won some small prizes, and generally, he considered himself a lucky man; possibly so, as he seemed to have the uncanny ability to snag the lucky almond from the rice pudding almost every year at Christmas. Lady luck definitely shone on him in 2010 when he purchased a winning ticket with the Stars Full House Lottery. Pleased as he was with the win of a beautiful home in Sylvan Lake, he chose not to leave his comfortable home and garden in Sherwood Park. He did say, however, that he wished he had won the lottery when he was much younger, perhaps 65 or so!

When Tage wasn't painting, attending to his yard or travelling, he enjoyed a good book, a hockey game or a social event. He continued to take pleasure in traditional Danish meals accented with the always-present Aquavit. Days of celebration included his children, their children and his extended family, the Nielsens. At 88 years of age he gladly joined hands, to sing and circle the Christmas tree.

Tage was fortunate to enjoy good health for most of his life. In his last few years he experienced both sight and hearing loss, but managed to remain an avid bowler, often with excellent scores. He would not miss a game or miss the post-coffee sessions with his bowling partners. His social instincts never flagged. When Tage was no longer able to drive and the rigors of maintaining a home became too much, he moved into a retirement home in Edmonton. There he remained active attending the afternoon and evening events. Always good company, he made friends with other residents, who described him as witty and charming.

Like the lives of many others, Tage's life changed dramatically the day he made the decision to come to Canada. What was meant to be a short adventure turned into a life time of new experiences and personal growth, with the added benefit of a growing circle of friends and family, all the while remembering his Danish heritage,

After a short illness, Tage passed away on September 8, 2016. He is sorely missed by his family, extended family, friends and co-workers, in Canada as well as abroad.

**THE PACIFIC REGION
WISHES
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The Pacific Region includes representation from the Vancouver Island Danish-Canadian Club of Nanaimo; Danish Social Club of Victoria; Danish Canadian Community Centre 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.

Kirsten S. Gibson

Kirsten S. Gibson

I was born in Denmark during the War, on March 23, 1945. My parents, Agnes and Lars Sander, were worried about when they could have me christened, as our minister, Poul Holm, was a freedom fighter, who had been caught and sent to the internment camp Frøslev by the Germans.



Lars and Agnes Sander, with their four children, Kirsten, Per, Birte and Lars Arne

Peace came on May 5th, and I was christened on May 19th, during Pastor Holm's first church service after he returned from Frøslev. My Mother always called me a Peace Baby (Fredsbarn).

I had a very happy childhood, growing up with three siblings, Per, Birte and Lars Arne on a farm between Studsgaard and Snejbjerg, seven kilometres outside Herning, in the middle of Jutland.

My Aunt Lis had a hair salon in Herning. There was no doubt that I wanted to follow in her foot steps, since all my cousins who visited us had to sit down, so I could practice my talents with a comb and brush.

When I was 15, I attended Lægaard Efterskole for six months. It was a boarding school for 100 girls, where we learned everything from academics, how to run a house, cooking, baking, sewing, weaving, ironing a white starched shirt, to pluck a chicken and clean it out inside.

After school, I was lucky to get an apprenticeship at Nørreport Hair Salon in Herning, where I trained under Mrs. Smith Madsen for four years, in addition to going to Herning Trade school. The last two school years, we competed with other trade schools in the area, in the art of cutting and styling hair, and I was lucky enough to win first place. After four years, in 1965, I graduated with a bronze medal. Now I wanted to see the world!

I went to Copenhagen and landed a job at Poulin's, a big beautiful salon right on the pedestrian street in the heart of Copenhagen. At the time Poulin was one of the top hair salons in Denmark. There was a lot to see and learn. I loved my customers, especially Bitten Clausen from Danfoss. I would do her hair when she was in town to go to parties with the royals at Amalienborg Palace. I loved Copenhagen and stayed there for three years.



Hairdressing in Copenhagen

One of my colleagues, Gudrun, left Denmark to work in a big salon in Johannesburg, South Africa. The owner had trained at Poulin's and was looking for someone to come and work for him. Gudrun and I corresponded and I heard what a fantastic time she was having. So, I applied to immigrate to South Africa.

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It took a long time to get accepted. In the meantime, I attended Baring Folk High School on Fyn, taking a six-month course. At this boarding school, you could take any course you wanted. Among many other courses, I took English, in preparation for going to South Africa. The papers finally arrived, and I said “farvel” to my family. I left Denmark for South Africa on September 28, 1968. I wanted to see the world; but my intention was to return to my beloved Denmark in a couple of years.

Arriving at Johannesburg Airport, my new Danish boss, Finn Helvang, was there with a big bouquet of red and white carnations. Girls from the Danish Consulate and boys from the Danish East Asiatic Company were there to greet me. I stayed in a house, with three young Danish men, and a Danish woman. It was common for young people to share a big house. As well, we had a black maid, Margaret, living with us.

At that time, there was Apartheid in South Africa, but to us Danes it made no difference. Consequently, we invited Margaret to live in our house and share our food; but no way, she wanted to live in a little garden house in the yard and eat her own type of food. She had a husband, but only saw him once a year.

Margaret was very pregnant when I arrived. One morning she asked one of the Danish boys to take her to the hospital. As she had not wanted to wake them up too early, they had to rush off immediately; but on the way, she gave birth to a little boy on the backseat of the car. She named him Reno after the car. It was a Renault! Even though it wasn't her first baby, she hadn't prepared anything for her new son. So, the other Danish girl and I went shopping for clothes and necessities. After a year, Reno was sent to his grandparents in the country, to be brought up with his siblings.

I enjoyed my stay in South Africa. My place of work was interesting. It was a big salon, with international hairdressers: French, German, Spanish and English. Another Danish girl worked there too. Of course, all the clients were white and very rich.



*John and Kirsten's wedding,
November 7, 1970*

I travelled and saw a lot of this very beautiful country. About six months after my arrival, The Danish Club in Johannesburg celebrated King Frederik's 70th birthday, with a big formal dinner and dance. I was introduced to John Gibson, a good looking, tall Canadian, who invited me out for dinner the following week; and then we fell in love!

John is an engineer and was working for 3M in South Africa. About a year after we met, I left South Africa, travelled up through Africa to Denmark, where I planned our wedding for November 7, 1970. My parents, especially my Mom, begged John to get a job in Denmark, but that is not so easy when you only speak English. To my family's delight, John gave a speech in Danish at our wedding, and promised our guest's that on his next visit to Denmark he would be speaking the language. After 47 years, we are still waiting!

I had never met my new family, John's parents, Sam and Bella Gibson, John's sister Isabelle and husband Ken Pick, and their

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two daughters Kathy and Marianne. They were all at Toronto Airport to meet us. They are a wonderful family. I also gained two beautiful stepsons, Douglas and Spencer, from John's first marriage. John was divorced when I met him in South Africa.

At the time, we did not know what was next after the holiday, Canada or back to South Africa. But to our delight John was transferred to Italy, working for 3M at the Ferrania film factory. So again, off to see another world! We loved living in Italy and were lucky to live in Arenzano, west of Genoa, right on the Mediterranean Sea. We made many friends and received lots of visitors from Denmark.

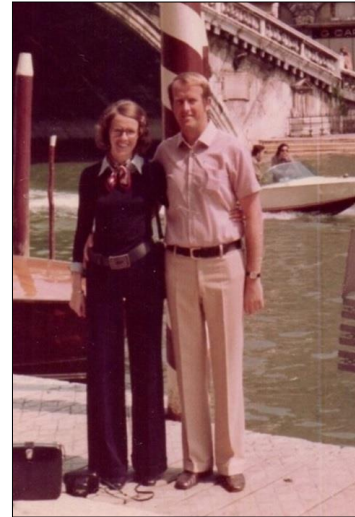


Kirsten, with Marlene and Michael

During the three years in Italy both our children, Marlene and Michael, were born. I went to Denmark for their births. Then in 1974, we went to Canada, settling in Toronto. I only knew my family, but found many Danish friends through The Danish Lutheran Church on Finch Avenue. I was member of the Danish Church women's auxiliary group for some years.

At the same time, I was terribly homesick, so every summer the kids and I would visit Denmark, staying at my parent's farm for six weeks. John would then join us for three weeks. We had a wonderful time, which resulted in Marlene and Michael learning Danish, as my parents didn't speak English.

In 1977, we lost John's father to cancer. Grandma sold their house and five acres north of Steels Road and moved in to an apartment. The following year John and I bought our first house in Oakville. I thought that would be our house for life. I joined the Newcomers club, and soon we felt at home there. However, two years later, in 1980, we were transferred to London, Ontario, 3M's Canadian headquarters. So once again we packed up and moved. I have learned not to get too attached to a house, just a frame around all your familiar possessions. Our children, Marlene and Michael, did well with all the moving, the new school and making new friends. Marlene got involved with swimming and Michael played hockey. I joined the Newcomers Club and became a member of The May Court Club, where I volunteered, working with unwed mothers on welfare. It was a very rewarding time. I started playing bridge as well as golf, and we really enjoyed living there. John had been playing golf for years, so it was good to join him.



*Kirsten and John
In Venice*



John and Kirsten, with Marlene and Michael

In 1986, we lost my dear father, and John decided to work for a new company, Colortron. Again, we packed up and moved to Burlington. Marlene stayed in London to finish her first year in high school and Michael came with us. Once more I joined the Newcomers Club. I transferred from

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May Court to Oakville May Court Club, where I worked at The Nearly New Shop, where the proceeds were donated to children in need.

While we lived in Burlington, Marlene and Michael were both confirmed in The Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto. Michael was back at hockey and Marlene joined The Burlington Teen Tour Band playing the flute. She travelled to many exciting places, Ireland, Japan and Hawaii, where they were the first band, other than American bands, to play at the flag ceremony at Pearl Harbor. Marlene graduated from Nielson High School, and decided to go to Denmark for a year where she worked and stayed with family. We also had the joy of the arrival of our first granddaughter, Emily, daughter of Douglas and Lucinda, and two years later a little brother, Nicholas, was born.

Michael needed another year of high school, when we again had to move! John took a job in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I guess I had to see more of Canada! In 1990, we sold our house and packed up. Again, it was a tearful good-bye to family and friends. Michael came with us of course, and Marlene, back from Denmark, decided to go to the University of Manitoba where she wanted to live in residence to meet a lot of people. I was happy for that, as she was thus close by.



The Gibson family at Christmas, 2015

I again became member of The Newcomers and the Danish Club, thereby quickly meeting new people. I took my Canadian hairstyling exam and started to work at Fashionette Hair Salon in the Polo Park Shopping Center, a large salon owned by an Austrian lady. We were ten stylists. It was a good place to work and I relished the customers.

John and I enjoyed living in Winnipeg. It is cold and dry in the winter, and hot and dry in the summer. Where ever we have lived, we have always had lots of visitors from Denmark, and what a joy to show them the west of Canada. We made a car trip with my brother and sister-in-law from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island, down to Seattle and back through the United States. The scenery was beautiful!

When Michael finished High School, he also wanted to go to Denmark for a year. He was lucky. He was offered to play on the junior hockey team in Herning. He stayed at his niece's house and worked part time at a door factory to pay for room and board. The hockey team even had a trip to Toronto to play in a tournament. Moreover, they won the Danish championship that year.

When Michael came back to Canada, he enrolled at the University of Waterloo to study electrical engineering. Marlene graduated from university and decided to continue at Western University in London, Ontario, to study occupational therapy.

We stayed in Winnipeg for ten years, during that time we lost both our Mothers and gained five grandchildren. Laura and Spencer have Kara, Joe and Wil. Douglas and Lucinda had another two, Duncan and Kathryn.

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Both Marlene and Michael graduated from their universities. Michael took his first job in Tampa, Florida, to follow his girlfriend Dana, also an engineer, who he met while at University. Marlene obtained her first job in St. Catherines.

When John retired in 2000, we decided to move back to Ontario, in order to be closer to our children and grandchildren. This was the first time we packed to go back home, which was a nice feeling. We settled in Burlington. Wow, something familiar! I did join Newcomers again, now for the fifth time. Moreover, I started a wonderful job in Oakville, at a store called Silkeborg. It



Summer gathering of the Gibson family

was situated in an old, lovely renovated Bank Building. The owner was a Dane, Carl Jensen, and his lovely wife Gina. I was looking after the upstairs where we sold merchandise from Denmark, Georg Jensen, Stelton, Rosendal, Holmegaard, and so on. Downstairs we sold high end fashion for women. I really enjoyed the customers and my colleagues. During my last years there, I helped Gina buy the new fashions for the store. I worked there for almost ten years.

When Michael and Dana moved back from Florida, Dana decided to change her career to be a veterinarian and studied in Guelph. They got married in 2003 in Nova Scotia. The service was officiated on the beach at The Bay of Fundy, at Dana's parent's cottage. It was a beautiful wedding, with family members coming from Nova Scotia, Ontario and Denmark.

When Michael and Dana moved back from Florida, Dana decided to change her career to be a veterinarian and studied in Guelph. They

Six months later, on Valentine's Day 2004, Marlene got married to her sweet heart, Mike Morse, in the Danish Church in Toronto. Again, twelve relatives from Denmark joined us. After the beautiful wedding, we all went to a cottage outside Algonquin Park, to be together, to have fun, to snow shoe and to dogsled. Thank God for that; ten months later we lost my brother, Lars Arne, in a bike accident. He was only 56 years old.

John loves to play golf, and is marshaling at a golf course so he can play all the golf he wants. As he is retired, he needs to do something. He sings in a choir, Harbourtown Sound, with 100 men. Jordan Travis is the director, and they have competed internationally in Las Vegas, Pittsburgh and Nashville. Every year they perform at both a Spring Show and a Christmas Show at the Burlington Performing Art Centre.

Marlene and Mike live in The Beaches in Toronto and have two children, Katrina and Karsen. However, Michael and Dana have moved to Vancouver. They have three children, Odin, Mia and Erik. In total, we are the lucky and proud parents of twelve beautiful grandchildren. I am thankful for my family and my life, and grateful for having met so many wonderful people along the way!

BIOGRAPHIES

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John Uffe – just a 2-year stay

John A. Uffe

I was born in Odense on March 26, 1943, the third and youngest child of Marjorie and Lois Albert Uffe Sørensen. My mother was British, an artist and a housewife. She was very talented with water colours and most of her work was very intricate pieces based on traditional fairy tales. My father was an Export Manager at Thomas B. Thrige, an electrical motors company. He was extremely gifted with languages, speaking and writing seven fluently. His work required extensive travel throughout the world for extended periods of time. Our summers were typically spent at various rented summerhouses, and on weekends we would often go driving, ending up at an Inn for a Sunday meal. My love of food was probably started thus.

I went to Hørlycks Skole for the first six years, suffered from dyslexia, which my mother was luckily smart enough to catch and for which I received remedial training. I then continued at Mulernes Legatskole, an all boys' school. During my teen years at school I formed many very close friendships, many of which I maintain to this day. My parents would sometimes travel for extended periods, and I would be looked after by friend's parents. I had access to our fairly large apartment, and some significant parties did take place. Thankfully, I was never caught. As a group, we were extremely meticulous at covering our tracks. My brother was not so lucky being "caught" by beer caps in a sugar bowl.

I passed "realeksamen" and thought I might like to become a chef and sought to begin as a cook's apprentice. My father, who entertained significantly on behalf of his job, used his connections to get me an apprenticeship at the prestigious Grand Hotel in Odense. The initial part of the apprenticeship consisted of a variety of menial tasks, mainly chopping and cleaning. I learned many lessons the hard way, such as 'do not speak to the chef unless spoken to'. One thing stood out: The tension and stress of a kitchen followed a very predictable pattern, especially at night. It would build from 6 pm until it reached its crescendo around 7:30 pm and then gradually tapered off at around 9 pm. After five months, I decided that I could not hack the daily stress, and decided that this was not for me! My father did not take kindly to this decision, as he had used his influence to get me the position. He had already planned my entire career, progressing from becoming a chef, and then all the way through to eventually becoming general manager of a hotel. A lengthy and very heated argument followed. In the end my father warned me that he would not support me in any way, if I chose to walk away; and he kept his promise! As a "worldly" 16-year-old I replied: "I have never asked you to support me!"

With the help of my sister I applied and got a job as a Shipping Apprentice at C. Clausen Dampskibsrederi. I was paid 265 kroner a month, roughly equivalent to \$50. As an apprentice, I moved around in the company and worked for different bosses in different departments. I worked during the day, and went to night school some nights. One of my bosses was rather short

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tempered, which I found hard to handle and I did manage to send a truck load to a port from which the ship had already left, causing significant expense and embarrassment. My big boss called me into his office and said: "I cannot fire you, but I can put you in the accounting department, at least you cannot do any harm there" (the big boss hated the accountant there and the feeling was mutual). I served the rest of my apprenticeship in the accounting department, where I prospered and thoroughly enjoyed my job. Three months before I had finished my apprenticeship, the big boss called me into his office again and said: "Uffe, it is a strange world; I put you in the accounting department because I thought you could not do any harm there, and then it turned out that this is your strength, and you do an excellent job. I have decided to consider you *udlært* (trained), and you will get full pay for the last three months." The pay increase amounted to three hundred percent because you were now being paid as a shipping man, not as an apprentice. During my apprenticeship, I worked evenings and weekends sorting mail at the Main Post Office in Copenhagen. It was a very coveted and well paid job for students. One year I worked in the evening and weekends selling souvenirs in Tivoli. My father had kept his promise.

It was clear that I needed more education and signed up for Niels Brock Handelskole in 1964. A two-year day course, which was recognized as a very valuable education covering economics, accounting, history, and commercial correspondence, French, English, all with a commercial bent. I worked at my old employer during breaks and summer vacations. In 1964, I met Mette, my future wife, on a blind date, arranged by my best friend. We were going to a party in Odense and I had no girlfriend to bring, so he arranged my date. In 1965, we got engaged and we spent a lot of time travelling between Odense and Copenhagen.



John and Mette vacationing on the island of Majorca, Spain

Prior to meeting Mette, I had decided that after Niels Brock I would go to the Thule Air Base in Greenland to work as a general accountant in the Central Accounting Office. After two years in Greenland you were tax free. At that time, accumulating savings in Denmark was not easy. I started the job in September 1966. After five months, I moved on to become an office manager at the Officers Club. The role was coveted and well paid. The Officers Club operated a restaurant (only open to Commissioned Officers and equivalent civilians), a bar, a liquor store and a casino. In each club a band played every night (brought in from the US) and three bands rotated in the various clubs on the base. My immediate boss was a USAF Lieutenant. All supplies for the club were brought by ship during the two months the waters were passable. The club had a warehouse with thousands of cases of booze and wine and all the supplies necessary for a year. All supplies were tax-free and duty-free. Liquor and cigarettes cost very little on an actual cost basis. I remember that our purchase price for a bottle of Gordon's Dry Gin (40 oz) was 62 US cents back then. The Base Commander (A Lieutenant-Colonel) frequented the Officers Club. As a civilian you had to learn one thing, and that was any request by the Base Commander was met with a: "Yes, Sir" or "No, Sir." I may add that there were 3,000 men on the base, but only four women; apart from the go-go dancers in the bands! You worked seven days a week, regular hours; but that quickly became a routine.

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At times, we had violent storms on the base, during which we were not allowed outdoors at all. With winds blowing 100+ miles per hour and heavy snow drifts, it would be life threatening to go outside. Such storms could and would blow anywhere from one to three days. Rations were available in every barracks and/or workplace. A communication system with loudspeakers was set up in each barracks and/or workplace to advise us of the various phases of the storm. While a storm raged, it was actually party time. We lived in relatively small rooms, but people had managed to scrounge materials to significantly improve the furnishings. Each barrack was equipped with showers, washers and dryers, and a kitchen. Even then, I was a fairly decent cook. The base had a gym, a chapel, a Base Exchange, a shop where you could buy tax-free and duty-free goodies ranging from certain food items, to vinyl records, stereo systems, porcelain, loudspeakers, jewellery etc. However, being involved in a fight got you a ticket home on the first available flight, no argument no appeal. Some people gambled, some people became alcoholics, while some others remained relatively normal.



