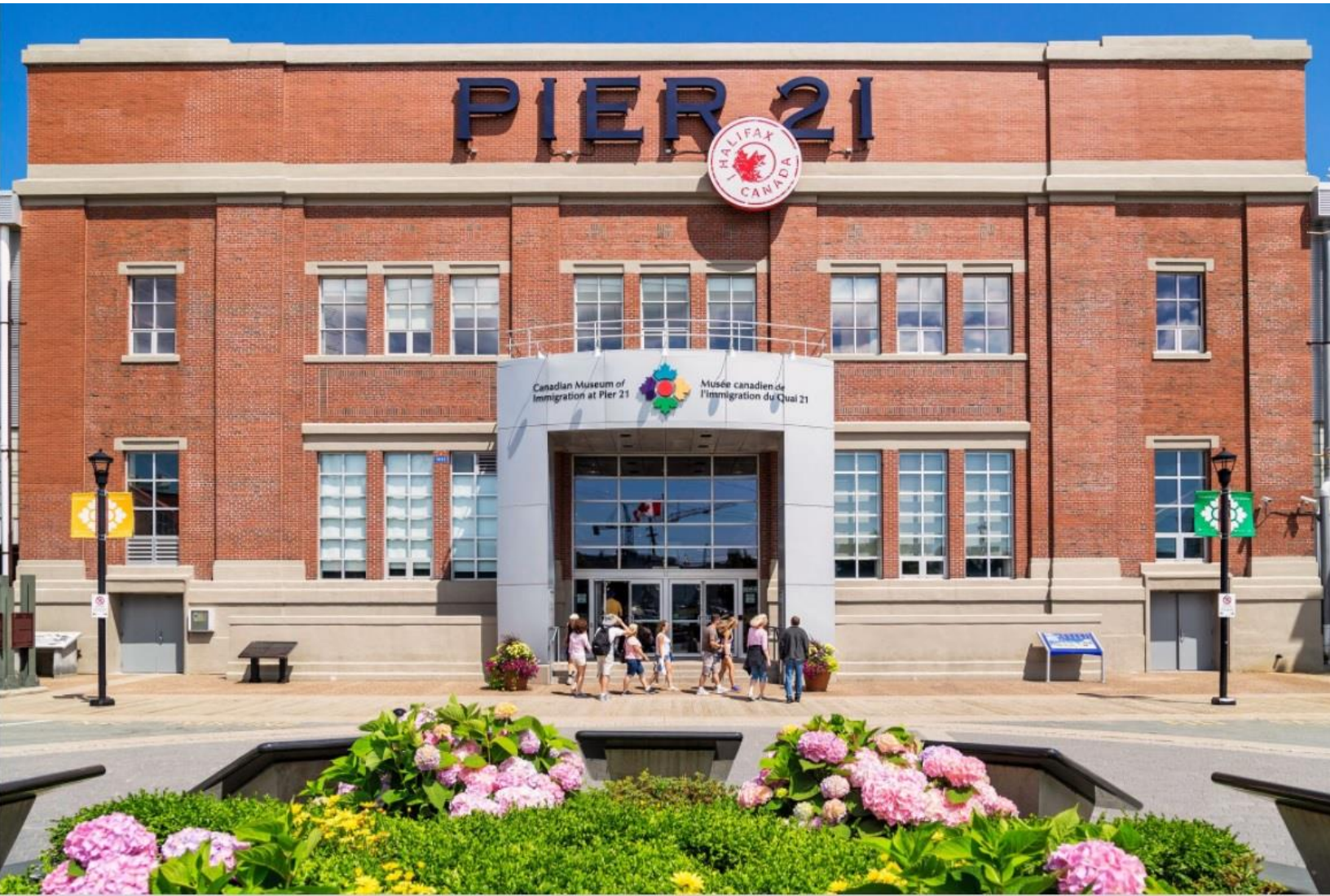




2018 HERITAGE BOOK



Pier 21: Where We Met Canada

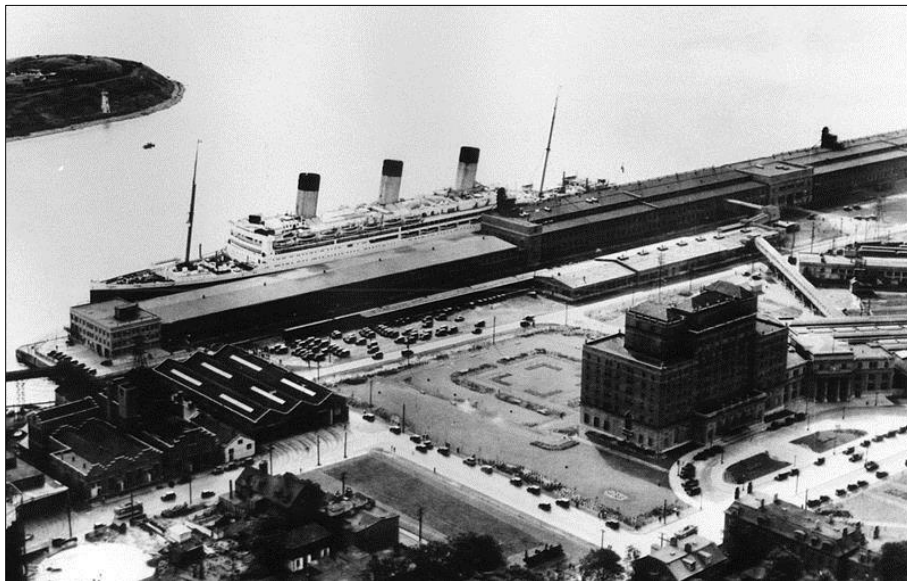
FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



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

37th DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 24-27, 2018



*RMS Majestic alongside the Nova Scotian Hotel at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1934 - Pier 20 is to the left and Pier 21 to the right.
(Photo is in the Public Domain)*

Pier 21, a former ocean liner terminal, is Canada's National Museum of Immigration in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It operated as an ocean liner terminal and immigration shed from 1928 to 1971 and became an immigration museum in 1999. Pier 21 is Canada's last remaining ocean immigration shed.

Visit Pier 21 and Relive the Experience!

Pier 21: Where We Met Canada

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Many Danes have “landed” in Canada at Pier 21 in Halifax, so this is where they first met Canada. Between 1928 and 1971, immigrant ships would sail from various ports in Europe to Halifax, where the immigrants, as well as displaced persons, would be processed and given “landed immigrant” status.



Pier 21 with a cruise ship in August 2002

Pier 21 was built to handle the many immigrants who came to Canada in the 1920s, a large number of them farmers, heading for the Prairies. But with the Great Depression in the 1930s followed by the Second World War, immigration practically ground to a halt. But after the Canadian soldiers were demobilized after the war and the Canadian economy started to boom, Canada opened its doors again. Pier 21 was a busy place, and continued to be a major immigration point, until most immigrants started to arrive by air – by the late 1960s.

Pier 21 occupies a special place for many Danes. On behalf of the Danish community in Canada, Pier 21 was commemorated by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada in August 2002, when a plaque was unveiled on August 30th. The unveiling ceremony consisted of a welcome by Dr. Ruth Goldbloom of Pier 21, who spoke about the history of the immigration shed, the Pier 21 Society, and ended with some remarks about Danish immigration. She mentioned that 47,295 Danes immigrated to Canada between 1928 and 1971. Afterwards Nova Scotia Danish Consul Harry Mathers, who was delighted to see so many Danes from outside Nova Scotia, said a few words. Johanne Knudsen of Toronto then presented to Pier 21 the suitcase she carried with her when she landed at Pier 21 in 1957. She also donated her old passport and other documents and photographs. Finally, Rolf Christensen and Kyra Hansen unveiled the Danish plaque. Kyra Hansen, who had been Miss New Denmark in 1997, was in a beautiful Danish costume. Edith Wulff of Hamilton then read the poem on the plaque, which she had written especially for the Danish plaque. It reads:

CONFERENCE THEME

From Denmark we came with hopes and dreams, but also with tools in hand. To build a new life, pursuing those dreams, in this, our chosen land. And Canada opened her arms to us all, with her cities, forests and farms. All people together, working as one. Canadians, linking arms.



Edith Wulff, Harry Mathers, Kyra Hansen & Rolf Christensen with plaque at 2002 ceremony.

In last year's Heritage Book there were biographies of four families that came through Pier 21: Chris and Kirsti Andersen, Tage and Ruth Andersen, Niels and Margrethe Johansen, and Niels and Rita Nielsen. In the years to come, many others will undoubtedly tell their story of coming to Canada, landing at Pier 21.

This year's Danish Canadian Conference in Halifax provides an occasion to see, visit, and explore Pier 21, as well as the many other attractions which Halifax offers. Pier 21 is the only Canadian national museum in Atlantic Canada. According to Pier 21:

The purpose of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is to explore the theme of immigration to Canada in order to enhance public understanding of the experiences of immigrants as they arrived in Canada, of the vital role immigration has played in the building of Canada and of the contributions of immigrants to Canada's culture, economy and way of life.

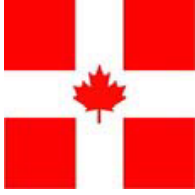
At Pier 21, you can go through the long passenger lists and impressive photo collection of ships. You can do research or submit your immigration story, or just visit the museum. It is the first time the Danish Canadian Conference is being held in Halifax, and therefore a wonderful opportunity to come to Pier 21, where so many first met Canada.

Since then many biographies in the Heritage Book have dealt with the voyage across the Atlantic, mentioning both facts about the ship and the experience of sailing on an ocean liner. Others have recalled the experience of going through Pier 21, as well as boarding the rather primitive passenger trains on the other side of the building. In this year's Heritage Book, among others, we have the following that came through Pier 21: Margrethe Friis, Ruth Johnson, Karl Monk, Niels John Nielsen and Alfred Wulff.



Group photo of Danes, August 30, 2002.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2018 Heritage Book

37th Danish Canadian Conference

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. May 24-27, 2018

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The editor wishes to thank everyone that contributed to this book. Without your articles, biographies, photographs and ads, it would not have been possible to produce this book.

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

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 – 2018

Vancouver	1982	Poul B. Christensen
Montreal	1983	Svend Berg
Calgary	1984	Les Bonke
New Denmark	1985	Glenna Jensen & Judy Armstrong
Toronto	1986	Eva Terp
Kolding	1987	Birgitte Dedenroth-Schou & Rolf Buschardt Christensen
Winnipeg	1988	Bent Sørensen
Ottawa	1989	Rolf Buschardt Christensen
Vancouver	1990	Poul B. Christensen
Copenhagen	1991	Rolf Buschardt Christensen
Dickson	1992	Elin Barlem, Kathleen Christiansen, Erling Hansen, Juanita Nissen
Kingston	1993	Rolf Buschardt Christensen and Poul B. Christensen
Edmonton	1994	Lili Nielsen and Svend B. Nielsen
Montreal	1995	Morten Holm
Nanaimo	1996	Niels Jorgensen
New Denmark	1997	Morten Holm
Winnipeg	1998	Niels Jorgensen
Calgary	1999	Niels Jorgensen
Aalborg	2000	Niels Jorgensen
Kitchener	2001	Eva Terp
Red Deer	2002	Erling Hansen and Kirsten Wohlgemuth
Thunder Bay	2003	Eva Terp
Montreal	2004	Svend Berg
Blair, Nebraska	2005	Svend Berg
Vancouver	2006	Svend Berg
Edmonton	2007	Svend Berg
Ottawa	2008	Svend Berg
Red Deer	2009	Svend Berg
Winnipeg	2010	Svend Berg
Calgary	2011	Svend Berg
Toronto	2012	Svend Berg
Victoria	2013	Svend Berg
Ottawa	2014	Svend Berg
Vancouver	2015	Ed Kuhlman
Montreal	2016	Ed Kuhlman
Red Deer	2017	Ed Kuhlman
Halifax	2018	Ed Kuhlman



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GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

May 24-27, 2018



Dear Friends:

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

This meeting brings together members of the 39 organizations across the country that are represented by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. Under the theme of this year's conference, *Pier 21: Where we met Canada*, delegates will have the opportunity to learn more about and tour Halifax's Pier 21, and I am certain that everyone in attendance will enjoy this experience.

This event also provides a wonderful occasion to highlight the outstanding contributions that Danish Canadians have made, and continue to make, to our nation. I would like to thank the members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for their commitment to preserving and promoting Danish culture and for fostering fellowship in the community. This event stands as an important reminder that our country is made great not in spite of its diversity, but because of it.

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 24 au 27 mai 2018

Chères amies, chers amis,

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



Cet événement réunit des membres des 39 organisations de partout au pays que la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada représente. Le thème de la conférence de cette année, *Quai 21 : À la rencontre du Canada*, donnera l'occasion aux délégués de visiter le Quai 21 à Halifax et d'en apprendre davantage à son sujet. Je suis convaincu que cette expérience plaira à tous les participants.

Cette conférence offre également une excellente occasion de souligner les contributions remarquables que les Canadiens d'origine danoise ont apportées et continuent d'apporter à notre nation. Je tiens à remercier les membres de la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada de leur engagement à l'égard de la préservation et de la promotion de la culture danoise ainsi que de la solidarité au sein de la collectivité. Cette conférence est un rappel important que le Canada est un pays formidable non pas en dépit de sa diversité, mais grâce à celle-ci.

Recevez mes meilleurs vœux pour une conférence des plus fructueuses et des plus agréables.

Cordialement,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Justin Trudeau'.

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

GREETINGS



Ottawa, March 2018

I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to the annual conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada taking place in Halifax, Nova Scotia this year.

The theme of this year's conference, *Pier 21: Where we met Canada* revolves around immigration. The history of Danish immigration to Canada dates back to around the year 1000, when Vikings sailing from Greenland reached the shores of Northeastern Canada.

600 years later in 1619, the Danish sea captain and explorer Jens Munk and his crew sailed out on orders from King Christian IV of Denmark to find the Northwest Passage. Munk made it to the mouth of the Churchill River in northern Manitoba. Unfortunately, almost the entire crew perished during the harsh Canadian winter, forcing Munk to give up the search and return to Denmark.

Fortunately, the last three waves of Danish immigration to Canada have been more successful. During the first wave, from 1870 until World War I, many Danes arrived in Canada because of chronic job shortages in Denmark. During the second wave in the 1920s, the Canadian Ready-Made Farm Initiative offered immigrants a package deal of land and housing, which attracted many Danes. The third wave was after World War II, when Canada saw economic prosperity and a great need for skilled tradespeople as well as farm workers.

Since 1928, most Danish immigrants to Canada have arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax. To all new arrivals, this pier represented hopes for a prosperous new beginning in Canada. Today there are more than 200,000 people of Danish descent throughout Canada. It is a great pleasure to see so many Danes preserving and passing down the traditions that they arrived with at Pier 21.

I wish you all the best at this year's conference, and I very much look forward to seeing you in Halifax this May.



Niels Boel Abrahamsen
Ambassador of Denmark

GREETINGS



Premier's Message

On behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia, I am pleased to welcome you to Nova Scotia for the 37th annual National Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

I am honoured that you have chosen Nova Scotia and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 as the location for your conference. Pier 21 welcomed many Danish newcomers to Canada, helping to plant the seeds of a vibrant and dynamic Danish-Canadian community that has contributed significantly to the diversity values on which Nova Scotia and Canada are built.

Congratulations to all member organizations of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for your efforts to preserve and promote your culture and heritage. Canada and Nova Scotia, are fortunate, to have the Danish culture and heritage as part of our vibrant national cultural mosaic.

I wish you a successful conference, and hope that you enjoy your visit to Halifax and Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen McNeil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier



GREETINGS



Greetings
from the Mayor



As Mayor of Halifax, it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings and a special welcome to everyone attending the 37th annual National Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada 'Pier 21 – Where We Met Canada' taking place here in our region for the first time.

One in five Canadians, have a connection to Pier 21, a point of entry for more than one-million immigrants between 1928 and 1971. It represented the dreams, sacrifices and determination of those who walked through its doors. Diversity is a strength we embrace and an opportunity to celebrate the great heritage of our region and the many people of the world who contribute to it.

Our historic port city has been entertaining guests for over 265 years and we take pride in our reputation as one of the world's most hospitable and welcoming destinations. Halifax is the place to be with its dynamic and intriguing mix of heritage and culture. A marquee destination embracing a diversity of people, communities, shops, restaurants, and nightlife, our city will present you with a truly original experience.

I wish you much success and trust your visit will be a truly memorable experience.

Kindest regards,

Mike
Savage
Mayor

GREETINGS



Welcome from the Honorary Danish Consul for Nova Scotia

It is with great pleasure that I send my greetings to the attendees of the 2018 Danish Canadian Conference, hosted by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

The city of Halifax will offer you many wonderful opportunities to explore immigration and your Canadian roots. I take the liberty to say, on behalf of all Haligonians, “cead mile failte” – which means a hundred thousand welcomes in Gaelic.

I am deeply honored to serve Denmark as Consul following in the footsteps of the past four generations of my family who have been Danish Consuls since 1895.

Supporting and attending events such as this annual conference is essential to the preservation of Danish heritage and culture and I hope that you will also enjoy all that Halifax has to offer to you.

I wish you a great conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Mathers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Mathers
Danish Consul for Nova Scotia

GREETINGS



Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada

Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Fédération des Associations Danoises du Canada

Dear Members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada:

On behalf of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, I would like to welcome all of the delegates to our first ever conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia!

We're looking forward to sharing some East coast hospitality with you as we explore the history at the Pier 21 Museum, tour the countrysode on our way to iconic Peggy's Cove, see the sights the city of Halifax has to offer, and enjoy a scenic Harbour Dinner Cruise.

This is all capped off with a terrific traditional Danish lunch at the Austenville Owls Club, catered by Karina Daugaard and the Scandinavian Club of Halifax.

Organizing a conference without the benefit of a host club is quite an undertaking and would not have been possible without the incredible assistance of Birgit Ballantyne who was our "boots-on-the-ground" liaison person. Birgit is a Board member of the Danish National Museum who resides in Halifax. Be sure to thank her as you see her this weekend!

Thank you to our organizing committee of Sune Overgaard, Aase Christensen and Rolf Christensen, and to YOU, the participants who will make this one of the most memorable Federation Conferences ever.

On behalf of the Board of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada,
Larry Kjearsgaard,
Conference Chair

Membership Organizations Across Canada For Preservation of Danish Heritage

O Canada

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

Canadá

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



DENMARK
DANMARK

DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

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

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

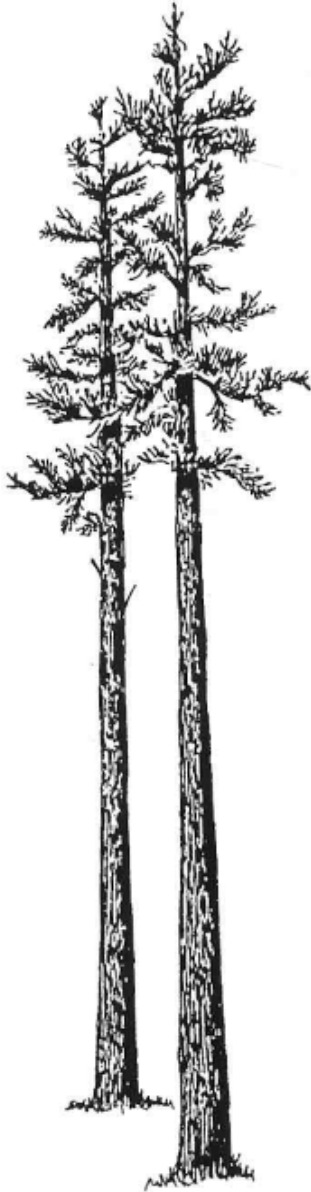


FEDERATION



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

Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

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

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

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

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

Inger K. W. Andersen
Kingston, 1983

FEDERATION



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

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FEDERATION



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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. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch
9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch
10. Pass Lake Historical Society

11. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg
12. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary
13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary
14. Dana Village, Danish Senior Citizens Apartment Foundation, Calgary
15. The Naver Club, Calgary
16. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada
17. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson
18. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson
19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
20. The Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton
21. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton

22. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia
23. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver
24. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest
25. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver
26. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby
27. Danish House Society, Burnaby
28. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey
29. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver
30. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo
31. Danish Social Club of Victoria

32. Canadian American Friendship Association, Hedehusene
33. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
34. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
35. Danish American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa
36. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa



The Purpose of the Danish Federation

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

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

Danish Federation Activities

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

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

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

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

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
2017 - 2018

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Danish Federation for the year 2017-2018. There are many exciting developments taking place within the Danish community in Canada, but at the same time we have to face a very serious issue. A number of our member organizations have struggled valiantly to remain active, but have had to close down. Our membership has stood at forty-one member organizations for a good many years. Today our membership stands at 36. Four organizations have been dissolved and another one is struggling to stay active, and has therefore suspended its membership of the Danish Federation. It is with sadness that I must report that the Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John's Church in Waterloo, the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula in Grimsby, the Battlefords Danish Canadian Club in North Battleford, and the Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association have been dissolved. And unfortunately, the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada, has had to scale down its activities and involvement. This situation is mainly due to declining membership and interest. The current leaders are getting older, the younger generations are not eager to join and there is virtually no immigration from Denmark, providing new members. 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. Hopefully, the twice-yearly meetings in the Regions will be able to play a supportive role in invigorating our various organizations.

Our Annual Conference is a yearly highlight. In 2017, it was hosted by the Danish Canadian Museum, which was celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Conference was held in Red Deer and Dickson, Alberta, from May 25 – 28, 2017. Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee was Steve Morck. The Conference, whose theme was "Step into the Saga", was officially opened Thursday evening at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, where former Red Deer Museum Director and Mayor of Red Deer, Morris Flewwelling, gave a well-received speech. Mr. Flewwelling is a strong supporter of our Museum.

The Danish Federation held its Annual General Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel on the Friday. Once again, Gert M. Andersen accepted to chair the meeting. Treasurer Sune Overgaard's financial statement was approved, an executive was elected, and Soren Sondergaard was re-appointed financial reviewer. The president thanked National Secretary, Aase Christensen, for maintaining the annual Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada. Ed Kuhlman was applauded for the excellent work of compiling and editing a beautiful 203-page Heritage Book. Mr. Kuhlman also took on the task of coordinating the printing and distribution of the books. The Heritage Book is a compilation of facts and stories of the various clubs, churches, settlements, as well as biographies of hundreds of families. We must strive to get these stories

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written down and published before they become part of a forgotten past - of what was once a very active Danish community.

A high point of the Conference was the official opening of the Nielsen CPR House, which had been renovated and furnished with period furniture and household items. This historic house is a major acquisition for the Museum, as it represents an important aspect of immigration and settlement of the Canadian West. The Conference ended with a lunch at Glennifer Lake, where Svend E. Nielsen and Steve Morck handed the Fane and Mailbox over to Larry Kjearsgaard, the Chair of the 2018 Halifax Conference Organizing Committee.

Immediately following the Conference, twenty-two participants partook in the popular Danish Heritage Seminar, from May 29 to June 3. The Seminar was held at the Windtower Lodge in Canmore, with Pastor Charlotte Berg of Calgary as Headmaster. The theme was “A Celebration of Anniversaries”. The participants came from across Canada, with one couple from as far as the State of Washington. The Seminar offers a perfect opportunity to explore our culture and roots.

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, Puslinch, Winnipeg, Calgary, Dickson, Vancouver, and two in Denmark; Aalborg and Copenhagen.

Several of our member organizations are celebrating anniversaries this year. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton is celebrating 90 years. The Danish Canadian Club in Calgary will be 85 years. The Naver Club in Calgary celebrates 60 years. The Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest, turns 50. Pass Lake Historical Society was started 35 years ago. The Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, was founded 35 years ago, while the Danish Women's Association Toronto is celebrating its 30th anniversary. To all of you: Congratulations!

2019 will be the 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's voyage of exploration in search of the Northwest Passage, the sea route north of Canada to China and India. He set sail from Copenhagen in two ships, with 64 men. Just 3 men lived to tell the tale after wintering on the shore of Hudson Bay near present day Churchill, Manitoba. Only Jens Munk and two surviving crew members managed to sail back to Scandinavia. The anniversary of this heroic effort must be commemorated. Following the presentation on the subject by Otto Christensen, at the Danish Federation Conference in Red Deer in 2017, and thanks to the initiatives of Carl Sorensen, Otto Christensen and Helle Wilson, the Danish Federation has established a Jens Munk Steering Committee. The committee consists of ten members and is chaired by Carl Sorensen. I urge all of you to support the committee's endeavour to commemorate Jens Munk by initiating local projects to bring attention to this feat of discovery and human endurance. It's part of our history.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Danish Federation's Board of Directors for their work and commitment both Nationally and in the Regions. I extend a special thank you to all the member organizations for all their support and dedication in helping to maintain and promote our rich Danish heritage. Thank you!

Rolf Buschardt Christensen
President,
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada



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2017 Conference celebrated Museum's 25th Anniversary

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Danish Federation's 2017 Conference celebrated the Danish Canadian Museum's 25th anniversary. The main building, the dormitory, had a new improved outside look, with stucco and Tudor-style beams, the manicured grounds looked great in the beautiful sunshine, and the Nielsen CPR House was ready to be officially inaugurated.



As the Museum prominently stated on its website: These are exciting times for the Museum, with recent media coverage, and winning the 2017 Wynn McLean Rural Tourism Champion Award, as well as the 2016 Heritage Recognition Award for new developments, including the Naust Ship House, and the *Freydis Joanna* Viking Ship. The Museum was ready to welcome the Delegates!

As Conference host, the Danish Canadian Museum had chosen *Step into the Saga* as the Conference theme. The conference organizing committee was headed by Steve Morck, a former president of the Museum. The Conference, held in Red Deer and Dickson, from May 25 to May 28, 2017, was officially opened Thursday evening at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, where former Red Deer Museum director and Mayor of Red Deer, Morris Flewwelling, gave a well-

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received speech. The presidents of the Danish Federation and the Museum also said a few words of welcome.

Friday at the Sheraton Hotel the Danish Federation held its Annual General Meeting, chaired by Gert M. Andersen. The financial statement was approved, and the executive was re-elected, that is, Rolf Christensen, Gert M. Andersen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard, were elected as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Moreover, Soren Sondergaard was re-appointed reviewer (auditor). Rolf Christensen thanked Ed Kuhlman for compiling and editing a beautiful 203-page Heritage Book, as well as looking after the printing and distribution.



*The Nielsen CPR House
just prior to the official opening*

The meeting endorsed holding the 2018 Conference in Halifax, an idea that Danish Federation Alberta President Larry Kjearsgaard had earlier suggested to the Board. The Halifax Conference will in this way become the first Conference hosted and organized by the Danish Federation.