John enjoying nature

I was on the base in 1968 when a B-52 crashed with four H-bombs on board, roughly eleven miles from the base. Little did I know when I watched the fire outside from afar that the plane actually carried H-bombs onboard! The USAF showed its efficiency by having twelve B-52s landing 12 hours after the crash with necessary supplies. The flying time from the USA was eight hours. The next day there was a general election in Denmark, but all communication from the base was cut, hence not inviting any political upsets.

Towards the end of 1968 my fiancé told me I could stay in Greenland, as long as I wanted, but if I wanted to have a future with her, then I had to come home now! In December 1968, I returned home. We were married in January 1969, with the immediate family and one friend, eighteen people in all, invited to the wedding dinner at Mette's parent's home. The marriage has worked out, as we have now been married for over 48 years. For our honeymoon, we went to Germany in Mette's father's car. The weather was biting cold, minus 20 C.

I wanted more adventure, and as Australia was too far away, we decided to try Canada where I had an aunt. The plan was for two years only. During our application for residency in Canada, the Embassy asked Mette if she could type, because they did not have female engineers in Canada!

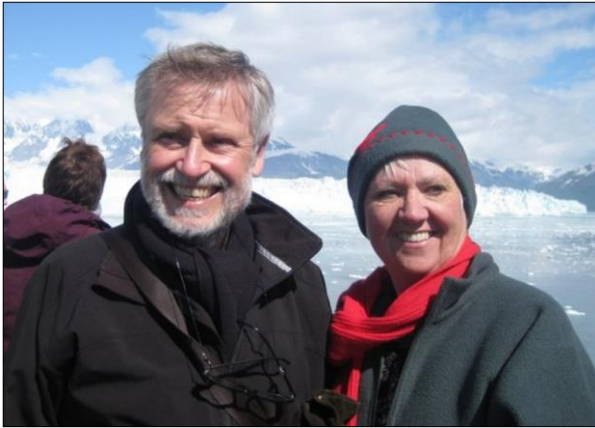
We arrived in Canada in March 1969 and were welcomed by my aunt and her husband in Montreal. My aunt wanted us to live in Montreal, and did everything in her power to make this happen. But, even back then you did have to speak French on the job. I wanted a job in the hotel business, and I did get offered a job, but was told that I could not prevent my workers from speaking French, whether I understood or not. I could read French, although not very fluently.

After three weeks, we decided that we were probably better off heading to English-speaking Toronto. At that time, Montreal was a lively "European" city, whereas Toronto was considered a backwater and rather dull. The joke was that if the prize in a competition was a one week stay in Toronto, then the second prize was a two week stay! The election of René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois changed that, by sending numerous large head offices and staff packing to Toronto for fear of a separated Quebec.

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The first night in Toronto we stayed with a girl-friend of my aunt, and she made very sure we understood, that we were only staying there for one night. She found a furnished apartment at Bathurst and St. Clair with no lease. Minimum two months. She drove us to Woolworths and we bought two of everything cups, saucers, knives, forks, spoons and plates to start with. We could now search for jobs, and we had time to find a permanent apartment. Eventually we settled in Thorncliffe Park, which had a lot of European immigrants at the time. The apartments were very nice and well kept. The rent of our one-bedroom apartment was \$145 per month, and \$10 extra for parking.

Because I had worked in English and had US recommendations I had a good job in about a week. I landed a job as an accountant at a motorcycle company with a retail location, as well as a discount gas station, which was extremely busy. Gas sold at for 29 cents a gallon, with queues



John and Mette Uffe

down the street. The owners had the busiest motorcycle shop in Toronto. Some major problems occurred due to fraud in the parts department, which soon became apparent from the cost of sales.

Our son, Martin Allan, was born in 1971 and changed our lives. Not in a bad way! My wife, Mette, worked until one week before our child was born, when her employer actually realized that she was very due, and that was obviously just too much! Mette had four months of unpaid maternity leave. Our main communication with family back home was via letters and tape recordings. We typically wrote every week. Our

son went to a nursery, which even back then cost the equivalent of a week's engineering salary. Long distance phone calls to Denmark in 1969 cost a small fortune, equivalent to \$18.50/minute today, with a three-minute minimum. At that rate, you kept your conversations short!

My next job was as an accountant at a high-end wholesale cloth distributor, while also doing the books for a major food importer and seller (container loads) of Australian beef and mutton. Then in 1973, we bought our first house, a small semi-detached house on Sammon Avenue in Toronto's Greek quarter. We renovated the house, but were told by all our neighbours that we had done it all wrong. The thing to do was to create an apartment on the ground floor to rent out, and then live on the second floor. This way you could pay off your house faster. Once it was paid off, then you could occupy the entire house. If you knew how small the house was, you would appreciate why we could not live up to their expectations; very nice people, industrious, welcoming and engaging.

In 1974, I started studying to become a CGA (Certified General Accountant) a rigorous night time study course with weekly assignments. Many a night was spent studying and completing assignments (typically at the last minute). The studies lasted seven years. My poor wife was frequently left to her own devices.

By 1975 the house had increased 90% in value so we moved out to West Hill, to the most expensive house on the street. Lesson learned; you should always buy the cheapest house on an expensive street.

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My next job was as an accounting supervisor at the high-tech company Telaccount Limited, owned by Bank of Nova Scotia and Bell Canada. Before the advent of personal computers, the system that Telaccount provided allowed companies to input accounting data via a telephone keypad to create financial statements and management reports at your local Bank of Nova Scotia. The introduction of personal computers subsequently crushed this product, but at the time it was the height of technology. Towards the end of the seventies I did work on a spreadsheet, a brand-new novelty, which at that time required a mainframe computer, and the cost of the software was a mere \$250,000! Times change!

In 1978, we welcomed the birth of our daughter Kristina. She was and still is the most wonderful and patient person who ever lived [that last sentence was definitely not added by Kristina while editing this article].

In the late 70s Bell Canada received a contract to manage The Saudi Telephone Company, and Bell sought managers they could clone like their own managers, and then ship them overseas to run the telephone company like they did in Canada. In 1979, I was among twelve other candidates hired to fulfill this role. We were supposed to go through an intensive course and would be sent to Saudi Arabia to work with locals, while living in a compound with our families. The job offered good pay with extended benefits and liberal vacations away from Saudi Arabia. For whatever reason, no one got transferred to Saudi Arabia, and many of us left after a year.

The schools in West Hill were less than ideal, so in 1980 we decided to move to Leaside, where we should have bought a house in 1975. By this time house prices had gone up in Leaside, but had remained steady in West Hill.

In 1980, I was hired as assistant controller at the CN Tower, a job that I thoroughly enjoyed. The business consisted of a communications tower with rentals of antenna space, a tourist attraction with entrance fees, several restaurants and a nightclub. I actually did the job as controller though I never officially received the title. After five years, I joined for a short time the Sutton Place Hotel as an assistant controller.

In 1981, I became a CGA, a Certified General Accountant. The three accounting bodies have since amalgamated and I am now a CPA, CGA (Certified Professional Accountant).

In 1985 a Danish friend, the president of a manufacturing company, got me interested in baling machines used for recycling, and I started my own company selling the machines. It was a tough slog, but I researched and eventually came up with a new method of selling. I persuaded a paper company that was interested in the baled cardboard to place the machines for free at various chain stores, against getting the baled material at a very low cost. In essence the store would buy back the machine through the resale of the material, a mutually beneficial affair. In 1988, my friend joined me as a partner in Waste Stream Management Inc. The sales tax in effect at that time (FST) actually gave our company an advantage over local manufacturing. Also at this time Toronto increased its dump fees from \$50 to \$300 per ton, and recycling got a major boost. The



The five grandchildren: Freya, Kaeli, Natalie, Erika and Emily.

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dump fee has since been reduced considerably! The company grew to a decent size. In 1994, my partner bought me out. But now what?

I spent considerable time looking at business opportunities and eventually settled on buying a lunch restaurant on King Street East called Market 242. We served gourmet sandwiches as well as Danish open faced sandwiches. I also started a catering business which grew rapidly though the volume was not sufficient to make enough profit. After three years, I sold the business. The sustained losses were significant, and hard to cope with. I had made a lot of mistakes; and that was payback. Without my wife supporting me through this time, life would not have been possible!



Whole family vacationing in Italy in 2013

As luck would have it, a friend had applied for a job as an auditor, and he recommended that I apply as well. I got the job. The job was a unique challenge; it involved being part detective and part accountant. The assignments involved reviewing the records of a company, after the regular auditors had approved the statements, and the “books” had been put away. We would go in “finding” money, which had been overpaid, under-collected, taxes paid in error, invoices paid twice, and any other number of unintentional errors. We would mainly audit larger companies. No company can completely avoid making such errors. The company I worked for was paid a percentage of what we recovered and in turn we as auditors were paid a percentage of what we recovered. No gain, no pay. You did have to have a “nose” for figures. Figures had to “speak to you” otherwise you were not going to make it in this business. I loved the business and was reasonably good at it. The company I worked for had 3,500 employees worldwide, living well on discovering such errors. Obviously a very large company would be more prone to “uncollected” finds. Yet, sales and use taxes provided another great opportunity. Few, if any, could keep up with the sales and use tax laws and the changes that took place, whether hospitals, manufacturers, or huge retailers. During the latter years, I exclusively audited sales and use taxes. A thorough reading of the sales tax act yielded some interesting possibilities, such as an evaporation allowance for retail gasoline stations. If you sell billions of litres of gasoline even a tiny allowance yields significant refunds. I worked across the country; for about two years in Quebec, flying out Monday morning and returning early Friday evening. I also worked in Halifax for a six month stretch. On other occasions, Mette would visit me for the weekend in whatever location.

I submitted a report of my findings once a week, but otherwise was left mainly to my own devices. You were totally responsible for only your own actions and had mostly no subordinates.

In 2004, I was elected to the Board of the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto, and have mainly been on the Building Committee during this time. A lot of work has been done as an aging building requires constant upkeep and maintenance. A major renovation has taken place in the church and that has more than been able to fill a lot of my spare time.

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In 2007, I had a very serious nine-hour operation utilizing minimally invasive surgery. The surgeon, Dr. Andrew Pierre, was an outstanding craftsman. Fifteen weeks later I could restart slowly. The Canadian health system has worked wonders for me!

Since retiring in 2009, I have often wondered how I ever had time to go to work! After retiring we have travelled extensively, visiting Denmark, the UK, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, China, Mexico, Iceland, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Norway, Sweden, Hawaii, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Alaska, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Austria, Hungary, Bratislava, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania, as well as taking cruises in the Caribbean.

Despite the fact that Mette was told that Canada did not have female engineers; she persisted and eventually wound up as manager in charge of fourteen engineers. Her fields covered instrument landing systems, power supplies, and high tech airport security equipment.

Somewhere along the line my wife must have done something right, because our two children became good solid citizens. Our daughter, Kristina, has a Master's Degree in Industrial Relations and lives in London, UK, with her husband and two daughters. She has established herself as a photographer. Ironically when she left for London twelve years ago she advised that she would only be staying for two years! Our son, Martin Allan, is a corporate tax lawyer with one of the largest Canadian law firms. He is married to a lovely woman, who is also a lawyer, and they have three girls.

It has been a great adventure, coming to Canada as newlyweds and experiencing Canada, 'growing-up' and having our careers here. In general, life has been very good to us. We have had our ups and downs, but Mette has been exceptional in all ways, and our success, in no small way, is a tribute to her.



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The Rye King

Steve Morck

What is a rye king you may ask? The Rye King is not a Canadian whiskey maker, but rather a Danish Immigrant farmer who settled in Dickson 100 years ago to become a Canadian farmer who would in his later years follow his inner calling in another notable way. His name was Lars Kristian Mørck when he left Denmark which he changed to be Christian Morck either on or shortly after his arrival to Canada and he was known thereafter as Chris Morck.

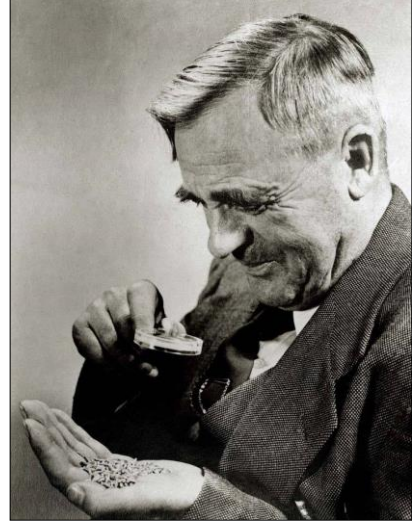


Photo: Calgary Herald Photo Archives

One of my regrets is that I was only 12 years old when he passed away in 1967, and too young to know to ask him the questions I would dearly like to have answers to now, such as why did he come to Canada and what motivated him to stay through tough times? A very private man, he never shared his inner motivations with my father, Oscar, or as far as I could tell with the other siblings or their children. This is a story from what the records have about him as the Rye King and supplemented with the anecdotal perspective I have gleaned over the years.

He was born March 13, 1888 in Vraa, Denmark. In 1906, Chris decided to join his sister Kristine in Goodlands, Manitoba, Canada. There together with his brother Marius he bought a farm.

In the spring of 1909, he met Inger Kristine (Christine) Jensine Christensen, who had also come over from Denmark to visit her sister in Goodlands. Chris and Christine were married on November 23, 1909. They farmed for some years near Goodlands and at a point prior to 1913 they moved to Glen Ewen, Saskatchewan, where they continued to farm in partnership with Chris's brother Marius.

In 1913, when Chris and Marius's father Nicolaj became ill, (not considered terminal), it was decided that one of them should return to Denmark to help on the farm. There was no money for fare for both brothers so they played poker to see who should go. The lot fell to Marius to return to Denmark. When their father's illness was determined to be terminal cancer, Chris, Christine and their children Archie and Arnfeld along with Magda, Chris's sister, returned to Denmark. After their father's death, Chris returned to Saskatchewan to try to sell the farm. Then, as the oldest son, the plan was he would take over the family farm back in Denmark. However he was unable to sell, so he sent for Christine and their children who then sailed back to Canada. Magda who would later settle in Michigan was on the same ship and was a great help with the two children.

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In 1917 Chris and Christine with their three children moved to Dickson, Alberta, where they bought a farm south of Dickson along the Red Deer River which had been homesteaded by early Danish settlers. Even though some of the land had been broken, much back-breaking work still needed to be done. In those days hand clearing was slow and exhausting using grub axes, axes, crosscut saws and crowbars along with sturdy horses to pull stumps and move larger logs. During these early years in Dickson, Christine and Chris were known to take in and help other pioneer immigrants get a start, who often became like family.

As their 5 sons and 4 daughters grew older much of the hard work on the farm fell to them and their mother, Christine. Christine passed away when I was very young, and those who knew her well reported that she worked exhaustive long hours each day, cooking, cleaning, sewing, gardening, looking after cattle and horses and doing chores like milking cows with the children. She was known as a gentle caring soul, small in physical stature and possessing an incredible sense of humour that permeated through all of her children. It is now persistent through most of their children, my cousins, who, when we get together now call it the 'gathering of the nuts'.

By 1944 with his two older sons off to their careers as Lutheran Pastors and two of his remaining sons, Walter and Oscar farming the property, Chris now was primarily overseeing the farm direction while pursuing other passions. As a youth, I remember Chris as gruff, serious, strongly opinionated and not very approachable. People who knew him to be that way also have told me he possessed a strong inner desire to help people. Chris connected with 4 kindred spirits from other Lutheran congregations who saw a need emerging that was triggered in part by the coal mine near Drumheller closing. Many were Danish Canadian workers, not only out of work but aging, frail and no longer able to look after themselves. The result of this alliance and its shared common vision was the establishment of the Lutheran Welfare Society which raised money to buy a property in Wayne, Alberta to establish an extended care facility. They also purchased the Riley Property in Calgary for \$10,000. In 1946 the Bethany Home in Calgary was opened with 19 guests and a \$300/month operating cost. Although the focus was on Danish immigrants, it quickly became clear that there was a larger need, so it became an 'access for all' facility and the greater vision was established based on a **"legacy of faith, inclusion and love for our neighbours"**.

In 1947, with his farm direction for the season in place and the day to day farming conducted by his two sons, Chris took a trip to Denmark. While there he noticed a good quality Petkus (Pitcus) Rye on the farm belonging to his niece Louise and her husband Valdemar Justesen. He took a pocketful of seeds back to Dickson and seeded them in the garden. Gradually he had enough to seed a fair sized plot. In 1950 the crop was reported to produce 56 bushels on the now expanded 1 ½ acres, excellent numbers for a cereal crop in this era. With the help of Walter in selecting a sample of the rye, Chris took it to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair in early November where this rye won him the title World Rye Champion. Later in the month he entered the rye in the Chicago International Livestock Exposition where he won the title World 'Rye King'. This was a great honor and source of pride



Sample of Rye

(Photo credit: Canstock, Gina Sanders)

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in Dickson which was widely reported in newspapers across the prairies in Canada and the US Midwest. Chris and his boys continued to grow and expand the acreage of this fantastic cultivar well suited for the parkland ecosystem setting along the Red Deer River.



Championship Trophy and Ribbons

Sometime in 1953 with the rye crop expanding and Oscar planning to get married in the fall, Chris sold the farm to Oscar. However, he was still heavily involved with this particular crop during the transition and with a very successful crop year of high quality rye, he decided to enter it in the shows again. Remarkably he was once again named the World Rye Champion in Toronto and the World Rye King at Chicago. Chris and Christine moved to Calgary where he continued his significant involvement in the Lutheran Welfare Society leading to the establishment and expansion of Bethany Home to include the Bethany Chronic Hospital, a first in Alberta in 1956 with 40 beds. As

government became more involved in funding these needs, the Lutheran Welfare Society was eventually wound down and the facility became the 'Bethany Care Centre' a large facility which has now expanded with facilities in other communities in South Central Alberta.



*The Morck Family at Chris & Christine's Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1959
Left to Right: Walter, Arnfeldt, Oscar, Thora, Chris, Ella, Paul, Christine, Alice,
Archie, and Esther - Photo Credit: Bob Rose (married to Ella)*

Through the Fifties and well into the Sixties, Oscar continued to grow about 20 to 30 acres each year of this rye to sell as seed to other farmers in Central Alberta as a valuable seasonal income to help pay the mortgage and farm expenses. It was grown on the south quarter by the river and

BIOGRAPHIES

stored in the original old family clapboard home which had been converted to a granary. Although I was only about 10 or 11 years old when the last rye crop was produced I still remember its distinctive heads and tint which made it stand out from the barley and oats of that era. It had a unique deep rich gold colour when ripe and ready for combining, while the kernels themselves have a distinctive shape and bluish tint. A bit of Chris's heart was still on the farm as I remember him and Christine coming to stay with us each fall for 1 or 2 weeks up until 1963. He would insist on driving the tractor pulling the little combine during the harvest. I noted at times with a small chuckle Chris was not totally comfortable with operating vehicles and equipment, likely having learned to use them late in life after his era with horses. Driving the tractor and combine he would sometimes misjudge the rate of fill in the combine hopper and overflow it or misjudge the turn on a swath. Even backing up his Buick from parking in the yard was an entertaining event for a young farm boy to watch with unexpected outcomes from being stuck on a slippery knoll next to the yard to over steering until his car was pointing in a direction he had not intended.

Back in the fields, Oscar quit growing the rye after the market dried up around 1965. The focus was on economic survival and on production primarily of good quality higher value barley for malting and feed as well as forage crops and a bit of oats for a growing herd of range cattle.