The Friday luncheon speaker was Otto Christensen from Gimli, who spoke about Jens Munk's search for the Northwest Passage, and showed part of a Danish film about this daring expedition in 1619-20. In the afternoon, the delegates were taken by bus to explore

Markerville, seeing both the Stephan Stephansson House, where this Icelandic-Canadian wrote his poetry, and the Markerville Creamery, which had been owned and operated by Danish-born Daniel Morkeberg and later his son, Carl. Both properties are now official historic sites.

Saturday morning the Museum held its Annual General Meeting at the Museum in Dickson. Museum President Svend E. Nielsen chaired the meeting and hinted at Museum plans for the future. Luncheon speaker was Meaghan Patterson, Executive Director of Alberta Museums.

The major event in the afternoon was the opening of the Nielsen CPR House, which had been renovated and furnished with furniture and household goods. Members of the Nielsen family, who had lived in the House, were present, as were members of the Sundgaard family of Standard, Alberta, who had donated the House to the Museum. After the official opening the public could tour the House.



*Larry Kjearsgaard receiving flags
from Svend E. Nielsen and Steve Morck*

The Canadian Pacific Railway was largely responsible for advancing the colonization and settlement of Western Canada in the early part of the 1900s. Aksel Nielsen purchased a ready-made farm house near Standard, Alberta, where he and his wife, Marie, raised seven children. After the children grew up and moved on, the farm changed hands, and the house sat empty. The Nielsen CPR House was donated to the Museum, and moved there to be a part of the permanent collection. It was a proud day when the House was officially opened.

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After the inauguration there was a Viking Enactment on the big lawn by the lake. It should be mentioned, the Vikings had camped on the front lawn, on the other side of the dormitory, and it was possible to observe them make things, cook and get ready for the Enactment. In the evening, there was a community dinner, followed by silent and live auctions, at the Spruce View Hall. Members of the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club helped with the dinner.

Sunday morning, it was possible to attend the Service at Bethany Lutheran Church (now King of Kings Lutheran Church) and to visit the Dickson Store Museum next door. Some people also visited the Dickson Cemetery across the street.

For lunch a typical Danish fare of open-face sandwiches with beer and snaps had been prepared at Glennifer Lake Resort, where the delegates enjoyed sitting and eating on the patio in perfect sunshine, while relishing the view of the lake. After lunch, Sharon Lightbown, manager of the Dickson Store Museum, put on part of a play she had written, using different hats for the various characters. After the play, Museum President Svend E. Nielsen as well as chair of the conference organizing committee, Steve Morck, received thanks for putting on a memorable conference. They in turn handed over the flag and mailbox to Larry Kjeersgaard, who is chairing the organizing committee for the 2018 Conference in Halifax.

CONFERENCE PHOTOS:

Federation AGM at the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel



*Federation President Rolf Christensen
Presenting Federation 2017 Annual Report*



*Delegate Janet Tricarico
Delivering Danish Sisterhood Report*

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Museum President, Svend E. Nielsen receiving donation from Pacific Region's Janet Tricarico



L to R: Delegates Eva Terp & Inge Andersen

Friday Afternoon – Visting the Stephansson House & Markerville Creamery



Vita Christensen & Gert Andersen at the Stephan G. Stephansson House, Markerville



Delivering Milk at the Markerville Creamery

Saturday at the Museum



Dormitory with New Exterior



L to R: Betty Leicht & Faye Kjearsgaard

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Museum Annual General Meeting Saturday in Dormitory Building



The Thomsen Log Cabin at the Museum



Museum's Lake with Dagmar Pioneer Church



Vikings Camping and Demonstrating Battle Skills at the Danish Candian Museum

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Watching the Vikings in Battle



L to R: Vita Christensen & Eva Terp



Nielsen Family perform the Ribbon Cutting at the official opening of the Nielsen CPR House



*L to R: Clint & Juanita Nissen
Gordon Petersen, Ed & Linda Kuhlman*



L to R: Inge Andersen & Anne Lise Pedersen

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Sunday visiting the Dickson Store Museum followed by Lunch at the Glennifer Lake Resort



Sunday morning at the Dickson Store Museum



Lunch on the patio at the Glennifer Lake Resort



Enjoying Lunch on the patio with Smørrebrød, Aqvavit and Beer – Heaven on Earth



L to R: Steve Morck, Carl Sorensen, Vita Christensen, Betty Leicht, Linda & Ed Kuhlman

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L to R: Eva Terp & Aase Christensen relaxing after Lunch & with Maxine Petersen by the stairs

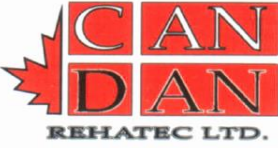


Sharon Lightbown, Manager of the Dickson Store Museum, & author / star of a hat changing play about immigrants

Larry Kjearsgaard (centre) inviting delegates to Halifax in 2018 with Brian Desjardins (left) & Svend E. Nielsen (right)


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Reports from the Member Organizations

Given at the Annual General Meeting, Red Deer, Alberta May 26, 2017

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 2017 reports from the member organizations:

1. New Denmark Historical Society, New Denmark, New Brunswick

Hello from New Denmark, New Brunswick! Highlights from our year include:

- Founders Day celebration on June 19, 2016 started with an Ecumenical Church service at 11:00 am on the museum grounds where the Anglican and Lutheran Ministers both did the service together. Canteen was available on-site after church with Danish sausage; Danish sandwiches and sweets were sold.
- Memorial Service began at 1:00 pm with guest speaker Karen Hansen-O'Regan. Danish songs were sung and children from the community performed Danish folk dancing. Memberships were sold for the 2016 year. Memorial monument was unveiled at this time.
- Many fundraising efforts were made throughout the year: suppers, luncheons, membership drive and 145th signs were sold for the upcoming 2017 year.
- We employed 3 students, Billy Jensen, Brittany Christensen and Nicholas Henry, which were paid by grants by both Federal and Provincial Governments. The students greeted many tourists over the summer.
- We had our 3rd Annual Olde Fashioned Christmas in December with short stories, Danish treats and songs.
- In March, our new board was elected with some new faces.
- Fundraising efforts are continuing as our building is aging and is in need of a couple of new windows and after a small act of vandalism, some siding needs replacing as well. Lots of work in a small community!!!

2017 New Denmark 145th Anniversary – Founders Day

Tentative schedule of events for the 145th celebration:

May 26th - 7:00 pm: Miss New Denmark pageant at New Denmark (N.D.) Rec Center

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June 16th - 9:00 pm: Founders Day Dance at N.D. Rec Center with the band “The Divorcees”.
Admission is \$10.00 per person

June 17th

- 2:00 pm: A parade from N.D. Museum to N.D. Rec Center
- 3:00 pm: Children’s activities outside, pie baking and throwing
- 3:00 pm: Folk Dancing at N.D. Rec Center
- 9:45 pm: Torchlight parade from St. Peter’s Lutheran Church to N.D. Museum
- 11:00 pm: Fireworks at N.D. Museum

June 18th:

- 1:00 am: Ecumenical Church Service at N.D. Museum followed by a lunch with Danish sausages, open-face sandwiches and desserts served on-site
- 1:00 pm: Memorial Service at N.D. Museum

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Butler, Secretary, presented by Glenna Hitchcock

2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.

The year has gone by so quickly! We have seen an influx of younger people at our functions, in particular the Fastelavn celebration and the Christmas party. It is a pleasure to have to prepare many goody-bags for Christmas and fun to watch children and their parents all dressed up at Fastelavn.

Janet and Peter Nissen continue to generously open their grounds and greenhouses in Napierville for Sankt Hans Aften celebration. As usual all the tables inside the greenhouse were filled with members and their guests enjoying a bring-your-own-food-and-drink picnic. 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, Canada Day was a beautiful day with 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. It should be mentioned that the Viking crew is a mix of members and friends from both The Danish Club and the Danish Canadian Society. The Danish Club has a large stake in “Vinland” as the club shares in the up-keep of the ship and in any other cost involved. A warm thank you goes to Nis-Anker Jessen for pulling the float again this year.



Ole D. Larsen

In mid-September, members and friends enjoyed a beautiful dinner at the Legion Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. 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 and always makes the best crackling.

Thank you to our generous and faithful florists, Peter and Janet Nissen and Leif and Norma Jacobsen, for the beautiful flowers. Thank you to all who brought door prizes. Thank you to all who prepared the food, who helped set the tables and cleaned up after the party. It was an enjoyable afternoon.

The Christmas party in December brought a full house. As usual Bjørg and Svend Berg got the

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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. Everyone worked hard in the kitchen making sure the food was perfect. After dinner we danced around the Christmas tree singing our treasured Danish Christmas songs. The Julestue was organized and conducted by Jessica Christensen and the children had fun creating many different Christmas decorations. A big thank-you goes to Bodil Jelhof Jensen for organizing all the goodie-bags for the children. A heartfelt and well deserved thank-you goes to the Christensen family, who so generously helped 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 a variety of desserts. We are lucky to have some very talented bakers, who make *fastelavnsboller* just like mom did. Almost everyone was dressed up in costumes from princesses and hobos 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 good beating until all the candy spilled and a Fastelavns King was crowned.

For the first time in years we had a real wooden barrel thanks to Kim Lebech, who organized transportation of two barrels from Denmark through the company he works for.

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 2016 to May 2017. In June, St. Hans Aften was celebrated with the Danish Canadian Society, St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church and with the usual pot luck dinner and sending off of the witch.

The annual Canada Day Parade in Montreal was shared with the Danish Canadian Society and 30 local Danish Montrealers (of all ages) dressed in Viking costumes parading on the street with the Vinland Viking Ship Float.

Our Danish Club annual soccer tournament was held at Ovide Park where our team played games against the Norwegian Club and we held our intra-Denmark games between the Sjælland and Fyn teams — followed by a picnic, beer and snaps.

Our AGM was held in November, with Board Director Elections involving all but the President in the under 30-45 years old category. Great progress has been achieved in this regard since last year.

Although our club continued in membership growth, our monthly lunch attendance dwindled in the latter part of last year. The 2016 AGM addressed the need to move to a new location in

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downtown Montreal sometime in the New Year, in order to attract younger professionals to easily leave their place of work for our monthly lunch and be able to return to work. Our Smørrebrød caterer could no longer continue in the New Year and certain members from the floor committed to ensure smørrebrød will continue.

The annual Christmas lunch was held at the Royal Canadian Legion with approximately 60 people in attendance where a piano performance was enjoyed and Danish carols were sung. January and February months in 2017 proved 100% growth each month in attendance at our monthly lunches. This was due to a new smørrebrød lunch team concept where smørrebrød foods are prepared the morning of, in the kitchen at our lunch venue, and served to the tables for our members and guests to assemble on their plates. Our Valentine lunch had twice the attendance from the year before. In March we moved our lunch to downtown Montreal at the historic Royal Highlander's Black Watch Regiment Armoury, where the wonderful Officer's Mess is our new lunch venue welcoming more than 60 people of all ages to lunch. The Danish Club provides aquavit as a courtesy at no charge for each lunch and the smørrebrød lunch is prepared by volunteer members. There is far more parking availability and easier subway access appealing to both our older and younger members. A small number of our older members (no names mentioned – smile) have not yet accepted the successful new location and we hope they will choose to eventually attend and support our lunches free from divisive thoughts or attitudes.

Our 5th Annual Scandinavian Dinner was a great success at Old Montreal's latest Hotel named the William Gray Hotel. This year's event was a fusion of Nordic and Quebecois cuisine attracting a record breaking number of younger people. The event was organized by the Danish club and promoted by the Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Icelandic communities. This year the local Estonian community accepted the invitation to join in the promotion of the dinner event. We had 152 people from across the Nordic and Estonian communities. Our favourite DJ Yourself ensured great music and dancing was enjoyed by all, and we had a Swedish Nickel-harp player performance as in past years.

We are planning for a celebratory dinner and dance later this year for our 95th anniversary.

Respectfully submitted by Kren Clausen, President

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

The Danish Club of Ottawa continues on its positive trajectory.

The 2016-2017 Board of Directors is dynamic, functions well, and gets things done, while enjoying the camaraderie of working together. The largest challenge facing the Board going forward is to ensure a proper succession, in order to maintain an effective balance of experience, new ideas and enthusiasm over the next few years.



Membership figures are stable. Sadly, and inevitably, we lose some of our oldest members every year. A few younger families have left the Club due to lack of time or because of work opportunities elsewhere. At the same time, new members have joined. Over the next months, the

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Board will discuss whether the Club should take a more pro-active approach to getting members, with a longer-term perspective in mind.

Financially the Club is in excellent shape. The Christmas bazaar continues to be our major fundraiser, with both Club members and people in the community eagerly looking forward to shopping and eating Danish food every November.

Last September the Club tried out new fundraising activity and participated in a garage sale under the auspices of the St. John Lutheran Church and the New Edinburgh community. Many members donated items; in fact, we were fortunate enough to have members who were downsizing and contributed very generously. All in all, it was a fabulous day, enjoyable for those who participated, and the funds raised were beyond expectations. Only slightly sour note was the rain, which started a little sooner than ideal.

A number of special donated items were held back for a “gently used” table at the Christmas bazaar. This generated additional revenue for the Club and added a new dimension to the bazaar. The positive financial position means that we are able to keep the fees for Club events low (and below cost), which benefits everyone. Just as important, it allows us to pay for external services, such as hiring a full-service caterer for the Queen’s Birthday Party. The reality is that the group of “core member volunteers” is shrinking. We need to be thoughtful about not overburdening volunteers, but instead encourage their participation where it does the most good for the Club and is the most gratifying for them. For instance, it takes 60 volunteers to organize and run the annual bazaar; the vast majority of them come back year after year and wouldn’t want to miss it for the world.

As many of our events are both time and labour intensive, the Board welcomes opportunities to offer our members additional activities that are more or less “ready to go”. In early April, we teamed up with the Ottawa Senators and Canadian Nordic Society on a Scandinavian Hockey Night at the Canadian tire Centre. About 85 people showed up to cheer for their home team as well as the Scandinavians on the rival team. Most likely an evening to be repeated next year! We were also recently offered an interesting opportunity for a “meal and theatre” excursion to a nearby community. We will report next year if we were able to include this event in our calendar.

Already the busiest months of the 2016/17 Club year are behind us. We look forward to a relaxed summer before gearing up for a very active September, culminating in our Annual General Meeting. We expect another good year for the Danish Club of Ottawa!

Respectfully submitted by Vibeke Reid, President, and presented by Vita Christensen

5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto

I forward greetings from the congregation in Toronto. We start our week with a church service conducted by Pastor Kenneth Berg. Our young organist, Rikke, arranges one Music-Sunday per month featuring guest musicians. Weekdays offer numerous activities including the Golden Age Club, the Church Café and the Folk Dancers. We rent our church facilities to a Korean group and open our church to weekly meetings of a large group of Brownies and Girl Guides. Unfortunately, our Danish School for Children has closed down as the leader has returned to Denmark. Renovations to our church hall, washrooms and one room upstairs have been completed. John Uffe has organized an opera appreciation course on Saturdays in our newly

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renovated hall. He brought in a guest speaker and provides a gourmet lunch to the 30 plus participants. Earlier this year, a survey was sent out and a group met to analyze the results. From that, we could see many would be interested in cooking lessons and several young people wanted lessons in Danish. Our AGM was held in March giving many a chance to hear more about church events. Our average church attendance has remained at 47 in the last three years, but our records show that ten years ago we had 69. We would like to increase church attendance on Sundays. Pastor Kenneth

runs a Book Club where we have discussed modern books as well as the books of the New Testament one by one. More recently some people meet to learn and sing new Danish hymns. Movie afternoons with 25 to 30 in attendance continue to be very popular and bring in extra people. *Badehotellet* has been well received. The Queen's Dinner brought 100 people to enjoy a beef tenderloin dinner where they were entertained by the Folk Dancers, piano music and a singer. Fifteen former confirmands did the serving. Three biographies have been completed for our Heritage Book 2017. In the fall we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the congregation. The 60 for 60 Campaign encourages all to donate so our renovations in the sanctuary can be completed and the exterior of the church receive a face lift. You can find us on Facebook, and at www.dlctoronto.on.ca. We wish all member organizations a good year ahead.

Submitted and presented by Liselotte Ostergaard, Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto

6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto

The Danish women meet once a month usually on the third Thursday for supper, usually potluck at someone's house or at various restaurants. Occasionally a daytrip as some of the members live outside Toronto. Sunset Villa has also been visited for lunch. They enjoy these events where they get the opportunity to speak their mother tongue, update each other with Danish news and exchange magazines and books. Below please find the club activities of the last 6 months:

- October: - a potluck supper at a member's house midtown Toronto
- November: - a restaurant visit in the Junction area in Toronto
- December: - traditional Christmas "hygge", celebration in a member's house, again potluck with mainly Danish dishes

2017

- January: - General Meeting at which the new committee of five members was chosen for the next two years. At this meeting, only fish dishes are made by the previous year's committee and the club pays for the food and snaps. This is also the time for paying the annual membership fee.
- February: - a visit to Mississauga for potluck supper with a Valentine theme, dress up in red, being the colour of the day!!
- March: - a buy/trade or sell and "no cooking tonight" evening" (pizza, salad and dessert) in a rented large meeting room in downtown Toronto by St. Lawrence Market.

At this time the club has 43 members.

Submitted by Lene Redman, President, Presented by Eva Terp

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9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch

Greetings from the Sunset Villa Association

Shortly after your celebrations in Alberta, we will be celebrating our 62nd Constitution Day at Sunset Villa on June 4th.

The park is ready, thanks to our many volunteers, to welcome our members and guests. We can have as many as 2,000, but so much dependent on the weather; but the plans are always for a warm sunny day. We will have Danish food, folk dancers, music, games and hear many speaking their Danish language.



Shortly after Constitution Day, we celebrate St. Hans on June 24th with the burning of the witch, spectacular fireworks and dancing in the Dome. All summer we have arranged dinners and events always involving the Danish flair. We extended our campsite to 56 sites this year and those who have trailers here enjoy the small village spirit.

The restaurant, The Danish Place, which serves authentic Danish cuisine, is still going strong. We are seeking new tenants for the restaurant as Benny and Anna, after 17 years, have decided to retire at the end of this year. We will miss them, but we intend to get tenants that can follow in their footsteps.

Our 10 apartments are all occupied with tenants who enjoy the beautiful surroundings. We have a waiting list for 15 ready to move in when an apartment becomes available.

We have concerns about the sustainability of the Club as the members are getting older, many younger ones do not get involved and the buildings are old and in need of much repair. Money is always a concern. It is through our membership both with dues and volunteering that we keep going.

Our 2017 50/50 Lottery is turning into a great success and the draw will be held to celebrate 50 years since Queen Margrethe (then Princess) attended Sunset Villa to plant a tree.

We welcome all at Sunset Villa. When you come to Ontario, please come and visit us. I know you would enjoy yourself.

Submitted by Arlene Lange, President; Presented by Aase Christensen

10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch

As President of the Board at Sunset Mindepark, I report that the year of 2016 was a good and uneventful year for the cemetery.

We did some planning for an additional Niche Wall with room for 67 additional niches and three more urn beds with an additional capacity of 96 urn beds, each Niche and Plot have room for two urns, so the additional capacity will be 326 urns. This should last us five to ten years more or more as the older generation of Danish Immigrants is now in much fewer numbers.

The plans were submitted to and approved by Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) which is our governing authority.

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We are in the process of creating the urn beds this spring which should be ready to use by fall 2017 when numbers have been installed and the grass has grown.

The plan is to build the proposed “Woodside” wall this fall, which is the best time for that type of construction. It should be ready to use in the spring of 2018.

The addition of the urn beds and the wall should bring the Cemetery’s total capacity up to 1,570 Urns, probably making it one of the largest Danish Immigrant Cemeteries in the world.

The Cemetery is still being operated, managed and maintained by a dedicated volunteer group of people, who like in other Immigrant Organizations, are getting older and do wish that the next generation will step up and continue to keep this beautiful last resting place for Danish Immigrants a memorable place to visit.

Respectfully submitted by Soren Sondergaard, President and presented by Ole Jensen

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

On behalf of Esther Pedersen and the Danish Canadian congregation who worship at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Waterloo, I wish to submit the following report written by Esther. Esther wishes that she were able to participate with us in Red Deer, but she felt the trip was too much, given the distance and her age.

Our church activities since the Federation meeting in Montreal in May 2016 are as follows:

- Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen ended his term with us on May 16, 2016 and moved back to Denmark. We were shocked and saddened to learn that he passed away shortly after his return.
- DSUK, once again, provided us with a new minister and on December 18, 2016 we welcomed Pastor Claus Franck
- We enjoyed a monthly service in January, February, March, April and May with Pastor Franck officiating.
- The Annual General Meeting took place on March 19, 2017

It is with great sadness and great gratitude that I reiterate the outcome of this meeting. Great sadness, as the services in Waterloo will terminate as of June 18, 2017. In this past year, two board members resigned due to health issues and we were not able to refill these positions. Our church community is elderly and not within close driving proximity to St. John’s Lutheran Church. The viability of continuing was determined to be unreasonable, given both age and distance for our membership.

I also wish to express my gratitude for almost 53 years of service in Danish at St. John’s. I estimate that as a community we probably participated in about 530 services. We are very grateful for all those years and have been appreciative for our membership with the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

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In ending our membership with the Federation, we thank you and extend our wishes for a meaningful and successful future.

Respectfully submitted by Esther Garde Pedersen and 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 2016 Federation Report, the club has continued to be active, but we are still affected by collapse of the oil prices and subsequent economic downturn. On the positive side, we have seen a substantial financial improvement this fiscal year relative to the 2015-2016 fiscal year. We continue to work through this downturn through prudent management by our General Manager, Peter Christensen, and his management staff. The club anticipates being awarded a casino the first quarter of 2018.

Funds from this casino are critical to the club so that we can continue to award scholarships, donate to charities such as the Danish Lutheran Church, Danish National Museum and provide funds to the club for necessary maintenance items.

The annual shareholder meeting was held on September 21, 2016. There were 42 active shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

We were pleased to award three \$2,000 scholarships at this AGM.

At this AGM, I was elected President of the club for a one-year term.

The club launched a new website in January along with other social media initiatives to keep members current on club happenings.

A new initiative is to establish a scheduled “Speakers Forum” where we invite guest speakers to the club to speak on issues of interest to the local community, followed by a dinner.

Our first guest was Mogens Smed, co-founder and CEO of DIRTT. It was a very successful sold out event and gives us optimism for future events.

Social activities the club included Stampede Breakfast, Viking Stag, Children’s Halloween and Christmas parties, Grey Cup party, Christmas dinners, New Year’s Gala, Great Dames 30th anniversary dinner, Katten af Tønden, and Mother’s Day Brunch.

This March, the club celebrated its 70th year since it was incorporated as a not for profit company in Alberta with a dinner and dance attended by 160 members and guests. In October 2018, the club will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the formation of the “The Danish Canadian Society” in Calgary November 30, 1933, which was then incorporated as the “Danish Canadian Club” in 1947. Planning has already started for another great party.

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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.

Our membership continues to decline, we currently have about 1,250 members

Respectfully submitted and presented by Bente Dalberg on behalf of John Steffensen, President

17. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary



We can look back on the last year as another successful year without many changes.

Our Pastor Charlotte Berg's contract is due for renewal as of next year, but we are so fortunate that she and her husband Peter are willing to extend their contract for an additional five years and have received approval of the extension from DSUK.

We are very blessed by having such an inspiring and hardworking Pastor heading up our congregation. She and her husband are both very involved in all aspects of the Danish community in Calgary and area.

We are still having both Danish and English services with the English every Sunday at 10:00 am and the Danish service every 2nd and 4th Sunday each month. For months with 5 Sundays the 5th Sunday is organized as a family service with a following potluck lunch. Attendance numbers at both the Danish and English services are very stable.

Twice a month there is Sunday School, typically attended by 5 to 10 kids. We are also able to have Confirmations – this year we have two Confirmands being confirmed.

The church is, in addition to regular services, providing a lot of activities for the community. Our annual Christmas Bazaar, held at the Danish Canadian Club in November, gives people a chance to stock up on various Christmas items as well as to meet up with old friends over an open-face sandwich and a cup of coffee. The sandwiches are prepared by a group of hardy volunteers who meet up at 7:00 am to start the preps for the event. A lot of the items for sale are provided by or made by the Ladies Auxiliary at their monthly meetings.

In the spring we are again back at the Danish Canadian Club for our annual Dinner and Auction featuring both a silent and live auction along with another fun draw for different prizes. All prizes for this evening are provided by members from the total community.

In addition, we have several activities not involving fundraising throughout the year except the holiday periods.

The Viking Girls meet once a month for a movie, bowling or a visit to places of interest. An event organized by the girls is the Annual Dessert Night where you get to eat all the dessert you can, (or dare) with the proceeds going to an outside charity.

The men get together as the Merry Kitchen Boys, where Peter Berg tries to teach them the art of finer cooking, which they get to demonstrate the last day of the season when the girls are invited.

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Once a month we have an evening with a speaker from outside or inside the congregation where different topics are covered, and what is an evening in a Danish organization without coffee and cake?

And what are Danes without singing? So, not to miss that we meet once a month for a Sing-along where older and newer typical Danish songs are sung.

Our Danish classes for children and adults are well attended with classes Saturday morning and a couple of evening classes throughout the month and other events such as Crafters Night, Bible Studies, The Literate Vikings, and Stampede Breakfast.

Last year “Vejen Garden”, a marching band from Vejen, Jutland, was in Calgary for the stampede and we were lucky to have them come and perform for us on the lawn beside the church.

The Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary has an exciting time ahead and with the support and interest there is, we are looking forward to it.

On behalf of the Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary, and presented by Karsten Dalberg.

20. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada

The Royal Danish Guards Association, Western Canada, currently has 18 members, the average age being 75. Most reside in Alberta, but we have members across the western provinces. We are seeing very little immigration of Danes to our area, especially Danish Guards. As the older generation passes on and is not replaced with new younger members, the membership in our association will continue to shrink and the average age will increase.

In the past year one member rejoined our association after several years of other commitments. Unfortunately, two members went to Ryes Brigade.

The average number of attendees at our two annual functions - AGM and luncheon in October, picnic in the summer—is between 30 and 40. Spouses and children of current and deceased members as well as friends are very supportive and make an effort to come out.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Bjerreskov, Secretary/Treasurer, presented by Rolf Christensen

23. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club

The Red Deer Danish Club is holding its own, but our membership is declining.



We had a very good turnout on our Spring Campout! We celebrated with our Danish Culture, (egg salad on Danish Rye bread with a skål of Akvavit).