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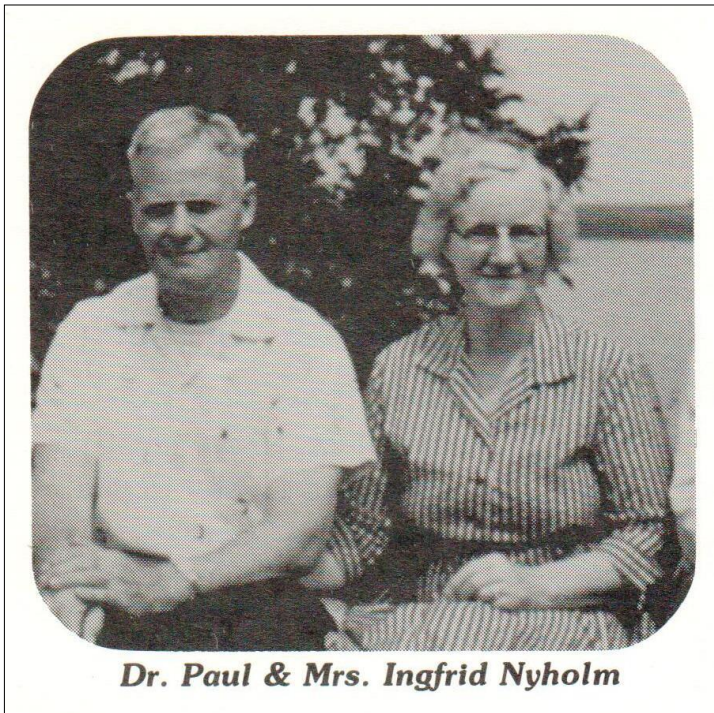
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The Sylvan Lake (Danish) Lutheran Bible Camp/ Camp Kuriakos

Clint Nissen

The first Bible Camp on Sylvan Lake was held at Kasota Beach in July 1930. This camp was organized by Dr. Nyholm, who at the time was the Pastor at Dickson, Alberta. The two main speakers were Professor Gornitzka from Minneapolis, and Rev. J. M. Jensen from Montreal. This began a tradition of inviting learned speakers, often from far away, to the Bible Camp each year. In the early years, some of the special speakers were Dr. Smits, Pastor Romer, Pastor Grill, Dr. Oscar Hansen, Dr. Edward Hansen and Rev. Clement Sorensen. That first summer campers attended mainly from Dickson and Standard.

Later that year and in early 1931, inspired by Dr. Nyholm's vision and inspiration, the Dickson Congregation agreed to buy land on Sylvan Lake for a Lutheran Bible Camp. Dr. Nyholm stressed that the Camp was to be for all people living near and far.

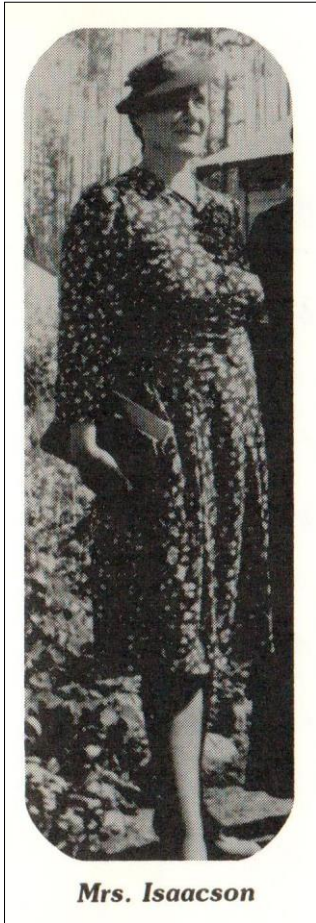


Dr. Paul & Mrs. Ingfrid Nyholm

On a Saturday in June of 1931 the search for the land began. Pastor Nyholm, Carl Christiansen, Eva Castella (Christiansen), Per Lund and Robert Thompson went from Dickson to Sylvan Lake and followed the procedure of driving down the roads to the lake and asking farmers if they wanted to sell a piece of land by the lake for the Bible Camp. Without success by late afternoon, Pastor Nyholm returned to Dickson, but the rest decided to continue looking. They drove into a farm yard where a bearded man was sitting in a rocking chair on the porch of a log house. Carl explained what the group was looking for, to which the man replied, he had been waiting many years for Lutherans to come to claim the land on the lake

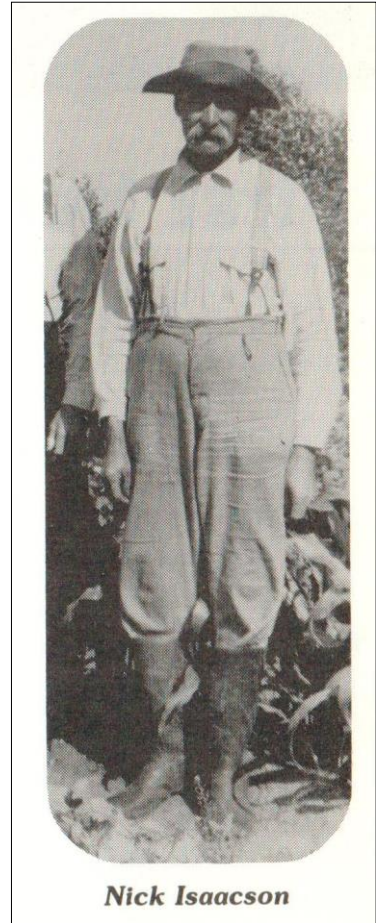
shore that he had set aside for them. This began the association with Mr. Nick Isaacson and Mrs. Isaacson.

True to his promise, Mr. Isaacson had the title to his land transferred to the Bible Camp for the sum of one dollar.



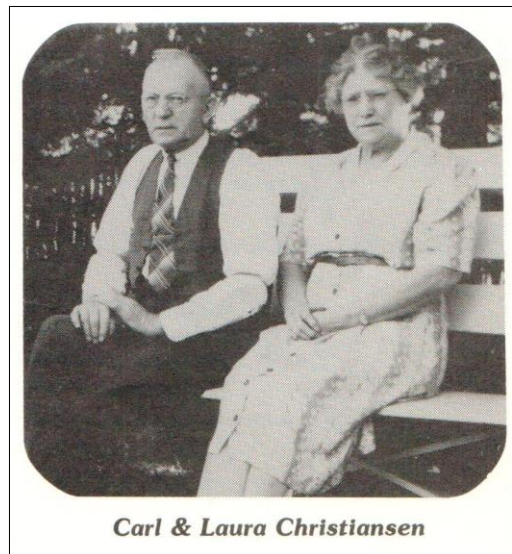
Mrs. Isaacson

The time was the beginning of the Great Depression. The first financial statement shows income of \$496.17. This was comprised of gifts from the Dickson Congregation, individual memberships, personal donations and personal loans. These funds were primarily raised to begin the development of the Camp. The statement also noted promises of \$240 of “arbejde” through 1934. Work was what people could contribute. Some of the farmers donated meat and vegetables. The early operation of the Camp fell largely to the Dickson Congregation. This was partly because of its relatively close proximity to Sylvan Lake and partly because of Pastor Nyholm who was a visionary who also had the ability to inspire others to fulfill the visions. Carl Christiansen would arrive weekly with supplies from the Christiansen Store at Dickson. This supply truck delivery continued for the next 40 years bringing food at cost to the camp.



Nick Isaacson

The association with the Isaacsons was a great blessing for the Camp. In the early years, Mr. Isaacson would always have a horse to help pull the cars from the camp back to the municipal road. Mr. Isaacson arrived at Pastor Nyholm’s parsonage at Dickson one Saturday evening after traveling the 20 miles by horse and wagon from his farm at Sylvan Lake. Mr. Isaacson suggested that it would be difficult for the people from Dickson to cut down the heavy timber and build a road into the camp from the main road. He told Pastor Nyholm that he would undertake the project along with some people who owed him money. The Isaacson crew completed the clearing and road building. They also built a road down to the lake.



Carl & Laura Christiansen

In the early 30's, many young men were unemployed. Work crews were organized and worked with saws and axes to clear the area for the dining and meeting hall as well as areas for tents and cabins. Henry Kemtrup wrote about how the young workers were pleased to be part of the "vision". And again, Mr. Isaacson came to the rescue offering the tired and sore workers a steam bath in his Finnish sauna.

The big project was of course, the building of the central hall for eating and services. The architect and builder was Mr. S. P. Lonneberg, assisted by many volunteers. The building was taken into use in 1933 and the first camp was held on the "Isaacson land." For many years, the floor of the building was of earth and the means of heating was a big wood heater. The building framework was completely made of 2x4's. The wide roof span was supported by pillars, also made of 2x4's, and tied into a 2x4 framework. A log kitchen was erected on the west end. Moveable benches and chairs could be arranged as needed to seat 150 – 200 people. Mr. Chris Kjeersgaard came and made a beautiful rock garden with flowers and lilacs on the north side of the hall. The building was considered God's miracle. It stood for over 40 years through summer storms and winter snows. On Sundays, an altar with flowers and candles transformed the building into a sanctuary. Congregations often cancelled Sunday summer services and went to "the lake" for service, picnics, dinners of roast beef, swimming and catching up with friends they may not have seen since the previous summer.



The original dining hall viewed from the north side. Note the extensive rock garden in the foreground.

Over the next few years, cabins were added, some for the camp, some built by families. Some of the initial cabin walls were built with spruce slabs, as the good lumber was needed for the main building. Many campers recalled the cold and damp conditions in their humorous stories about being at Camp. The first camp cabin was called Alpha. One of the first family cabins was the Christiansen cabin, later to be known as Mary's Cottage.

As the first years passed, more weekly camps were held. Everyone pitched in peeling potatoes, doing dishes, latrine patrol, hauling water and cutting wood and even drying wood during the night so there could be a fire for coffee and breakfast. These jobs were some of the fondest memories.

The earliest list of campers is from 1937 and shows attendance from near and far, fulfilling Pastor Nyholm's vision. There were Larsens and Niensens and Rasmussens from Standard, Bondes and Gronnegaards from Rocky Mountain House, Holgersens from Ponoka, Lonnebergs, Larsens and Madsens from Dickson, and Hansens from Edmonton.

Mrs. Folmer Nielsen, Mrs. Fred Pedersen, and Jenny Hindbo were the cooks. Jenny's brother Henry carried water for the kitchen from the spring, west of the camp, near the lake. The cooking was done on an old iron wood stove. Rev. Moller from Dickson was on the camper's list and may well have been the camp pastor that year.

During camp that year, a meeting was held by the Sylvan Lake Danish Lutheran Bible Camp Association for the purpose of considering incorporation of the said Association. A motion was carried "that the Sylvan Lake Danish Lutheran Bible Camp Association make application for incorporation." The application was made and the Certificate of Incorporation was granted on January 15, 1938. This created an independent identity which would allow the Camp to determine its own course. The object of the society was "to disseminate religious truth according to the confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for the purpose of winning souls and to promote interest and encourage participation in the bible camp movement."

The object, then clearly stated, reflected the biblical theme that remains the heritage of the Camp to this day in 2017.

Pastor Ejvind Nielsen shared his memories of his Camp spiritual experience.

"We had a good fellowship and meaningful experiences in our private and group devotions. And we had very good Christian fellowship and strengthening of our faith in the reading and hearing the Word of God when the pastors and other Christian leaders shared the Bible with us in the form of studies, sermons and devotions. It was also so good to be singing Christian songs and hymns and praying together."

Howard and Marian Rasmussen shared this perspective that began when they were children at Camp. "A few years later, as a teenager, summer bible camps filled a need in the lives of many of us who were regulars. The guest speakers, as well as our own pastors will always be remembered as they strengthened our resolve to live Christian lives that would count in our churches, communities, and the kingdom of God. The fellowship we experienced, the social atmosphere and the resulting friendships will always be part of our lives."

Margaret Nissen recalled this. "Everybody looked forward to the evening bonfires on the lake shore. Most of the campers would be seated on the log benches arranged in an amphitheater into the bank under the tall spruce, others were standing around the fire while a few sat in a boat close to shore. This arrangement reminded us of Biblical times and lent a certain variety to the singing. The fellowship, the sincere testimonies and the quiet devotions as well as the spiritual choruses touched the hearts, especially those of the young people."

In the 40's, Mrs. Isaacson became the librarian of the newly formed camp library. In 1943, there was only one week of camp in respect of the war effort. By the early 50's, although the camp still retained the word "Danish" in its name things were changing as Lutherans of several ethnicities became more common as campers and supporters.



Pastor Reynold Tange pins the Order of Dannebrog, a medal from the King of Denmark, on Dr. Paul Nyholm at the camp - summer 1952.

Things were changing as the synods that had been organized along ethnic lines were coming together for common purposes. Joint youth work was begun between the Augustana Synod and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. At the Camp, a new chapel fund was begun supported by both synods and their churches. In 1955, the camp was renamed, Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp.

Along with the changes happening in the Church at large, there were significant directional changes that were to drive the evolving program over the next 60 years. It can be noted that the Camp became a generational camp beginning in the 1950s as the children and later the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those who established the camp in the 30's and 40's became the campers, volunteers, staff and supporters. The architecturally beautiful chapel was dedicated on July 20, 1958 with visionary Dr. Nyholm in attendance. See photo below.



Initially, the camper program was expanded to include children's and youth camps. Rev. Carl Hansen, from Dickson, served as camp dean for several of these camps in the 1960's. He later wrote, "A great deal of emphasis was placed on the love of God for his people. The camping goals for each camp were to create, as quickly as possible, a sense of community. We began to see miracle after miracle of broken relationships being mended."

At family camps, the sense of community, that had been established among so many of the same campers who returned year after year quickly re-established early in the camp week. The youth and children's camps were different because the base of campers was much broader. There was also less continuity of campers from year to year. Having said that, though, as youth we made friends at camp that have endured for a lifetime. The youth camp leaders had to manage groups of young people with enough diligence to retain safety and control but also to encourage reverence, laughter, fun and allow reasonable measures of camp romance.

Into the early 1970s, the camper dynamic seemed to change, affecting the camp program again. It remained a place to praise God and grow in faith. In the early years of the camp the campers were mainly "churched" within their families and congregations. Campers were now coming with more varied faith experiences. Camp counselor staffing that had begun with the youth camps of the 60's seemed even more important. Mentors who were examples of faith were needed by the young campers. Late in the 70's, as the camp season covered nearly the whole summer, the camp decided to offer wages to the camp counselors. One result was more staff consistency throughout each summer and from year to year.

Excellent junior staff members were attracted, many from post-secondary institutions. They had many talents and a strong faith to share. Several had first come to camp as children.



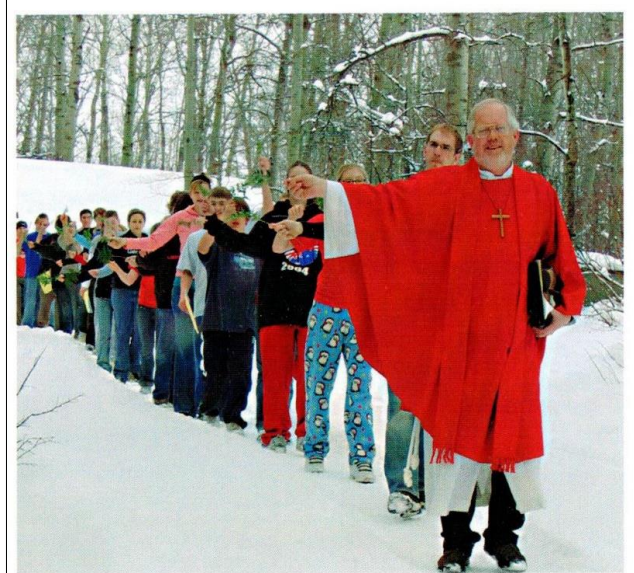
A main attraction of the camp had always been the beauty and tranquility of this special piece of God's creation. As complexity, responsibilities and stresses of life seemed to increase in society; of the beauty, tranquility, and peace became even more important. "Set apart to be together" became the slogan for the Camp. The number of summer camps was significant but the vision broadened again.

At least three developments made the new broadened vision possible and subsequently drove it.

First, between 1972 and 1980 the new Kuriakos Center Lodge was built and dedicated. The new center, with its modern washroom facilities, modern kitchen, dining room and accommodations for 68 campers and staff, was a great summer upgrade but, significantly, made year-round camping and programming possible.

Secondly, in 1980, the Camp name was changed to Camp Kuriakos meaning, “belonging to the Lord”. The camp would continue to be owned and run by the Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association. Previously, the Association was made up of individual members but with the name change, membership in the Association was given to Congregations who would yearly, join the Association. This change created opportunity for a broader, more concerted support and promotion of the Camp.

Thirdly, near the same time, Rev. David Larsen became the part time Camp Director and a few years later the full-time Camp Director. PD, as he has become lovingly called, was at the helm for 32 years. These were years of continuity and expanded programming.



PD. leads the Palm Sunday procession at the Youth Retreat. (2005)

God inspired his leadership. He became loved and respected because of his faith and gentle way. The Camp took on many of the aspects encompassed in a “congregation”, a congregation that Pastor Dave had been called to spiritually lead. This was not the only role of the Camp Director, as he was called upon for administrative tasks, promotions, registrations, scheduling, staffing and general oversight. He was also not averse to taking on whatever menial task needed doing. Some of these things of course needed to be delegated as time went on and his title changed to Executive Director.

The camp program took a year-round thrust. Retreats for church councils, family reunions, seniors, youth, men, women, and pastor’s spouses became regular events. Thanksgiving at the Lake and Family May Days began as a new camp experience and also facilitating the long tradition of volunteers doing both skilled and grunt work in building, renovating, take-down, setup, and cleanup needed in both spring and fall. Noted here, are the thousands of hours by camp board members over the years who have borne, “the weight of keeping it going but rewarded through the joy of success”.

The program expansion and increasing numbers of campers began to outstrip the existing space and facility resources. New cabins Mathew, Luke and Mark were built, a teepee was purchased and set up, chuck wagons with bunks were built, tenting sites developed, and RV sites were built. The Standard Cabin, on the east side of the camp property, was given to the Camp and renovated to allow year-round use. It was renamed the Dana Lodge in honor of the Danish founders of the camp. And recreationally, there were many changes because campers’ interests expanded. The four-season use required the development of new activities and the accompanying facilities. In

the early years, the activities had centered at the lake, a ball diamond and horseshoe pit. Now the ARC was built for Arts, Recreation and Crafts. This included a gym, workshop, crafts area, and climbing wall. Better access was built to the expanded beach and a storage building was situated



Staff perform a passion play each summer, now camp tradition. In this scene, Jesus is teaching his disciples.

at lakeside. Sailboats, sailboards, more canoes, and kayaks were added. A physical obstacle course, a treehouse and a sauna were built. Winter campers began bringing cross-country ski equipment and ice fishing gear.

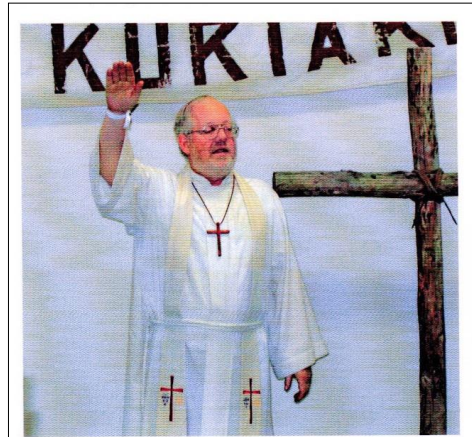
In 1990, there were twelve retreats during the fall, winter and spring, and 14 summer camps. During the summer, there were special activity camps including soccer camp and music, art and drama camp. Three camps were held off site; two backpacking and one cycling.