St. Hans Fest is still a go, but again not too many people show up for this event. Our treasure makes a witch and makes a beautiful display of Danish food. We eat and skål, listen to the history behind the burning of the witch. When it is dark we all head outside and light the witch on fire. Too bad there is not a great turnout...it's quite the event!

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The July 1st (Heritage Day) was cancelled due to lack of volunteers. Our golf tournament was canceled as well due to lack of participants.

Our Fall Campout was about the same as our Spring Camp-out, (same group of people usually show up). We have our Danish Culture here as well! Our Fall Party is always a success, but again our numbers were down. The Board and a few volunteers usually make the sandwiches. We start with our herring on Danish rye bread, with egg salad on top and then skål with Akvavit. Then we serve our open face sandwiches with a few more skål in there. We end with a tray full of Danish pastry, chocolates and cheese. This is followed by music and dancing.

Submitted by Kari Noete, President

24. The Danish Canadian Society “Dania”, Edmonton

The Edmonton Dania club has been re-establishing social activities over the past year. We have now formed a new board that is enthusiastic in coming up with new social events to encourage members young and old in our club.

Typically, we host two dances at the Dutch Canadian Club that we share with the other Scandinavian groups. In previous years the tradition was to have a fall dance in October and a January dance. It was noticed that there was a decline in attendance in the January dance. It seems a great number of our members chose to escape the bitter Alberta weather to flock to sun destinations. The new board decided to replace the January dance with a Fastelavn celebration in February. We have just had our event and it is very successful! Members seem to really enjoy the fun involved with the smashing of the barrels that are constructed by board member Brian Skov. The traditional open face Danish sandwiches are served with other Danish delicacies. Club members, the Woller family have stepped up to cater our events. Dania had been struggling to secure a caterer for some time and we are truly blessed to indulge in the Wollers' fare.



Our other major social event is the annual Camp-Out which has been at Lessard Lake in June. We always incorporate burning a witch that is constructed by board members and the children and adults alike truly enjoy cooking their smorgasbord at the fire pit. Some years we have faced outright downpours but stick it out and make the best of the early summer weather.

Our membership is slowly growing, and our new board is always brainstorming to create events that interest young and old. We have embraced technology and have a Facebook page informing members about future Dania events and interesting facts in regard to Denmark.

Dania is looking forward to another great year and encourage anyone new or interested in joining our club in the Edmonton area to contact us. We love to recruit new members to grow our club and keep all the Danish traditions going.

Submitted by Konrad Christensen, President

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26. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia

The activities, this past year, of the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. (DCCC) remained similar to the past several years:

The DCCC and the Danish House Society (DHS) jointly held two events: the awarding of Scholarships in June and Christmas by the Fireside in December. The DCCC also organized the Danish Constitution Day celebration in June. All of these events were held at the Scandinavian Centre. The criteria for eligibility for scholarships are found in the DHS Newsletter for Spring 2017.

The events were very well attended by our Danish/Canadian Community.

The DCCC also awarded grants to a number of Danish organizations in British Columbia based on their cultural needs and our funds available.

We have about 80 annual and life individual and corporate members.

We are making plans for our Constitution Day Celebration on Sunday, June 4th. This year it will start with Church service provided by the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby on the grounds of the Scandinavian Centre. The Danish Choir also known as the Tivoli Singers and the Scandinavian Dancers are included in our plans for entertainment.

Venlig hilsen, Margit Hansson, President. Presented by Linda Kuhlman

29. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Greetings: from the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver. Another year has gone, and it is time to reflect on what occurred during the past year.

At the spring work party all hands were on deck to make the preparations for the planned extension of the Memorial Walk. After that Poul Erik Rasmussen got to work, and a very attractive extension was completed, expanding the Walk by an additional 16 spots.

The parking lot was resurfaced in May, which very nicely complements the church building.

As part of our ongoing maintenance program we had our pews repainted in late July/early August, with a very pleasing result. Towards the end of the year we finished clearing out the ivy between the church and Carl Mortensen Manor, and new trees and rocks have been put there instead. We also acquired a defibrillator, which is now located outside the church hall downstairs.



In June we had our Parking Lot Sale, which really helped us clear out quite a few things. In the fall we welcomed our latest volunteer, Matilde Pedersen, who helped out working in the church. It was nice to have a volunteer from Denmark again.

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On the social side, in the Spring we had the annual Fastelavn Party in February, and shortly afterwards our 7th Annual Frikadelle competition, and in March our very popular Spring Tea and Bake Sale. In May we were busy with our Spring Dinner which was well attended, with entertainment of the Tivoli Singers taking us on a journey from Denmark to Hawaii!

The fall season started with our traditional Harvest Dinner in September serving 'medisterpølse' with red cabbage and seasonal vegetables. The event was a great success with all seats sold out. This was followed in October by our ever-popular Fall Bazaar, and in November we had a festive folk concert performed by the Danish trio 'Gangspil'. Much dancing took place to the music and everyone had a great time, including the musicians!

December rounded out the year with the traditional St. Lucia Processional, where there were 20 children in the group. Later in the month we had a wonderful Christmas Concert with the Tivoli Singers, The Runeberg Chorus, Philomel, and the Danish Children's Choir.

Have a wonderful conference!

Respectfully submitted by Jorgen Rohweder, President

30. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby

2017 will be another year of change at Dania Home. Executive Director Margaret Douglas-Matthews is retiring after being at the helm at Dania Home for 25 years.



Margaret can retire from Dania Home satisfied that she has been very successful in managing the Home. Resident care has been recognized by her peers, a group of Accreditation Examiners, as being worthy of Accreditation with Exemplary Standing the highest achievable.

Dania Home is also in very fine shape financially due to very prudent financial management, but also due to some very generous donations from (friends) of Dania.

The opening of the new building in 2015 was a very important milestone in Dania's history and has turned out to be a real gem.

The building has a number of high tech state of the art conveniences built in for easier access to pertinent data by care givers and maintenance personnel. An upcoming challenge will be to make good use of the now empty lot sitting next to the new home. Margaret and the board have been approached by several interested parties but have as yet not found a good fit for development. A new Executive Director has been selected by the Succession Planning Committee but needs approval by both the Normanna and Dania boards.

We are looking forward to a bright future at Dania Home.

Respectfully submitted by Kjeld Christensen, President

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31. Danish House Society, Burnaby

For the Danish House Society, 2016 was once again a successful year. Our membership remains fairly constant at around 465 members with a steady stream of new memberships to replace those that sadly leave us. Our finances are in excellent shape, and our Danish Language Classes are expanding. Danish House was the fortunate recipient in 2016 of a very sizeable legacy from the estate of Ruth and Johannes Pedersen past members of our society. We are honoring them by awarding two scholarships in their names in 2017 and in the subsequent years that follow. These scholarships are in addition to the scholarships that we award each year in partnership with the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C.

Our monthly Kroaften club nights continue to be very successful and are usually sold out. The Kroaftens continue to follow the successful format that has guests bringing an abundance of donations for the evening's draw and then generously buying an equal abundance of tickets for that draw, with the entire proceeds of the draws going to the DHS Scholarship fund. The proceeds made it possible for the DHS to award twelve \$1,200 scholarships in 2016. The scholarship program continues to evolve, and I am confident of its continuing success in the years to come.

The Danish House celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016 and to mark this milestone two special Kroaften evenings were held in July and September to honor the members of the original 1996 DHS Board. Each of the original board members received complimentary drinks and dinner. A rolling power point display detailed the first ten years of Danish House activities and those in attendance also enjoyed a slice of birthday cake and added entertainment not normally part of the Kroaftens.

Danish House continues to participate and share in the success of the various joint events held with the other Houses that make up the Scandinavian Centre, including the European and Midsummer Festivals, the April Cultural Weekend and the past year's September anniversary picnic. The success of these events is primarily due to the combined spirit of cooperation shared by the Houses and to the dedication and support of our joint volunteer networks.

The Danish House Family BBQ held in the Beer Garden in August continues to be popular with over 100 guests attending in 2016, including some friends from the other Houses and our 18th Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction in October was also successful.

The "Christmas by the Fireside" co-sponsored with the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. experienced a drop-in attendance due to the arrival of a snowstorm on the day of the event, but Santa was still kept busy giving out gift bags to the kids and guests still managed to drink and eat their share of gløgg and æbleskiver.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Danish House and the DHS membership, I offer our collective wishes for a successful Conference in Red Deer and greetings to the other member clubs of the Federation.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Ed Kuhlman, President

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33. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver



We hold nine meetings a year and start with enjoying Danish open-faced sandwiches before we conduct the business ritual - when completed, and due to our new established Social Committee, the meetings have become so much more enjoyable as each meeting have a special 'Theme' and we play various games with prizes.

We send four local newsletters a year – Spring - Summer - Fall - Winter – advising of upcoming events and with lots of other interesting news - 97% are sent by email and only 3% by regular mail, so that had helps cut down expenses.

Our very informative Website www.danishsisterhood.ca (please check it out) also contains a Photo-Gallery with pictures taken at all our events.

May - Since our last report, we took part in the 'Flag Day' at the Danish Church in honor of Denmark's liberation. We also promoted the DS at the Alexandra Multicultural Festival.

June - We celebrated our Lodge's 45th Anniversary and at the same time honoured our members special round birthdays and anniversaries during a special dinner. 'Grundlovsdag' (Constitution day) was held with a picnic at the Scandinavian Center with members, their families and our Pet Club members. Our Pet Club is a small fundraiser for our Lodge and a different way to connect members through their pets. We now have 18 life-time Pet-members. - We participated in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, our annual membership drive, where we in the Danish tent promoted the DS and handed out application forms and our new Business card.

July and August - Though we do not hold meetings in July or August, we held together with the Danish Brotherhood Lodge #328 a Summer Picnic with Pacific salmon and chicken on the grill and it was a fun day in warm sunshine.

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

October - At our meeting we started preparing for our upcoming Bazaar and our Bingo party.

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

December - We held our very festive Christmas party with a typical Danish dinner, followed by many 'Julesange' and our 'Julegaver' exchange – (nobody goes home empty handed). With our raffle we were able to donate \$270.00 to our favorite charity. We also did the Installation of the nominated Officers.

2017 January - The first meeting was filled with various paperwork, officers assigned duties and review of our Bylaws. We allocated our chosen yearly donations to various organizations.

February - Our theme was 'Valentine'; and we played games, trivia and handed out gifts. Our yearly financial statement, revised Membership List, and the new Officers duty list was handed out and Membership fees were collected and sent to both the PNW District and to National - as well as our yearly membership to the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and to the

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Danish Museum, Alberta. We were also very grateful that we again received a grant from Danish Canadian Community Centre, so with that, our financial situation is solvent. Some members participated in the yearly PNW District bowling tournament in Eugene, Oregon.

March - We celebrated St. Patrick's Day - it was a fun evening with Shepherd's pie, green salads and desserts, green virgin Martini that went down well - and we all were wearing something Green and had prizes for the best costumes.

April - Our Easter meeting was a regular business meeting though ended with a raffle and Easter eggs as gifts. We have also started advertising in two Danish association's newsletters.

May - We hosted, together with the Brotherhood lodge #326, the PNW District Convention held this year in Vancouver, BC, and it was a successful event. This year the Danish Canadian Conference is held in Red Deer, Alberta, with our delegate in attendance. In conclusion - being part of the Sisterhood Lodge #179 is never dull and keeps us on our toes. Our goal is to motivate our present members and to attract new members to join our Lodge, and at the same time learn to understand and enjoy our heritage and Danish traditions, but I hope you can see from our report, that we have a lively and productive lodge. Though we have lost some members who sadly passed away, we have also added some new members since our last report; as most organizations we strive for more new members.

www.danishsisterhood.ca
lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca



Respectfully submitted by Jannet Tricarico

34. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo

Greetings from the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club! There is not a great deal in the way of news to report. Our annual election of Board members returned the same crew and added one new Director, so we continue to plod along. We are still holding our own in terms of finances and expect that trend to continue, at least, in the near future. Our next event is the annual Sankt Hans Celebration on June 21 at Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park, and then we take the summer off. We now have a Facebook Page and also, one of our members is working on a web page for the club. At last year's Annual General Meeting, we talked about recruiting new members, so you may find it noteworthy to hear that our Facebook page has received quite a lot of interest and has resulted in several new members. In particular, "younger" members which are what our club really needs if survival is to be in our future. Our Facebook page is called "Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club". Have a look at it and join the page if you like. Our web page is at <http://danishclubnanaimo.weebly.com/> Have a look at that as well. In terms of attracting interest from younger people, I feel very strongly that the internet and social media will be very powerful assets in terms of member recruitment. All of this is basically free advertising. Our web page is still in its infancy, but we hope to build on the current foundation and make it a useful and informative page, which our members and visitors will check frequently. Best wishes to all delegates and apologies for not mustering a crew to be with you this year; but we will look forward to seeing you sometime down the road.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Hedekar, Treasurer, and presented by Rolf Christensen.



**Annual Reports from the Regions of the
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada**

Ontario Region

Our board of directors consists of three members: the President Eva Terp, the Secretary and Treasurer Liselotte Ostergaard, and the Director Lis Sondergaard. Representatives from the ten Ontario organizations meet twice annually, for an ordinary meeting in the spring and for our AGM in the fall. We have the pleasure of having the Federation President, Rolf Buschardt Christensen, and his wife Vita, attend our meetings.

That is essentially what we do – we meet and get to know about what’s new in our member clubs and become acquainted with their new board members and activities.

The meeting agenda includes a short report from each club and cultural input - as well as a lottery, organized by Rolf – always with a well-stocked prize table, generously donated by Rolf and other board members. The money collected for the tickets is divided into three equal parts and donated to the National Federation, to the Region and to the Museum.

At the Fall meeting at The Grimsby Church, the cultural input was a slide show given by the young Chris Rowan, who had spent an exciting summer taking part in the Roskilde International Competition for old sail boats. It’s great to see young people taking an interest in their heritage. At our last spring meeting at Sunset Villa, we met Sunset Villa’s dynamic new Board members, headed by the new president Arlene Lange. Cultural input was by Anne Lise Pedersen, who had spent two months in Nicaragua. She was there with a group of missionaries helping a church community. While their parents were rebuilding their church, Lise was spending time with the children, doing gardening and having a great time doing it. It was a very interesting and inspiring story. These get-togethers of course also have become social events, that we look forward to – old friends, familiar faces – all good.

Submitted and Presented by Eva Terp, President.

Alberta Region

The Alberta Region, recognized officially as *The Alberta Association of Danish Canadian Organizations* by Alberta Corporate Registry, continues to meet on a semi-annual basis. Meetings are held at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, which is centrally located for travel purposes. The reason for our meetings is laid out in the Objects and By-laws as follows:

- provide a Provincial association for Danish Canadian organizations in Alberta;
- promote the 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;

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- provide administrative and financial support to member organizations.

We have established a Scholarship/Bursary for worthy Alberta postsecondary students – preferably someone whose course of studies involves an aspect of Danish language or culture. We will be accepting applications this fall.

Another project which we hope to expand next year is becoming a communication channel for our Alberta organizations to help each other support Danish exchange students who may be attending school in Alberta. For instance, Red Deer College currently has two Danish students on the Women's basketball team. The Red Deer Club attends home games (wearing their 'red and white') to cheer on the girls. AADCO can advise other Alberta organizations when Red Deer College is playing a game in another city.

The 2017 Board of Directors is constituted as follows:

President	Larry Kjeersgaard, 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

Respectfully submitted and presented by Larry Kjeersgaard, President

Pacific Region

I was very honoured when I, at our April 2017 Annual General Meeting, accepted the position of President for the Pacific Region.

Our previous President, Solvejg Nielsen, announced that she was stepping down after eleven years of excellent service. I feel some comfort in knowing that I can call on her for advice. Our board also made another change: Margaret Chester, who had formerly mastered being both secretary and treasurer gave up her position of secretary to Jannet Tricarico.

This year's report will be very brief: The Pacific Region held two meetings since last year's Conference: A meeting was held on Vancouver Island and one was held on the mainland of British Columbia. The meetings were well attended by a total of 30 representatives at those two meetings. The representatives all gave their informative reports from our twelve various Danish/Scandinavian/Canadian organizations. We ended with a typical Danish lunch and snaps!

Due to a financial surplus dating back to the Conference held here in Vancouver in 2015 we were very pleased when we, at our recent AGM, approved a donation of \$500.00 which has since been forwarded to the Danish Federation, to be given to the Danish Canadian Museum at the Conference.

The Pacific Region's total financial assets, as of March 31, 2017, (including a term deposit of \$1,628.99), is \$2,513.66.

We extend our sincere wishes for a successful Conference in Red Deer, Alberta, as well as Heritage Seminar in Canmore.

Venlig hilsen, Margit Hansson, President.

Heritage Seminar in Canmore

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Danish Federation's one-week Højskole, or Heritage Seminar, was held from May 29th to June 3rd at the Windtower Lodge and Suites in Canmore, Alberta, beautifully situated in the Bow Valley in the Canadian Rockies. From the patio outside the classroom there was a stunning view of the Three Sisters, a much-photographed mountain range with three snow-covered peaks.



Three Sisters seen from the Windtower Lodge

The headmaster was Pastor Charlotte Berg of the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary. She spoke about her tour of duty as military chaplain for the Danish contingent in war-torn Bosnia in 1996. She gave an overview of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, and she showed the participants examples of Keld Moseholm's fat-man statues, which are not only delightful sculptures, but works of art, which make you think.

Charlotte Berg had contacted five outside speakers, who came and addressed the participants. Prof. Douglas Francis spoke about the rise of the Canadian Nation; Dr. Ben Fullalove spoke about the Second World War propaganda movie *The 49th Parallel*, which had been screened Tuesday evening; Harry Sanders, a Calgary historian, spoke about the history and development of Calgary; Bill Snow, from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, spoke about the reintroduction of the Bison to Banff National Park; and journalist and author Rob Alexander gave a presentation on the ten most important developments in the history of Canmore, with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the local Coalmine featuring prominently. Charlotte's husband, Peter Berg, gave a very interesting presentation about King Christian X, focussing on his family, including his father and grandfather, as well as King Christian X's role and involvement in Danish politics.

The Seminar theme was *A Celebration of Anniversaries*, as speakers concentrated on the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's stand against indulgences and the Roman Catholic Church; on Canada's 150 years of Confederation; and the Danish Canadian Museum's 25th anniversary. Other anniversaries were also mentioned, such as the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917, the sale of the Danish West Indies to the US during the First World War, as well as the 60th anniversary of the biggest contingent of Danish immigrants coming to Canada in 1957.

Anne Lise Pedersen gave a presentation on the Danish Canadian Museum, focussing on the Museum's history as well as its 25th anniversary. She is a Museum board member and volunteers

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as a guide at the Museum. Aase Christensen, the Danish Federation's National Secretary, spoke about Danish food, and 'Stegt flæsk og persillesovs' being voted the National Dish of Denmark. Many of the Seminar participants found the choice of Stegt Flæsk as the national dish puzzling! Moreover, Rolf Christensen spoke about Brexit, Britain's decision to leave the European Union, and the disastrous consequences this will have for Britain, the EU, as well as the world.

Wednesday afternoon was free time. Some went to Banff; others went for a hike up in the nearby mountains or strolled around the main street of Canmore, taking in the sights. A large group met and had dinner upstairs in a restaurant on Main Street.

Friday evening the Seminar participants organized a Goodbye Party, starting with dinner, and followed by entertainment by the participants. Three committees, Decorations, Entertainment and Beverages, each organized their part of the party. For the evening, the participants dressed up and were ready to party. The evening concluded with a lottery and live auction, the participants generously having brought fine and sought-after items to win. The evening ended with saying thank you to Pastor Charlotte, and many saying to each other, "See you next year in Halifax."



Pastor Charlotte Berg speaking at the Seminar

SEMINAR IN PHOTOS



Three Sisters Mountain Range & Bow Valley in the Rockies near Canmore, Alberta

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Dorthe Solomon, Ole & Lis Beyer



*Hanne Stanfield, Aase Christensen,
& Birgit Bakgaard*



*L to R: Dorthe, Margrethe, Mary,
Eva & Johanne*



*Anne Lise Pedersen
Speaking about the Museum*



Lise Shearer and Vibeke Sandberg



Liselotte Ostergaard and Peter Berg

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Attentive Students at Seminar Listening to one of the Five Guest Lecturers



Headmaster, Pastor Charlotte Berg



*Lili Gregerson & Anne Lise Pedersen
Glenna Hitchcock (sitting)*



Vita Christensen and Alf Gregerson

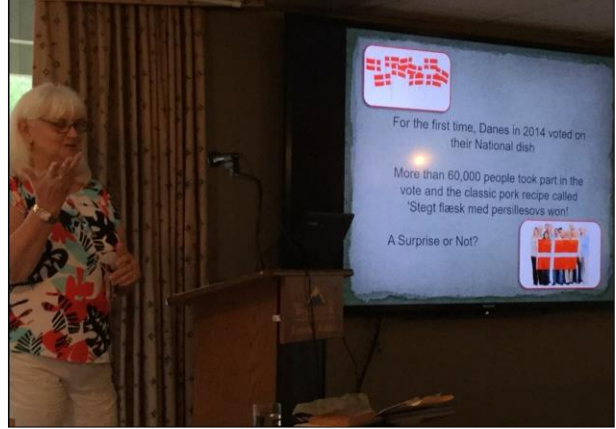


L to R: Dorthe, Lis, Ole and Vibeke

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Vibeke Sandberg & Vita Christensen



Aase Christensen speaking about Danish Food



Rolf with Johanne Olsen, & Pastor Berg



Margrethe Hiebert and Johanne Olsen



Anne Lise Pedersen & Aase Christensen



Seminar participants conversing after a meal

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*Alf Gregerson
Entertaining with Song*



*Mary Jorgensen & Henrik Langer
Entertaining*



Mary Jorgensen and Eva Terp



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Dorthe Solomon & Lis Beyer entertaining



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CONVERGE



Progress Report: Spring 2018

The Danish Canadian Museum has gone through quite an exciting year. We had to delay our spring opening by a week, due to insufficient staff, and were unable to offer a full menu until well into June, however from there the pace got pretty hectic with lots of visitors. Our premier event for the summer is Viking Days which took place August 18th and 19th with almost 1000 visitors. We closed the museum after the September long weekend.

This year we will be open 6 days a week, and have plans to also be open on week-ends through September. We also plan to have special food week-ends through the summer, so stay tuned as it will be announced on our website, facebook and twitter. Go on our webpage: thedanishcanadianmuseum.com and like us on facebook, that way you can follow any announcements we make.

The executive director resigned in September because he found new employment, and finished at the end of the month. The museum has run without a manager until March when a new manager was hired. My thanks: to Faye Kjeersgaard for keeping the museum functioning during those months.

We also said a kind of good-bye to our maintenance man and caretaker Clint Nissen after 10 years of service. Clint will still continue as bingo chairman, as well as help with the garden, Thank You Clint.

Susan Hayduk is our new manager and she lives just 4 minutes from the museum, and comes with lots of experience, both in respect to staff and restaurant, and lots of ideas and enthusiasm. We welcome Susan.

We are still looking at an expansion to the museum, as we are busting at the seams with artifacts and museum related items, as well as being short of space when we have a bus full of visitors. I plan to have a blueprint for our annual meeting in Halifax.

The parking lot is taking on a new look as all the trees between the road and the start of the parking lot have been removed, as well as thinning the screening between the north entrance road and the parking area by the entrance into the museum. That should allow us to park about twice as many vehicles as before.

This year's theme will be Danish costumes and artists which will be displayed throughout the museum.

During the summer we will also be updating our museum status as Recognised Museum Accreditation, which we have had for five years. All in all I think we are going into a very exciting year; hope to see lots of you there.

Svend E. Nielsen,
President, DCM Board of Directors



Introducing: Susan Hayduk, Our New Manager



Hello, I'm Susan Hayduk; I'm so grateful everyday for the way the universe has helped to be in this position.

I was born and raised in northern Alberta on my family farm with 2 sisters and an older brother. My parents were entrepreneurs with farming, cream quota, organic farming, greenhouses, catering, café, bakery and trapping. Life was never boring. They taught me at a young age to respect where we came from and to never stop evolving. My father was the original homesteader of our family farm, breaking the land by hand with his team of Clydesdales; it gives me a strong sense of pride to know that. I was raised within a strong ethical community where I was taught that everyone worked together to help improve the lives of those around us. I remember helping neighbours with branding, seeding, haying, building barns, butchering, weddings, funerals, building churches, and after the work was done we would all participate in a potluck celebration with tons of dancing and laughing.... some of my absolute fondest memories.

As a teen, I was asked to try out for the AAA provincial basketball team in Grand Prairie, AB. Four spots were open, 54 girls tried out. It was seven days of tryouts that I'll never forget. As a rural farm girl, I had not experienced such a level of athletic intensity. Every night I would climb into my tub, turn on the water and just soak fully clothed. It paid off! I remember the first day after making the team, asking my head coach, why she chose me? Her answer has followed me since, "you never quit trying, no matter what we asked you to do, you didn't quit." I will be forever grateful for the lesson. It taught me that with the right mindset and positive determination anything is possible.

Over the years I've had many careers, but one of my favorites was owning, and operating, my own business. It was The Woodshed Gift & Garden Centre, it included a Café, gift store, greenhouse, floral shop, bookstore, home décor and it was a little haven in a very remote area. In the year 2012, I was recognized as one of the top 3 places to stop and eat and enjoy in Canada by Outdoor Canada.

I'm a mother of two beautiful daughters. My eldest, Christine 23, is married and living in Philadelphia with my two beautiful grandchildren, Hazelle 3, and Chase who is 2 months old. My youngest daughter, Paige 18, is graduating this June and moving on to the next adult chapters of life. This summer I will marry my best friend Pete, whom I'm so excited to spend the rest of my life with. We live about 1.9km from the Danish Canadian Museum.

Life has blessed me in so many ways. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone at the Danish Canadian Museum to learn about Danish culture and traditions so that we can continue to share this rich, strong culture with future generations and to enlighten all Canadians about its history.

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The Danish
Canadian Museum

Step into the Saga at our Events in 2018!

Opening Day - May 11th

Mothers Day Lunch (reservations required) - May 13th

Ambassador of Denmark - June 1st

Fathers Day Lunch (reservations required) - June 17th

Canada Day (Coffee & Cake are on us) - July 1st

Æbelskiver 'n ' Jam - July 15th

Viking Days - August 18th & 19th

Feast of the Vikings - August 18th

Closing Day - September 4th

Julestue (Danish Bazaar) at Spruce View Hall - Nov 4th



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Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association

1980 - 2015

Article by Jan Sorensen and photographs by Keld Hansen

The Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association was started by Morten V. Pedersen, Danish Consul Kai Mortensen and furniture store owner Finn R. Jensen. In early 1980 Finn Jensen and Kai Mortensen approached Morten Pedersen with the idea of forming a business club. They were aware of the fact that most of the Danish businessmen in Calgary knew who everybody else was, but also that they really didn't know each other. The three decided to rectify that by forming a business association, where they could keep in touch regularly and in the process get to know each other better.



Morten V. Pedersen

The three called a meeting for June 2, 1980, at the Danish Canadian Club, 727 - 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, for the purpose of starting a businessmen's club. Twenty-Two Danish businessmen in Calgary showed up. After a lengthy meeting, it was agreed to form an association called the Canadian Danish Businessmen's Association.

Other meetings were subsequently scheduled, to agree on the purpose of the association and to draft a constitution. It was decided to limit the membership to 30 at this time, subject to further review. It was later increased to 40, and then changed again. From the start it was decided to hold monthly dinner meetings, where a guest speaker would be invited to address the meeting. When the constitution was finally presented to the group, and approved, the new organization emerged with the name Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association or DBA as it became known for short.



Kai Mortensen

It was decided that the Board of Directors would consist of seven members: President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary, Treasure and two members at large. The President's term would be for one year, while other positions would be a two-year term.

At the first election to the Board, the members elected Morten V. Pedersen as their first President. Morten was a mechanical engineer from Vejen, Denmark, who came to Canada with his wife in 1956. Elected respectively Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, were Elver Olsen,

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Nils Eliot and Poul Christensen. The three other directors on the Board were Mads Kirkegaard, Jake Mortensen and Dave Foged.



A toast (skål) with Danish Akvavit (Rød Aalborg)

According to the Bylaws the purpose of the Association was to increase, improve or provide business knowledge, improve trade connections, improve the business climate, and not least, to create community awareness. This was to be done through speakers at monthly dinner meetings in the Tivoli Room at the Danish Canadian Club. Activities of the Associations were to benefit the Danish Canadian Club wherever possible.

The first meeting of the new Association was held Wednesday, September 3, 1980, in the Valhalla Room at the Danish Canadian Club. Meetings were always held in the Tivoli Room on the first Wednesday of the month, from September to May. The annual general meeting with the election of president and officers for the coming year was subsequently always held in September. Members could invite guests to the regular meetings, such as business partners, customers, friends, or guests from Denmark.



*Keld Hansen and Karsten Dalberg
Ham it up at the bar*

Over the years the DBA has been very successful in getting excellent and high-profile speakers to come to the dinners. The DBA has had speakers from the world of:

Politics: Three Mayors of Calgary, Rod Sykes, Ralph Klein and Al Duer, Aldermen, MLA's and MPs from Calgary ridings. Others include Phil Gaglardi, a Cabinet Minister from B.C., the late Senator Stan Waters, and Senator Ron Ghitter.

Law and Order: The Chiefs of Police in Calgary Egil Reimer and Christine Silverberg, Chief Judge of Queen's Bench Brian Stevenson, and Chief Crown Prosecutor Bruce Fraser.

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Business: Independent business people, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, CEOs of major companies from the oil and gas industry, manufacturing, transportation and Hi-Tech; as well as people from the stock exchanges, banks and investment firms, to name a few.

News Media: We have listened to the Publishers from both major Newspapers in Calgary, *The Calgary Herald*, and *The Sun* as well as journalists, columnists and sports writers. In addition, radio and television personalities have spoken to us, about the power and influence of the media, in news and advertising, and beyond.

Sports: Our guests have been owners, management and players from both of The Calgary Stampede and The Calgary Flames, as well as Members of the Olympic Committee in Calgary, and also Finn Heiner from Danish Radio and TV (*Danmarks Radio*), when he visited Calgary to cover the Winter Olympics in our City in 1988.



*DBA Christmas Party, 2003
Morten & Bente Pedersen,
Grethe & Elver Olsen,
Margit & Kai Mortensen*

meet in the afternoon for some friendly competition in horseshoes, badminton and some dart, with the horseshoes being the most popular event. The Danish wieners, “Røde Pølser,” were served during the afternoon, and were always a hit. Later we had a great barbecue, catered by the Danish Canadian Club. Peter Christensen, the manager of the Club, was in charge of the preparation and all the cooking. Peter



*Picnic 2009: Morten Pedersen,
Jan Sorensen and Hardy Nielsen*

members used their tremendous talents for decorating the room and tables. This evening was without a doubt the highlight of the year.

We have also invited people from Environment, Agriculture, Wild life Management & Conservation, the Calgary Zoo and many more.

Moreover, we held an annual barbecue party in August, where our spouses were invited. The event was first held at some of our members’ homes, but over the years it became too big for that. Starting in 1991 it was hosted at the grounds of The Pumphouse Theatre, on the banks of the Bow River in Calgary. There was always a great turnout for this event. We would



*Christmas Party
Keld Hansen, Elsebeth & Soren
Frank, Lillian & Jan Sorensen, and
Kirsten Hansen*

was a member of the DBA and a former president. The evening would end with a little music and dance. If any members had guests from Denmark, they could join us for this event at no cost.

On the first Saturday in December we held our annual Christmas Party, also with our spouses, in the Tivoli Room at the Danish Canadian Club. It was a black-tie affair, where we enjoyed a traditional Danish Christmas Dinner, with all the trimmings. We also sang all the traditional Danish Christmas songs. To make this a festive event, the wives of the board

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*Peter Christensen, Manager
Photo by Victor Icky P.*

In the beginning the criteria for becoming a member of the DBA was quite strict. In order to become a member of the association, the person had to have a Danish birth certificate, or be of Danish decent; he had to be sponsored by a member of the association; and he had to own his own business, or have a decision-making position in a major company.

The membership application would be presented to the board for approval. If approved, it would then be presented to the membership for final approval. If there were no objections, the new member could then attend the next scheduled meeting.

The members would be charged \$55.00 for each of the monthly dinner meetings they attended, to cover the cost of food and beverages. In addition to that the annual membership fee was \$100.00.

I would like to pay a tribute to the many members who served on the Board of Directors over the years, by saying thank you. You did a great job in promoting our association and our community. The members of DBA who have served as President of the Association over the years are as follows:

PRESIDENTS OF DBA 1980 -2015

Morten Pedersen	1980 – 81	Kurt Christensen	1998 – 99
Elver Olsen	1981 – 82	Kent Anderson	1999 – 00
Mads Kirkegaard	1982 – 83	Karsten Dalberg	2000 - 01
Kai Mortensen	1983 – 84	Stephen Elliot	2001 - 02
Harry Jensen	1984 – 85	Stephen Elliot	2002 - 03
Hans Sorensen	1985 – 86	Mike Theilgaard	2003 - 04
Kai Hansen	1986 – 87	Mike Theilgaard	2004 - 05
Flemming Vestergaard	1987 – 88	Todd Nielsen	2005 - 06
Knud Thisted	1988 – 89	Keld Hansen	2006 – 07
Poul Christensen	1989 – 90	Keld Hansen	2007 - 08
Nils Eliot	1990 – 91	Keld Hansen	2008 - 09
Mike Tarp	1991 – 92	Brian Petersen	2009 - 10
Peter Christensen	1992 – 93	Brian Petersen	2010 – 11

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Mike Theilgaard	1993 – 94	Brian Petersen	2011 - 12
Erik Jensen	1994 – 95	Vaughn Schuler	2012 - 13
Jan Sorensen	1995 – 96	Brian Petersen	2013 - 14
Peter Bertelsen	1996 – 97	Brian Petersen	2014 - 15
Per Andersen	1997 – 98	Brian Petersen	2015

In the year 2000 the total membership of the DBA was about 55 members. At that time 90% of the members were immigrants from Denmark. Most of them had arrived in Canada in the years between 1950 and 1970. The remaining 10% were second generation Danes, born in Canada. Some of them are sons of members.

The members of DBA came from many walks of life: Furniture Retail and Manufacturing – Car Dealers – Lawyers – Bricklayers – Hairstyling - Property Management – Commercial Development – Engineering – Entertainment – Electrical – Plumbing – Air Conditioning – Roofing – Accounting – Airlines – Retail – Jewelers – Investments – Real Estate – Oil Field Service and Engineering as well as Distributors.

The DBA was an active association and it was prestigious to be a member. But around the year 2000, many of the original members of DBA were not able to attend the monthly meetings any longer, due to failing health, retirement, change in life style, or due to the fact that they went away during the winter months. And in 2001 Presidents of the DBA began serving more than one-year terms.



Keld Hansen

Some new and younger people joined the DBA, but not enough to sustain the membership at previous levels. To attract members the rules governing who could be a member were relaxed. You no longer had to be of Danish descent, you could now become a member if you were married to a Danish woman, or had a connection to Denmark, or interest in Denmark.

Another change was that the meetings were reduced to seven meetings a year, now from October to April. The annual general meeting was now held in October and the December meeting became the Christmas Party.

The Presidents and other Board members tried very hard to maintain the membership, and asked the members to invite guests to the meetings, so the guest speaker would not be speaking to a half-empty room. Another issue regarding guest speakers was that it was increasingly getting more difficult to get speakers to come, unless we paid them. This was at a time when everything in Calgary was booming. The DBA could not afford to pay the



Jan Sorensen

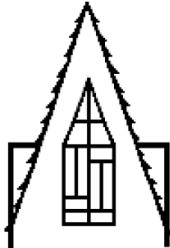



Brian Petersen

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speakers, so many meetings were held without a speaker. Having a high-profile speaker had always been one of the attractions. That is, an evening with a great meal, fellowship and an interesting speaker.

Then when meetings had to be cancelled due to lack of attendees, the writing was on the wall. It was therefore decided in 2015 to dissolve the Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association, after 35 years. The only thing left of the DBA is the Christmas Party, which had always been the most popular event. It is no longer a black-tie event. Nevertheless, the popular Christmas Party is still held, due to the dedicated work done by former DBA President Keld Hansen to keep it going.

	<h1>Granly</h1> <p>Danish Lutheran Church - Surrey, B.C. 2018</p>	 <p>DSUK</p>
<p>Address: 15144 – 92A Ave., Surrey, B.C., Canada V3R 7A6 Tel: (604) 581-0628 Email: granly@shaw.ca Website: 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>	

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Tel: 416 493-1594; Email: terpeva@bell.net

Danish Church in Vancouver 80th Anniversary

Ebba Rasmussen Grey, North Vancouver

The Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver, located on Kincaid Street in Burnaby, celebrated its 80th Anniversary on Sunday, August 13, 2017. Pastor Bodil Toftdahl, pastor at our Church from 2006 to 2012, arrived from Denmark and preached the



*Danish Lutheran Church on 19th Avenue, built in 1937
Served the congregation until 1984*

sermon that day, along with Pastor Birgitte Saltorp. During the service we enjoyed listening to music by Erik Hougaard and his daughter, Line. At the lunch, we received telegrams from, among others, our past minister, Pastor Jens Arendt, whose father had been the minister in Vancouver when Jens was born. Later Pastor Jens Arendt himself became a beloved minister here during the 1980's. After the service we were 115 people who enjoyed a typical Danish "kroplatte" lunch.

As the church celebrated its 80th birthday I thought it was important in a short presentation to mention all the folks who have contributed to the well-being of the church over the years, but who remain "unrecognized". I also felt that many people may not know the early history of the Danish Church in Vancouver. Here is my salute to the volunteers and donors over the past eighty years.

The Danish Church in Vancouver has served my family well. Initially when we arrived in 1952 along with many other immigrants – Pastor Kronborg christened my month-old baby brother and confirmed my two sisters and me in 1955 – and sadly, buried my mother in 1957.

On the 80th anniversary of the inauguration of the church, I wanted in particular to give a salute to all the volunteers and donors who have made the church what it is today. In preparation I had the privilege of reading the synopsis of the minutes of the church compiled by theology student Inge Mader Naamansen. As I read through her transcript, I



*People line up for the
open face sandwiches*

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found that the Ladies Auxiliaries are constantly mentioned as handing over cheques in amounts that far exceeded the minister's monthly salary.

I want to give you a snapshot of what the early days were like. In the beginning of the summer in 1923 a meeting took place in a private home and 21 people signed up as members of the Danish Church and the first church council was formed. Five years later the first minister, Pastor Elias Marius Favrholt, arrived and the Norwegian church offered to rent their premises for \$25 per month for a weekly service and one evening a month. This was turned down in favour of two services a month - as money was tight.

Mrs. Bergmann (the first woman elected to the Church Council) was asked to form a Ladies Auxiliary. The minutes state that the work of this group would become vital to the economic survival of the church. In 1932 the Ladies Sewing Club offered to lend the church \$37.50 to cover the church's debt.

In 1935, Pastor Clemens Sørensen arrived from Denmark. With DKU's support things started to happen - a new board was elected, and it was decided to hire an organist, whose salary was \$1 per service. As well a building fund was started.

Danish Consul L.L. Jessen offered to lend the church \$3,000 - interest free for a period of ten years. The board declined the full loan and borrowed only \$1500. Meanwhile, the Ladies Auxiliary handed over \$225.



Beautiful embroidery, including bell pulls



Books, in both Danish and English

Some 5,000 bricks were ready for purchase by supporters of the church in order to raise money for the building fund. A meeting was held, and fifty people came out to support this project. A building lot was bought in Vancouver at the corner of East 19th Avenue and Prince Albert Street. On December 31, 1936 the initial spade went into the ground and 8½ months later the church opened its doors on August 15, 1937.

The following year a call went out to all Danes in British Columbia asking for an annual donation of \$2 to go toward the debt. I

mention the amount so that you can get the idea of the worth of a dollar in those days. After the bazaar, the Ladies Auxiliary handed over \$225, earmarked for the completion of the downstairs hall.

It was a tough time to get people to come to the Annual General Meeting and the minister had to pick up two people in his car to have a quorum. By this time the loan to Consul Jessen should have been paid off with the last payment of \$250. However, there was not enough money in the

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kitty for that – but the Ladies Auxiliary handed over \$274. In exchange they asked for a linoleum floor in the kitchen and the purchase of wax table cloths for the tables in the hall.



It can be difficult to find an empty table!

The Minutes of 1939 state, that the Ladies Auxiliary had raised 25% of the Church expenses in the first four years of the Church's existence. Again in 1940, it was mentioned that the annual Fall Bazaar was what saved the church financially. By the way, in 1940 the church had the largest collection of Danish books in Canada – 900 of them – and I am sure that some of them are still there in the Church Library now. During the Second World War there was nearly no contact with Denmark. Pastor Sørensen's salary could not be covered by DKU. It was up to the congregation to support the Pastor, and his salary was set at \$100 per month.

In 1942 again, a cry went out to Danes asking for donations – and the Ladies Auxiliary handed over \$400. In January 1944 the Ladies Auxiliary gave the sum of \$500 and in February another \$150 and again, after the fall bazaar another \$850. This was while at the time the minister was getting \$100 per month!

After the liberation of Denmark, Pastor Clemens Sørensen returned to Denmark. After a summer with no minister, a peaceful time followed when Pastor Rudolph Arendt arrived in 1945. DKU paid his salary, and the church paid for his monthly rent of \$40. The board decided to save up \$60 per month to buy a house for the pastor and ultimately bought a house across the street on 19th Avenue for \$4,500 – with a down payment of \$2,000. The Ladies Aux immediately gave \$700 for that purpose and the general congregation donated \$1,050.



The Bake Table always sells out.



At the Bazaar business is brisk!

In 1953 the New Ladies Auxiliary was formed for women who could not attend afternoon meetings – its founder and mentor was Astrid Madsen – and they are still going strong today - 65 years later. Through the years that followed, these Ladies Auxiliaries as well as donors have continued to support various church projects, whatever they might have been. I cannot cite the whole history of our Church, but let me say, it is a wonder that the Church came to be at all. Since the congregation was formed in 1923, it was without a minister for years. Then the Great Depression came, and there was unemployment and a shortage of funds. Despite these circumstances, the congregation survived, and a Church was miraculously inaugurated on East 19th Avenue eighty years ago.

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In the meantime, there have been disagreements within the congregation, but in the end, we pulled together. In 1984 we built a new Church in Burnaby, adjacent to Dania Home. Recently we built a new modern kitchen and we have installed an elevator. We have been able to do these things thanks to the help of our Ladies Auxiliaries, our many volunteers and our generous donors. We would not be celebrating our 80th anniversary without their help and dedication. A big heartfelt thank you to all of you!



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

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Vi taler dansk



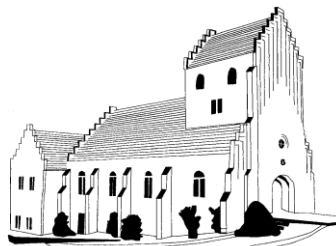
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WELCOME to
The Danish Church
in Vancouver B.C.
6010 Kincaid Street
Burnaby B.C.
V5G 4N3
Tel.: (604) 298-6112



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

We will be happy to send the Church Newsletter every month with information
regarding Church Services, Meetings, Movie Nights and much more.

www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Immigrant kirke lukker

Den danske lutherske kirke for Niagara halvøen i Grimsby

Pastor Jørgen Flensted-Jensen, Grimsby

Det er søndag den 22. april 2018. Solen skinner fra en skyfri himmel, og det er den første rigtige forårsdag i Grimsby, som ligger tæt ved de kendte Niagara Vandfald. Netop på denne solskinsdag afslutter og fejrer en dansk immigrant kirke sit virke



igennem 60 år. En dansk menighed, som i 1970 blev slået sammen af to danske menigheder i henholdsvis Hamilton og St. Catharines, runder et langt og aktivt kirkeliv af med en festgudstjeneste og samvær med spisning, sange, taler, og mange "kan du huske" historier. Cirka 100 deltagere fra nær og fjern havde tilmeldt sig og adskillige stod på en venteliste idet kirken's fysiske rammer havde nået bristepunktet. Foruden menighedens nu

efterhånden aldrende medlemmer var der mødt inviterede gæster fra den danske kirke i Toronto, en søn af den allerførste danske præst i kirken, endvidere den danske generalkonsul for Ontario og formanden for The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.



Forest i processionen gik formanden for menighedsrådet Joanne Packham

Stemningen var tydelig en blanding af vemod, glæde og taknemmelighed over de mange gode år der var gået. Præsteparret Kirsten og Jørgen Flensted-Jensen, som var ansat de sidste fire måneder for at hjælpe med at gøre afslutningen værdig og ordentlig, kendte menigheden og dens traditioner godt fra deres egen tid som fast præstepar fra 2006 til 2011.

Da spørgsmålet om hvordan man ved en gudstjeneste lukker en kirke værdigt og smukt, skævede man lidt til den canadiske tradition, som netop har et ritual for det. Festgudstjenesten indledtes med en procession ind i kirken, hvor formanden for menighedsrådet, Joanne Packham, gik forest, efterfulgt af tre unge tidligere

konfirmander, Kewin Gade Jensen der bar den canadiske fane, Morten Svihus der bar den norske fane og Darcy Gade Jensen der bar den danske fane. Derefter fulgte de fire præster, Jørgen Flensted-Jensen, Olaf Poulsen, Kenneth Berg og Charles Dechert, samt generalkonsul Arne

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Nordtorp, formanden for menigheden i Toronto, Sune Overgaard, formanden for The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada Rolf Buschardt Christensen, og Edith Wulff, menighedens næstformand, som har været medlem af kirken siden den i sin tid blev oprettet i Hamilton.

Gudstjenesten, som normalt holdes på engelsk hver anden søndag, forløb rimeligt traditionelt, men denne dag med læsninger, bøn og prædiken på engelsk, men alle salmer på dansk.

De tre præster, Toronto's danske præst, og de to canadiske præster, havde diverse læsninger (*den ene søn af kirkens første danske præst, og den anden en canadisk præst som ofte afløste som vikar*). Jørgen Flested-Jensen havde den liturgiske ledelse og prædiken, og det såkaldte nedluknings ritual. For ved afslutningen af gudstjenesten kom det højtidelige og vemodige øjeblik, hvor alterlys blev slukket og menighedsrådet bar lysestagerne, kirkens bibel, altergangs kalk og oblatskål, samt dåbsfad ud af kirken; alt sammen til musik (Skt Jørgens march) spillet af kirken organist, Philip, som have tjent kirken i 30 år. Da det hele kulminerede, var der ikke et øje tørt. Jørgen bad da alle i kirken rejse sig og synge verset fra "Dejlig er jorden":



Pastor Jørgen Flested-Jensen

*"Tider skal komme,
tider skal henrulle,
slægt skal følge slægters gang.
Aldrig forstummer tonen fra himlen,
i sjæles glade pilgrimssang"*



De syv medlemmer af menighedsrådet: Joanne Packham, Edith Wulff, Elise Hansen, Lesya Pamli, Peter Kjær, Karin Hagenberg og Aurora Hansen

Derefter blev kirkerummet på 30 minutter omdannet til en festsal med pyntede borde og en fin servering af lunch og dansk kaffebord med kringle. Med de mange taler, hilsener, indslag og både danske og engelske sange blev dagen en festdag, som mange blev meget berørt af og sent vil glemme.

Man tog med vemod afsked, men også med taknemmelighed fordi mange gode og positive minder knyttede sig til



Edith Wulff og Joanne Packham slukker lysene

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netop det gamle farmerhus, som nu havde været dansk kirke i så mange år. Denne bygning havde for de familier, hvoraf mange havde levet over 50 år i Canada, dannet ramme om både de mest glædelige begivenheder og de sværeste stunder, hvor man tog afsked med et kært menneske som ofte også havde været et trofast medlem af den danske menighed. Flere pegede også på, at når en dør lukkes, åbnes der ofte en anden med nye muligheder. Mange så det derfor også som en sammenlægning med den danske kirke i Toronto, som tog imod alle med åbne arme.

Det skriftsted som blev et omdrejningspunkt i prædikenen og samtale var hentet fra det Gamle Testamente hvor der står:

“Alting har sin tid, for alt hvad der sker under himlen er der et tidspunkt, en tid til at fødes, en tid til at dø”.

Efter gudstjenesten og eftermiddagens festligt og rørende samvær samledes alle ved de to flagstænger ude foran kirken, hvor det canadiske og danske flag blev sænket stilfuldt ned medens vi alle sang:

“Men end er der sang i skoven, højt bølger det røde flag, så er der en Gud forover, der råder for Danmarks sag.”

Alle oplevede at dagen havde fået et forløb, der var værdigt og smukt, og som man med glæde kunne tænke tilbage på i årene fremover.



Kirken var fuld af mennesker. Mange kom langvejs fra



*Flere holdt en lille tale
De faldt I god jord, som vi ser her på billedet*



Edith Wulf overrakte Kirsten og Jørgen Flensted-Jensen en gave, som tak for at komme til Canada i fire måneder for at ordne en værdig og ordentlig lukning af Grimsby Kirken.

(Alle fotografierne fra dagen er taget af Mette Berg og Lis Søndergaard)



***Peter and Anne
Pallesen***

***Pioneer Family
of Calgary***

*The photograph, courtesy of the Glenbow Archives,
Calgary, was taken at Young's Studio, Calgary, in ca. 1910.
This ad is sponsored by
Peter J. M. Pallesen M.Ed., M.Sc., M.A.*

***Best Wishes for a successful
2018 Conference in Halifax***

Pastor Birgitte Saltorp

Karen Andersen, Surrey, B.C.



Pastor Birgitte Saltorp served as minister of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver from September 2012 to September 2017, whereafter she returned to Copenhagen, where she was born in 1962. Birgitte Saltorp grew up in a professional household in Copenhagen, where both parents were lawyers; her mother was head judge for consumer complaints; and her father was a business lawyer. She holds a Bachelor in International Business, a Master of Theology as well as a workshop leader certificate in Creative Writing. Her sister works in corporate property management and her brother is a talent management consultant.

Ever interested in the world around her, in 1978-79 Birgitte spent a year in Iowa as an exchange student, later obtaining a Bachelor in Business from the Niels Brock School of Business in Copenhagen. In 1986, she contemplated working for Apple DK but instead went to the “Big Apple” - New York - where she worked for a year selling Danish foods in the New York metropolitan area. In 1994, she received her Master of Theology, which included a practicum in the field (known as a pastoral seminar) at Hasle Kirke, Aarhus, after which she served as the pastor at Tømmerup Kirke near Kalundborg for ten years.

Another adventure then awaited her as she embarked on a teaching career at Marielyst Højskole, a college for active seniors (55+) on the island of Falster. Subjects taught ranged from history to religion, to sociology, and to art history as well as creative writing. From there in 2011 Pastor Birgitte moved to Saksøbing to be pastor. Then in 2012 through Danske Sømands-og Udlandskirker (DSUK) she received a call from The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver.

Pastor Birgitte, what led you to be a pastor? “I discovered that no matter what I did, people used me as a pastor, so I thought I might as well get paid for it!” she replied with a smile. “It goes without saying that I have felt a call to do this, that it is important for me to try to speak openly and truthfully about faith and life.” Pastor Saltorp also has a coaching certificate; when people come to her it is often with issues seemingly unrelated to spiritual guidance, yet, in understanding modern psychology, it is a sound and thoughtful religious counsel that she provides.

When asked by her first church board, “What will you do if people don’t come to church?” Pastor Birgitte answered: “I will go where they are”. So, in that small town, a big Market Day was imminent, and the organizers asked the Pastor to hold a Sunday service in the beer garden,

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of all places. The big draw was a free breakfast, with the Pastor leading the service immediately afterwards. Come to think of it, holding a church service in the same place as beer was served wasn't so different from Luther's time when Luther brewed beer – likely because beer was safer to drink than water! Another example of the Pastor's down-to-earth style, which draws people to her, was her idea at the 2016 Midsummer Festival in Burnaby. It was a cool, wet day so she enticed people over by offering a small port “communion” wine to warm them up. About 240 people were warmed by the wine and the stimulating conversation with the Pastor that day.

One of Birgitte Saltorp's hobbies while living in Denmark was flying glider planes. Through the flying club she met and became friends with those outside of her parish, giving her another perspective on people. One friend even moved to Vancouver a few years before her. The Pastor remarked that, “Flying a glider gives one a bird's eye view of the land below, bringing calm and peace to the pilot. It also requires you to look ahead and have steps planned out in order to accomplish a safe landing,” perhaps an allegory for her role as shepherd of our congregation?

What are you most proud of in your five years at the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver? “I stand in a long line of pastors who have brought their Danish culture, heritage and faith as well as gifts and talents to this corner of the world. I have worked on giving our congregation the language of faith, so people can connect through this language as well.”