The original 17 acres from the Isaacsons was all being used. Two property additions took place over the next years. Fifteen acres that bordered the county road and 156 acres across the county road were also added. These areas

both came with residences that could be rented out to raise revenue. The quarter section contained about 40 acres of forested land where rustic campsites have been developed. A soccer field was built on the 15-acre parcel.

Understandably over the 90 years, there were many developments to modernize, improve comfort, and adhere to environmental and health regulations. Today, Camp Kuriakos is a Christian, environmentally conscious, modern, year-round institution on Sylvan Lake in Alberta.

From the early years, the Christian foundation of the camp was established and so the ministry has flourished through soon to be 90 years. The program's strength has been built through addressing evolving needs. There have been times of challenge that have been overcome by relying on God's strength and blessing. Through the innovation and energy of the camp leadership and camp members, the vision of the Camp founders has been carried forward. Thousands of lives have been touched.



Worship ends with the blessing, said together. "The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord look upon us with favour and give us peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Pastor David Larsen and David Christiansen for input, feedback, and encouragement. Information, quotes and pictures are from the Camp Kuriakos Sixty and Seventy-Five Year Anniversary Books, 1990 and 2005; and from "A Short History of the Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp", written and compiled by E. M. Castella on the Camp's 50th anniversary in 1980; and thank you to Joseph Amundrud for formatting and picture scanning.

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My life with Danish literature

Marina Allemano

These days there is a lot of talk in Denmark of what Danish identity means, a discussion which has coincided with the Ministry of Culture having put together a *Danmarkskanon* (Denmark Canon) in 2016 that reflects ten values pertaining to *danskhed* (Danishness). The term *danskhed* has in fact been decreed the 2016 Word of the Year by the radio program *Sproglaboratoriet* (The Language Laboratory), i.e., it was deemed the most prominent and discussed word of the past year.

So, what is *danskhed*, and how does it relate to those of us who have settled abroad – in Canada, for instance?

Often when I have to introduce myself to folks in Danish circles, I feel the need to explain the origin of my seemingly unusual name, lest the audience think I am not a “real” Dane. The reality is that my maiden name was Petersen, and that I was born in Copenhagen, and lived in the capital area until I was twenty. Moreover, my native tongue is definitely Danish, and I spent a good part of my professional life teaching the Danish language, and writing books in Danish about Danish literature.

However, my mother, whose name was also Marina, was a Russian immigrant; my maternal grandmother married a Swedish man and lived in Sweden till she died; my husband is of Italian parentage; my grandchildren’s heritage is partly Korean; and I am myself a proud Canadian citizen.

‘Roots’ is one of the popular metaphors used to describe one’s identity. As the slogan says on the T-shirt, “I live in Canada with Danish roots.” However, in a recent book about Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Her Majesty has been quoted to give the metaphor an added twist by saying: “*Man må gerne beholde sine rødder, men man skal sørge for at jorden er frisk*” (You may keep your roots, but you should see to it that the soil is fresh)¹, implying that the old soil needs to be mixed with fresh soil to encourage healthy growth. Whereas the Queen is referring to immigrants and refugees being transplanted to Danish soil, I am speaking of having become a Dano-Canadian, of having embraced multiculturalism and diversity, all the while keeping my own cultural background alive without nurturing romantic notions of having Viking blood in my veins – and without sinking too deeply into sluggish *hygge* (conflict-free coziness). As it happens, while *hygge* is one of the ten values in the Denmark Canon, multiculturalism and diversity are not.

Looking at it in this light, I feel that my identity consists of a large root system including rootlets and fine root hairs, some of which have withered away, some that are new and fresh, similar to the language itself that constantly undergoes changes when speakers invent and integrate new words, such as ‘*ældrebyrde*’ (elder-burden) or ‘*skabskristen*’ (closet Christian) as well as letting go of others like ‘*påtar*’ (a topping-up of a half-empty cup of coffee).

My life started in 1947 at Sct. Joseph's Hospital, Copenhagen, not far from Nørregade where my parents lived. For a few years I lived in Tårnby on the island of Amager with my uncle and aunt, but I moved back to the city when I started school at N. Zahles Seminariskole close to Nørregade. I loved school, and *håndarbejde* (handicrafts) was my favourite subject then – in fact I still enjoy knitting even though a Norwegian philosopher last year declared that knitting is an antifeminist activity! Many a feminist has since proven Mr. Espen Søbye wrong and demonstrated that you can indeed think with needles in your hands!

By the mid-1950s many Danes started to experience the beginning of the post-war boom, and our family was able to move from an apartment in the inner city to a house with a garden in Gentofte. Dyssegårdsskolen became my new school, and I continued later at Gentofte Statsskole from where I graduated in the math-science program in 1965.



*The author Dorrit Willumsen and Marina Allemanno at the launch of the book *Prinsesse Sukkergodt med barberblad. Læsninger i Dorrit Willumsens forfatterskab (Princess Sugar with Razor Blade. Readings in the Works by Dorrit Willumsen)* in Copenhagen 2015.*

Not having any definite post-graduate plans, I, like many other young Danish people, travelled to Israel to work in a kibbutz, which became a life-changing event for me. Kibbutz Dafna in Upper Galilee was a world vastly different from the comforts of suburban Denmark, and for the first time in my life, I had to do exhausting physical labour, getting up at 4 am every day to work in the apple orchards before the temperature reached 30 plus degrees. The extreme heat was difficult to deal with, and I was eventually transferred to the large communal kitchen where most days started with the decapitation of two chickens for the daily soup. The peeling of potatoes and onions by the bucket-full were my initial chores along with the cleaning of fish from the local carp ponds, but soon I graduated to assist the specialty cook in preparing meals for diabetics and vegetarians in normal-size pots and pans. Breaded eggplant steaks became my thing.

The originally planned six-week stay turned into six months, and the following year I returned to work in another kibbutz close to Tel Aviv after a lengthy hitchhiking trip through Europe. The excitement of being abroad, of learning foreign languages, of living in different climates and cultures, and of experiencing a feeling of independence has stayed with me ever since.

After having celebrated Copenhagen's 800th birthday on June 16th in 1967 with coffee and pancakes served at the world's longest coffee table – one km long – set up along the famous shopping street *Strøget*, I embarked on another youthful adventure to Canada the very next day. After several months of waiting on tables and flipping burgers in a small tourist town on Lake Erie, I entered the University of Guelph as a student with ambitions to become a teacher of French and math. Math was my forte in *gymnasiet* (high school), and the combination of language and numbers seemed a perfect choice then. In the end it was language and literature that won me over along with a French- and Italian-speaking fellow student who later became my husband.

One thing led to another: the birth of two children, further studies at the University of Alberta and eventually a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature in 1988. Although my dissertation dealt primarily with American and French literature, I had been wise enough to include a minor subject area of Scandinavian literature in my graduate work – just in case there should ever be a call for such esoteric knowledge. As it turned out, the call came one day in 1993 when I received a contractual position teaching literature in the Scandinavian program in addition to those courses that I had already taught for a decade in the Comparative Literature program at U of A.

The works of Hans Christian Andersen, Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg became my teaching subjects for several years, and as much as I loved these nineteenth-century geniuses, I missed the voices of female writers. Hence, I created a new course in 2002 dedicated to literature written by Scandinavian women such as Karen Blixen (aka Isak Dinesen), Suzanne Brøgger, Hanne Marie Svendsen, Kerstin Ekman, Herbjørg Wassmo, Linn Ullman, Tove Jansson, Astrid Lindgren and others.

However, growing up during the 1960s when the second wave of feminism arose, I had taken an interest in Scandinavian women long before. As a way of procrastinating with my dissertation that dealt with historical fiction written by famous men, I decided to approach the writer Suzanne Brøgger, who was one of the most-talked-about celebrities in Denmark at the time, and request an interview with her. Very generously she agreed, and we eventually met at the historic restaurant *Søpavillonen* by the lake *Peblingesøen* in Copenhagen one summer afternoon in 1985. We sipped coffee and nibbled on the tiniest petit four cakes while discussing the pros and cons of the nuclear family. While I was married with two children, Suzanne Brøgger was at this point single and famous for her book *Fri os fra kærligheden* (Deliver Us From Love) that rejected patriarchal matrimony. My new interest turned into a series of articles about Brøgger's writing as well as a translation of one of her novels with the unusual title *En gris som har været oppe at slås kan man ikke stege* (A Fighting Pig's Too Tough to Eat), published by Norvik Press in England.



At the launch of the Brøgger translation at a SASS² conference at University of Illinois in 1997, another turn on my Danish career path took place. It happened that the chairperson of the Committee for Danish Lecturers Abroad was present, and he subsequently invited me to the annual conference for Danish Lecturers at Hindsgavl Castle on the island of Fyn for a job interview. The University of Alberta had for a while been looking into adding Danish language courses to its Scandinavian program (Swedish and Norwegian were already firmly established) and had been negotiating with the Danish Ministry of Education to support two levels of Danish language classes. It all worked out, and the following year Danish was offered at the University of Alberta while I had to let go of my teaching assignments in Comparative Literature in order to accommodate the new job description.

Eleven great years followed with the teaching of Danish language and Scandinavian literature as well as further research of literature by Danish women writers. Through my membership in SASS and AASSC³ I presented papers at many conferences in the USA and Canada, and by 2004 my book on Suzanne Brøgger's writing came out, published by Gyldendal.

Suzanne Brøgger was born in 1944 and is only a few years older than me. Apart from her iconic image and high intelligence, it was the generational commonality between us that had spurred my interest at first. It was exciting to follow a living writer's creative progress and compare this Danish woman's writing life with those of other feminists abroad. As it turned out, during my research period Brøgger made a 180-degree turnabout regarding the nuclear family: she married, she had a child, and she came to see her own life journey as a transformational process akin to a spiritual quest, all of which is reflected in her philosophical writing.



Marina and Lou Allemanno, with their third grandchild Matteo in Montreal

Meanwhile during another SASS conference, I met the author Hanne Marie Svendsen who with her reading of her funny story *De vanvittige* (The Lunatics) made a big impression on me. I had read her magical novel *Guldkuglen. Fortælling om en ø* (The Golden Ball. A Tale About an Island) years ago, but knew little else about this interesting woman. I applied my previous modus operandi: acquiring all the books and articles by and about the writer and requesting an interview with the subject. To my delight I discovered that Hanne Marie Svendsen was born in Skagen and shared a vacation house in the dunes of Højen, aka Gammel Skagen, with her spouse Werner Svendsen and their children. Jylland, let alone the northern tip, was a foreign country to me then, and thanks to the couple's warm hospitality, I was fortunate to be invited on several occasions to their *klithus* (house in the dunes) and to learn more about the author's work as well as the history and geography of the region. After four years of research, during which time Hanne Marie Svendsen produced several new novels and stories, my book *HAV-FRUE. Hanne Marie Svendsens forfatterskab* (Mer-Maid. Hanne Marie Svendsen's

Writing) was published by Gyldendal. In contrast to Suzanne Brøgger, Hanne Marie Svendsen writes very seldom about herself but prefers to write fiction, and in order to spread the word about her in the anglophone world, I translated her wonderful, contemporary novel *Under solen* (Under the Sun) which had caught my interest early on.

The various publications sharpened my appetite for researching more literature by contemporary women – or as we say in Danish: “*det gav mig blod på tanden*” (I tasted blood) – and I chose to resign from my teaching to concentrate on my own writing. Unfortunately, with my resignation, the Danish government decided not to renew its support of Danish language classes at U of A because there was no local faculty qualified to fill the position. Sending a Danish lecturer from Denmark was evidently not an option as far as the Committee for Danish Lecturers Abroad was concerned. At least I, and the Scandinavian program, had enjoyed eleven years of Danish

language instruction from 1998 to 2009. The University of British Columbia is now the only Canadian university that offers Danish.

My next research subject was Dorrit Willumsen, also a prolific writer and recipient of many prizes. As with Brøgger and Svendsen, a lively correspondence developed, but this time on paper and through the postal service, as Dorrit Willumsen is reluctant to use internet and email. Born and bred in Nørrebro, the inner city of Copenhagen, Willumsen's background differs from those of the other two women, but like them, she writes primarily about women's experiences and gender relationships. Dorrit Willumsen's trademark is an acute sense of black humour combined with a strong sense of empathy, which inspired a critic to call her *Prinsesse Sukkergodt med barberblad* (Princess Sugar with Razor Blade) – an epithet that I borrowed for the title of my book about her work, published in 2015.

It must be said that the three authors do not exclude portraits of male characters from their writing. For instance, Brøgger has written pieces about Søren Kierkegaard; Hanne Marie Svendsen a novel about the linguist Rasmus Rask; and Dorrit Willumsen a novel about Herman Bang, which won her the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 1997. My own interest in Herman Bang spurred me on to translating Willumsen's book about the canonical writer which has become my most recent project. If all goes well, an English version of *Bang*, the novel, will come out in 2017 in England.

In the meantime, the diversified family root system is growing. Three bilingual French-English grandchildren have appeared one by one in Montreal, but frequent trips and skyping have also made it possible to pass on fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen as well as stories about Rasmus Klump, Pippi Longstocking and the Moomin Trolls to the youngsters. And to prevent my own brain from seizing up entirely, I have embarked on an intense study of the Italian language which forms a major part of my husband's roots.

Finally, after the Danish component was excised from the Scandinavian Program at U of A, the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church has become the last institution in Edmonton where Danish is spoken on a regular basis by a substantial number of people, not the least by the young Pastor Lasse Hultberg and his family who are recent arrivals from Denmark. As a volunteer, I have been secretary on the church board for the past eight years, and have enjoyed the interaction and friendship with many a Danish immigrant, whether we speak in our mother tongue or indulge in the charming lingo of Denglish.

¹ Thomas Larsen: *De dybeste rødder. Dronningen fortæller om Danmark og danskerne*. Gyldendal, 2016 (The Deepest Roots. The Queen Talks About Denmark and the Danes.)

² Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS)

³ Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC)

Martin Luther

Relevant After 500 Years

Pastor Birgitte Saltorp

The year 2017 is the quincentennial of the European Reformation, but it is also the year in which a highly unlikely candidate has taken office in the White House. What do the two have to do with each other, and what was the Reformation about?

There are two sides to the story, power and belief. In the Renaissance, every country in Europe had its prince or king, but the real power lay in Rome, because no matter what a king or prince might decide, it could always be reversed or changed by the Vatican – as long as you accepted that this was the God-given order of things. For centuries it had been important for prominent Italian families to have someone in the family at the centre of power, preferably in Peter's Chair (the pope), and they had no qualms about bribing and murdering their way to power.

A chief reason local powers would let Rome rule was that in Matthew 6,19, Jesus says to Peter that, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." When you have been taught that no matter what, the pope is right; then you also believe that you will go straight to hell for going against him. You and I may be somewhat laid back about that (because there has been a Reformation in between), but for people back then disagreeing would mean certain loss of salvation – the threat of that being Rome's most powerful tool.

From the 14th century onward, there was a focus on reading texts in the language they had originally been written; reading already having become wide-spread before Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. With his invention reading materials became readily available, even if only to the educated and wealthy.

When theologians, among them Martin Luther, studied the Bible in its original languages – Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New - they discovered that the texts of the Bible were quite a bit different in tone and content from what the church had been teaching, using its Latin translation.

In Rome, the pope wanted to build Saint Peter's Basilica, and in Germany there was a new archbishop, and both needed money. The pope required vast sums to build the splendid basilica and the archbishop needed to pay his debts, or rather bribes, which had secured his election. But how do you make the public pay for those things? By promising people that if they buy an Indulgence, it would, after life on earth, reduce, in purgatory, the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins. However, the Bible makes no mention of purgatory, which the Roman Church was threatening them with!

Many of the people studying the original Biblical texts felt the Church had gotten several things wrong. Intellectuals began discussing how to go about correcting the misinterpretations. There had been violent protests in Bohemia and England in times gone by, and even new translations of the Bible into local national languages. In any case, nothing much happened until the 33-year-old Martin Luther, a monk teaching at the University in Wittenberg, after many deliberations and debates with colleagues, posted his thoughts, by nailing 95 theses on the church door. It was a common way to initiate a debate at a time when newspapers - or the internet – did not exist.

It was never Luther's intention to start anything like what happened next; he only wanted the Church to live by the Bible, rather than by rules that people thought up. However, his writings fed the growing concerns in, above all, Northern Europe, about the pope's misuse of power. Consequently his 95 Theses were copied, and sent to the printer! Soon the theses were out all over Germany (we are talking a few weeks), and before long they also reached Rome, where they were not welcomed.



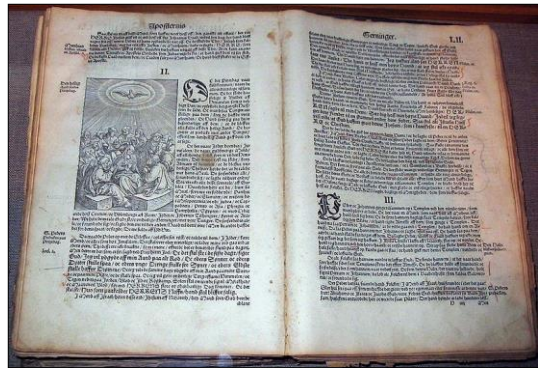
The statue of Martin Luther in Wittenberg, holding a copy of the New Testament in German, translated by him from the original Greek

Luther's theses appealed to many people in Europe, including kings and princes, theologians, the 'Socialists' of the day, as well as plain troublemakers. The fearful remained faithful to the Church, but others demanded changes, of all kinds: changes to Rome's power, local power, and oh, changes in the Church. The Vatican naturally feared where all this unrest could lead. To deal with Luther they summoned him to appear before the Emperor, the German princes and the emissaries from the Vatican, to defend himself. Many will remember the name in English of this event, because it is 'The Diet of Worms'; diet meaning an assembly, and Worms (pronounced Vorms) being the town, between Heidelberg and Frankfurt am Main, where the historic confrontation took place.

After stating his case, insisting on the truth of the Bible over that of the Church, and before any verdict could be handed down, Luther left Worms for Wittenberg. On his journey he was intercepted and abducted by mercenaries, and taken to the castle of Wartburg, southwest of Eisenach. This was a cunning plot by his protector Prince Frederick the Wise, who decided that ‘the good guys’ had better get Luther before the bad ones did; and since Luther was excommunicated a few days later there would have been people out for his head.

In Wartburg, Luther was an anonymous Knight Jörg, and he spent his time translating the New Testament from Greek into German. There were at that time no rules for the German language so he had to ‘invent’ a consistent grammar as he worked along. He also began the work of translating the Old Testament, but unrest broke out in Wittenberg and surrounding areas so Luther decided to blow his cover and go back to set things straight.

While Luther had been gone, radicals had taken power and made the people rise against both the Church and worldly powers. Some of the effects were, briefly, that churches were stormed and the art in them removed or even destroyed. During this Peasants’ War more than 100,000 peasants were killed by the soldiers of the aristocracy. Luther did support that the princes used force against the revolt, but he was not proud of having given them an excuse to go to those extremes. (Many Danes will have learned that the frescoes in Danish churches were painted over as a result of the Reformation, but it has been proven that many had already been painted over long before then, simply because they were in rough shape.)



*A copy of King Christian III's Bible
A translation in Danish of Luther's
German Bible*

The Reformation in Denmark followed the painful 1521-23 break-up of the Kalmar Union between Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Being close to the German lands, the Danes have always been quick to pick up on what was going on in Europe. Most theological literature would come to Denmark from Germany, so of course young pastors and students would be among the first to discover what was going on. King Frederik I had signed a charter to fight against Lutheranism, but in 1526 he ordered the citizens of Viborg to protect their preacher Hans Tausen, who had already been preaching the new ideas for a while. Many other young theologians went to the University of Wittenberg to study under Luther and Melancthon and their peers, and many did so with grants from the Danish King.