*The installation of Pastor Saltorp
Sept. 2012, with Pastors Morten Larsen &
Willy Olesen and Danish Bishop Steen
Skovsgaard, DSUK*

What was the Pastor's experience of Canada? In reply she said that the freedom to be a pastor here is greater than she could imagine. Canadians seem to be more accepting of the fact that a pastor carries a message and she is very grateful for the respect afforded her, so that she could be what she is – a pastor. In Canada, there is a sense of space, a sense of freedom and tolerance which is the “Canadian way”. Pastor Birgitte believes this mindset comes from the spacious place we live in – even in the somewhat crowded Lower Mainland! Entrepreneurship is a way of life here and even when someone fails at it, we tend to give credit, saying “Good for you for trying”. That message encourages entrepreneurs to try again, whereas it would not be unusual in Denmark to be discouraged from any further attempts. Canadians are in so many ways different from Danes who have one culture and one language; even though surveys have found that Danes are the happiest people on earth; on the flip side they often have many complaints.

Celebrating church services in Danish and English in Burnaby (Vancouver), Surrey (Granly), Victoria, and Nanaimo, as well as Seattle, has given the pastor a chance to see much of our province, as well as the US Northwest. She was also a visitor at the Danish Heritage Seminars in Oregon in 2016 and 2017.

North of the 49th parallel, Heritage Seminars are organized and put on by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, the national umbrella organization of Danish clubs, churches, museums and other Danish organizations in Canada. These seminars, held annually in different locations in Canada, often have a historical or cultural connection to Denmark. The participants

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from across the country are there to learn, to enjoy the fellowship, to relish the good food, to be entertained, and not least, to have fun.

In 2013, Pastor Birgitte was headmaster at the Danish Heritage Seminar held in Parksville. A near record forty participants attended the week-long seminar coming from Vancouver Island, the B.C. mainland, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and even as far away as the USA and Denmark. The seminar theme was The Danish Golden Age 1800-1850, where participants were introduced to Bertel Thorvaldsen, Hans Christian Andersen, Søren Kierkegaard, Anders Sandø Ørsted, H.C. Ørsted, Anna Ancher, Adam Oehlenschläger and many others. The first two lectures introduced the topic. Birgitte Saltorp then spoke about the authors at Bakkehuset in Frederiksberg and other salons. On the screen she showed the visual arts of the Golden Age plus works by Skagen-painter Anna Ancher. Birgitte brought alive the pious battles of the Golden Age as well as Søren Kierkegaard's guilt and conscience. Two very thought-provoking lectures focussed on the thinkers and scientists of this productive period.



Pastor Birgitte at Dania Home

Again in 2015, Pastor Birgitte carried the heavy load as headmaster at the Danish Heritage Seminar, held in Harrison Hot Springs. The theme, chosen by Pastor Birgitte, was 'Danish entrepreneurs through 150 years'. Participants heard and saw how Danish entrepreneurs had changed Denmark, and in turn the world. A session dealt with engineers and architects, where Pastor Birgitte spoke about bridges, wind turbines and opera houses. Then there is the whole Information Technology sector with Skype and other innovations. Another lecture dealt with Danish products on the world market such as hearing aids, fashion clothing, jewellery, toy blocks, pharmaceuticals and health products. Entrepreneurs and business leaders create and support Denmark in its quest to cope with globalization, having to compete with Germany, the United States and China – among others.

It goes without saying that Pastor Birgitte is an avid reader – you must be in order to teach such varied subjects – and she has also found Canadian literature very interesting and has brought a lot of books with her back to Denmark. Already in her late teen years she began reading books in English, being frustrated with the translation of a Dorothy L. Sayers novel. Nowadays she reads novels as well as biographies, non-fiction and poetry for the wisdom as well as for the language.

Being told that she “explains things plainly and usefully,” Pastor Birgitte has further pursued that gift by taking writing courses to improve her development of sermons which in turn has honed her speaking skills. Her goal for sermons is to say it plainly and to preach for only 8 to 15 minutes. Wisely, she knows that most people have difficulty paying attention much longer than that.

Many parishioners have fond memories of Pastor Birgitte. For instance, Solvejg Nielsen remembers that Pastor Birgitte was very enthusiastic about the church and her job right from the beginning; so much so that she joined the men during the work party that first fall. “In her five years at the helm, the Pastor was never off sick on a Sunday, was always there early and well-prepared. Also, the Pastor was faithful in her hospital visits and has probably been to all the hospitals in the Metro Vancouver area. At regular services and at funerals, she was so welcoming

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to visitors and took the time to share a little bit about the congregation's history, mentioning for instance the significance of the two church ships seemingly suspended in air. Pastor Birgitte continued the monthly "Komsammen" which was regularly attended by 15 to 20 people who have enjoyed hearing her speak in Danish about famous Danes – a King, a Queen, a writer, a poet or an inventor. Always hospitable, the Pastor would always bake some goodies or bring a delicious cake from a bakery. Det var hyggeligt! This group regularly put money in a basket to save up for an outing in June every year. The Pastor would rent a minivan, and some would go in their own cars. The group would go to various places around the Lower Mainland. We always learned something interesting, and we had a jolly good time. As well, Pastor Birgitte thought of a 'sibling' for our Juleværksted, namely a Fastelavn Workshop, where children of all ages were introduced to the Danish Fastelavn traditions, including getting their parents out of bed early to make sweet buns for you at Fastelavn."



May 5th Liberation Day Service in Burnaby

Jorgen Rohweder, the current President of the Church Board, has this to say about the Pastor. "She has shown great compassion for our elderly in general", he says, "and in several cases, she went way beyond the call of duty (and spent a considerable amount of her spare time) helping people who had no children to care for them, or to arrange their estate planning for them; this could involve writing letters on their behalf, or putting them in contact with the right person to help them. She never hesitated in this.

She also had connections with Danish folk musicians, and on several occasions, we had bands visiting our church. The bands had the church hall 'rocking', and everyone had a good time. This was something new for us, and much appreciated.

One member of the congregation remembers that Birgitte one year was invited to her and her husband's home for Christmas. The husband's mother was also going to be there, and Birgitte knew that she was Ukrainian. Birgitte googled what Ukrainians eat at Christmas and then made for her first time, 'kolach', which is the traditional Ukrainian Christmas bread, complete with the candle in the middle. The husband's mother was extremely moved by the fact that Birgitte had made it for her, and so were the daughter-in-law and son! It was so delicious, and the epitome of thoughtfulness."

One new skill that Birgitte took with her back to Denmark from Canada was the joy of snowshoeing. Canadian friends taught her to appreciate this sport, so now she is hoping for snowy winters in Denmark!

In September 2016, to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation when Martin Luther made his 95 Theses known to the world, Pastor Birgitte prepared an attractive leaflet with a detailed Calendar of Events right through to October 2017. Moreover, she gave a series of talks on the Reformation. Together with Organist Janet Mowatt, she made evenings about the Reformation hymns. Early on Sunday mornings you could be informed about the lighter sides of the thoughts of Martin Luther, and a group was also formed to play the board game "Here I Stand". It was a

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very uplifting experience which the congregation truly appreciated.

Knud Nielsen, past President of the Church Board, was in the Chair when she arrived. He recalls, “The first time I spoke with Pastor Birgitte I was ready to hire her. When I spoke with her on the phone, she could easily switch from Danish to English and back again. She had researched our church and knew of our congregation’s activities and the strong connection with Dania Home. As Pastor Birgitte had also lived in the United States, she was familiar with North American churches and our culture. This all gave me a very good impression and although DSUK required the Board to follow a rigorous selection process, Pastor Birgitte’s talents, faith and interpersonal skills clearly made her the top candidate. Once that was determined, the Pastor then visited us for five days, staying with me and my wife to learn about our church, our people and to see the Lower Mainland. During that time, Pastor Birgitte delivered a well-prepared sermon and met many parishioners, after which I was pleased to offer her the position. A key difference in being a pastor here versus in Denmark is the need for the pastor to be involved with the Board and congregation in fundraising activities. Pastor Birgitte jumped in with both feet, always ready to provide the opening prayer or be the speaker at an event. Over the years, she could also be found on the first Friday of the month attending the Danish House Society’s Kro Aften and enjoying conversations with people who don’t regularly attend our church. It was only after she had been called to the Vancouver Church, at her installment, she shared with us her long-held dream that, “One day, I will be the Pastor of The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver”. You see, our church bell came from Skovshoved Kirke in the Copenhagen area, where the Pastor was baptized and confirmed.



*Pastor Birgitte
Heritage Seminar,
Parksville, BC*

Pastor Birgitte has served our congregation well and we will miss her. One of her early ideas here was to introduce the roundtable pulpit, where different people would meet with the pastor and discuss the texts for the following Sunday, thereby influencing the sermon and sometime the entire ‘mood’ of the service.”

Kjeld Christensen, President of Dania Home’s Board of Directors has the following to say. “I had the pleasure of getting to know Pastor Birgitte Saltorp quite well in the five years she served as the Pastor at the Danish Church in Burnaby. In her position as Pastor of the Church, she became an ex-officio member of Board of Directors of Dania. She is a very well-educated person and had good insight and well thought out opinions on a wide variety of subjects. Often seen with a little smile on her face, along with her good sense of humour, Pastor Birgitte quickly became a valued member of the Board and other members listened when she spoke. As the President, Birgitte and I occasionally locked horns in an easy-going type of way, no animosity just different opinions and attitudes.

Birgitte is an eloquent speaker and we would often share time at the podium on different occasions. One of those was the Remembrance Day ceremony held at Dania Home every year on the 11th of November. Her contributions were always very well thought out and well delivered.

Birgitte Saltorp like all pastors before her had some adjusting to do when she arrived for her new job. Here the Pastor is involved in everything from Christmas and Halloween parties to fundraising bazaars at the church – especially the fundraising part is unknown to Danish pastors. The coffee and sandwich get-together following the church service is a very important part of the

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Sunday outing for members of the congregation; Birgitte always put her heart into being part of the action on those occasions. I know that Birgitte enjoyed her five years in Vancouver, and I enjoyed very much getting to know her.”



*Pastor Birgitte
Harrison Hot Springs
Hotel Seminar*

Pastor Birgitte has now moved back to Denmark and “God willing” plans to embark on some professional speaking engagements. She hopes to persuade the Bishop that a position of Interim Pastor could be a positive step forward for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark. Creating such a position could make congregations stronger when they are between pastors, enabling them to figure out who they are, where they are going and what kind of pastor best meets their needs. In this regard Pastor Birgitte Saltorp is very keen to bring her experience in coaching and counselling into play, as well as her knowledge of best practices in the business world.

At the beginning of 2018, Pastor Birgitte moved into Tersløsegård, Ludvig Holberg’s old Manor House in Dianalund, - north of Sorø. Ludvig Holberg, the writer, playwright and historian, lived at Tersløsegård from 1745 until his death in 1754. Part of Tersløsegård is now a museum, dedicated to Ludvig Holberg.

It probably comes as no surprise to those who know her, that yet again in 2018, Pastor Birgitte will return to Canada. She has eagerly accepted the role of headmaster at the Danish Federation’s Heritage Seminar which will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the end of May. Former Seminar participants are looking forward to seeing her again, as she will definitely add to the festive atmosphere which will be created by the topics, the singing, the entertainment, the excursions, as well as the exciting location on Canada’s Atlantic coast.

THE PACIFIC REGION WISHES

THE FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2018 CONFERENCE

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

Chris Lund – photographer

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Chris Lund was a photographer with the National Film Board of Canada. He travelled extensively across Canada with his camera and rolls of film. He shot landscapes, townscapes, buildings, work and leisure situations, as well as official portraits, but he might be best known for his photographic essays. His photo essay *Stones of History* is a tribute to the interior of Canada's parliament buildings, for which he received the National Film Board's Gold Medal for Excellence.

His photographs have been exhibited in twenty-nine countries. He won numerous Canadian and international photo competitions. In 1968, for instance, he won a silver medal at the Premio Michelangelo Show in Italy. His winning photo of a smelter worker, won the award for the best black and white portrait.

His photos have appeared in *Life* magazine, England's *Photograph Year Book* and *Germany's Year Book of International Photography*, as well as in a host of newspapers, such as *The Ottawa Journal*, *The Calgary Herald*, *The Edmonton Journal*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The London Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Manchester Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. In addition, his photos have appeared in hard-cover publications such as, "*Call Them Canadians*," and "*Canada: A Year of the Land*."



Chris Lund 1923-1983

Chris Lund's photographs readily reveal that he was an artist. It was in his genes. His father was an artist, as was his father's brother, Niels Møller Lund, whose oil paintings hang in art galleries in England. His most famous work, *The Heart of Empire*, a large aerial painting showing London as a great metropolis was completed in 1904, and hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London. Several of his uncle's paintings can also be found in the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne.

It could be that Chris' father, Carl Lund, was born in Faaborg on the Danish isle of Fyn, as his father's brother, Niels Møller Lund, was born in Faaborg, where their father was a merchant (købmand). At an early age, Carl and Niels moved to England. Here both brothers dabbled in painting and music.

Leaving his brother in England, Carl Lund immigrated to Canada in 1902. He settled in Montreal, and later in Quebec City where he played in the orchestra at the Chateau Frontenac Hotel. When the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa was completed in 1912, Carl Lund moved to Ottawa, where he was hired as a cellist in the hotel's orchestra. In Ottawa Carl Lund met Leda Gauthier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gauthier. Leda was a graduate of the faculty of music of McGill University in Montreal. She also played the cello. Carl and Leda were married in

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Ottawa in 1917. They had two sons, Niels and Christian, and two daughters, Eleanor and Marguerite.

Besides playing the cello in the Chateau Laurier's Jasper Room, Carl Lund would paint. But to make ends meet he also worked for many years for the Ottawa Electric and Gas Company, first as a meter reader and later as a clerk.

Chris Lund was born in Ottawa to Carl Lund and Leda Gauthier on July 1, 1923. He was baptized Christian, but always used the name Chris. He grew up in Sandy Hill, where the family lived on Somerset East. Chris attended the Ottawa Technical High School on Albert Street, from where he graduated.

To earn some spending money Chris got a job as usher at the Capitol Cinema on the corner of Queen and Bank Streets. The Capitol Cinema was built with much fanfare in 1920. The 2,530-seat cinema was operated by the prestigious Loews Chain of theatres. It was the largest movie theatre ever built in Ottawa, and was the city's only true movie palace. Chris quickly became Head Usher at the Capitol. He also became friends with Les Mitchell, the theatre's assistant manager. About thirty years later, after the Capitol Cinema was demolished, it was Chris who was asked to create the large photographic mural in the foyer of the new Capitol Square Theatre. Chris had been approached by Les Mitchell, who in the meantime had advanced to Vice-President of Famous Players Canada.



*Prime Minister Mackenzie King
receives Canadian citizenship
Photo by Chris Lund, January 3, 1947.
PA-197418*



*Examining new arrivals at Immigration
Examination Hall, Pier 21, Halifax, March 1952
Photo by Chris Lund. LAC PA-111579*

A box Brownie camera was his introduction to photography. It began as a school hobby at Ottawa Technical High School. After graduation, Chris attended Ottawa's Art School, where he focussed on commercial art.

His first full-time job was with *The Ottawa Citizen* newspaper as a news photographer. Then in August 1942, he joined the National Film Board as a laboratory technician in the darkroom, but within months he was on the road taking photographs. He worked for the Still Photography Division of the National Film Board taking pictures in response to the very diverse photographic needs of the Canadian government.

In a 1982 interview Chris admitted that when he first started at the NFB forty years earlier, he had done a lot of extra curricular work – like weddings – which he wasn't allowed to do.

In the 1950s and 60s, Canada experienced rapid economic growth and modernization due to the post-war economic boom. The federal government was eager to record Canada's phenomenal

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growth, and to promote Canada internationally. The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division documented this development by amassing a vast archive of images, which it distributed widely.



Chris Lund documenting the good life, 1961. Couple sitting on the door of a convertible car. LAC e010976055-v8

Chris Lund took photographs of happy nuclear families outside their new suburban homes, or inside showing off their new time-saving appliances. Then there were families standing beside their new sleek cars, which had a space-age look, with tailfins, an antenna, along with extensive use of shiny chrome. Chris also took many photos of families at the beach or camping. He never paid people who posed in his shots, but as a rule, when they requested it, he would send them a courtesy print.

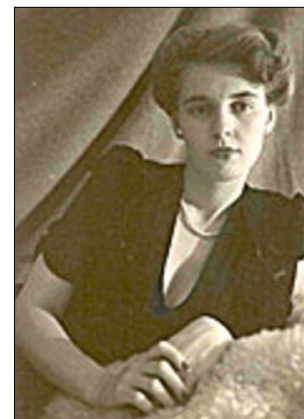
Other photos included newly-built shopping centres, highways with bridges and clover leaves, as well as photos of Expo 67 in Montreal. Chris has also covered official tours of royalty and statesmen, the construction of hydroelectric dams, scenic sunsets and life inside correctional institutions.

Many of the photographs taken by Chris appeared on posters, in popular magazines and in government publications, courtesy of the National Film Board's Still Photography Division. Chris travelled extensively across Canada on photo shoots, providing the various government departments with images of a prosperous and beautiful country, using the popular and high-quality Kodachrome colour film. His sharp colour photos still maintain their Kodachrome glow. His photo sessions always included close-ups, medium shots and long shots. Chris was also a frequent judge at photographic shows, including the Eastman Kodak Exhibition at Rochester, New York.

Chris also came up with a method of high-speed strobe stop-motion photography, which the Film Board further developed and patented.

Chris Lund worked at the NFB until 1971. That year he became editor of the government publication *Information Canada*, and worked there until it ceased operations. He then became editor of the National Film Board's Photothèque (photo library) until he took early retirement in May 1982, due to his poor health. After a long illness, he died on February 24, 1983, and was put to rest at the Capital Cemetery. Left to mourn his passing was his wife, Anne Elizabeth (Betty), née Griffith, and their two sons, Mark (Phyllis) and Stephen (Judy) and one daughter, Jane. Chris' wife, Betty, passed away in September 2007, at age 84.

Chris Lund's photographs seldom required cropping or special dark room treatment. He had an eye for composition, design and layout. Some of his photos did not even need a caption, as the image spoke for itself. He had a knack for photography!



Betty Lund, photo by Chris Lund

Helge Lindhede

Ida Freer

Helge Lindhede was fond of saying that Canada had been good to him, as an immigrant to this country, but it could also be said that he was a fine immigrant. He liked to make his own way, as well as pay his own way, and was always ready to give back to the community. As he was wont to say, 'På med vantene' (Put the mittens on) which to non-Danes has a similar meaning to 'Let's get the job done,' it just isn't as picturesque. Another similar expression might be, "Let's roll up our sleeves".



Helge in his 30s

Helge Andreas was born to Irwin and Ellen on January 17, 1922. He came from a large, warm and happy family. There were five children; Helge was the middle brother. Borge was two years older and Preben two years younger. Two sisters, Kirsten and Bente, were born seven and nine years later.

Helge is fondly remembered by his surviving sister, Kirsten, as the brother who loved to stir up trouble and create havoc, just as long as fun ensued. But it was never malicious in intent even though things could sometimes get out of hand. As a young boy, Helge was high spirited and full of ideas for escapades and adventures but somehow his younger brother, Preben, always got the blame. In grade one Helge's classroom desk was next to the window. The playground was near by and a sunny, warm day was beckoning. Wanting to go out and play, he jumped out the window, no doubt to his teacher's dismay.

The family was well off in Helge's early childhood and lived in a large home complete with maids in a suburb of Aalborg. The father, Irwin, was the Director of Operations in Jutland for a large tobacco company. There was a summerhouse in Løkken, with its long and wide sandy beaches, which was a favourite holiday spot every summer for the family.

Later on, the Great Depression had a severe effect on the family, as it did on many other Danes. Despite reduced circumstances that forced the sale of their large home, there was always enough to eat, money for private school as well as music and sports lessons for the children. Helge's mother, Ellen, never let a vagrant or hobo who knocked on their door leave without a pack of home-made sandwiches. She knew how to make ends meet. Once she rented a small store in the downtown area for the month of December, bought supplies and made Christmas decorations and arrangements to sell. Helge and his brothers then had the task of delivering them on their bicycles. The earnings made their Christmas bright. At another time, his mother opened a delicatessen. She passed her *gå på mod* (drive) on to Helge.

For Helge and his siblings, it was a wonderful childhood. There was always enough food, and birthdays and other special occasions were always celebrated.

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Education was important to Helge's family and he continued to hold that belief all his life, encouraging both of his children to complete university. Along with his siblings, Helge had music, dance and piano, banjo and swimming lessons. He had a natural musical ability and was able to play by ear once he had heard a piece. Piano must have been his favourite instrument because when his youngest sister broke his banjo, he laughed it off. A piano was also one of the

first things he bought when he came to Canada. Besides music, the young Helge had lots of energy to spare and played on a soccer team, and enjoyed rowing, building his own kayak. Helge finished high school at sixteen and registered at a college to become an architect. His mother sold living room carpets to pay for Helge architect tuition.



*The Schwartzlose family early 1940s:
L-R Helge, Ellen (mother), Børge, Kirsten,
Bente, Preben, Irwin (father)*

World War II

Helge was seventeen years old when World War II broke out. He had always wanted to travel, but that was now impossible. Helge was soon involved in the Resistance Movement, distributing newsletters and leaflets in Northern Jutland, despite his young age. On one occasion his father got word that the

occupying German soldiers were going to search all students' homes for any compromising materials. His father burned all the Resistance materials to protect him. Older brother, Borge was a prominent member of the Resistance, as well as a Lieutenant in the Danish Army. Borge's responsibilities included receiving weapons dropped into Denmark from England. The war had a considerable effect on Helge to the extent that he decided to change his family name from the German sounding Schwartzlose to the more Scandinavian sounding one, Lindhede.

Post Secondary Education

Helge continued his education during the War. In addition to the courses in engineering and architecture, it was required to also have training in a trade. Helge signed up for the trade of bricklaying and attended both programs at the same time. He attended school in Copenhagen. Kirsten remembers that Helge was a fantastic older brother and once he started to make money he bought his sisters big ice cream cones every Friday. Outgoing, Helge made friends everywhere. Initially, Helge boarded with one of his six aunts, who were all delighted to have his company. Unfortunately, they all came up with so many little tasks and errands that Helge had soon had enough. He solved the problem by moving into the apprentice residence near the school. His courses took five years and then he worked as an architect, designing apartment buildings, and operating as general contractor in his own business. In 1947, Helge married Ellen, the girl who worked at the bakery across the street from his home in Aalborg, and over the next few years they had two children, Torben and Ida.



*Helge courting Ellen at
Himmelbjerget*

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Immigration to Canada

Many Danes, as indeed other Europeans, were immigrating to Canada and the United States after World War II. Times were still difficult in Denmark, accommodation was in short supply and wages were low compared to expenses. The housing shortage was so acute that it was only possible to obtain an apartment to rent upon production of a doctor's note attesting to the wife's pregnancy. Otherwise, young couple were expected to live with their parents.



*Ellen and Helge getting married
in 1947*

Helge's two sisters, Kirsten and Bente, along with Kirsten's husband, Palle, had immigrated to Vancouver in 1958. A colleague of Palle's had immigrated to Canada earlier, and wrote back that everything was so wonderful. So, they decided to give it a try, and headed for Vancouver.

Helge had success at home, but the economy in Denmark went up and down. He first considered a job offer in northern Africa, but this met with opposition at home. Around the time Kirsten and Bente immigrated, Helge was employed as an insurance claim assessor determining fire and water damage claims. He was asked to do something illegal by his employer, refused, and was fired. He decided this was a good time to start fresh in Canada.

By this time, Kirsten, Palle and Bente had established themselves in Canada, but unfortunately the glowing promises by Palle's co-worker had proved to be grossly exaggerated. He had next to nothing. Kirsten took a job cleaning houses for a janitorial company, and later obtained a job as typist. Bente was hired as a secretary by *The Vancouver Sun* newspaper. Both women spoke English quite well as their father's first language had been English. Irwin's mother was a titled lady from England.

After some deliberation, Helge decided to follow them. Always cautious and concerned for his family's welfare, which included a 12-year-old son, Torben, and a five-year-old daughter, Ida, as well as wife, Ellen, Helge decided to first head over with only his son, to see how things were and establish a suitable home. Having two sisters there already made an enormous difference.

In Vancouver the economy was booming, and jobs were plentiful. Immigrants were welcome. Helge's first job was in a factory making Danish furniture. He didn't have any particular experience in this field, and it didn't match his educational background, but with his usual *gå på mod* he persevered.

A little later he obtained a position as a draftsman, but the employer tried to take advantage of his supposed naïveté and unfamiliarity with Canadian ways. When my father enquired about his first pay cheque he was told that he had been taken on as a volunteer and wouldn't be paid. This was certainly contrary to the verbal agreement that had been made upon his hiring. Helge wasn't one to take this lying down, and he also needed the money as he had come from Denmark with only \$200 in his pocket. Moreover, he had been advanced the money for his airfare to Canada by the Canadian government and he intended to honour his commitment to pay it back. With some difficulty, Helge was able to arrange to have the matter heard in Small Claims Court, where the judge had no difficulty, despite Helge's halting English, to rule in his favour and order that his

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wages be paid. Unfortunately, the judge advised he could not compel the Defendant employer to pay any more than the minimum wage, which at that time was seventy-five cents an hour.

Another time Helge got a traffic ticket for changing lanes preparatory to turning right and getting stuck behind a bus. He thought it was it was unfair and went to traffic court and won.

Things could only improve, and they did. Helge was steadily employed and within five or six years was hired by B.C. Hydro as a designer. Helge had qualified as a civil engineer in Denmark, but that qualification was not recognized in Canada. He felt he could not take the time away from his family responsibilities to take the necessary university courses to re-qualify in Canada, so he was content to have his abilities

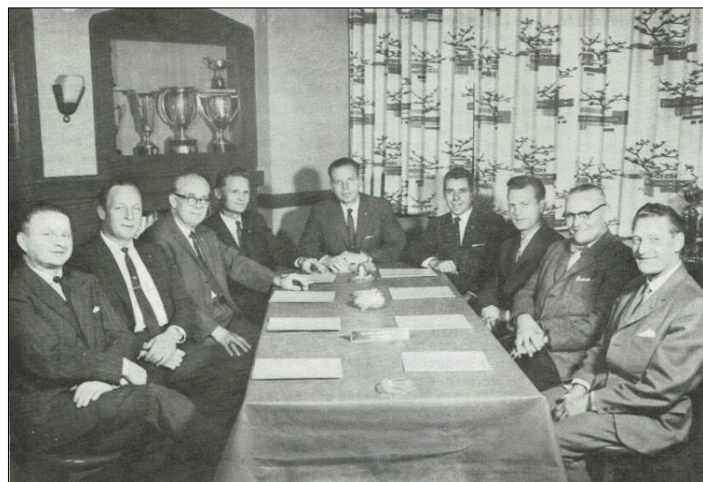
recognized by his colleagues and bosses with the resultant increasing responsibilities. His official designation was Engineering Technologist. Helge sought out the government position at B.C. Hydro for the security it would offer him as the sole breadwinner in the family. He took his responsibilities seriously in that regard, but he also enjoyed the over twenty years he was employed there, retiring at age sixty-two.