King Frederik ignored that people began to attack churches and monasteries, basically letting the Reformation roll over Denmark without formal resistance. After his death in 1533 there was a year without a king because different fractions of the aristocracy could not agree on whether to choose the faithful Catholic, Hans, or his half-brother Christian, who had already introduced Lutheranism in Schleswig and Holstein, after getting to know Martin Luther at the meeting in Worms in 1521.

In the summer of 1534 Christian was finally hailed as King Christian III, first in Jylland, and then on Fyn. After much warring and unrest Copenhagen finally “surrendered” in 1536 (you may know this revolt as Grevens Fejde). Christian and his troops marched into Copenhagen,

displacing the Catholic bishops and declaring all of Denmark Lutheran on August 12, 1536, the King's 33rd birthday.

When power was secured, King Christian wrote to Martin Luther, with whom he had been corresponding for years, asking for help to establish a Lutheran Church in Denmark. Luther sent one of his trusted men, Johannes Bugenhagen, to assist the King and the new bishops, after some of the Danish theologians had already written a first draft of new church laws for Denmark. Then on the King's 34th birthday, Bugenhagen crowned Christian King of Denmark and Norway.

After the laws were revised by Bugenhagen and passed in 1537, the King appointed seven 'superintendents', who were installed by Bugenhagen. The superintendents replaced the Catholic Bishops. The idea was that the King and the superintendents would meet every so often to deal with church matters, and in the meantime the King would stay out of the affairs of the church. As well, the idea was that superintendents would not have any 'worldly' occupations beside their church responsibilities. It didn't work out that way; but that's a different story.

The veneration of saints was abolished as were fasting, celibacy and everything else that seemed 'too Catholic'. You may not be aware of it, but traditionally Protestants would wear their wedding band on the opposite hand of the one the Catholics would, just because...

Most monks and nuns were allowed to stay in their monasteries and convents, and the priests were allowed to keep their churches until they died – but many did become Lutheran in the process. Only when the last monk or nun had died was the monastery added to the property of the Crown. The last convent to be closed was the one in Maribo on Lolland, where the last nun died in 1595 (she had been very young when she entered the convent).

Before leaving Denmark, Bugenhagen reformed the University of Copenhagen, modelling it on the one in Wittenberg. The Danish church acquired its own liturgy in Danish, and in 1550 the first full Danish translation of the Bible, *Kong Christian III's Bibel*, was published, a translation not from Hebrew and Greek, but of Luther's German Bible.

Throughout history faith and power have seemed to go hand in hand. It has sometimes been a very abusive relationship – one that the Reformation was a reaction to. We still need to have a keen eye for when power is abusing faith, or the church is abusing power, because it has nothing to do with Christianity (or any other faith).

One of the significant points of the Lutheran Reformation, and the Protestant Reformation in general, is that the Bible should be for all to read and interpret, and that the language of faith should be the language of the heart.

That is why we have Danish Lutheran churches in Canada – not only do people need to hear their mother tongue, but there are certain things about being a church that cannot be duplicated by other traditions. Churches have their traditions and their time; it doesn't make one tradition more right than another, each speaks parts of the truth about God; but our tradition makes it easier for some people (also non-Danes) to relate to Christian faith than other churches, and vice versa.

Faith is not a matter of being told by worldly powers what to believe, but a matter of your own connection to God; having the knowledge, the tradition and the possibility of conversation available to you when you need it. So, on this year of the quincentennial of the Reformation you may want to think about in which way you can support the work of the Danish churches in Canada.



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Many Danes came in 1957 our big year of immigration

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

More Danes immigrated to Canada in 1957, than in any other year. According to government immigration statistics, 7,790 immigrants came from Denmark in 1957, sixty years ago. This compares with 4,621 Danes immigrating to Canada in 1951, and between three and four thousand in 1928, 1929 as well as in 1956.

In most Post-World War II years, less than 2,000 Danes immigrated to Canada per year, and 1968 was the last year with over 1,000 Danes coming to Canada. In 1984 immigration from Denmark dropped to less than 100 persons per year, a trend which has continued.

In 1949 Canada opened its doors to immigration from Denmark, and there were few hindrances for Danes to make the move. At the same time, that is, after the War, Danes were also immigrating to the United States and Australia, as well as other countries. The United States had a quota system for immigrants. A few Danes tried to bypass the U.S. quota, and successfully used Canada as a stepping stone to the United States.

Some Danish immigrants to Canada claimed they came here for adventure or to try something new and different. Indeed, a fair number of Danish immigrants, who had come to Canada in the 1950s, did return to Denmark. But some of these actually came back to Canada again!

In the 1920s Danish immigrants came to Canada by ship. They could board the *SS Frederik VIII*, the *SS Hellig Olav*, the *SS Oscar II* or the *SS United States* in Copenhagen and sail directly to Halifax. These ships were operated by the Scandinavian America Line, which was owned by DFDS of Copenhagen. Due to the Great Depression, the Scandinavian America Line was disbanded in 1935, and all four ships were scrapped.

After the Second World War, Danish immigrants could sail from Scandinavia, including Copenhagen, with the Swedish American Line or the Norwegian America Line, which both called at Halifax. Another possibility was the Polish liner *MS Batory*, which sailed to Montreal – and Halifax in winter.

1971 is often referred to as the year in which more immigrants came to Canada by air, than by sea. This fact is readily seen when looking at the fate of the shipping companies. The Hamburg America Line ceased operations on the North Atlantic run in 1969, followed by the Norwegian America Line in 1971. Then the Holland America Line stopped, while the Swedish American Line continued service until 1975. The *MS Batory* was taken out of service in 1969, but was replaced by the *TSS Stefan Batory*, which made its last North Atlantic run in 1990. The Danes who came to Canada by ship can tell both wonderful and terrifying stories about the voyage, due

FYI

to the storms, hurricanes and seasickness, as well as the bountiful food, great parties and live entertainment on board. For all of them it was the experience of a life time.

Many also remember their arrival at Pier 21 in Halifax, being processed through Immigration and then boarding the trains for Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and points further west. The canteen at Pier 21 also had a "Special", a cardboard box containing the essentials for a long train journey, costing two dollars. Many will readily tell others of the terrible conditions on the trains, wooden seats and little or no service, in addition to the desolate landscape looking out the window.

But the Danish immigrants came determined to carve out a better life in a new land which promised opportunity, freedom and security. Some of the Danish immigrants were farmers, including dairymen, and gardeners, others were labourers, tradesmen, skilled workers and technicians, businessmen and even professionals.

We know that Danish farmers and farm hands generally came to Canada to acquire their own farm. But all Danish immigrants had one thing in common, they sought a brighter future, and the Canadian economy was booming. This was not the case in Denmark. The Danish economy did not recover after the War until 1957-58. Denmark had a trade deficit and had to deal with balance of payment problems. Denmark had no gold or foreign currency reserves to speak of, and had difficulty borrowing abroad. There were restrictions on foreign trade and the Krone was not convertible. Immigrants could only take the equivalent of \$100 out of the country.

For decades Denmark continued to have a severe housing shortage. There was persistent and widespread unemployment. In March and April 1956, there were major strikes and lock-outs. The Danish workers demanded that the work week be reduced from 48 hours to 44 hours. There were demonstrations in front of the Parliament Buildings, organized by the Communist Party, which was growing in strength (until the events in Hungary later that year).

In the fall of 1956, the world experienced the Suez Crisis, and oil and gas was rationed in Denmark. As well, the Hungarian Uprising that fall brought the brutality of the Soviet Union directly into Danish homes through the newly acquired TV sets. The Nazi Occupation of Denmark was still fresh in the mind of Danes, and events in Hungary were too close for many Danes. Surely a safer future lay across the ocean.

In 1957, Canada welcomed 37,000 Hungarian refugees. Unlike the Danes, they could not go back home. The Canadian government streamlined the immigration process for Hungarians, covered much of their travel costs and supported them during their first year in Canada. In time, they too became an asset for Canada.

The Danes were economic immigrants. They were on their own, but prepared to work. They wanted to get ahead and contribute. For the Danes, there have been many accomplishments, but also hardships. In general, however, they have done well, made their old country proud, and have succeeded in realizing their grandest pursuits and wildest dreams. This is clearly seen in the Danish immigrant Class of 1957!

Scandinavian Studies

Prof. Natalie Van Deusen, University of Alberta

Dr. John Eason and I have enjoyed yet another busy and productive year teaching in the Scandinavian Studies program in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta. We are thrilled to have steady, growing enrollments in our class and in the Scandinavian Studies major and minor.

John and I have been able to offer our students a variety of courses on Scandinavian language, literature, and culture from the Viking Age to the present day. This academic year, John taught first-year Norwegian and Swedish, second-year Swedish, as well as a special topics course entitled “Madness, Myth, and Modernity – Perspectives in Scandinavian Literature.” He will teach his popular course on ABBA in the spring term.

This year, I taught SCAND 399: Scandinavian Crime Fiction, SCAND 341: Old Norse Mythology and Legends, SCAND 342: Vikings and Sagas, and SCAND 356: Women in Scandinavian Literature and Popular Culture. We are particularly pleased with the enrollments in these courses. All told, well over two hundred students have enrolled in our courses for the 2016-17 academic year. There are currently eight students who have declared majors in Scandinavian Studies, and ten who are minoring in the program.

Students from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds and with a range of experience in Scandinavian Studies enroll in our courses. The students both John and I have had the pleasure of teaching are highly engaged and interested in the course material, which is reflected in their exams, papers, and presentations. Not only is their work of an overall excellent quality, but also, they demonstrate creativity and exceptional commitment to the subject matter. We have a high rate of continuation of students (majors, minors, or otherwise) in Norwegian, Swedish, and Scandinavian Studies, and we look forward to offering them more diverse and interesting courses, which serve the aforementioned purpose of providing a solid foundation of the languages, literatures, and cultures of Scandinavia—past and present.

Dr. Natalie M. Van Deusen

Assistant Professor & Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Scandinavian Professor

Undergraduate Honours Advisor

Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/about/people-collection/natalie-van-deusen>

Vice President and Program Chair, Association for the Advancement of
Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC)

Chair, Old Norse Group, Modern Language Association (MLA)

Book Review Editor, *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies*/*Études scandinaves au Canada*

Ida Ebbesen, née Lyng

Memoirs 1941–45

In the summer of 1941 we were a group of nine Danish children, who were sent from Greenland to the United States and Canada in order to attend secondary school. The German invasion (in April 1940) barred sending us to Denmark, as was the usual arrangement. Four of us: the sisters Hedvig (called Hevi) and Ida Lyng, Nuka Høgh and Knud Eyvin Bugge, called Eyvin, were sent to Toronto, Canada. Nuka is a Greenlandic name meaning “little sister”. The remaining five of the nine children were sent to the United States. In 1940 Hevi, Nuka and Eyvin all turned twelve, while I, Ida, would turn eleven.

Eyvin’s father, who was Dean, and therefore head of the church and school, was appointed to find homes where we could stay. It was deemed important that the guardians chosen were of Danish origin in order to ensure that the children would not forget their Danish language while they were away. Therefore, Eyvin’s father was to contact not only the school authorities, but also pastors of the Danish congregations. After his return to Greenland the supervision of the children and all financial arrangements became the responsibility of the Greenland Office in New York, called the Greenland Delegation, usually abbreviated Greendel.

In April Eyvin and his parents went by ship to Philadelphia and from there by train to New York and Toronto. At a meeting between Eyvin’s father and Denmark’s ambassador in Washington, Henrik Kauffmann, it was decided that the children should live relatively near the Greenland Office. Four of us were sent to Toronto, Canada. Two found a home near Philadelphia and three in the northern part of New York State. By July we had all arrived; our adventure had begun.

My guardians

My guardians were the medical doctor Max Wilhelmson and his wife Elly. They had two sons, Eric and Peter, respectively 8 and 4 years old, who were away on holidays. From its basket the dog, Wimpey, studied my movements with tilting head and friendly eyes. In the waiting room I saw a piano. What a delightful surprise!

Uncle Max was born in Thy in 1901, in the northwestern corner of Denmark. After having studied medicine at the University of Copenhagen he immigrated to the USA in 1928, and from there to Canada. In order to improve his English, he worked for some years in a private practice and in a morgue. He was admitted to the faculty of medicine at the University of Toronto, as the first foreign medical student. After having completed his studies he opened a medical clinic on Church Street. His wife, my new aunt Elly, was born in 1904 in Copenhagen. She had worked as a secretary, not only in Copenhagen, but also in Hamburg. In 1928 she joined Max, to whom she was engaged. They were married immediately after her arrival. During the first years she worked both as a cook and as a nanny. With this background, she developed an unfailing instinct concerning the thoughts and wishes of children. On one of the following days, aunt Elly and I

went downtown to buy some summer clothes for me for the coming holidays. A special treat was a pair of slacks, the first I ever owned! Afterwards we went to a hairdresser, where I got a new “hair-do”. It was bliss!



Ida with Max and Elly Wilhelmson

For the first months we lived on Church Street. Then at the end of October we moved to a house on Wellesley Crescent, only a ten-minute walk from Church Street. Our new home was situated in a peaceful residential area without rumbling streetcars. From this time I remember one evening overhearing aunt Elly putting Peter to bed. I was delighted to hear how I was included in his bedtime prayer. I was now included in the family!

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
 If I should die, before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.
 God bless Mom, Dad, Eric and Mormor in Denmark, Wimpey – and Ida!

Holidays

My first Canadian holiday was spent on a farm in Southern Ontario. The farm was owned by a Danish Canadian couple, Svend and Ada Jepson. They had three daughters, Greta one year older than I, Anne Lisa, who was my age, and Helen, who was two years younger. A friendship with these girls was quickly established, especially with Anne Lisa. We played in the barn and in the fields, and we swam in a small nearby river. This visit on the farm served as a language course! The three girls talked and talked incessantly, and they especially enjoyed teaching me slang words and also a number of so-called “dirty” words. After our return to Toronto I was introduced to Ella, who was the daughter of a neighbour. She attended Rosedale Public School, which was also to be my school. We decided to accompany each other. Our regular exchanges of views and observations also improved my English.

Some time during my second year in Toronto uncle Max bought a summer cottage situated on Lake Simcoe. I thoroughly enjoyed our holidays at this cottage. Yet, it was another holiday which impressed me the most. In the late summer of 1942, Hevi and I attended the YWCA girls’ summer camp at Tapawingo on Georgian Bay. I clearly remember the long, long trip by train in very hot weather; but all that was forgotten, once we had arrived at the camp, which was surrounded by beautiful wild nature.

Our activities were conducted according to our age and ability. Hevi belonged to the “big ones”, and was once in a while allowed to take a so-called skinny-dip in the lake without her bathing suit. We, the “small ones”, envied them that privilege, especially when we heard their laughter and joyful cries! We all learned to swim, and how to paddle a canoe. But only when we went on canoe trips as a group were we allowed to go a bit further out and to circle around some of the

small tree-clad islands. One day we visited an Indian reservation. I remember not only their miserable houses, but also my discomfort at gazing at these people as if we were visiting a zoo.

In the evening we would gather around an open camp fire and sing numerous songs from a song book, which we were allowed to keep. It contained several striking songs with catching tunes. Among these I remember:

Land of the silver birch, home of the beaver,
Where still the mighty moose wanders at will.
Blue lake and rocky shore,
I will return once more...

The evenings were concluded by singing Night on the Georgian Bay is falling. It was sad saying goodbye to Tapawingo. Hevi and I would often reflect on our memories of these wonderful weeks.

We had thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful typical Canadian natural surroundings, acquiring the Canadian skill of paddling a canoe, and last, but not least, the musical fellowship around the camp fire in the evenings. It is not a coincidence that the illustration on the cover of our printed memoirs depicts a silver birch, the lake and a canoe.

Rosedale Public School

School started on Labour Day, which was the first Monday in September. Uncle Max drove Eric and me to school. After a talk with the principal I was accompanied to the second floor, where my teacher, Miss Robertson, received me and introduced me to my new classmates. Miss Robertson was our teacher in all subjects. We had only a few long breaks, during which we went down into the yard, where we could talk and play ball. Boys and girls had different yards separated by the school building. At midday we had an hour and a half-break for lunch. School began at 9 o'clock and ended at 3:30 p.m.

Miss Robertson was very helpfully in teaching me English, and assisted me in finding books in the school library. My classmates were nice, but none of them became my close friends, perhaps because I felt I was a bit older than they. In addition, Uncle Max had decided that I should take piano lessons. These lessons were after school once or twice a week. We were 5 or 6 pupils, who alternated in being taught at the big black piano. In between we wrote notes and trained positioning our fingers. When I had nothing to do, I studied the end wall behind the piano. Here a great painting illustrated the first immigrants' arduous travel across Canada. The hours of daily practice at home contributed considerably to reduce my homesickness.

One day in November Miss Robertson asked me to stay behind after school. She said that I was now doing so well in English that I would be moved up to grade six. My new home room teacher was Miss Lupton, who taught us in a very lively way. We sang and sang. In the middle of a math lesson she could suddenly ask us to take a break, stand up and sing a happy song or two. A new subject was public speaking. One day I had to stand up and tell the class where I came from. My classmates were amazed that I spoke two languages apart from English: Danish and Greenlandic.

In grades seven and eight my home room teacher was Mr. Given. From his classes I remember not only writing reports on the books we had read, but above all, his teaching of English

literature, both poetry and the plays of Shakespeare. His interpretations were inspiring, and in the subject Art he asked us to illustrate the poems. In history he taught us current events and human rights. Under his guidance we also visited the Royal Ontario Museum, where we saw some impressive totem poles.

Jarvis Collegiate Institute

During the year 1944-45 I attended high school at Jarvis Collegiate Institute, which was situated right across the street from where I lived. Here we had a permanent class room, where we were taught by our home room teacher. For other subjects we wandered to other class rooms, where resided teachers specialized in specific subjects. It was a positive experience to meet different teachers and to have the subjects taught in their own context. We also had a few new subjects, such as Business Practice, Vocational Guidance, Algebra and French. Our French teacher was delighted that I could pronounce the sounds u and eu correctly. In music we had an elderly choleric teacher, who scolded us ever so often. It was fascinating when he introduced us to famous operas and then played the music on a gramophone. In between he told us about the different instruments. I joined the choir, which he directed, and often scolded; but he was certainly effective. We were constantly instructed “to listen to another”, and then – finally – it was perfect! In art we were taught by a stout and friendly teacher residing in a special room on the top floor of the building. Here I especially enjoyed drawing and had my first experience of croquis drawing, but without a live model.

On my last day of school in May 1945 all my classmates bid me goodbye. Someone made a speech, and I was given a beautiful book about drawing and painting. In the afternoon I sang for the last time in the choir directed by our irate, but ingenious, teacher. It was hot, and the windows out towards Wellesley Crescent were open. People passing by must have been delighted, when they heard us singing:

I dream of Jeannie with the light brown hair,
borne like a vapour on the summer air...

That year at Jarvis was my very best school year!

The city

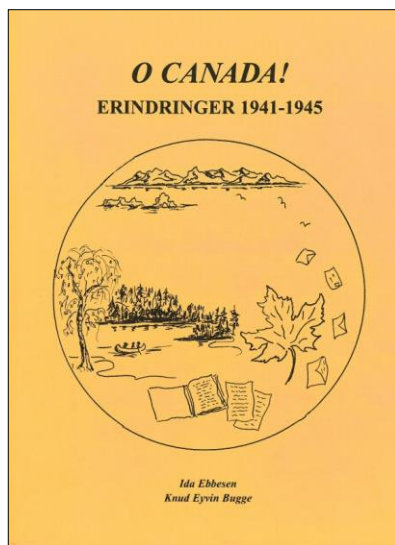
With a population of approximately 720,000 in 1941, Toronto was Canada’s second-largest city, surpassed only by Montreal. At the turn of the century the population of Canada had been just over 5 million. An excellent transportation system – street-cars and busses – made it easy for me to find my way around Toronto. I rode unaccompanied and happily from my home in the centre up north to visit Hevi, out east to visit Eyvin and out west during the time I was a member of the Girl Scouts. To the south lay the Toronto Islands, reached by a ferry, and beyond them the boundless and glittering Lake Ontario.