Ellen, Ida, Helge and Torben. The newly immigrated family, ca. 1959

Early days in Vancouver - Some Challenges

Learning English was the first challenge. Danish education provided some rudimentary lessons, but similarly to French instruction in Canada today, not too much sticks for most people. Helge



November 5, 1962. Members of the Danish Central Committee sign the Constitution and Bylaws of the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver. Sitting on the front left is Helge Lindhede; one of the DCC's founding members.

was a quick study, but it still took some time. For his wife, Ellen, tending the home front, it took many years of lessons and studying books to master conversational English. The Danish Church was a lifesaver for them, as for many other Danish immigrants, a friendly welcoming and happy environment with people who spoke Danish and knew all about Denmark. Even better, Danish food was served at the social functions. Helge embraced the opportunities provided by the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver, located at that time on 19th Avenue near Kingsway, and in his typical fashion was anxious to give back as much or more than he received.

His family meant everything to Helge and his weekends were spent socializing with his extended family as well as events at the Danish Lutheran Church. His small backyard garden was also a hobby, enjoying the space that apartment living in Denmark had not made possible. Helge and

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Ellen had many friends in the Danish community and he loved to socialize. Some said that the party didn't begin until Helge arrived. He was always ready with his quick wit and had a mischievous side that sometimes liked to stir a little controversy if he thought the gathering was getting dull. But kindness was at the root of all of Helge's actions.

Helge had a wealth of homilies and sayings, one applicable for each occasion. His sense of direction was sometimes amiss on family camping trips, but rather than be embarrassed or concerned, he would reassure everyone that he was 'taking the scenic route.' Whenever there was a less than pleasant task to be done he would encourage everyone by saying 'På med vanten'.

Danish Community Centre of Vancouver

In the early 1960s the Danish Central Committee would each year on the first Sunday in June arrange and celebrate Danish Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park on the US-Canada border. It was decided to transform the Danish Central Committee into a Danish Community Centre, building a hall – or club house. In November 1962, members of the Danish Central Committee signed the Constitution and Bylaws establishing the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver. Helge was a strong supporter and founding member of the Danish Community Centre.

Danish Lutheran Church

Helge was asked to take on the position of treasurer for the Danish Lutheran Church in the 1960s during Pastor Immanuel Rasmussen's tenure. While reviewing the records he determined that it would be best to convert the books to a double entry bookkeeping system. It meant more work, but it is considered the acceptable way for financial records to be maintained. Later, while Jens Arendt was Pastor, Helge was asked to take on the more onerous position of president of the Danish Lutheran Church, a position he held from 1975 to 1979. Being president required considerable involvement in the day to day running of the Church. He was the chair of the Board of Directors and involved in many facets of the Church including chairing monthly meetings. Some of his duties, along with the rest of the Board and Pastor, were matters such as fundraising, making financial decisions for the care and maintenance of the Church building, making decisions about future events and plans, including Royal Visits, and responding to correspondence from other Danish organizations across Canada and in Denmark.



40th anniversary of the Danish Lutheran Church, 19th Avenue, Vancouver, August 15, 1977

To the left: Church Council President Helge Lindhede speaking to Toronto Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen

Controversy could surface in the congregation as everyone did not always agree. This was the case in 1975 with the motion to sell part of the annex Church property in Surrey. Helge also worked as deacon at the Church, greeting attendees and reading the opening and closing prayers. Meetings with the Pastor and Treasurer were necessary on an ongoing basis to think about what should be discussed at upcoming board meetings and thereafter draft an Agenda. The president is

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the first contact for representing the church. Small matters like putting the Church Newsletter together for distribution were blended with large decisions such as restoration and renovation of the Church building. Helge was always devoted and well organized.

Multicultural Counsellor

Multiculturalism, which includes the Danes in Canada, of course, was declared the official Canadian policy in 1971 by the federal government of Pierre Elliott Trudeau. The government stated that:

There would be four “elements” to the multiculturalism policy. First, the government would “support all of Canada’s cultures and assist their development” so long as they demonstrated a will to exist. Second, the government would “assist members of all cultural groups to overcome barriers to full participation in Canadian society.” Third, the government would “promote creative encounters and interchange among all Canadian cultural groups in the interests of national unity.” Fourth, the government would “continue to assist immigrants to acquire at least one of Canada’s official languages and to become full participants in Canadian society.



Ellen and Helge at daughter Ida’s wedding to John, October 1974

The proposed Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism (or CCCM) would consist of 100 members, appointed by the Minister. Eighty percent of the membership would be drawn from the ethnic minority communities, while the remaining twenty percent would be members of the French, English, and Native communities. Helge was asked to be the representative for the Danish community in British Columbia, and he was honoured to accept. He met with groups and meetings chaired by the Honourable John Munro, Minister of State for Multiculturalism. The First Canadian Conference on Multiculturalism was held in Ottawa at the Government Conference Centre in October 1973. Helge was proud to attend and represent the Danish community.

Helge flew to Ottawa several times to attend conferences and workshops designed to support and promote multiculturalism in Canada. Through his knowledge of the programs he was able to assist Danish groups to apply for grants available through the Department. He was always proud of the work he did and his acquaintance with the hardworking Minister.

Retirement

Helge retired from work at the age of 62. Unfortunately, his wife, Ellen, suffered from a debilitating illness, but Helge readily took on the task of providing the necessary care. They both continued to attend the Danish Lutheran Church and participate in the choir and other church activities as much as they could, but gradually the situation required that this be somewhat curtailed. Helge enjoyed visiting with his two children and grandchildren, which now numbered six. Unfortunately, he passed away in White Rock on October 24, 2005, before his first great grandchild was born. He’d be pleased to know that his great grandchildren now number five.

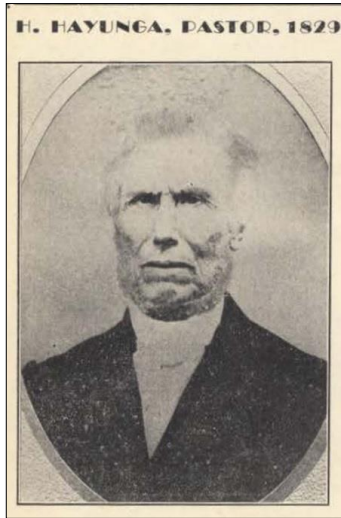
Helge would be surprised and honoured to know that the story of his life was to be included in this book, as modesty was also one of his virtues.

Herman Hayunga

Canada's first Danish Lutheran Pastor

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The life and times of Herman Hayunga are not just an account of a Danish pastor accepting a call to serve a Lutheran congregation in Canada, but a broader story of refugees, discrimination, treachery, faith, invasion and war. The story mirrors the turbulent history of Upper Canada in the early nineteenth century.



Herman Hayunga

Herman Hayunga has the distinction of being the first Danish Pastor of a Lutheran congregation in Canada, serving the oldest Lutheran Church in Canada. In sending a call to Herman Hayunga the Lutheran congregation now hoped it had made the right choice in choosing him, praying that he would not forsake them, as his two predecessors had done. Hayunga was only twenty-seven years old, when he received the call to come to Canada in 1826, to be pastor at St. George's Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, located on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in Dundas County.

Considering the conditions under which he served, it is surprising that he stayed in Williamsburg, even after he retired. But he had married a local girl and had become a part of the community. Herman Hayunga was a gruff, iron-willed man, who had a great command of languages, and who could be persuasive. He knew who he was, and what he wanted. He identified as a Dane and a Lutheran, and unlike his predecessors he had money. He was from a wealthy family and he had an excellent education. When he received the call from St. George's Lutheran Church, he was a professor at Hartwick College in upstate New York. He could have stayed there and would undoubtedly have had a good life. Instead he chose to come to a small and poor rural congregation of refugees, which had been without a pastor for nine years.

The congregation consisted of people who had sided with the British during the American War of Independence. They were German farmers who had come and settled in the Mohawk Valley in upstate New York. Indeed, throughout the war, New York had been a Loyalist stronghold. However, after the Americans had won their independence from Britain, the people who supported the Crown were evacuated or had to flee. The 1782 U.S. Act of Evacuation required that all citizens who refused to take the American Oath of Allegiance had to leave the country, forfeiting all their material possessions and properties.

It is estimated that up to 100,000 people were forced to leave the United States, 45,000 of them settled in what is now Canada, where they became known as United Empire Loyalists. The Loyalists were settled in groups, so they could support each other. Moreover, each Loyalist

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family was given a piece of land. The British government spent nearly £30 million, including compensation, to settle Loyalists in what is now Canada. Some of the Loyalists were naturally English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh; however, most were not of British background, but were primarily German, Dutch, Black and native Indian. That many of the Loyalists were German, can be seen from the number of settlements that were given German names, such as Morrisburg, Williamsburg, Osnabruck and Lunenburg. Likely more important in naming townships, King George belonged to the House of Hanover, and was Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg in Germany.



Many Germans had fought under Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment of New York. After the war, the soldiers, with their families, were evacuated to the British colonies north of the United States. Already in 1784, Sir John Johnson was appointed by the Crown to distribute lands in Quebec (Upper Canada) to exiled Loyalists, and it is estimated that he helped resettle nearly 3,800 Loyalists that first year.

The usual grants of land to those Loyalists who settled in Canada before 1792 were 3,000 acres to a captain, 2,000 acres to a subaltern, 200 acres to every private soldier and 200 acres to sons and daughters of Loyalists when they became of age. The government pledged to support the settlers for three years. In addition to supplies, each family was given a plough. A cow was allotted to every two families; as well, a cross-cut saw to every four families, and a portable cornmill to every district.

About forty families settled in the Township of Williamsburg, and of these former British soldiers, about twenty-five families were Lutheran. They landed on the banks of the St. Lawrence River on July 20, 1784. For two-and-half years the government provided tools, provisions and clothing, as if the men were still soldiers, giving them time to clear their land.

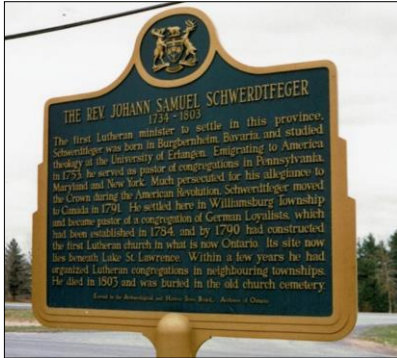
The Loyalists along the St. Lawrence were settled in the British colony of Quebec. In 1763, after the Seven Years War, the French colony of New France was ceded to Britain, who renamed the colony Quebec. The colony was called Quebec from 1763 to 1791.

Many of the Loyalists found it trying to live in a French-speaking colony with French laws, the French language and Catholicism. In order to address this situation, the British Parliament passed The Constitutional Act in 1791, dividing the colony of Quebec into two distinct colonies, Lower Canada in the east and Upper Canada to the west. These constitutional changes were more or less forced upon the British government under the pressure of thousands of United Empire Loyalists who wanted to ensure the conditions necessary for the development of British parliamentary institutions in the colonial territory. At the same time, the British authorities were eager to address these grievances quickly, as they had learned their lesson with the loss of the American colonies.

The War of 1812 again tested the loyalty of the German Loyalists, with their connections to New York the lifeline of their church, and from where they summoned their pastors. The test was real and severe for these Yanks, as the Loyalists were sometimes called. In 1813 the war came to their community, their farms and their church. In fact, during the Battle of Crysler's Farm, St. George's Church was used as a hospital to shelter the wounded soldiers.

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The War of 1812 between the United States and Britain brought the war to their small community and into their homes. In 1813, the United States invaded Upper Canada. The



Plaque commemorating Pastor Schwerdtfeger outside Church

American forces landed upriver from Williamsburg, and then started their march toward Montreal. Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States from 1801 to 1809, had said in August 1812, “The acquisition of Canada this year, as far as the neighbourhood of Quebec, will be a mere matter of marching and will give us experience for the attack on Halifax the next, and the final expulsion of England from the American continent.”

The American invaders were met by professional British soldiers and Canadian militia in the Township of Williamsburg on November 11, 1813. The battle was fought on John Crysler’s farm and became known as the Battle of Crysler’s Farm. The fighting took place on muddy ploughed fields along the St. Lawrence River. It was a decisive battle, which dealt a fatal blow to American hopes for the capture of Montreal. The battle damaged Crysler’s fields as well as his farm house, barns and stables. Moreover, Crysler’s house had been used as headquarters by the British Army.

Later Crysler’s farm was declared a National Historic Site and a tall monument was erected. It was one of three battles which saved Canada. By the end of the war, three American armies had been forced to surrender, and the only Americans left on Canadian soil were prisoners of war.

In his book *The Invasion of Canada 1812-1813*, Pierre Berton writes, “If the war had been lost by the British all of Canada would now be part of the United States.” Berton adds that, “The War of 1812, or more properly the myth of the War, served to give the new settlers a sense of community and set them on a different course from that of their neighbours.”

John Crysler (originally Johannes Kreissler), a wealthy Loyalist, was a farmer, businessman, militia officer and a political figure. In 1804 he had been elected to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, representing Dundas County. He served in the militia in the War of 1812.

While fending off an invasion, St. George’s congregation also had to fight for its survival as a Lutheran Church. For the Lutherans in Upper Canada the struggle for survival lasted many years and came to a head in 1837.

The Rebellion of 1837 was an insurrection against the oligarchic government of the British colony of Upper Canada. The leaders of the Rebellion demanded democratic reform, leading to responsible government and an end to the rule of a privileged oligarchy known as the Family Compact. Growing discontent with the ruling Family Compact gradually increased because this small clique dominated the government, controlled the distribution of patronage and used their political offices and influence to their own ends. There was also popular opposition to the government’s land-granting practices, particularly the favouritism shown the Church of England.

One of the demanded reforms was the repeal of the Clergy Reserves, which favoured and supported the Church of England, to the detriment of other denominations. According to the Constitutional Act of 1791, one-seventh of the land was set aside for the Protestant Clergy, a phrase intended to apply to the Church of England. In 1793 Jacob Mountain was appointed as the

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first Anglican Bishop. He vigorously defended his Church's claims to the Clergy Reserves. The government assisted the Church of England in the building of churches and with salaries. Bishop Mountain opened 35 missions and his clergy increased from 9 to 60. In 1803, Bishop Mountain ordained John Strachan as an Anglican Bishop, and Strachan became a government-paid missionary in Cornwall, Upper Canada. Strachan was a pillar of the Family Compact, and he defended the Anglican monopoly of the Clergy Reserves, as well as Anglican dominance in politics and education.

Strachan was opposed by an increasingly powerful reform movement, which included many different denominations. In 1824, the legislature decided that the Church of Scotland should have a share of the Clergy Reserves. Moreover, in 1828, a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly as well as the Canada Committee of the British House of Commons in London, criticized the Church establishment and recommended dividing the profits from the Clergy Reserves among all Protestant denominations. Not until 1840 did the Legislative Assembly approve a bill dividing half of the proceeds between the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, leaving the remaining half to other denominations, including the Lutherans.

The Loyalists build a Lutheran Church

On their arrival in 1784, the Lutherans began to hold lay-readings, where they would also sing hymns. They used the *Marburger Gesangbuch* as their hymnbook. Four years later they began to build a frame church in front of the Centre Commons of the Township of Williamsburg, but it was not raised that year on account of the severe weather that fall. In March 1789 the church was raised. It was a quaint white edifice, built in the Dutch (Deutsch) style of architecture, with arched window frames and a steeple. Inside the church, the walls were bare.



*St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, a simple building with arched windows and a steeple
Photo: by George Neville, 2013*

Colonel Henry Markley, a master builder, oversaw the construction. He was a farmer of German background, who represented Dundas in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada from 1808 to 1812. In 1813, he too fought at the Battle of Crysler's Farm.

The congregation had built the church in order to entice a pastor to come. The Church was inaugurated by Pastor Samuel Schwerdtfeger of Albany in 1790. He had suffered severe persecution from the victorious rebels. Two years later a parsonage was built, and Pastor Schwerdtfeger moved to Riverside in Williamsburg to live there permanently and to be pastor for the congregation.

Pastor Samuel Schwerdtfeger had been born in Bavaria in 1729. He had studied theology at the University of Erlangen. In 1753 he immigrated to the United States, where he easily received a call, not least because of his



*St. John's Church, Riverside Heights
Photo by RBC, taken in 1987 when
Jens Kjær was pastor*

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polished German, serving in New York State. In 1786 he was involved in forming the New York Ministerium, the second Lutheran synod in the United States. During the War of Independence Schwerdtfeger was often persecuted because of his sympathy for the British, and thrown in jail for a period of time, having declared his preference for British rule. He was a pacifist, and his loyalty to the British crown was well-known. He arrived in Upper Canada by covered wagon with his wife and eight children, settling in Williamsburg in 1791. The following year he helped build a church in Iroquois, of which he also became pastor.

During Schwerdtfeger's term an unexpected act of parliament was passed at the second session of the first parliament to the effect that the marriage of Protestants must be solemnized by clergymen of the Church of England. This was an affront to the Lutherans and other Protestants, who immediately petitioned for a repeal of this act. At the third session of the Second Parliament, the act was amended to include clergy of the Lutheran Church, Church of Scotland and those of the Calvinist faith.

Pastor Schwerdtfeger, who preached exclusively in German, served the congregation faithfully for fourteen years. He was a true missionary, organizing Lutheran congregations at Aultsville, Osnabruck and Iroquois. Schwerdtfeger died in 1803 and was buried in the Church Cemetery.

In 1804, after the passing of Pastor Schwerdtfeger, the congregation invited Frederick August Meyer from Marysburgh, Prince Edward County, upriver from Dundas County, to become their pastor. Meyer, the son of a Lutheran pastor, accepted the call, and the congregation sent him to Philadelphia to be ordained. He served the congregation until 1807, when he resigned to accept a call from a Lutheran congregation in Pennsylvania. The primary reason for leaving Dundas County after only three years was that the congregation did not have sufficient funds to pay his salary.

Frederick August Meyer was followed by Pastor John Günther Weagant, a native of Germany, who, via New York, had settled in Prince Edward County. Weagant was the son-in-law of Pastor Schwerdtfeger, having married Elizabeth Schwerdtfeger in Williamsburg in 1797. In 1808, Weagant received a call from the Lutherans in Williamsburg, which he accepted. He preached in German and resided in the parsonage. But he too was inadequately paid by the struggling congregation. The congregation's finances were such that they could not pay Pastor Weagant's salary. Yielding to inducements too tempting for most men to resist, he secretly joined the Church of England, and was re-ordained as an Anglican by Bishop Mountain in November 1811. Bishop Mountain signed the document receiving Pastor Weagant and the congregation into the Anglican Communion and the name of the church was changed to St. George's Anglican Church. Pastor Weagant subscribed to the 39 Articles of the Church of England, and he started receiving a government salary of 200 pounds sterling per year.



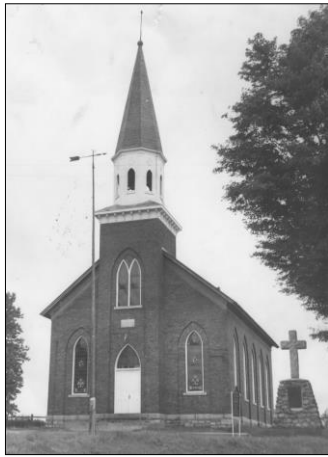
150th anniversary at St. John's, Dedicating Cairn

Upon his return to Williamsburg he pretended to still be a Lutheran Minister and preached as usual in German. Suspicion soon arose, however, that all was not right, for he began to use the English Book of Common Prayer, and occasionally to wear the surplice, a loose white linen

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outer ecclesiastical vestment usually of knee length with large open sleeves, which was used in the Church of England. These were practices which gave such offence to members of his congregation that they declared that they would no longer come to hear a man who preached to them in his shirt sleeves. A split occurred in the congregation when they realized that their pastor had become an Anglican, without being up front about it. Despite the majority of the congregation remaining Lutheran, Weagant pushed ahead and forbid members of the congregation to enter the church unless they acknowledged the 39 Articles. Weagant even went so far as to put a padlock on the church door, and issued a proclamation announcing the new doctrine, signed by him and five church wardens.

In 1814, the Lutherans had had enough of Pastor Weagant, and invited Pastor Meyer to return to them. When Pastor Meyer accepted the call, the congregation sent two sleighs, in the middle of winter, to Pennsylvania to fetch him and his family.



St. John's, Riverside. A brick church was built in 1863. Note cairn with cross erected in 1934.

When Pastor Meyer arrived, Weagant would not allow Meyer to use the church and he would not vacate the parsonage. Pastor Meyer would then preach in private homes and in classrooms at the local schools. Later, at some point, a meeting was held between Pastor Weagant and Pastor Meyer, and it was agreed that each congregation could use the church every second Sunday, the two congregations alternating.

At the same time, Pastor Weagant remained in the parsonage, and refused to vacate it. Meanwhile, Pastor Meyer was more or less living in poverty. He could not continue this way. So, in 1817, after three years with hardly any income, he too forsook the Lutheran Church, and joined the Church of England, going to Quebec to be re-ordained by the Anglican Bishop. The Lutheran congregation immediately fired Pastor Meyer, who then moved to the neighbouring township of Matilda, serving Schwerdtfeger's old congregation at Iroquois, which now too had joined the Church of England.

The struggling Lutheran congregation in Williamsburg was then without a Pastor for nine years, from 1817 to 1826. Not only had they lost their pastor; they had lost their church, the church property and cemetery as well as their inventory, in addition to their church records. Everything relating to St. George's Lutheran Church had been taken over by the Church of England, once the Pastor had been ordained as an Anglican.

This was a disparaging nine-year interim for the Lutherans. At this point it appeared that none of the Lutheran congregations in Dundas County would survive. It is surprising that they did.

For a few years the Lutherans were visited by John Goertner, a theological student at Hartwick Seminary, who visited congregations in Canada as an itinerant missionary. In 1825, Pastor Jacob Senderling visited Williamsburg for a short period. He was issued a call, but declined as the congregation was unable to raise enough money to provide a steady and suitable salary.

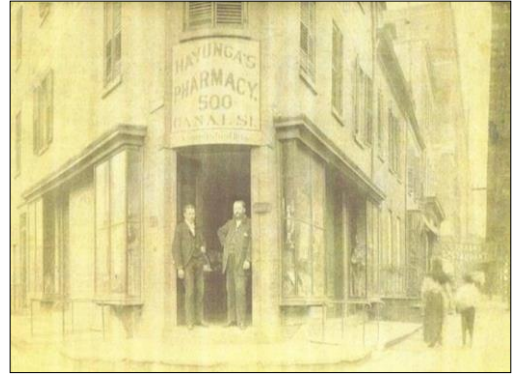
For the Lutherans in Dundas Country the future truly looked bleak; without much hope. Lacking a church or pastor, many of the members were drifting from their faith. Making matters worse,

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they were distrusting of any Lutheran clergyman, who might accept their call, and then turn out to forsake them like Weagant or Meyer.

It was then that the Macedonian call came to Herman Hayunga, who was an assistant professor at Hartwick College. The college encouraged him to accept the call and he willingly resigned his position at Hartwick to take up the challenges in Dundas County. His decision meant leaving a comfortable position and stepping into an unknown future.

Herman Hayunga had been born on September 30, 1799, in Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies, which consisted of a group of three islands in the Caribbean. He was brought up as a Lutheran and attended a Danish school. His parents owned and operated a coffee plantation in the hills on St. Thomas.



Hayunga Pharmacy at 500 Canal Street, New York started by Dr. G. Hayunga, Pastor Hayunga's son.

Herman Hayunga's father, Bernhard Hayunga, had been born on a farm near Emden, Germany, close to the Dutch border. Bernhard Hayunga was of Dutch background, like many others in Emden. He was also a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. At a certain point in time, Bernhard Hayunga immigrated to the Dutch island of Curacao, off the coast of Venezuela, to join his brother, Theofel, who had settled on the island some years before. Theofel had been very successful and had become a member of the Governor's Council. On Curacao Theofel introduced Bernhard to a wealthy lady by the name of Mary Reuvenhagen. In due time, they married and purchased a coffee plantation on St. Thomas, where they went to live.

On her maternal side, Herman Hayunga's mother descended from the prominent French DeMey family, which had successfully fled from France just before the massacre of French Protestants on St. Bartholomew's Day in 1572. While the Hayunga family was Dutch Reformed in faith, both the DeMeys and Reuvenhagens were Lutherans. Bernhard and Mary decided to bring Herman up in the Lutheran faith. They also agreed to send him to a Danish school in Charlotte Amalie, the capital of St. Thomas, whereby Herman became proficient in Danish. As well, his mother taught him French. When the time came for Herman to attend university, he was sent to Europe to study at the University of Halle in Germany, one of the foremost Protestant universities for studying theology. This was followed by studies at Oxford in England. In 1820 Herman headed for the United States, where he accepted a position as instructor at Hartwick College in New York. At the same time, he began to study theology at the Hartwick Seminary.

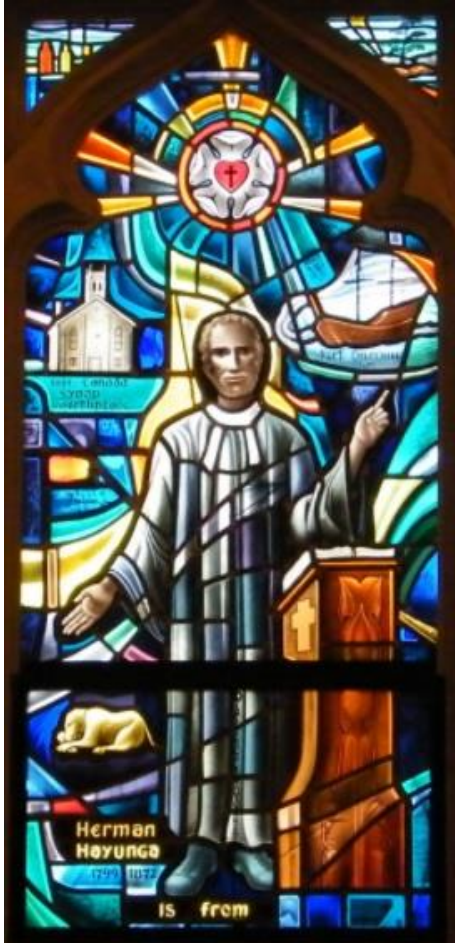
Hartwick Seminary was founded in 1797 through the will of John Hartwick (Johannes Hartwig), a Lutheran Minister from Germany, who had led several mission congregations of early settlers along the Hudson River as well as the Mohawk River in upstate New York. Hartwick was the first Lutheran Seminary to be established in America.

In 1825 Herman Hayunga was ordained as a Lutheran minister. There was a shortage of Lutheran ministers, and already in 1826, he received a call from the congregation in Williamsburg. In fact, Peter Witteker, one of the church wardens, had written to Hartwick Seminary about a pastor, and the Seminary recommended that a call be sent to Herman Hayunga.

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In his call, which laid out the conditions of employment, Peter Witteker specified that Hayunga must preach according to the Augsburg Confession.

On his arrival in Williamsburg, Herman Hayunga found the congregation apprehensive and distrusting. But with energy and perpetual love for the Lutheran church he courageously faced the task at hand. To gain their trust, he personally went around to every house and spoke to each member of the congregation. He had the gift of the gab and was convincing. His unwavering faith and zeal were contagious. Surprisingly quickly he earned their confidence. It is due to the efforts of this man that any of the Lutheran congregations in Dundas County survived.



Stained glass window of Pastor Hayunga, at St. Peter's, Ottawa

Pastor Hayunga had the satisfaction of quickly seeing the fruit of his labour. Within a year, he had formed two congregations, St. John's Lutheran Church at Riverside in Williamsburg, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Village of Williamsburg. The church in the Village of Williamsburg was built jointly by Lutherans and Presbyterians, and was dedicated solely by Pastor Hayunga on June 24, 1827, as there was no Presbyterian minister at the time. Then in 1833, the Lutherans at Riverside consecrated St. John's Lutheran Church, not far from their old St. George's Church. The new wooden frame church was built on a three-acre lot generously donated by church member and warden, Conrad Frymire (Freimeyer).

Hayunga contributed generously toward the building of both of these churches. The church records indicate that he assisted with his private funds to the extent of \$250. When it is recalled that his salary seldom exceeded \$200 per annum, the sacrifice which his gift entailed can readily be understood. To be accurate, his salary was actually paid in pounds sterling as well as in bushels of wheat and bushels of oats.

Early on Hayunga recognized the need for Church Services in English. At first, he preached in German and English alternately, but towards the end of his pastorate he restricted himself entirely to English. Hayunga was able to facilitate this change from German to English without any major controversy.

On his arrival, one of Pastor Hayunga's priorities was to get his congregation's St. George's Church and parsonage back from the Anglicans. However, Pastor Weagant was not willing to vacate the parsonage, and he would not allow Pastor Hayunga to use St. George's Church. For several years Pastor Hayunga petitioned the government, and he started a court case against Pastor Weagant, who all along was supported by the government.

Pastor Hayunga could be quite authoritarian, and the congregation went along with this, as they needed a leader, and they readily gave him a mandate to negotiate on their behalf with the authorities. There are examples of Pastor Hayunga calling a meeting of the church council,

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where he would chair the meeting and write the minutes, and then take the action decided upon. There are minutes signed, "Pastor Herman Hayunga, Chairman and Secretary." He was a force to be reckoned with; but he didn't always get his way.

It was a major setback for Pastor Hayunga and the Lutheran congregation when in 1832 the colonial government decreed that St. George's belonged to the Church of England. Moreover, in 1833 the Church of England obtained a deed from the government for the land they had taken over, whereby the Lutherans were officially excluded from their church and surrounding property. In response Pastor Hayunga demanded that the congregation receive financial compensation for the loss of property.

In short, Pastor Hayunga and the congregation refused to give up and continued to lobby the Upper Canada authorities. Finally, after many years the authorities admitted that a mistake had been made. In 1846 the government atoned, and the Lutherans at St. John's were awarded a sum of \$2,000 by the government together with 37½ acres of land. Moreover, in 1848 the silver chalice was finally returned to St. John's Lutheran Church.

On another happy note, on January 29, 1833, Pastor Hayunga had married Elizabeth Barkley, a member of the congregation, who had been born in Williamsburg on September 24, 1811. Elizabeth Barkley was the daughter of Henry Barkley and Elizabeth (née Becker), who were both from Albany, New York. Henry had been baptized Henrich and the surname had originally been Bürcklin.

Herman and Elizabeth Hayunga had a good and happy marriage, and eventually had seven children; but none of their descendants now live in Dundas County. One son, George Albert Hayunga, was sent to Hartwick Seminary, but became a doctor and later started the Hayunga Pharmacy at 500 Canal Street, in New York.

Pastor Hayunga served as a Lutheran minister in Dundas County for over eleven years, from 1826 to 1837. However, he was away for a long period in 1830-31, where he among other places, visited New York, the Danish West Indies and Germany. In a letter to his friend, Martinus Schaeffer, a farmer and the deacon of the Lutheran congregation in Osnabruck, dated December 13, 1830, Hayunga indicates that he was on the island of St. Thomas to settle his father's estate. In the letter he also mentions that, "Here they have no winter, no snow, no ice, and no hail." In addition, he writes about the status of the various religious denominations on St. Thomas, there being a certain pecking order, with the Lutherans on top. Moreover, Hayunga confesses to Tunis, (he was on a first name basis with Martinus Schaeffer), that, "I live here as a private gentleman and neither preach nor perform any ministerial acts." Martinus Schaeffer, known to family and friends as Tunis, later changed his surname to Shaver.

Despite a keen mind and a strong will, Hayunga had to deal with several health issues all his life. Consequently, due to ill health, Pastor Hayunga was obliged to step down as pastor in 1837. At the time he was only 38 years old. He stayed in the area, living on a farm. He would take a Service whenever there was a need for a substitute, or other intervals, and despite his health, he served as pastor from 1858 to 1861 and again from 1867 to 1868.

In 1837, Hayunga was succeeded by Pastor Simeon Dederick, who too was a graduate of Hartwick Seminary in upstate New York. Pastor Dederick resigned after only two years, due to poor health, but it was also a difficult time due to the Rebellion in Upper Canada. Pastor

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Dederick was in turn followed by Pastor William Sharts, whom like his predecessor, was from New York, and had attended Hartwick Seminary. Pastor Sharts served three congregations in Dundas County for eighteen years, where after he returned to New York State. In 1852, Pastor Sharts had married Hayunga's eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

The Rev. Carl Raymond Cronmiller writes in *A History of the Lutheran Church in Canada*, that "Like the Apostle Paul," Hayunga "had a thorn in the flesh" (afflicted with a hernia, and blindness in one eye), but with energy and zeal and undying love for the Lutheran Church he courageously met the conditions. He labored unceasingly, visited from house to house, overcame the distrust of the people, withstood appeals and bribes from without and brought order and growth out of chaos."



Grave marker for Pastor Hayunga and wife Elizabeth, St. John's Church, Riverside Heights

Loved and honored to the end by the Lutherans in Dundas County, Herman Hayunga died on February 24, 1872. In total he spent forty-six years in the midst of the St. Lawrence Lutherans. He is buried at St. John's Lutheran Church's Cemetery behind the church. His wife, Elizabeth, who died on May 4, 1904, is buried by his side.

Herman Hayunga stands out as a man who never wavered in his faith. He was a Lutheran, and never considered leaving the Lutheran Church. Indeed, it was a church and faith worth fighting for, which he did. Similarly, he never considered changing or anglicizing his surname, like most of his parishioners readily did, despite his name being rather conspicuous in a British community. It is also interesting to note that he referred to himself as a Dane, which his parents were not. But he was born on the Danish island of St. Thomas, and in his mind, that qualified him to be a Dane.

In Dundas County Pastor Hayunga is remembered as the pastor who saved the Lutheran congregations. In his old Church there is a leaded window in his memory. Outside the church his name is mentioned on a cenotaph, as well as on a plaque. There is also a large stained-glass window dedicated to Herman Hayunga in St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ottawa. In books about the Lutheran Church in Canada Pastor Hayunga is highlighted in laudatory terms.

It is now impossible to see Riverside where the first Lutheran Churches were built in Williamsburg or the place where the Loyalists walked ashore. Riverside doesn't exist any more. Riverside was located between the town of Morrisburg and Upper Canada Village. When the St. Lawrence Seaway was built in the 1950s, Riverside was inundated and now lies in the river. The old church was demolished, and Ontario Hydro built a new church in Riverside Heights, above the new highway. The cemetery was also relocated, and is now situated behind the new church. However, the parsonage was saved, and moved to Upper Canada Village, an outdoor museum with buildings saved before the Seaway was flooded and opened. The former parsonage can now be seen by visitors to Upper Canada Village, which is located adjacent to Chrysler's Farm.

The church archives contain Hayunga's many letters, notes and reports. It is interesting to note that Hayunga wrote about himself in the third person. In one place he writes about his own personal life, and he begins by stating, "He was a Dane."

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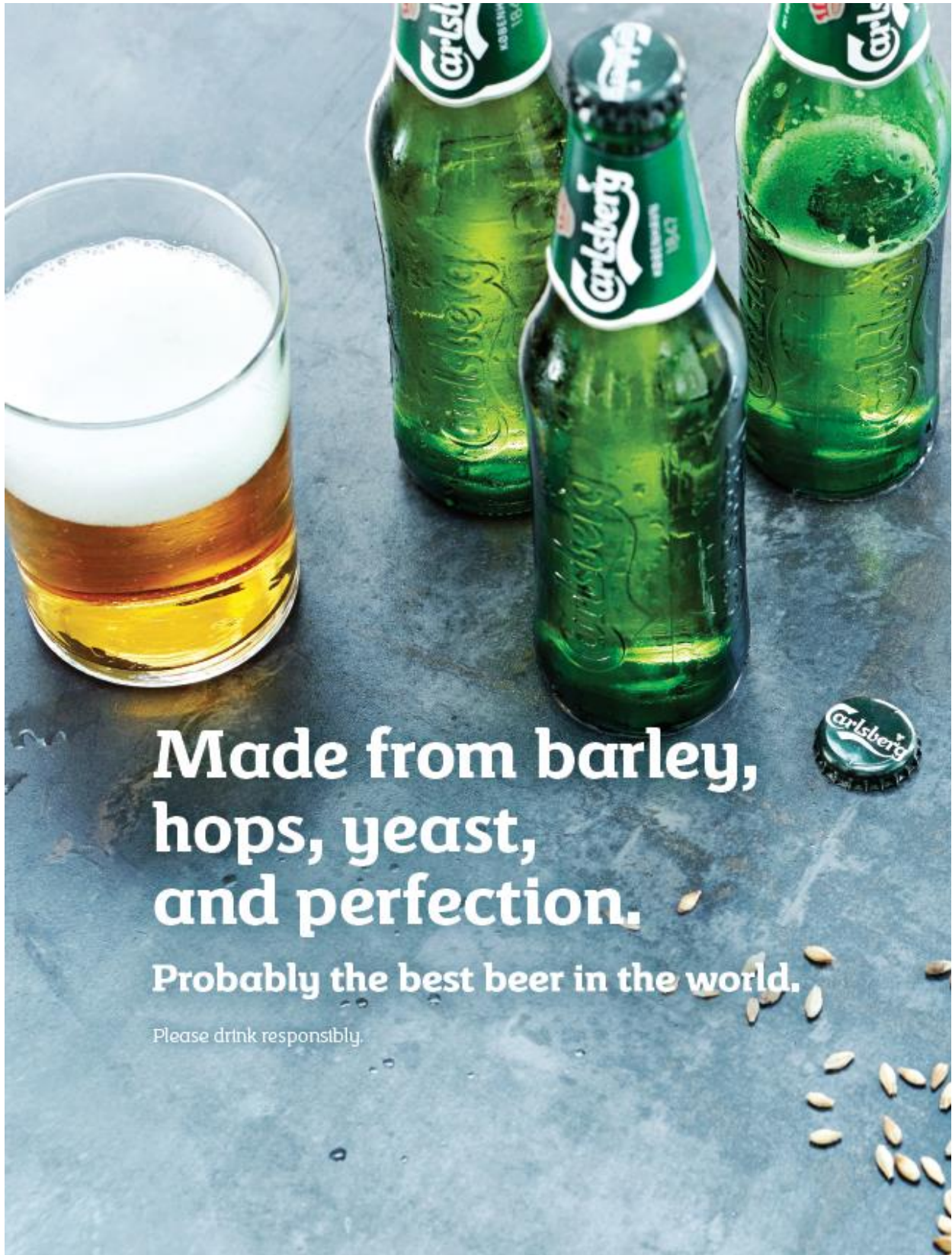
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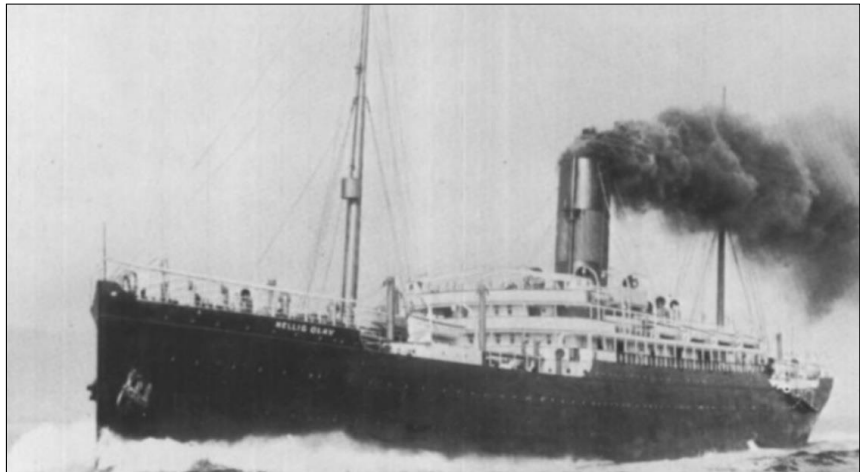
Please drink responsibly.

Jørgen Bruun, Horslunde, became John Brown, Ottawa

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

John Brown turned 80 on Saturday, November 12, 1983, the same day The Danish Club of Ottawa held its big annual Bazaar. He celebrated his birthday by going for lunch at the Club's Bazaar since they were serving traditional Danish open face sandwiches, which for him was a real treat, and a suitable way to celebrate his "round" birthday. Going to the Bazaar was also a way to support the Club, which both he and his wife did. His wife had knitted beautiful sweaters for the Bazaar.

When a young John Brown immigrated to Canada in 1924 his name was Jørgen Bruun. But Canadians had difficulty pronouncing or spelling his name, so he changed it to John Brown, or should we say, he translated it. In the 1920s and 30s it was a matter of fitting in. At that time Canada was an English-speaking country, and a part of the British Empire. In those days, there was no talk of multiculturalism or



*John Brown sailed from Copenhagen to New York
On the **SS Hellig Olav***

diversity, or of ethnic groups maintaining and promoting their own identity and heritage. On the contrary, even Francophones had to continuously fight for their rights.

You can change your name and assimilate, and yet it could be difficult to fit in if you weren't born here. Generally, that was the way it was back then. Moreover, if you immigrate as an adult, there will always be something that strikes you as being different or even strange and what struck John Brown were the liquor laws. When he arrived in Ontario the province was dry, that is to say, the sale and consumption of beer, wine and liquor was banned. This had been the case in Ontario since 1916, when Queen's Park in Toronto passed The Ontario Temperance Act. But living in Ottawa it was easy to cross one of the bridges across the Ottawa River and buy something to drink in Hull, Quebec. But you had to be careful, as when coming back across one of the bridges you could easily run into the police, which had established Special Liquor Squads.

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John Brown could tell many stories about Danish immigrants who landed in jail because they were intoxicated, or because they tried to smuggle a bottle of beer across the border between Quebec and Ontario. Over fifty years later he still remembered how in 1927 it became legal to buy and drink alcohol in Ontario, even if alcohol beverages could only be bought in government liquor stores, which of course had tinted glass or frosted windows, so it was impossible to look into the stores from the street.

John Brown had been born Jørgen Christiansen Bruun on the farm Søndertofte in Horslunde, on the most northerly part of the island of Lolland, on November 12, 1903. Shortly after his birth his parents were divorced, and he grew up on his grandparents' farm. Despite this, he had a loving home on the farm and received a good education. When he finished school, he was therefore able to obtain an apprenticeship as an electrician in the town of Nakskov, which had both a sizeable shipyard and a sugar refinery.



*Beach Foundry Ltd. in Hintonburg, July 1954.
John Brown worked here for over 50 years.
Ottawa Archives CA-4788*

His mother died before he started his apprenticeship. John Brown could still remember her, but he was not able to remember his father, with whom he lost contact. He was later told that his father, Rasmus Bruun, left Denmark, immigrating to the United States, first to California, and later to Fairbanks and Nome in Alaska, to pan for gold.

John Brown's older brother, Morten Bruun, immigrated to Michigan in around 1922. The family lost contact with him, and it was only after the Second World War that the family found him in California.

When John Brown completed his apprenticeship, he was not able to find work as an electrician in Nakskov. He therefore decided to immigrate to the United States. But he had to wait a long time to get a visa. The United States had introduced a quota system, and as many Danes wanted to immigrate, the queue was long. John Brown therefore decided to apply to Canada, which pretty much welcomed all Danes at this time.

He booked passage on *SS Hellig Olav*, one of the steel-clad steamships operated by the Scandinavian America Line, and owned by DFDS of Copenhagen. The 10,085 gross tons *SS Hellig Olav* had been built by Alexander Stephen & Sons in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1902. She had one funnel and two masts, and was fitted with electric lights and refrigerating machinery. She had twin screws and a respectable service speed of 15 knots. In 1907, she had been fitted with radio telegraphy, by which messages, usually in Morse code, were transmitted by radio waves. She had a crew of 211, including the captain. Depending on how the cabins were

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configured she could carry 130 passengers in first class, 140 in second class and 1,400 in steerage.

John Brown sailed in steerage from Copenhagen to New York, landing at Ellis Island. He would always remember Ellis Island as a run-down and dirty place.

On board the ship John Brown met some other Danes who were heading for Canada. Together they took the train to Montreal. But John Brown was not able to find work in Montreal, so he wondered if he had made the right decision in immigrating to Canada. Then one day a Colonization Agent at the Bonaventure Railway Station found a job for him on a farm in Winchester, Ontario. He worked on that farm for some months, mostly milking cows. On the farm he met one of the Beach brothers, who got him a job at the Beach Foundry in Ottawa.

The Beach Foundry had been founded by Benson Beach of Winchester in 1894, when he decided that he could design and manufacture a better stove than any being offered on the market. His stove was a success and in 1914 he relocated to Ottawa. Then in 1920 Beach purchased a sizable piece of property in Hintonburg, on which he built a large modern foundry, which started producing stoves by the fall of 1922. Already in 1923 Beach was producing a complete line of stoves, ranges, heaters and furnaces; and was turning out 150 stoves per day. The Beach Foundry kept growing rapidly over the following decades, so John Brown had landed on his feet.



*Party at the home of Carl and Violet Hein ca. 1945
John Brown bottom left. Photo by Hans Hansen.*

When he first arrived in Ottawa, John Brown lived with Martinus and Helga Larsen. They had a boarding house at 113 Nelson Street in Lower Town. Nearly all Danes who arrived in Ottawa first lived at the Larsen boarding house, until they found work and a place to live. The Larsens could accommodate about ten boarders in their three-storey house. Most Danes in Ottawa knew them, as Larsen was good at finding jobs for newcomers, above all on farms and in dairies.

Martinus Larsen made sausages, rullepølse and other Danish specialties in his basement. He was a butcher and worked for Leclair Butchers & Packers in the Byward Market. Before he had come to Ottawa, he had been the manager at the Canadian Packing Company in London, Ontario. About forty Danish butchers and sausage-makers had immigrated and settled in London, Ontario, in 1893. Martinus Larsen had been one of them.

At Larsen's boarding house, as well as at the Beach Foundry, John Brown met many other Danes. Carl Hein, Carl Andersen, Aage Charles Gustavsson, Charles Hansen and Robert Meyer all worked for Beach Foundry on Hinton Avenue in Hintonburg, west of downtown Ottawa. Beach Foundry first manufactured stoves and then later branched out to other appliances, including refrigerators. Later again, Beach Foundry manufactured appliances for Admiral, the large American appliance company.

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His colleague, Robert Meyer, was a grandson of Charles Conrad Meyer, who had come to Ottawa in the early 1880s. Charles Meyer had started the Danish language newspaper *Danebrog* (sic) in 1893. It was the first Danish language newspaper to be published in Canada. Later, Charles Meyer was appointed Danish Vice-Consul in Ottawa.

John Brown also knew Niels Poulsen, the manager of the Ice Cream Division at Ottawa Dairy; Frank Jensen, who had a shoe shop on Springfield Road close to Beechwood Avenue; instrument maker Hans Hansen, who was a photographer in his spare time; and master painter Gerhard Andersen, who had come to Ottawa in 1913. These Danes often got together to play bridge, to party, to go on a picnic, or to go up to Hans and Elise Hansen's cottage at Prud'homme Lake in Quebec. In the 1930s they established a Danish Club in Ottawa. John Brown was the Club's auditor.



Standing top left are John and Edra Brown; a Party at Hans & Elise Rosborg Hansen's cottage at Prud'homme Lake, Quebec, during WWII. Photo: by Hans Hansen, lathe operator and amateur photographer. Note the Dannebrog and Union Jack.



Club President Hugh Larsen, Karen Korsbæk & John Brown, Danish Bazaar, Nov. 1983.

In 1940, John Brown married Edra. Unfortunately, she died five years later. Then in 1947, John married Mary Alice Derry, an Ottawa girl, born in 1903. Throughout all the years, Mary Alice attended Danish parties and events in the Club, as well as making items for the Bazaar.

At Beach Foundry, John Brown, the electrician, was responsible for quality control. Then, as can be imagined, during the Second World War, Beach Foundry shifted its production from appliances to military equipment, in order to help the war effort. The plant produced steel tank tracks, shell plugs and other military gear. After the war, John Brown was involved in the development of new products. His last connection with Beach Foundry was as a consultant. When he finally retired in 1977, he had been associated with Beach Foundry for 52 years.

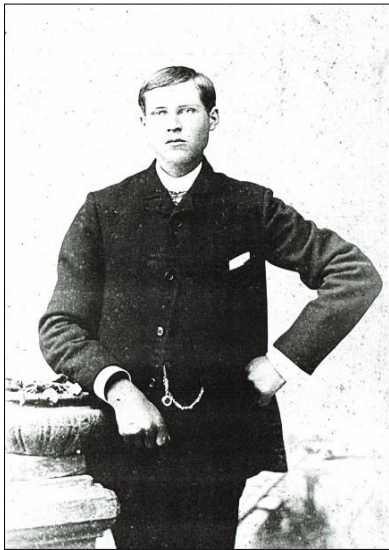
During his lifetime John Brown travelled extensively throughout Canada as well as the United States. He and Mary Alice also visited Denmark a couple of times. John Brown liked to play bridge, it kept his mind alert; and he liked gardening and being outside. Moreover, he enjoyed reminiscing about the Danes in Ottawa in the old days. Many of them had been his friends.

John Brown passed away in the hospital in Ottawa on March 17, 1992. A memorial service was held for him at All Saints Anglican Church in Westboro, Ottawa, on March 29, 1992.

Lars Petersen

Neal K. Petersen and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

This is an account of Lars Petersen and some of his descendants. Lars Petersen left Denmark and immigrated to the United States in 1886. Thirty years later, during the First World War, he moved north to Canada, settling in Popkum, British Columbia.



Lars Petersen 1868-1953

Lars Petersen had been born Lars Pedersen, a common variation in Denmark. In the United States, he obviously found it easier and more convenient to spell his last name with a T. While he always used Petersen, it is likely that he never did legally change his surname. Yet, the change of surname did indeed become a problem on one occasion, when Lars' son attempted to obtain a Birth Certificate from the United States Government, as it insisted his last name was Pedersen.

Lars Petersen was of course baptized Lars Pedersen. He was born to Jørgen and Inger Pedersen on July 26, 1868, in the village of Varpelev, situated in the Præstø District, on the Danish island of Zealand. Both of Lars' parents had deep roots in the area. His father, Jørgen Pedersen, son of Peder Jørgensen, had been born in Hellested on October 25, 1839. Jørgen worked in Varpelev as a wheelwright. Lars' mother, Inger Marie Pedersen (née Hansen) had been born in Varpelev on March 25, 1848.

Jørgen Pedersen and Inger Hansen had been married in Hellested on May 9, 1868. When Lars was about one year old his parents moved from Varpelev to Hellested, a distance of about five kilometres. In this way Lars grew up in Hellested. While Varpelev and Hellested were, and remain, small villages, they are both considerably old; and both can boast having a typical Danish village church going back to before the year 1175. Despite their age, the churches are meticulously maintained, and look beautiful, particularly on a sunny day. The cemeteries surrounding each church enhance the beauty of the manicured property, with their narrow gravel paths, low hedges, discrete trees, lawns, flowers and small individual plots. Often the headstones will mention the person's occupation.

Jørgen and Inger Pedersen had two sons, Lars and Hans, the latter being born in Hellested on December 31, 1870. Unfortunately, Inger passed away in August 1874, leaving Jørgen with two small boys to take care of. Already on November 23, 1874, Jørgen married Karen Hansen, no relation to his first wife, despite the same maiden name. Karen, born in 1847, was from nearby Strøby. Jørgen and Karen would eventually have seven children. Their first child, a daughter, was named after Jørgen's first wife, Inger Marie.

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In about 1886 when Lars was seventeen years old, he immigrated to the United States, because at 18 he would have had to join the Danish army for two years. Lars headed for Nebraska, where he stayed with relatives on a farm. At one point, he lived in a boarding house in Nebraska where he met a school teacher, who helped him improve his English. When he first arrived in the United States, he generally worked on farms. When writing letters to relatives in Denmark he described the evening meal on the farms as being like Christmas Dinner in Denmark.



House (ca. 1940s) in Hellested where Lars Petersen grew up

In 1888, Lars was joined by his brother, Hans Pedersen, who also wanted to avoid conscription. The brothers subsequently travelled to the west coast and settled in the state of Washington. Lars settled in Fairhaven, a small port in Whatcom County, an area with other Danish settlers. Today, Fairhaven is a part of the city of Bellingham.

Lars also worked as a timber cruiser in Whatcom County. Timber cruising, involved walking or cruising a forest, in order to measure the trees and collect other information about the forest. It is usually done by a one- or two-person crew. The information collected is referred to as a forest inventory. Like others before him, Lars was impressed by the sheer size of the trees in the Pacific Northwest.