Very soon I felt at home in the city. Together with neighbouring children I explored the immediate vicinity on roller skates. Further away I gradually discovered other attractions. On the radio we could sometimes listen to operas from the Metropolitan in New York. Once or twice uncle Max and aunt Elly invited me to join them on a visit to the theatre. Together with friends I went to the movies, sometimes once or twice a week! In Greenland seeing a movie had been a very extraordinary event, taking place only once or twice a year.

Gradually I also became familiar with other parts of the city. At Christmas time Peter wanted to see Santa Claus. Together with aunt Elly, he and I visited Queens Park, where a smiling and waving Santa was the centre of public attention. At Christmas time the city resounded with the music of the season everywhere. On street corners the Salvation Army sounded their instruments and appealed for donations. And everywhere we heard Christmas songs and carols, which from then on became firmly lodged in my heart. Now and then during the following winter, I went skating, together with some friends, at the Varsity rink close to the University. For hours we skated round and round engulfed in inspiring music from the loudspeakers.

The nation

We, the four children from Greenland, were not immigrants. We were “war guests” staying “for the duration”. As nobody knew when the war would end, our stay was in a way indefinite. As mentioned above, we quickly adjusted ourselves to our new family, to the school and to the city.



On holidays to Georgian Bay we had experienced some typical Canadian outdoors. But did we connect to the nation as a whole? Only on some very specific occasions did I experience this larger context. One such experience occurred, when I together with the family attended a skating performance at the Maple Leaf Gardens sports arena. At the conclusion of the show the portraits of the King and Queen appeared on a huge screen. Behind them waved the British and Canadian flags. And then the huge crowd quietly rose from their seats and sang “God save the King”. Suddenly I realised that Canada was not just Toronto and Ontario, but a much larger entity.

My closest links to Canada were its people. At regular intervals, for example at Sunday School and in confirmation class, we met young Canadians of Danish origin. But these encounters were few. Every day we met a great majority of non-Danish Canadians at school, at summer camp, and at public events. I discovered that I liked these people, and I speculated why. I realised that I was impressed by their openness and helpfulness. And they were not pompous in any way. They respected people for honesty and ability to do a decent job, whatever it was. Titles and advanced education were not important.

Conclusions

It is impossible to know, how my life in Denmark would have evolved without my years in Canada. But this experience has ever since been a part of my innermost self. If one might try to draw some conclusions, then these could be:

Generally:

- (1) Help received both at home and at school is essential in acquiring sufficient knowledge of a new language.
- (2) Proficiency in the language is of crucial importance for the establishment of friendships, which in its turn is a forceful aid to social adjustment.

FYI

- (3) Four years is a long time to be separated from your home. But contact can be kept through letter writing. In a way, you are more open in a letter than in a face to face conversation. Perhaps you acquire a home by losing it.

Personal experience:

- (4) My personal experience spans the gap from misery (August 1941) to being extraordinarily happy, (Spring 1945). In addition to the above mentioned could be added that (a) Growing up in Greenland seems in some ways to have prepared me for my encounter with a foreign language and culture. In Greenland, I had played with both Danish and Greenlandic children and had daily communicated in two languages. And (b) I had an absorbing hobby – playing the piano – which helped me through gloomy periods.

Postscript

After the war, my cousin Ida Ebbesen, née Lyng, attended N. Zahles Seminarium in Copenhagen, a teachers training college. Later she worked for the school board in Northern Greenland, and from 1962 to 1976, for the school board in Godthaab, now Nuuk, Greenland's capital, where her husband was vice-director. The family then returned to Denmark where she worked for the school board in Bloustrød, north of Copenhagen. She passed away on December 1, 2014.

Now after almost two years it has finally been possible to produce an abridged English translation of her contribution to the book *O Canada! Erindringer 1941-1945* and it appears above. We wrote the book in close co-operation and published it privately in 2005. Only reluctantly have I taken on this task, in circumstances where we are no longer able to discuss the many choices available concerning terminology, disposition and editing. When the attempt was made, in spite of such deterrents, the decisive reasons were twofold: (1) that the translation of half a book, i.e. of my contributions only, would for ever remain a torso, and (2) that several readers of the Danish original emphasized how interesting it would be to have the same integration experience documented by both a boy and a girl. During the course of translation, the text has been subjected to a lenient editorial process, including a few abridgements. Despite these changes, it is my sincere belief that Ida would have been pleased with the result.

K.E. Bugge, Vedbæk, Denmark, September 2016.




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Obituaries

Herluf Nielsen

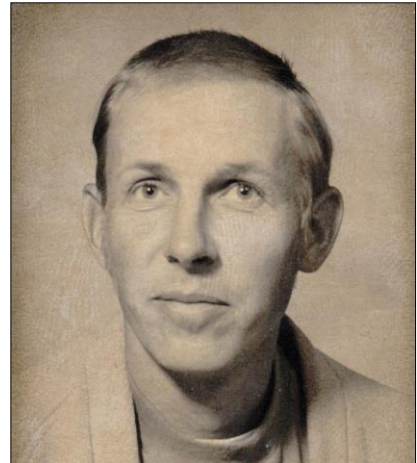
1941 – 2008

A life well lived and remembered

Alice Nielsen and Kristine Amundrud

Some people make the world better just by being in it, some people can light up a room, just by walking in the door, some people leave footprints on your heart that remain there forever. Herluf was one of those people — with his infectious smile, his wonderful sense of humour, and his boundless energy and enthusiasm.

To spend time in the company of Herluf was to have a “hyggelig time”. Most Danes will know that the Danish word hygge, originating from Old Norse, means thinking and feeling satisfied. It’s related to finding shelter, rest and security, and regaining drive and endurance. Simply put, hygge is a contented kind of cozy feeling; finding happiness in the little things in life. Herluf knew this feeling well, for he grew up in simpler times, when families would gather at the dinner table together and light a candle, whatever the occasion. They didn’t concern themselves over material things or keeping up with the Joneses. They were fulfilled by sharing the company of loved ones, meeting the needs of others and putting their trust in their heavenly Father.



Herluf often quipped to friends that he was probably the only Herluf in North America, and he would say “hyggelig to meet you”. While it’s conceivable that one would come across more men in Denmark and surrounds with the same first name, that simply isn’t the case here in Canada. He was definitely a “one of a kind” original.

Before further describing the man whom Herluf was, it is meaningful to visit his roots by providing a brief history of his parents. Meta Kathrine Hindbo was born in Sangstrup, Denmark, on December 31, 1912. She came to Canada in March of 1928, travelling with her Mother and seven younger siblings, to join her father, Jeppe Hindbo, who had come to Canada in July of 1927. He had purchased two sections of farm land east of Rosedale, Alberta, and the farm was called Nickle Springs Ranch. However, when the dry thirties arrived, Jeppe was again looking for greener pastures, and in 1934 he purchased land in the New Hill district northwest of Spruce View. The family moved to the new farm in 1937, and joined Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson, where they worshipped for many years. Homesteading was a daunting task with much

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work to be done, but with fabulous food on the table and five eligible daughters, Jeppe had no trouble hiring and keeping help.

Viggo Peter Nielsen was born in Haslev, Denmark, on December 13, 1905. He immigrated to Canada in 1928, and also came to the Drumheller area, close to where the Hindbo family had purchased a farm. They did not know one another at the time, but the Danish connection solidified a friendship with the family; he also happened to be an eligible suitor. While living on the prairie, Viggo had occasionally travelled to the Dickson area to visit friends, and also to search for more ideal farmland. In 1936, he too decided to leave the prairies, and a quarter of land was purchased in the New Hill district, very near to where the Hindbo family had settled. He courted Meta, the eldest Hindbo daughter, and on January 31, 1938, they were married at the Dickson church following worship. Meta's father, Jeppe, was a very practical man. He suggested to the young couple that, since it was a Sunday and the entire family was present, it was pragmatic for the pastor to marry them right then. And so, a marriage ceremony took place, and while practicalities seemed to outweigh any romantic notions, it's fairly certain the young couple were very much in love.



Their first-born son, Herluf Egon Nielsen, was born on April 25, 1941, in Innisfail, Alberta. His first home was a very small “hyggelig” one on their New Hill farm. Then while Herluf was very young, the family moved to the farm one mile west of Spruce View; that property is still in the family. He attended both church and school in Dickson, speaking solely Danish up until the age of six years. It was a known fact that Herluf did not like school, and the day he turned fifteen, he left school to farm together with his Dad, and later with his brother Mogens. He also had a sister, Alice, who married a farmer from Rosebud, Alberta.

Herluf had four deep-seated interests: his faith, his family, farming and flying.

Herluf grew up in a Christian home and church activities were a huge part of his life. His Christian faith was quiet, but his relationship with God was truly evident in all aspects of his life. Isaiah 40:31 says that those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. One of Herluf's favourite musicians was recording artist Steve Bell, who set this scripture to music. To our family, this piece is considered “Herluf's Song”. His legacy of faith has continued with his children as well as his grandchildren.

Throughout his early manhood, Herluf invariably maintained that he would remain a bachelor for life. Farming and flying kept him heavily engaged and he just hadn't found “the one”. That changed however in 1974, when he met Alice, who was destined to become the love of his life. Years earlier, both their mothers had met in Calgary while taking English classes. Their lives

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then took different paths, each of them marrying farmers, but living in opposite ends of Alberta. In 1971, they met up once again, at the Calgary Airport when they each were there to pick up some visitors from Denmark. Following that encounter, they made tentative plans to try and visit in the future. A beautiful courtship began between their two children in 1974, and Herluf and Alice were married in Red Deer on June 27, 1975. A son, Kevin, was born to them in 1977, and a daughter, Kristine, was born in 1980. Herluf was a gentle but firm father, who took great pride in parenting his two children, and being very involved in all their activities.



Herluf was meant to be a farmer, and from a very young age, he had a great love and respect for the land. Leaving school to farm turned out to be a wise choice for him, for he found both success and enjoyment in the peace that farming allowed. Myriads of picnics on the truck tailgate took place over the years during the busy seasons. His work ethic stood paramount, and in farming he indeed had found the good life. Herluf raised Hereford cattle in the early years, and later the focus was on growing barley, wheat, canola and hay. Herluf's children grew up close to the

land as well, and learned to help out with the farm work when it was required, but it wasn't all work. There was always time for family fun; ball games behind the machine storage Quonset building on a Sunday afternoon, hide and go seek on round bales, clearing off the dugout for winter skating, eating peas straight out of the garden patch in the summer, and so much more. Herluf was not a person to sit idle; he had a unique talent to be able to fix almost anything, and was also a skilled welder. He always seemed to have some project on the go, and in his later years, he had a great interest in restoring antique tractors.

Herluf was born with a keen "eye to fly", and a fixed preoccupation in flying began when he would watch and listen to the Harvard trainers flying overhead in the early 1940s. After taking his first airplane ride in 1960, he was hooked, and he obtained his pilot's license in 1961. Over the years, he belonged to many organizations, but his favourites were anything having to do with his airplane...Innisfail Flying Club which he helped to form; Young Eagles, through which he took well over one-hundred local grade-six school children on their first flight; Flying Farmers Association and the Canadian Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA), with which he logged countless hours.

While most families went on periodic road trips, Herluf gave his family the pleasure of flying to their destination of choice! He would habitually check the weather network like today's youth check their smartphones. If the weather forecast was favourable and his farming schedule would allow, the family would hop in the Cessna 182 for a jaunt to our many quintessential spots: Ram Falls for a picnic; Rosebud for a visit with Herluf's sister, Alice Andersen and her family; Fairmont for a hike and a soak in the hot springs; Camrose for a simple lunch at A&W, and the list goes on.

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Aviation was a huge part of our family's private life, and over the years we had many fun flying adventures together, as Herluf had a flair for adventure. To soar with the birds and feel complete peace above the clouds; this was his calling, and where he felt most at home. It was indeed a very "hyggelig" time to be in the cockpit with him. That being said, he did still plan some notable summer road trips with the camper trailer as well; one to Eastern Canada as far as Prince Edward Island, and one all the way to Inuvik on the Dempster Highway. Each day on the road was met with Herluf's own rendition of Willy Nelson's song, "On the Road Again".



In the summer of 2007, Herluf realized his lifelong dream when he was able to fly his plane up North to the Yukon and beyond. His daughter accompanied him on this excursion, landing in many indelible places along the way. In Watson Lake they camped waterside and foraged for wild strawberries; they visited Whitehorse, Dawson City, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik and Fairbanks, Alaska. They met interesting people, dodged wildlife, ate the local fare,

discussed various cloud formations, and fashioned "hyggelig" memories. Herluf called it a "Trip of a Lifetime". He loved the journey so much so that he repeated it the following summer in 2008 with his leading lady, his wife. They met up with their son Kevin and his wife Nicole in Whitehorse, and the four of them then flew to Dawson City and made more memories together.

On November 8, 2008, while flying home from a CASARA night training exercise, Herluf didn't arrive at his destination, and was called to his heavenly home. The accident was a terrible shock to all those who knew him and loved him. While we grieve his passing, we cherish "hygge" memories of togetherness and the promise of being together again in eternity. We know that Herluf would want us to walk in the light; in 1 John 1:5, we read that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness. So we remember Herluf with the confidence that we will be together again. A six foot monument was placed at the entrance to the Red Deer Regional Airport, just below the Harvard 370 Aircraft in a ceremony on October 3, 2015. The monument pays tribute to Herluf's service with CASARA, and also remembers the forty-four other military airmen who lost their lives serving our country.

Herluf dearly loved children, and he would have been so very proud to have known his precious grandchildren, and share in their lives. Kevin and Nicole have two daughters, Kalina and Brielle. Kristine and Joseph have three children: Britta, Elsa and Soren Herluf. Joseph was privileged to have shared in a special flight trip with Herluf shortly before the accident; a meaningful excursion to Ram Falls, where he asked for Herluf's blessing to marry Kristine. Joseph, Kristine and their family reside in the 1956 family home, just west of Spruce View.

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Herluf was the exact definition of a gentleman. He believed that if you treated everyone fairly, they would be fair to you. If he decided to make a deal or an agreement with someone, he would only take a handshake or a person's word. He preferred working behind the scenes, never bringing attention to himself. He was always willing to lend a helping hand. He had a servant heart and volunteered at the Danish Canadian Museum and Gardens, knowing that the simple contributions are often the most important.

To be in Herluf's company was effortless. One was free to express ones-self and even disagree. He declared numerous times, "The world would be a boring place if we were all interested in the same things," and so he opened a door to authenticity. Herluf was exceptional at "hygg-ing" around others; he was a people person, always making guests feel at home. He created friendships wherever his travels took him. My fond memories include Herluf's ritual early morning pot banging to the tune of "Oh What a Beautiful Morning", sharing biscuits around the downstairs woodstove fire on a wintry Sunday evening, and warm "heart to heart" talks with him over a glass of port. "Hygge" with him was never forced because he always had the time to spare; no distractions, just love, peacefulness and warmth. These are the memories that money cannot buy.



His family feels a deep sense of pride in the legacy he left behind. His spirit will continue to shine, lighting the way for others, leaving each of us an example to follow, and a remarkable life to remember with grateful hearts. Our faith assures us that Herluf is still "flying high".

Niels Emil Nielsen

1939 – 2016

Diane Nolan

Niels Emil Nielsen was born to Johanne and Olaf Nielsen on March 15, 1939, in Vagn, Thy, Northern Jutland. He was the middle child of seven children. When Niels was fourteen years of age, the family moved to their own farm in Øster Vandet, inland from Klitmøller, the North Sea resort. On the family farm Niels helped with barn chores, and already at a young age he worked as a hired hand on neighbouring farms.

During the summer vacation, Edna, a young girl from Copenhagen would stay with them, an arrangement to provide kids from the inner city the opportunity to get some fresh air and experience country life. The kids would be put on a train all by themselves, with a tag around their neck, with their name and destination. The “feriebørn” (vacation children) would then be picked up at the nearest railway station by the host farm family.



Rita and Niels Nielsen

Of the seven children, Niels was one of two boys. Unfortunately, his older brother Villy died when he was only twenty-three years old. He was killed in an accident while in the army, during a military exercise. The family was devastated.

Niels was also called up and served in the Danish army. As a soldier he travelled throughout Denmark. On one occasion, he visited Edna in Copenhagen, and in the apartment of the “vacation child” Niels met Rita Vestergaard. Niels fell for Rita right away. Rita was also from Jutland, having been born in Viborg on January 16, 1934. At the age of sixteen Rita had moved

to Sweden, where she worked for over three years. She then lived in Norway a short time. In 1957 she went to Bremerhaven and sailed to Quebec City, settling in Montreal. In 1959 she went back to Denmark, but was determined to return to Canada.

After his military service, Niels worked as a security guard; and he met Rita again. On May 4, 1961, Niels and Rita left Denmark for Canada. They were not able to board the immigration ship *MS Batory* in Copenhagen, due to a strike, so they had to board in Malmö, Sweden. They sailed across the Atlantic and disembarked at Pier 21 in Halifax. They then took the train to Montreal. At the time Niels was 22 years old. They arrived with \$160 in cash, as well as six suitcases. Niels and Rita were married in Montreal on May 23, 1961. They lived near Dorchester in Amesbury. As Niels didn't speak English, finding a job was difficult. He finally landed a job with a Dutch gardener and was paid eleven dollars for three days. They couldn't understand each other, which

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was a problem. His second job was working in Longueuil for a Danish gardener. It took Niels three years to learn broken English in French Montreal. By that time Niels was working for the Danish House Furniture Company.

Niels and Rita had their first child in Montreal in 1962, a son, Kim, followed by three girls, Diane in 1967; shortly thereafter Janet, and in 1970, Nina.

In 1969 the Nielsens bought a 50-acre property outside Alexandria, Ontario, close to the Quebec border. In August 1972, they moved from Pointe Claire and settled in Alexandria to raise their family. Niels regularly returned to Montreal, delivering cords of wood and to visit Danish friends. He worked in his landscaping and greenhouse business for a few years, before working, more or less full time, alongside Rita in the catering business, which she had begun in the 1970s. For over thirty years they catered weddings, baptisms, funerals and parties in the local area and all over Montreal and Ottawa, including The Danish Club of Ottawa.

In the Nielsen home Christmas was always special with the traditional Danish rice pudding with the almond, gløgg and singing around the Christmas tree. After coming to Canada, the family and many friends experienced this typically Danish family celebration.



Johanne, Diane and Niels Nielsen

Niels missed Denmark, and was often homesick. Fortunately, relatives from Denmark came to Canada to visit the Nielsen family. His parents and siblings also missed him after he emigrated. He was very close to his mother. Niels always made sure to surprise her for her special birthdays. A few times I travelled with my father to Denmark, making sure to visit as many relatives as possible. It was a privilege to have spent so much time with my father and my 'lille farmor'. Then in 2008 Niels' mother passed away, at the age of 95.

As the oldest daughter, I loved doing things with my father in Alexandria. I helped with landscaping, worked in the greenhouses, and would cut and stack wood for the firewood deliveries. We would go to flea markets to sell our plants and crafts. Together we would even go on road trips to Montreal. In Alexandria, he always picked me up after sports, where after we would share some French fries; the treat of the day. He was the one I practiced my running with, because he was fast, so very fast. He left me with many memories! Dad would always say, "Where did time go?" [Hvor gik tiden?], and I would always answer him, "Pop, time went into the many people you gave your time and love. You were always ready to provide a helping hand. You had such a big heart."

In February 2016, as dad's health was declining rapidly, Niels and Rita sold their farm, moving to Cornwall, Ontario. As his kids, we loved our father. He was young at heart. It sounds as a cliché, but even as his health deteriorated, dad never complained. His Danish sense of humor kept everyone laughing. And up to his last day, his appetite was intact!

In May 2016, Niels and Rita Nielsen celebrated 55 years of marriage. But the end was near. Niels left this life knowing he was loved, as his family gathered around him the day he took his last breath. Niels Emil Nielsen passed away on November 15, 2016. From life to death, he spent his dash well.

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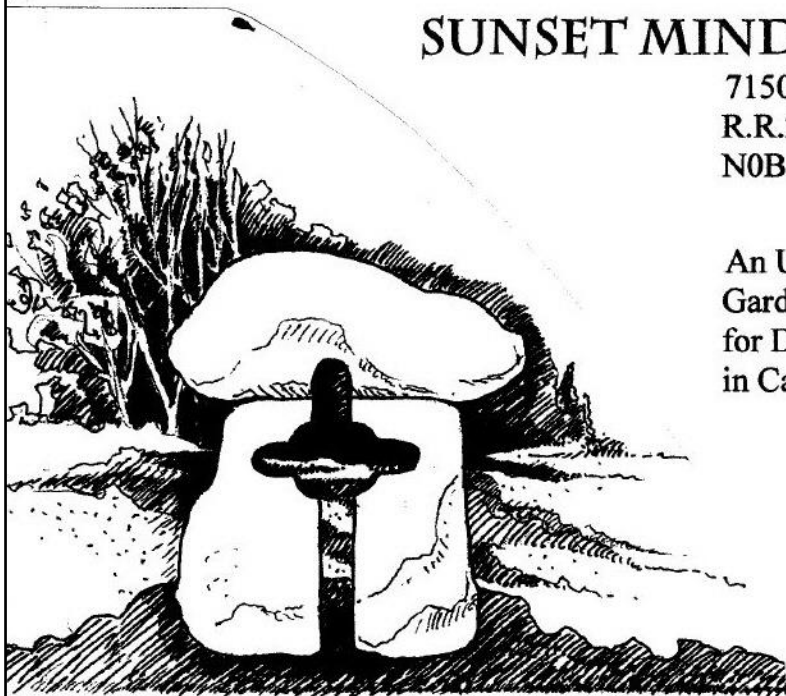
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Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

It with sadness and shock that we received the news of the sudden illness and quick passing, due to cancer, of Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen of Grimsby. He urgently flew home to Tarp, Germany, on June 10th and passed away in the hospital in Flensburg on June 17, 2016. He was 75 years old.



Lars was born in Skjørring on October 15, 1940. He attended a private Realskole in Aarhus and then apprenticed at a car dealership. He eventually became chief economist for the sprawling DAPA Company of Aabenraa. From 1973 to 1978 he studied theology and then became a pastor on the island of Anholt. He was then pastor in Tarp, south of Flensburg, from 1980 to 2002. In 1985 he was instrumental in having a new church built in Tarp and in 1992 he started to build a Seniors Residence in Tarp. It was inaugurated in 1997, and consists of

104 apartments. Half of the residents belong to the Danish minority in South Slesvig, while the remainder are German nationals. Lars was still the president of the Seniors Residence when he passed away. As well, he and Lis had a townhouse in the complex. He also took the initiative to the conversion and expansion of the Church in Jaruplund, which was re-consecrated in 1999.

In 2003 he received Ridderkorset for his work among the Danes in Germany. For some months in 2005 he was an interim pastor in Australia. At the beginning of April 2012, he came to Grimsby with his wife, Lis, where they succeeded Dean Nils Roland and his wife Lajla. Lars and Lis liked Canada and had just prior to his illness renewed their contract to April 2017. Lis was a great support for Lars and the congregation, helping at events and activities. Lars served under a special regulation for retired pastors in Danske Sømands-og Udlandskirker (DSUK).

In Grimsby on the Niagara Peninsula he helped the church get financial assistance from DSUK to, among other things; get a new roof, insulation in the attic, and new badly-needed windows in the whole building, plus an expanded parking area, as well as a new service vehicle. Lars along with Tage Friis put down a new laminated floor in the Pastor's apartment, above the Church, plus built a tool shed, and installed new stairs to the back door.

The Church Council presidents he worked with while at Grimsby were Eli Søberg, Peter Kjear and Edith Wulff. While at Grimsby he also served the congregations in Waterloo (monthly) and Ottawa (two or three times a year). Pastor Lars also conducted a fair number of internments at Sunset Mindepark in Puslinch. In 2014 Lars was the headmaster of the Danish Federation's Heritage Seminar at Calabogie Peaks, where the topic quite naturally was South Slesvig. He was always active, building or fundraising, and had a good sense for financial dispositions.

Following his departure and sudden death a memorial service was held by interim minister Pastor Charles Dechert the following Sunday. Lars will be sorely missed. Ære være hans minde!

Jes Kidholm Petersen

1924 – 2016

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Jes Kidholm Petersen was born on his parents' farm in Klelund in Southern Jutland, between Hovborg and Vejen. His parents, Søren 'Kidholm' Pedersen and Anna, were smallholders, as in turn their parents had been. In total Kidholm and Anna had seven children, which was not uncommon at the time.

Jes' father was always called Kidholm, due to the many Pedersens in the area. Kidholm was the name of the farm on which he had been born on February 26, 1901. Søren and Anna gave all their children the name Kidholm as a middle name, a tradition that Jes and his wife, as well as all their children, have carried on. The Kidholm Farm, which still exists, is located on Kidholm Road, roughly half way between Hovborg and Holsted.

Jes' mother, Anna Maria Christine Pedersen, née Schmidt, had been born in Agerskov, on September 30, 1901. Her father, Jes Peter Schmidt, hailed from Agerskov, which from 1864 to 1920 was a part of Germany. Jes Schmidt married Marie Sophie Riis in 1901. Then in 1910 Jes Schmidt moved his family to Klelund in Denmark, where he bought the farm Villufgård. Their daughter, Anna, was married to Kidholm in the local Lindknud Church on June 10, 1922. Their second child, Jes Kidholm Pedersen, was born on February 17, 1924.

Jes grew up in Klelund, with the nearest town being Hovborg. He attended school in Hovborg, but was also sent out to work on neighbouring farms at a very young age. He learned many aspects of farming 'on the job'. After the Second World War he was drafted into the Danish Army, being stationed at the garrison in Haderslev. After basic training he was sent to the Oksbøl Refugee Camp as a guard. At one point the Oksbøl camp, one of many in Denmark, contained over 36,000 German refugees, who had fled Eastern Prussia during the last months of the war, and come to Denmark while the country was still occupied by the Nazis. The camp was gradually emptied and finally closed in 1949, when the last of the East Prussian refugees were resettled in West Germany.

After being demobilized, Jes went back to farming, working on various farms. At one point, he was also a tenant farmer, renting a farm. While living in the Vrenderup area he met Mary Marie Nielsen, who had been born in Gesten on April 1, 1928, but grew up in Vrenderup. Jes and Mary were married in the Fåborg Church in Fåborg on June 27, 1948.

Jes farmed until 1958, when he and his wife decided to immigrate to Canada. Jes had wanted to emigrate after they got married, but Mary wasn't keen on leaving her family. But with six children, and concerned about their future, they decided to immigrate to Canada. The Canadian

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Embassy in Copenhagen was very helpful and found Jes a job on a farm in Osgoode, Ontario. In July, Jes flew to Montreal, and then headed to Osgoode, outside Ottawa. Jes was a little surprised by the primitive conditions on the farm in Osgoode, but was determined to make the best of it. Then in December, Mary and their six children flew to Montreal, and headed for Osgoode. The family was happily united for Christmas.

After about a year-and-a-half in Osgoode the family moved to a farm on Jockvale Road, but soon returned to Osgoode. In 1967 Jes started working on a nursery farm owned by a Russian – of noble birth. When he passed away, Jes took over the nursery, establishing Petersen Turf Farms in Osgoode in 1969. As can be seen from the name of his company, Jes changed his last name from Pedersen to Petersen as that was easier for Canadians. Thus Jes ventured out on his own, and with hard work and perseverance, he developed it into one of the most prominent sod farms in Eastern Ontario. As his children have written, he created a place where he could teach his family a strong work ethic and life skills, in the process providing them with a more prosperous future.

With hard work, determination and sound judgement, he was able to cultivate beautiful mineral turf grass, supplying thousands of gardens, as well as parks, golf courses and sports facilities with fresh green grass. Sod has also been delivered to the lawn in front of the Parliament buildings. The business, certified by the Nursery Sod Growers Association, gradually grew to offer sod, topsoil, mulch, fertilizer, seed, landscape stones as well as landscaping.

Jes Kidholm Petersen was a founding member of The Danish Club of Ottawa, as well as an active member of the Lion's Club and the Canadian Legion.



Jes, about 20 years old, with parents and siblings

He passed away peacefully at home on Friday, August 12, 2016, at the age of 92. He left behind his loving wife, Mary, to whom he had been married for over 68 years. He was the proud father of eleven children: Jack (Mae), John (Janis), Brian, Brigit (Allan), Erik (Wanlaya), Aase (Trefor), Paul, David (Shelley), Glenny (Melanie), Ivan (Darlene) as well as the late Steven Kidholm Petersen (Vicki), who died in a snowmobile accident in February 2015. Steven was co-owner of Petersen Turf Farms.

Jes was the cherished grandfather of Shawn (Maryann), Shanon (Greg), Kim (Tracy), Kara (Chris), Karen (Jeff), Troye (Emily), Craig, Crista (Jeremy), Chad (Julia), Keri (Megan), Blair, Bailey, Dylan, Mickayla, Kyle (Stephanie), Cole, Morgan, Makenzie, Natalie (Mark), Jarrett (Emily), Ethan, Mason and the late Justin (Shelley) and doting great-grandfather of Jessica, Kent and Lauren, Jacob and Olivia, Laura, Willow, Cooper and Daxter, Paytyn, Teagan and Cohen, Jakob and Raya, Quinn, Blake, Claire and Jaxson.

Jes was an honest, hard-working, modest and quiet gentleman. While having to adapt to a new language and culture, he created a very successful business. He will be greatly missed by his family, as well as by his many friends and business associates. Ære være hans minde!

Anni Zarudzka

1916 - 2008

Jette Blair

Starting at 6 am, four 30-minute programs aired each day during the Second World War, as the anxious people of Denmark settled in around their radios to listen to a broadcast from the BBC. They heard the beginning strains of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, followed by a voice saying **"THIS IS LONDON CALLING DENMARK"**. The voice was that of Anni, a young Danish woman.

Anni Karla With was born in Copenhagen on August 9, 1916. After she graduated from school, she worked at *Magasin du Nord*, a large department store in Copenhagen. She worked there for two years, until her employer gave her leave to go to London to improve her English.



Anni Zarudzka worked for the BBC in London during the War.

Anni arrived in London in June of 1939, supposedly for a one year stay. For a time, she found a job as an au-pair girl. Two months after her arrival, on September 3, Britain and France declared war on Germany, after Poland had been invaded by Nazi Germany. Then on April 9, 1940, Denmark and Norway were invaded by German forces. Consequently, Anni was cut off from her family in Denmark, but decided to stay in Britain for the duration of the hostilities.

A member of the British parliament, a family member of her employer, then recommended Anni for a job with the British Broadcasting Corporation. After passing rigorous security checks, lasting a year, they were satisfied that she was not a spy, and she was hired.

Her job with the BBC was to send coded announcements in Danish to resistance fighters in Denmark. The greetings seemed innocuous, and generally consisted of "birthday greetings to Torben" or "greetings from Nana to Ole", for instance. But each broadcast sent an important message to the Danish underground, letting them know where to find ammunition which the British pilots dropped for them; or to let them know of the movements of German troops. Throughout Anni was kept in the dark regarding the real nature of these messages.

The British Secret Intelligence Service prepared the messages which Anni were to read in Danish, and they made sure, for security reasons, that she never knew about their significance. Anni often ate and slept at the BBC broadcast building, eight floors underground.

During this time, Anni met Kazik Zarudzki, a Polish engineer and sailor who had travelled the high seas with the Polish Merchant Marine. When the war broke out his ship was sailing near the

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Gold Coast. Hearing the news, they headed straight for London. With London as home base, he sailed to Halifax and New York, carrying arms and munitions back to the Allies for the duration of the war.

In 1944 Kazik and Anni were married in London, and this is where their three children were born. Then in 1957, they immigrated to Canada, settling in Montreal.

By chance, many years later, likely around 2003, Anni met Peter Aage Jørgensen at the Danish Club in Montreal. While getting to know each other, Aage recognized her voice, and realized



Anni Zarudzka, née With, received the Danish Memorial Medal for the Liberation of Denmark for her work during the War.

that it was Anni he had heard on the radio in Denmark during the war. At the time, Peter was a 16-year-old member of the Danish Resistance. Imagine his surprise when he met the woman whose voice he had heard every day during a large part of the war. Unfortunately, Aage was captured by the Nazis in late 1944, was tortured and beaten, before being sent to the Dachau concentration camp until the end of the war. Fortunately, he survived.

In the Freedom Museum in Copenhagen, where Anni's wartime broadcasts can still be heard, you can also read that 500 members of the Danish resistance were killed during the Second World War. About another 100 were tried and executed while nearly 300 died in prison camps. Allied

casualties in Denmark included about 2,000 airmen, 180 of whom were Canadians. Thousands of Danish civilians died. Moreover, about 25,000 Germans are buried in Denmark, both soldiers and civilians (refugees from East Prussia).

Anni held a number of secretarial jobs in Montreal, including a thirteen-year stint at McGill University, until she retired in 1981. After her retirement Kazik and Anni moved to St. Sauveur, Quebec. Sadly, she was widowed in 1993. Anni was also the secretary at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church for about eight years, during the tenure of Pastor Marat M. Holobow.

In her later years Anni was honoured and received recognition for her work during the war. After meeting Anni, Peter Aage Jørgensen lobbied to have her recognized for her wartime contribution. As a result, Anni was awarded the coveted Danish Memorial Medal for the Liberation of Denmark. The Danish Club also honoured Anni for her work during the war, presenting her with a plaque. In addition, a full-page article was published in *The Montreal Gazette* on August 11, 2007, bringing her wartime contribution to light for the general public.

After a short illness, Anni died on May 31, 2008. She was survived by her two daughters, Hella and Julia and her son, Richard, as well as their spouses and her three grandchildren.

P.S. Biographies of Anni Zarudzka and Peter Aage Jørgensen appear in the 2004 Heritage Book.

Bengt S. Storgaard

1936 - 2014

Sune Overgaard

I was asked to write something about a good friend of mine – Bengt Sorensen Storgaard, who passed away on April 22, 2014. His story may not be that different from many other Danish immigrants to Canada, but I feel it is unique as he was a wonderful, happy, helpful and caring person – and at the same time rather different from everyone else.



Most of us knew him as Lille Bengt, a reflection of his smaller physique - but certainly not of his determination or stubbornness. This latter characteristic seems to follow many who come from Jutland. I first met Bengt in the late 60's, and spent much time with him since then, along with many other of his friends. My knowledge of his early years is limited and sketchy. His papers say he was born in 1936 in a place called Klejstrup near Hobro in Denmark, and I think he was one of five or six siblings. After he finished his basic schooling, he worked on the land as many did back then. This nurtured his love for

nature and the outdoors which he carried with him all of his life. At some point, he got involved in the dairy industry and was making cheese. He really liked that line of work, as he has lectured me many times about the correct process of making cheese. He eventually immigrated to Canada in the late 50's, and worked on farms over here including a horse farm, as many of those immigrants did. I'm not sure if he was homesick or just not happy over here, but after only a few years he decided to return to Denmark, in 1961 in time for Christmas. He began work again in a dairy, but apparently, his lungs could not handle the humidity. He had problems with breathing most of his life. After a short stint over there he decided to return once more to Canada, which I believe was either in 1962 or 1963. This time the move was apparently for good.

It didn't take him long to find a new job where he could work with his hands and also be with his Danish friends. Leo Pedersen had a flourishing lawn and garden maintenance business and seemed to have half of all the Danish immigrants arriving in the Toronto area working for him at one time or another. Bengt was no exception. And it didn't take him long to climb the ladder of responsibility. It was well known that if you were a good and honest and dedicated worker (read "hard and tireless" worker), you would do well at Leo's workplace! Within a couple of years Bengt was a foreman with his own crew to look after. Many of these Danes lived in a house in Etobicoke, which they rented from Leo.

Landscaping was mostly a seasonal job (who wants to shovel snow in winter for a living?), and Bengt eventually managed to get another seasonal job looking after an ice arena in the winter

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time. That was the start of his long career with the maintenance department of the city of North York, as it was then known. Working for Leo in the summer, and working for North York in the winter could only last for so long. He eventually took some engineering maintenance courses and after twelve years with Leo, he was offered and officially took on a full-time maintenance job with North York. And it didn't take him long to figure out that it was easier to live and work in the same area, so he then went about to buy his house on Holmes Avenue.



The arena in North York

Bengt was very proud that he could be at work in less than 10 minutes after he left his house. Working for the city at Bayview Arena was very satisfying for him as well. Despite his difficulty with verbal communication, a condition he had always struggled with, he fell into a very nice comfort level at the arena. He could look after the machinery and equipment there – they didn't mind that he spoke half English and half Jysk to them. And whenever they needed anyone to work extra hours – Bengt was always available. His honesty and dedication and hard work helped to create a working relationship that was to last for over twenty-five years. He was often teased about working for “Uncle Mel” (Mel Lastman was the mayor of North York), but it certainly allowed him to live the life he wanted. He had a good job, a car, a house, a cottage, a boat, a shotgun, a fishing rod, - oh and we can't forget about his golf clubs – what more could you want!

Being a good Dane from rural Jylland, Bengt knew the value of money and knew how to “spare” – let's call it being “thrifty”. Before long he was able to buy an old cottage and property up at Honey Harbour on Georgian Bay. Needless to say, there were many, many good times spent up there. Whether it was a card playing weekend (Bengt loved to play cards), or a fishing weekend, or bring a friend with you weekend, or a golf weekend – they were always wonderful relaxing weekends and usually involved a little beer here and there. The frustrating drives on the 400 highway in summer traffic were well worth the amazing times spent at Honey Harbour.

Bengt was a confirmed bachelor, never married and had no children, but he did have some family nearby. His brother, Henry, had also arrived from Denmark with his wife, just before Bengt's first visit, and they would spend many hours together whether at parties or other special events, or many times just discussing the pros and cons of working for General Motors (where Henry worked) versus the city of North York (where Bengt worked). Bengt enjoyed spending time with Henry, and lost a good friend when his brother succumbed to cancer in 2008.

Bengt continued to work hard and enjoy life. He was meticulous and conscientious and stubborn all rolled into one. He was a caring and helpful man - happy to share what he had – and made sure it wasn't wasted. But his health was always just a bit off. Although he had smoked like a chimney for much of his life, and struggled now and then with his bad knee, he still managed to go fishing and hunting and partying. Eventually the work to keep up the cottage got to be too much and he sold it in the late 80's. We all were grateful for those fantastic times at Honey Harbour, and those memories are still there even to this day. But now he had lots of free time on weekends and somehow golf just seemed to sneak in and take over. He would play at least two games per week for six months of the year, and he did that that for fifteen years while he still

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worked. After he retired in 1999, he continued to live a grand life of golf, golf, and more golf. There were other events thrown in here and there – but certainly lots of golf.

As his illness started to catch up with him he did slow down a little bit, but you couldn't keep him down for long. He sold the little house on Holmes Avenue and bought an even larger place on Goulding Avenue, which had a fully finished basement apartment. I'm not sure if his intent was to rent that part out – but he never did. However – surprise, surprise - he did manage to have a party or two there. He was most happy while he was mobile enough to get out and play a round or two. He had a bad knee replaced, and was getting a sore hip, and of course his breathing was not getting any better either. Slowly the wear and tear of a physically demanding job and active lifestyle was telling him to take it a bit easier. But Bengt



Bengt, second from left, playing golf

was determined to continue as best he could. Golf carts can come in handy when walking is too difficult. And that did work for him for many more years. But eventually he started to become quite short of breath, even after a short walk or climbing a few stairs. And he seemed to stumble and fall a bit more often than what one normally would do. It wasn't until later we found out that this was a result of his lung condition interfering with the oxygen level in his blood. Some days were good – and some days were bad. It eventually led to him losing his driver's license for medical reasons – and this was a very bitter pill for him to swallow.

All his life he had been fully independent and able to go where he wanted to and when. Now he was isolated and had to rely on others for his mobility and that was a huge blow to his pride. He appreciated the efforts of the church café members who picked him up on a regular basis for their meetings, and for the regular visits from friends which helped reduce his boredom and allowed him to get away for a little while now and then. Although he struggled physically, he was always clear mentally which his card playing ability can attest to. And he did give us hope now and then especially on his good days. Many times he had been encouraged to sell his house and move into a retirement home, but he would have none of that. And then suddenly much to everyone's surprise, he sold his house after only three days on the market. The move to his new apartment went well, but sadly was not to be enjoyed for very long.

Bengt was a tremendously happy guy with an infectious smile and a desire to do only good. He was a loyal and true friend who shared his love of life with anyone who wished to take part in it. He is sadly missed, but we are grateful to have many wonderful memories of him. His spirit will always be alive with those memories. Memories of him playing football on a beach and running into a parked car and saying who put that car there when he wasn't looking, or of him on a hunting trip shooting at ducks way too high in the sky saying it was just in case they were going to get closer, or of him drinking water from a lake saying he was forced to since he had run out of beer, or of him getting a hole in one and calmly saying that was what he expected at every hole, or of him being polite and talking to a young visitor at a party for much of the evening trying to make him feel welcome and at home – and then later hearing from this same visitor who happened to be from Denmark commenting that he had no idea of what that other guy at the table was saying to him all evening, or of him inviting us all out for a little hike behind his cottage, and then almost getting us lost, or more recently of him calling me and saying he had a

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bit of a cold and would I mind to pick him up some “hostesaft” (that’s a special Danish “cough medicine” you get at the local liquor store).

Bengt was also more than just a fun and happy guy enjoying life. Although he was not much of a Sunday morning church service participant, he was a long-time member and supporter of the Danish Church in Toronto. During his time in Toronto he was involved with “Ungdomsklubben”, belonged to the Danish Folk Dancers and Church Cafe and Golden Age Club, and helped out washing dishes at bazaars and dinners. He participated and contributed at fund raising events and would help out his friends or neighbours whenever he could. In the church he met with other Danes and enjoyed the fellowship, the traditions, and it soon became his “other family”. Bengt, who had done well for himself, left the majority of his estate to the Church in his will. Bengt’s very generous gift made it possible for the Church to complete much of its needed major renovations. The Church (and congregation) will be celebrating its 60th anniversary later this year, and will unveil a commemorative plaque to honour his memory. Bengt was one month into his 79th year when his severe asthma developed into advanced COPD and could no longer be treated; taking him away from us. Bengt’s smiling face is dearly missed, but gratitude and memories of him are still around. His body was sickly, old and tired, but his heart and his mind were still young and fresh. Sadly, he left before his time. Those who knew him are better for having done so.



His cottage at Honey Harbour.

Misse Holm-Pedersen

1923 - 2016

Alice Nickel

Maria Elisabeth Holm-Pedersen was born on January 17, 1923, in Allingdam, North Jutland. She was the second child, and first daughter, of Bertel and Birgitte Uggerhøj. The family grew to six children, so Misse (as Maria was called from a very young age) quickly learned that helping with the house keeping and looking



Misse Holm-Pedersen

after her younger siblings were part of her daily responsibilities. Her father was a school teacher, and the family lived in the school house in Allingdam, which still stands today.

During WWII, Misse was an au pair in Copenhagen. She told stories of cycling home before the curfew and worrying about the German soldiers that patrolled the city. After the war, Misse took secretarial courses and worked for an egg export company in Hjørring. During this time, she met a charming young man, Knud Holm-Pedersen, who played soccer with her older brother. The two were married in September 1947 and settled in Aalborg. Knud was a bricklayer by trade and was also taking architectural courses at Aalborg Polytekniske

Skole. The apartment they shared in Aalborg soon became known for its hospitality. In February 1950, a son, Torben, was born. Around this time Knud was playing with the idea of immigrating to Canada. The story goes: “What if I don’t want to go with you?” Misse asked. “Then I will miss you!” Knud answered.

In June 1951, the family packed up what little they were allowed to bring, and set sail for Canada on a ship called Kungsholm. They travelled with Ole and Nanna Knudsen and their two young children. On the ship they made new friends, including Ellinor Gleerup, who remained a good friend of Misse for the rest of her life.



Torben, Misse, and Knud

Ole Knudsen and Knud were classmates at Aalborg Polytekniske Skole. Their original plan was to settle in Toronto, but when they arrived in Halifax, they were told to go west if they could. “Where would you like to settle?” they were asked. Knud just closed his eyes and pointed to the map – destination Edmonton! They boarded the train and headed to Alberta, and stayed the first week or so in temporary housing. Misse was appalled at the conditions – dirty mattresses and they only had one pot. The same one was used for washing babies and for cooking meals. The men headed out looking for work right away. Both Knud and

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Ole found work as bricklayers. The young family soon settled into their first apartment on Stony Plain Road and 124 Street. Misse kept an immaculate household, and they were very thrifty. They rented out the bedrooms in their first apartment and slept with their infant son, Torben, on the kitchen floor.



Misse, with her four children

In Edmonton, Knud started a masonry contracting business. Over the years, he employed many new immigrant Danes in his business. In 1953 Knud and Misse purchased their first house in Allendale. Their first car was a 1952 Ford station wagon; and their first television set was a 1955 Fairbanks Morse.

Misse took a trip back to Denmark alone with Torben and Karin in 1953, when Karin was just six months old. In December 1957, the entire family, which included two-year-old Alice by then, packed up the car and drove to New York. After the car was

loaded onto the ship, they all sailed to Denmark to spend Christmas with the family they had left behind. The ship was caught in a huge storm at sea. Torben can still remember the furniture flying from one side of the ship to the other as the waves rocked the boat. The family was featured in the Danish newspapers as the largest family on board during the stormy crossing. While in Denmark, Knud often ran into problems finding a parking space big enough for his 'dollargrin'. Unfortunately, someone rammed into the car while they were visiting in Hjørring, so repairs were required. They were gone for over three months, returning to Canada in March.

Knud and Misse's fourth child, Dorrit, was born in 1961. The group of Danish immigrants in Edmonton became more like family. There were many parties! Misse became famous for baking Danish lagkage for everyone's birthday – godt med flødeskum!

In the early 1960s, Knud was appointed Danish Consul for the Edmonton area. He was a member of the Scandinavian Businessmen's Association and we believe his appointment to Consul came through a recommendation from this group. Being Consul and representing Denmark and the Danes in northern Alberta brought on more entertaining duties for Misse. She also became proficient at handling the consular paperwork and preparing passports when required. Misse was also involved in the women's groups at Ansgar Lutheran Church in Edmonton. For many years, she played the organ at Sunday services.



Misse, with her four grandchildren

By the time there was only one of her children left at home, Misse felt the need to get out and do something useful. She volunteered at a hospital and so impressed the staff, that they suggested

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she take the appropriate course and get paid for what she was doing. So, a year before she would have been “too old” to be admitted, she completed her required English courses and then on to Alberta College to become a licensed Nurses Aid. She worked full time at the University Hospital until she was 67, before finally retiring.



Four generations: Misse with her great-grandchildren, the twins Morgan and Mackenzie

All of Knud and Misse’s children grew up speaking Danish and all still hold Denmark and their Danish heritage close in their hearts. Misse’s son, Torben, became a musician (mostly jazz keyboards) and taught music at Grant McEwan in Edmonton for 30 years. He and wife Carol have now retired to Victoria, British Columbia. Karin also made music her life’s work, teaching piano to many, many “little Mozarts” over the years. Karin and Warren have lived in North Vancouver for 40 years, and are about to also retire to Victoria.

Alice went to Denmark after finishing high school in Edmonton. She started an apprenticeship as a commercial artist at Scan-Ad Reklamebureau in Odense. She married in Odense and her daughter, Maria (Misse’s only granddaughter), was born there. Upon returning to Canada after nine years in Denmark, Alice had a career in the printing industry, first as a commercial artist and later in administration. Alice and her husband Harry live in Sherwood Park.

The youngest daughter, Dorrit, has made a career in the oil field supply business. She lives and works in Edmonton. Dorrit has three sons: Erik, born in 1990, newly married to Vanessa; Adam, born in 1992 and Kristian, who arrived in 1997.

Misse enjoyed spending time with her four grandchildren and continued to keep the Danish traditions alive – especially at Christmas – all of her grandchildren grew up dancing around the Christmas tree, and still do! Misse was a great help to Knud, after he suffered a stroke at 70 years of age. Knud passed away the following year. Misse continued to bake those “lagkager” for friends and family, learned to play bridge, and kept in contact with her siblings in Denmark during all the years in Canada.

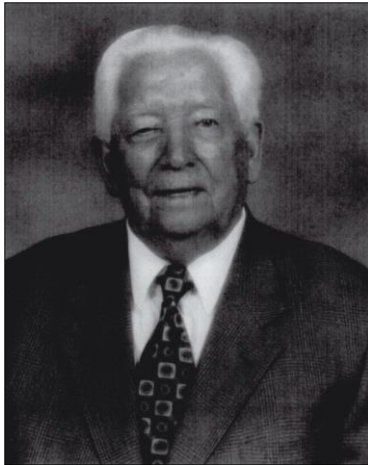
Misse’s granddaughter (Maria, with husband Martin) gave birth to twin boys in March 2016, Morgan and Mackenzie, so Misse became Oldemor just six months before she passed away. Misse died on September 28, 2016 at the age of 93. A full life, well lived!

Julius Johan Christensen

1918 - 2016

Kirsten Sønderskov and Gwen Helps

Known to family and friends as “Far”, Julius Johan Christensen was born on December 24, 1918 in Volstrup Vendsyssel, Denmark. “Far”, which means father in Danish, was the youngest of 12 siblings. Boris, his first born grandchild, grew up hearing all of his aunts, uncles and friends call him Far and so he too called him by that name, instead of the more traditional Grandpa or Grandfather.



Even though he was the youngest, Far was not spoiled in the sense of what we think spoiled is today. Like many others of his generation, he was sent off to work at a young age. So at the age of 9, he found himself away from home working on a farm, returning home only for special occasions. An experience that would repeat itself over and over again, as throughout his young life he worked on many different farms learning what there was to learn about running a farm.

Along the way, Far met and in 1942 then married, Erna (Mor), and not long after, Far and Mor (mother in Danish) bought a farm “Kirkehuset”, where all of their seven children, Kirsten, Kurt, Lis, Tove, Ruth, Elsebeth and Carl Johan were born, with the exception of Ruth, who was born in the hospital.

The hard times that followed the war made it a difficult struggle to make ends meet, and Far not only worked his own farm, but also worked outside the farm as well. During this time, Mor and Far read in the local newspaper that Canada was looking for farmworkers. They joked about going at first, but then when Far was passed over for the caretaker job at the Church next door, and other hardships followed, the joking changed to serious consideration and they decided to look into immigrating to Canada. At the immigration office in Aalborg they were told that there was a job for Far, but he would have to leave the family behind for the time being. The family could join him at a later undetermined date. Far said no to this, “either we all go or we don’t go”.

As fate would have it, the phone rang while they were in the immigration office; the caller was apparently looking for a family willing to work on a farm in Ontario. So right then and there, Far and Mor made the decision that they would

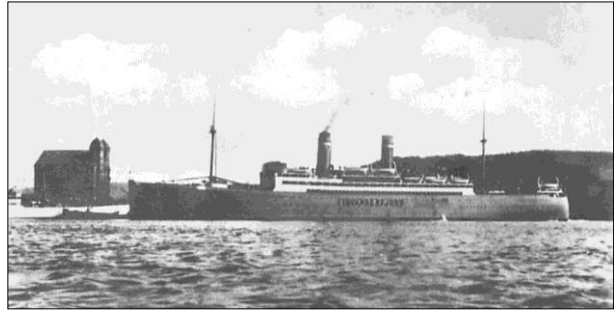


Boarding the S/S Stavangerfjord

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immigrate if they could sell their own farm first. Selling did not turn out to be a problem and so in May 1959 the whole family set sail for Canada on the *S/S Stavangerfjord*.

Arriving in Canada, the family settled in Saint Field near Sunderland, Ontario where Far worked on a farm for the next year. At that point, he met some other Danes who were preparing to move to Saint Lambert, Quebec just outside Montreal, to start a tannery business. Far was offered a job and so once again in the pursuit of opportunity the family was on the move!



The S/S Stavangerfjord



The family arriving in Halifax 1959

Unfortunately, the job at the tannery did not last long, but Far did his best to provide for his family by taking whatever jobs he could get in construction. Nevertheless with jobs in short supply, the family moved back to Ontario in 1963, where Far found the employment that would see him through to retirement at Ontario Insulation.

With steady employment at last, in 1971 Mor and Far were able to buy their own house on Front Street in Oshawa and also a cottage, together with son Kurt, where the family shared so many good times and longlasting memories.

Life of course has its ups and downs and sadly Mor passed away in 1994. Far then decided that the house was too much for him to look after and in 1995 moved in with his daughter Kirsten and her husband Gunnar Sønderskov. Far would spend the next 20 years with them in the house on Thornton Road before spending his last year living with them on Benson Street in Oshawa.

Daughter Kirsten Sønderskov remembers that Far was always busy with one of his many hobbies:

“I remember as a child, busy as he was with his small farm, and also working outside the farm, he made us homemade toys for Christmas. I remember a doll house one year, a doll bed and little closet for my doll clothes another year, and a doll carriage is the last I remember.

Far also loved flowers and could grow anything. After building a greenhouse on Front Street, he had the pleasant problem of figuring out what to do with all the plants he generated from every mother plant. African viloets were his big joy along with orchids. Not wanting to waste them, he decided to sell them so he could buy more dirt and pots with which to cultivate more varieties of various plants. That is why going to the Columbus Yard Sale became an annual event.

Another one of his hobbies was making jams and pickles and especially pickled beets. He would go to Knob Hill Farms and farmer’s markets to buy the necessary fruits and vegetables. He loved to cook soups and bake his famous strawberry birthday cake and of course Abelskiver.

OBITUARIES

After moving to Thornton Road, Far again made sure he had a greenhouse and a work kitchen, where he spent a lot of time pushing his hobbies and growing vegetables for his pickles. Our perennials bed steadily shrank in size each year because Far thought it necessary that another row of beets needed growing. One year we made over 500 jars of beet pickles to take to market, and he never had a problem getting rid of them”.

Far also loved to travel, taking the first of many trips back to Denmark in 1975 and the last trip five years ago. For their 50th wedding anniversary Mor and Far went to Florida, and Far also visited Venezuela and Cozumel, Mexico. He travelled from coast to coast on the VIA Rail train when he was 88, dipping his cane in both oceans. He loved Cuba where he celebrated his 90th birthday with over 20 family members travelling with him on the trip.

Granddaughter Gwen Helps fondly remembers Far’s amazing memory - especially for names:

“At family gatherings of 100 people he knew everyone’s name including the names of boyfriends, girl friends, and friends of the family. He always welcomed newcomers with a handshake and a smile. He loved celebrations and family gatherings, and if there wasn’t one, he created one. He insisted that that the grandchildren needed to gather together once a year. He called it the cousin party, paid for the BBQ, provided some booze, and the prize for the horseshoe game, and stayed up late partying with us.



*Back, L to R: Ruth, Tove, Lis, Kirsten
Front, L to R: Kurt, Elsebeth, Erna (Mor), Julius
(Far), Carl Johan*

This was our adult get together, but as children he gathered us together at the cottage where he and his eldest son, our Uncle Kurt, had built a bunk house filled with beds for us. We all have such great memories of the fun we had there and the boat rides he took us on. We all wanted to be the ones in Far’s car going to the cottage because he always stopped for ice-cream half way there. He must have owned shares in the Kawartha Dairy because all of us remember this.

Not long ago, Far was talking to me about the loss of my brother Boris. Boris died in an accident when he was only seven years old. He had been at the cottage with Far just before the accident and Far told me of his deep regret that he had not taken Boris for ice-cream on the way

to the cottage. So this was why we all got ice-cream and it is ironic that Far last went for a drive with my Mom and Dad, and the three of them went for ice-cream in Enneskillen. I placed 2 ice-cream cones in his casket hoping to mend the only regret I ever heard him mention.

A moment that will always stick out for me was when we were in Cuba for Far’s 90th birthday. One evening we were sitting around the pool watching the entertainment and I was right beside Far. His name was announced and the entire crowd sang Happy Birthday. He stood up, waved his cane at them and with the biggest smile I had ever seen on him he turned to me and said, “I feel like a king”. Well Far, you were a king in the eyes of your family and how lucky the family

OBITUARIES

was to have had him for as long as we did. What a role model you were to us, showing us how to best live life and showing us what was and is really important.”

Julius Johan Christensen known to family and friends as Far, passed away July 5, 2016. He led a full life, he was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather (24 grandchildren), great-grandfather (47 great-grandchildren), and a great-great-grandfather (5 great-great-grandchildren). We all loved him very much and he will be missed a lot. Thank you Far for all the wonderful memories, we will cherish your memory always and you will live in our hearts forever.


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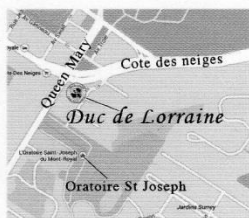
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INVITATION



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

April 23, 2017

2018 Halifax Conference

Dear Members and Friends,

Halifax, Nova Scotia, is calling you!

The Board of Directors of the Danish Federation is thrilled to announce that we will be hosting the 2018 Conference. It will be held for the very first time in Halifax, Nova Scotia!

Halifax is, of course, home to Pier 21 – the former immigration shed, now a Museum, where many of you, your parents, or your grandparents, first set foot in this wonderful country. Holding the Conference in Halifax presents a unique opportunity for many of us to explore our Canadian roots up close. There will be time to explore all that the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 has to offer – perhaps even copies of the original immigration documents for your family?

Halifax has much to offer! - Renowned friendly east coast culture, magnificent sunrises, beautiful sunsets and incomparable seacoast walking trails. The city is also known for its excellent public gardens. Halifax abounds in entertainment. There are Harbour tours, entertainment at the Waterfront, a Harbourfront Market as well as the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. You may even wish to take a side trip to iconic Peggy's Cove.

Mark your calendar for May 24 – 27, 2018, and start planning! Watch for registration information, a program and event details in early 2018, either in the mail or at <http://www.danishfederation.ca/>.

We look forward to exploring and enjoying Halifax with you in 2018!

On behalf of the Board of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada,

Larry Kjearsgaard

Board Member, Danish Federation and
Conference Chair of the 2018 Conference Organizing Committee



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