While Lars lived in the Fairhaven area he met Emilie Andersen (née Harder), a widow with two sons, Oscar Andersen and Arthur Andersen. Emilie Harder had been born of German parents in Kiel, Wisconsin, on August 15, 1869. In June 1888, when Emilie was still only 18 years old, she had married a Dane, Robert Andersen. Unfortunately, Robert died in 1895 from injuries incurred in a quarry accident.

Lars Petersen and Emilie Andersen were married in the United States on November 14, 1896. As well, Lars obtained a Land Grant, where it is presumed he farmed.

Lars' younger brother, Hans, settled in Sumas, Washington, near the Canadian border. Hans married Millie and they had two boys, Harold and Victor. Millie (née Margit Bjordalen) was born in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, in Sumas in 1913, Hans died of tuberculosis, at the time a common, contagious and deadly disease.

At some point during the First World War, Lars Petersen decided to move to Canada; and then finally in 1916, he moved to Canada with his step-son Oscar Andersen. The two decided to settle in Popkum, where they could farm. Lars would send for his family later. The records available at this time do not indicate why Lars wanted to leave the United States after thirty years, and settle in Canada, which at the time was at war.



Lars and Emilie Petersen

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The Popkum area is located adjacent to the Fraser River, in the fertile valley between the Cascade and Coast Mountains, not far from Hope, British Columbia. Popkum is also known as the Popkum-Bridal Veil Falls Area, which is now a popular tourist destination, due to its striking natural beauty. The predominant physical feature of the area is Mount Cheam, which rises 2,104 metres above the Fraser River. The steep-faced Cheam Ridge contains numerous waterfalls, including the impressive Bridal Veil Falls, which tumbles 60 metres over a smooth rock face, creating a veil-like effect.



Lars with his cows and his Fedora

The Yale Road, a wagon trail, was built through Popkum in 1874. But the main access to Popkum was generally by riverboat from New Westminster. It was not until the Yale Road was upgraded in 1913, to service the new railway construction that proper road access was developed. The Canadian Northern Pacific Railway was completed through Popkum in 1915. Popkum became a flag station on the new line and this stimulated the development of the area. Farms were established and the railway station became a pick-up point for milk and cream produced by the local dairymen.

After his arrival in Canada Lars Petersen rented an old William Knight property in Popkum, which had been bought by Hall and Damask. William Knight had settled in Popkum in 1878 and established the Knight Brothers Sawmill, which produced lumber and shingles as well as railway ties. Shortly after 1900, the Knights sold the saw mill and other properties. The house Lars Petersen rented on the old Knights property had been unoccupied for some time and was overrun by pigs, outside as well as inside. There was a barn and a large orchard on the property. The pigs rooted the ground all over the orchard and thrived on the fruit that fell from the trees, as did the wild bears which roamed in the vicinity. The pigs actually belonged to a Mr. Billy Ennis. The first task was to get rid of the pigs, and clean up the place. Lars then contracted to cut shingle bolts. The shingles were split from straight grained, knot free bolts of cedar wood.

Then in May 1917, the rest of Lars Petersen's immediate family arrived in Canada, travelling via the Great Northern Railway from Sumas, Washington, entering Canada at Huntingdon, British Columbia. Lars' family consisted of his wife, Emilie, and their four children: Flora (19 years), Adolph (17 years) (my Father), Clara (15 years) and Melvin (10 years).

Lars Petersen raised cattle, and sold milk as well as plums and apples, which he grew on the farm. He was very proud of his cows, which he raised and sold, obtaining top prices. The milk was sold to the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association, a cooperative started by dairymen in 1913. Lars Petersen farmed at Popkum until 1939, when he retired and moved to Rosedale, near Popkum. The farm was then sold to a Mr. R.A. Brossard. On November 14, 1946, Lars and Emilie Petersen celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which was duly noted in the local newspaper.

In the Petersen family, it is said that no one ever heard Lars raise his voice. Lars was modest, tending to the quiet side, and always even-tempered. But everyone knew how he enjoyed smoking his pipe, or pipes, as he had a nice collection of pipes. As well, in his day, everyone

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wore a hat. Lars' favourite hat was the Fedora, which was a men's soft felt hat, with a soft brim, a wide band at the base of the crown, and the top of the crown creased lengthwise. He would wear a Fedora when wearing a tie and having his photograph taken with his wife, or when tending to his cows in the field.



Jack Petersen 1900-1948

Lars Petersen had a good long life. He died on March 16, 1953. He died a British Subject, as he had become a Naturalized British Subject on October 1, 1925. His wife, Emilie, who in Canada always called herself Amelia, died on June 22, 1957. They are both buried in the IOOF Cemetery Little Mountain, at Chilliwack, British Columbia.

Lars and Emilie Petersen had four children, who were born in Fairhaven or Sumas in the State of Washington. The oldest, Flora, married Walter Broocke in British Columbia in 1918. They settled at Shawinigan Lake on Vancouver Island. They had two children, William and Loraine. Walter worked as a land surveyor, a municipal engineer, and a road foreman at various locations in British Columbia.

He ended as Post Master, a position he held for nineteen years.

The other daughter, Clara, married Earle Archibald, who with his brother, Donald, operated a Red and White Grocery Store in Rosedale for many years. As well, Earle became a Post Master, just as his father had been. Earle and Clara's son, Ronald, was born in September 1920. In 1939, shortly after he turned 19, Ronald joined the Royal Air Force and was trained as a pilot. He served as an instructor, but applied for a transfer to Bomber Command. He then flew on raids in the Atlantic against Germany's largest battleships and he participated in the May 1942 1,000 Bomber Raid on Cologne. On June 4, 1942, the Lancaster bomber Ronald was piloting was shot down by a German night fighter, and he and his crew perished, except for one who survived and was taken prisoner. Flying Officer Ronald Archibald is buried in the Sage Commonwealth War Cemetery near Oldenburg, Germany. A mountain in British Columbia, Mount Archibald, is named for him.

The fourth child, Melvin, called himself Melvin Peterson, but never changed his last name legally. Melvin Peterson married Margaret Dodge in Vancouver in 1928. They had a son, Thomas, but Margaret died shortly after Thomas was born, possibly as a result of previous injuries received in a car accident. In 1935 Melvin married Constance Barton of Cheam. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Mary. They lived in Popkum for a few years, and then moved to Jasper, Alberta, which was more convenient as Melvin was a locomotive engineer for the Canadian National Railway. The CNR had been created in 1918 when the Dominion government assumed ownership of several Canadian railways and amalgamated them into the Canadian National Railway.



Jack Petersen with his steam locomotive

Lars and Emilie's second child was Adolph John Petersen, who went by the name Jack. For a period

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during the Second World War he called himself Jack Peterson, further changing his last name. Jack had been born in Fairhaven on April 6, 1900. He came to Canada with his parents when he was 17 years old. He finished grade 10, and in this way received more schooling than his father had received back in Hellested.



Jack Petersen in the cab of a new diesel locomotive

Jack Petersen worked, on and off, for the CNR from about 1920 to 1948. He was a fireman, working the coal powered steam engines, and later diesel locomotives, when they were introduced. He also worked in steam plants in various locations, including saw mills on False Creek in Vancouver. On September 13, 1933, Adolph John Petersen became a Naturalized British Subject. This was before the Canadian Citizenship Act came into existence.

In Vancouver, Jack would stay at the Ivanhoe Hotel on Main Street, just one block from the CNR Station, as would many of his colleagues. Eventually he settled in Vancouver, as that was more convenient. This was also where he met Bertha Frances Wallace in the early 1930s. She was just three years younger than him. She had been born on a farm near Newdale, Manitoba, on June 25, 1903. Jack Petersen and Bertha Wallace were married in New Westminster in 1934. At first, they lived at 24 East Broadway, but soon moved to 375 East Woodstock Avenue, between Main and Fraser Streets.

Unfortunately, Jack had to cope with various health issues and for short periods of time he had to change jobs in order to recover his health. This also impacted his life span. Already at the age of 48, he passed away. He died on May 3, 1948, and was interned at Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver, just down the street from where he lived.

Bertha Petersen was a seamstress, and in the beginning, she made wedding dresses. But in order to continue to live in the house on Woodstock after Jack died, she specialized in alterations. Bertha also sold magazine subscriptions over the phone for Maclean Hunter Publishing. At the time Maclean Hunter published over 130 special interest magazines.

Jack and Bertha Petersen had two sons, Neal and Raymond, who were respectively 14 and 11 when they lost their father. Neal was born in Vancouver on November 29, 1934. Neal and Raymond grew up on East Woodstock Avenue, and both attended nearby John Oliver High School on East 41st Avenue.

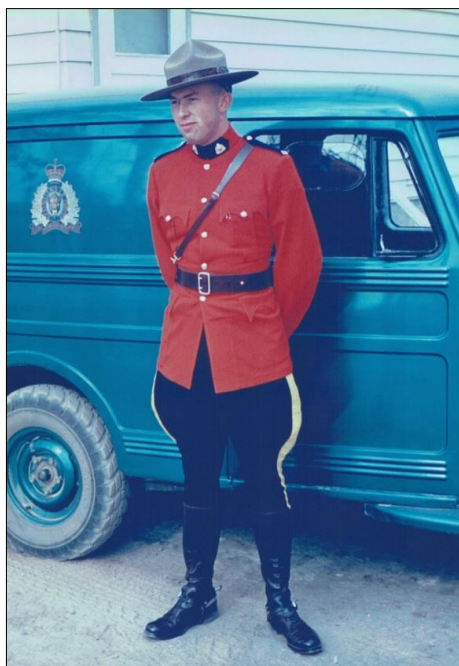


Jack and Bertha with Neal

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Raymond, born in Vancouver on April 18, 1938, loved driving, and drove large logging trucks. He also worked as a taxi dispatcher and knew every street in Vancouver, in many cases individual buildings, hotels, offices and houses.

In the early 1960s, Raymond married Anita (née Campbell). They had two daughters Diedrah, born in 1963, and Irene, born a couple of years later. They divorced, and in Vancouver in 1972, Raymond married Juanita (née Barham). In 1974 they had a daughter, Michelle. In 2005 Michelle married Jason Doucette, and they have a daughter, Amelia Doucette.



Neal Kenneth Petersen, RCMP, 1957

Later in life Raymond helped the Vancouver Police find missing or run-away children, for which he had a real knack. Before he died in Vancouver in 2011, he was officially recognized for his work in finding missing children.

When Neal graduated from John Oliver High School, he had to choose a career. With a high school diploma, he had several options, and the choice finally fell on joining the RCMP. He started his training in Vancouver, and then finished it in Regina. His first posting was in rural Saskatchewan. Later he served in the Yukon, Nova Scotia and Ottawa. For the first nine years he was a policeman. He then spent the rest of his career in telecommunications.

His posting to Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon Territory, in 1960, changed his life in two ways. For one, he became a ham radio operator. Whitehorse was an isolated community, and communication by telephone was expensive, and by letter it took days, or even weeks. Becoming an amateur radio operator meant he could

communicate with the rest of the world, and relatively fast. All he needed was a transmitter, a receiver, an antenna and, of course, a licence from the Department of Transport. This hobby, supplemented with numerous courses, eventually led to Neal working for the RCMP in telecommunications, a field which was exciting and developing very quickly.

Moreover, in Whitehorse in 1960, Neal met Katharine Gottselig, who had just arrived there as well. They married on June 3, 1961. Kathie was from a very large family, and had many siblings. She was the daughter of Gabriel and Elizabeth Gottselig (née Koch). Gabriel's family originated from the Odessa Germans in Ukraine, or more specifically, from Klosterdorf. Elizabeth was born at La Jord, Saskatchewan. Kathie was a registered nurse, and during her career she worked mostly in operating rooms.



Neal and Kathie with sons Kenneth and Brent, 2011

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After retiring from the RCMP, Neal worked as a civilian employee for the Department of National Defence for eighteen years. Then in retirement Neal worked part time for Highpoint Security Technologies Inc., which provides support to clients in countering electronic eavesdropping and industrial espionage.

Neal and Kathie have two sons, Brent and Kenneth, who are both married. Brent is an Electrical Engineering Professor at the University of New Brunswick. Brent is married to Monique (née Taillon), who is a medical doctor. They live in Fredericton and have four children: William Thomas Taillon Petersen; Kimberly Elizabeth Taillon Petersen; Eleanor Marie Taillon Petersen; and Lars James Taillon Petersen.

Kenneth and his wife Cauline (née Clarke) live in Timmins, Ontario. Presently, Kenneth is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) in Timmins. From May 1990 to March 1991, Kenneth worked for the pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk in Denmark, as an International Personnel Consultant. His wife, Cauline, is the general manager of a hardware store.

Neal and Kathie live in Beacon Hill North in Ottawa. They enjoy retirement. Kathie has for many years been doing petit point. Some of her work is framed and displayed in their home, while other pieces have been given away as presents. Kathie has also been an avid curler.

Neal, of course, continues to be an active amateur radio operator, and is a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. His call sign is VE3DHE. He is also a member of the Ottawa Fountain Pen Society, a gathering point for fountain pen enthusiasts, with 35 members. Neal collects and repairs fountain pens, and has about one-hundred pens in his collection. His favourite pens are Esterbrook and Parker, above all the Parker 61 Fountain Pen.

For years Neal has collected information about his ancestors, spurred by relatives who are interested in genealogy. Neal has binders, photographs, maps, charts and documents relating to his family. He is intrigued by the discrepancies he has found, but enjoys setting the record straight.

Lastly, it must be noted that Neal served on the board of directors of The Danish Club of Ottawa for three years, from 2013 to 2016, which was a way of exploring his roots, which go back to his Danish grandfather Lars Pedersen – make that Petersen.

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Louie and Esther Sundgaard

Standard, Alberta

Don Sundgaard

My father, Louie Pedersen Sundgaard, immigrated to Canada on July 19, 1929, at the age of 19. He was born on November 17, 1909, in Tvis, Denmark. We believe his brother-in-law, Mark Christensen, husband of Louie's sister Anna, encouraged him to emigrate. Mark had come to Canada a few months earlier.



*Louie and Esther Sundgaard's
wedding, February 28, 1943*

Louie was easily convinced that his future lay in Canada, and in July 1929 he sailed to Southampton, England, where upon landing his passport was stamped "Transmigrant under Bond". This phrase was stamped by British immigration officials on passports of passengers who disembarked from European vessels in order to board transatlantic ships in British ports. The bond refers to the shipping companies guaranteeing that transmigrants would not remain in Britain.

On July 11, 1929, Louie boarded the Canadian Pacific's *SS Montcalm*, destined for Quebec. Having very little money and not speaking English, life in Canada was very difficult at first. However, Louie was a quick learner as well as a hard worker.

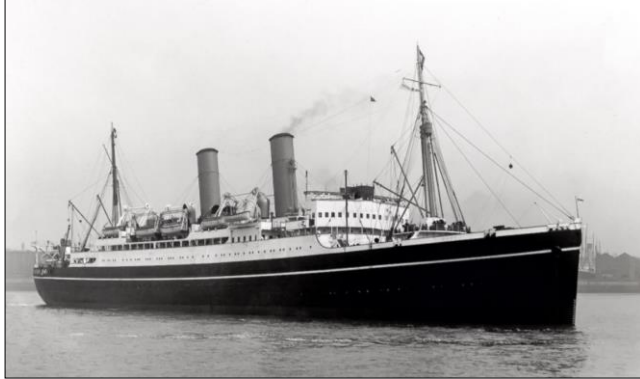
At first Louie landed a job on a tobacco farm in Alliston, Ontario. After a year and a half, he had saved enough money to take the long train ride to Western Canada, where he subsequently got a job on a farm owned by Olaf and Marie Jensen.

My brother, Dennis, recounts one of Dad's stories. Jensen's farm was located in the Wintering Hills, east of Rosebud, Alberta, next to the Dick Cosgrave Ranch. The farm was still native "prairie wool". Dad broke the soil using a horse drawn plow. The team consisted of sixteen horses, many of them borrowed from the Cosgrave Ranch. Dad harnessed them up each morning, worked them all day and unharnessed, fed and watered them in the evening. The work was grueling and so was the pay of \$25.00 per month, but room and board were probably included.

In 1935 Louie started to work in a coal mine near Rosebud, Alberta. Later, in 1937, he worked in the Standard Coal Mine owned by Hans Castella. He continued to work there until 1942. However, there was about to be a major turning point in Louie's life, due to his choice of work at this coal mine in Standard, a Danish settlement founded in 1910.

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My mother, Esther Valborg Castella, was born on November 3, 1915, in Kevisville, near Innisfail, Alberta. Her parents Hans and Bertha Castella emigrated from Copenhagen, Denmark, in the fall of 1912, together with their children Carla, Jens and Ejler. Later Esther, Edith, Melvin and Stanley were born in Canada.



The Canadian Pacific Steamships' SS Montcalm was built in 1920 and could carry 1,810 passengers

Esther was employed as a switchboard operator at the local telephone office. She was very active in sports, especially tennis and speed skating, and we often heard tales about her being on the local ball team as well. In addition to sports, Esther also played the piano. When she was about ten years old her parents purchased from a Toronto company a new Canadian-made Heintzman piano for her. It was delivered by train. That same piano is now owned by our youngest daughter, Wendy, who too is an accomplished pianist.

Despite being city-people from Copenhagen, the Hans Castella family was attracted to Canada by the fact that here they could obtain a 160-acre homestead for ten dollars. They came to the Kevisville district, about 50 km west of Innisfail, near Dickson, where the Danish Canadian National Museum is located. During their first winter Hans, and his brother Verner, built a log building, which was to serve as both a house and a barn. That is where Esther was born in 1915. However, after about a year they gave up the homestead. They then worked for a time in Montana before settling in Standard, Alberta, about 85 km east of Calgary. Hans worked on farms in the summer and in the Standard Coal Mine during the winter. In 1921, Hans was able to buy the mine. The Standard Coal Mine remained in the Castella family until 1952, when it ceased operations because of rapidly declining demand for coal, due to the switch to heating oil from the Leduc oil discovery in 1947.

While working for the Standard Coal Mine, Louie Sundgaard met Esther Castella. One thing led to another and on February 28, 1943, Louie and Esther were married. For the first three years of their marriage they lived and worked on a farm for Esther's brothers, Jens and Melvin. In addition, Louie worked in the mine.



The original Castella home, with horses and wagons waiting for coal, which later became the Sundgaard home

In March 1944, Don was born, and Dennis followed in 1945, Louise in 1948 and Eric in 1951. The farm had no modern conveniences, no electric power, no telephone, no natural gas, and no running water, except for the well up the hill. Moreover, the roads were very poor, either gravel or mud, or just a trail over the Prairie. At the time this was the situation on most farms. Then in 1946 the family moved to town; that is Standard, where there was electric power and telephone service, but still no sewers, water or natural gas.

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They moved into the house located on "The Mine" property on the east side of town, the same house Esther had lived in for twenty-two years. "The Mine" at this location had been closed in the 1920s, and had been relocated to the north boundary of Standard.

Between 1948 and 1955 Louie worked in a local store while Esther was busy caring for their four children. About 1955 or 1956 Louie and Esther decided to enter the chicken farming business. In 1940 Hans Castella, Esther's father, had built a chicken house after turning the coal mine over to his two sons Jens and Melvin. The "hen house" was on the original mine property. Louie converted this to a broiler chicken house. However, profits were small so, to supplement the family income, Louie did part time work as a caretaker at the local outdoor skating rink, spent time working for a construction company and various other part time jobs all the while caring for the chickens. Eventually Louie and Esther built two more chicken houses. These were heated with coal and kerosene. Ironically the coal was hauled from a Drumheller mine, where the original Standard Coal Mine was located.



Standard Coal Mine with tipples, where the coal was loaded for transport

Louie was also a school bus driver from 1959 to 1967. Esther also helped to provide for the family during this time, taking in boarders from the busy oil fields as well as other people looking for excellent meals. They continued in the broiler business until the farm was eventually taken over by their eldest son Don and his wife Valerie.

Louie was active in the Knights of Pythias, the Lions Club and served on the Standard Village Council, including a time as mayor. When time allowed he was always more than willing to play a game of crib and was proud

of the fact that he had two perfect 29 hands in cribbage over the years. Louie, like his wife Esther, was also musical, and could play the accordion and mouth organ by ear; but we never heard him sing!

Energy and agriculture have been in the family for over 100 years now. Initially, coal and farming were the primary industries providing a living for Louie and Esther. Then it was their children's turn, with Donald eventually continuing the farming tradition, and Dennis and Eric joining the newly expanding oil and gas industry in Western Canada.

After completing high school Donald, Dennis, Louise and Eric went to either Calgary or Edmonton to further their education. Don became a Chartered Professional Accountant, Dennis a Mechanical Engineer, Louise a school teacher and Eric a Mechanical Engineer.

While in Calgary, Don met his future wife Valerie, and they were married in 1968. A year and a half later they moved to Banff where Don was an accountant for the Voyager Inn, and Valerie worked as a hairdresser. In February 1971 they moved to Standard to eventually take over his parents' broiler farm, and to establish a small accounting practice. They have three children, Kirstin born in 1972, Trent in 1973 and Wendy in 1977, as well as seven grandchildren.

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Dennis is a Professional Engineer and has been employed in the oil and gas industry since 1967. He met his wife Jennifer in 1972. They were married in 1975 and they have one daughter, Sandra, born in 1978. Dennis' career experience was in engineering, construction and operations for sour gas, conventional oil, offshore oil and gas (Scotian Shelf and North Sea) and oil sands mega-projects.

Louise is also an accomplished pianist and a school teacher. She taught school in Cluny, Standard and Strathmore, Alberta. She married Bob in 1969, and they have a daughter Larissa, born in 1976, and a son Daryl, born in 1978, in addition to three grandchildren. Towards Louise's retirement she also taught school in China for about three years, which was a wonderful experience for her.



*Don and Valerie Sundgaard at home,
2016*

Eric has worked as an engineer in the energy industry since 1973. The first three years in the geophysical logging business serving the coal industry, then another 31 years in the oil and gas industry, mostly in Alberta, but also in Libya. He met Linda in 1976 and they were married in 1979. They have a daughter, Candice, born in 1981, who is also an engineer working in the oil industry in Newfoundland and a son, Tyler, born in 1983, working in the plumbing business, as well as two grandchildren. Presently, Louie and Esther Sundgaard's descendants total eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Louie and Esther continued to live in the original house, while Don and Valerie located their new home adjacent to the poultry farm. Through the 1970s and early 1980s Louie and Esther continued to enjoy living in the "Danish Settlement" of Standard, watching their grandchildren grow. They had been married for over 41 years when Louie passed away. Esther continued to live in their home until her passing in 1995.

As of 2017, the poultry farm continues to grow broilers to help satisfy Canada's increasing demand for chicken. Don and Valerie continue to live next to the original mine and poultry property, and are active in its operation, incorporated as the Sundgaard Poultry Farm Ltd.

Louie and Esther and their families have been involved in the growth and development of two of Western Canada's greatest primary industries, providing food and energy to Canada and the world. From breaking the Alberta sod to the sophisticated mixed farming of today; and from mining coal producing the oil and gas that heats our homes, powers our vehicles and fuels our industries.



*The restored Nielsen CPR House at the Museum in
Dickson, 2017*

Trent returned to the farm in 2000 after obtaining his degree in Agriculture and working abroad for two years. He has

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become the fourth generation on the original farm. He married Sharon in 2002, and they live on our grain farm, which was purchased from Gerhardt Nielsen in 1990. This has become somewhat of a diversification, but an integral part of the poultry farm.

As a point of interest to readers of this article, the grain farm was an original CPR homestead farm. It was originally purchased from the CPR by Aksel H. Nielsen, who came from Iowa and settled in Standard in 1912. The CPR quarter section included a small house, a chicken house and a horse barn. All three of these buildings were still standing in 1990. However, eventually, the chicken house had to be demolished to make room for Trent and Sharon's new home. The horse barn still remains, while the Nielsen CPR house has been donated to the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. The donation, transportation, restoration and furnishing of the Nielsen CPR House became a partnership between the Museum, and the Nielsen and Sundgaard families. The restored Nielsen CPR House was officially inaugurated and opened at the Museum on May 27, 2017, in connection with the national Danish Canadian Conference, hosted by the Museum. Members of the Nielsen and Sundgaard families were present. It was a beautiful sunny day, just perfect for unveiling this historic building on its new location on the Museum property.

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Tage Birck

From Denmark to Alberta via Mongolia

Rolf Gilberg, Ph.D., anthropologist, Espergærde

Tage Birck was twenty-six years old when he arrived in Mongolia in 1923. But he didn't reach his destination, the Iga Farm, until May 1924, as he had been seconded for the first six months to the office of Frans August Larson, known as Duke Larson, the Swedish missionary, businessman and political advisor in Mongolia's capital Urga.

It was Dr. Carl Krebs' idea to start the Iga Farm in Northern Mongolia. He has written about it in his 1937 book *En dansker i Mongoliet* (A Dane in Mongolia). His vision was to try to create employment for the many Danish dairymen, who had been thrown out of Russia, particularly Siberia, after the 1917 Revolution. Dr. Krebs (1889-1971) thought the Danish dairymen could relocate to Mongolia, where in addition they would be able to grow grain, as well as raise horses and cattle. Some of the young men who joined Dr. Krebs, such as Tage, came directly from Denmark. The other men from Denmark were Kai Borgstrøm (1894-1981), Erik Isager (1897-1946), Henning Haslund-Christensen (1896-1948) and Carl's brother Ove Krebs (1890-1975). In fact, some of them sailed from Hamburg to Shanghai with Tage. However, the venture in Mongolia turned out to be a short experiment. Already by November 1924, Mongolia had become a Soviet vassal state, and the Danes had to move on. Only Dr. Krebs remained on the farm, not leaving the farm until 1937.



Tage Birck in Canada

In 1924, prior to the change in government, the leader of the Iga Farm, Dr. Krebs, had sent for his Danish wife, Gerda (1903-1993) and their son Ove (1922-2018). As Dr. Krebs was often away on business, Gerda had to look after herself – on the remote farm – in the middle of nowhere. In other words, she was often alone; there were no other European women to talk to. It has been said that Tage made a pass at Gerda. Perhaps Gerda flirted with Tage – to break the boredom. In any case, when Dr. Krebs discovered this he became furious, and immediately expelled Tage from the Farm. Tage left, and well over a year later he emerged in Vancouver, stepping off the boat from Shanghai.

Tage Birck was born on the Bredholt farm, located in the Sahl Parish, southwest of Bjerringbro, roughly half way between Viborg and Randers, on March 27, 1897. Sahl is a small village, and Bredholt is located a few kilometers east of the village. Tage is an old, Danish boy's name, which means "enduring". Looking back on Tage's life, his parents gave him an appropriate name!

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Tage's parents were Camilla and Laurits Birck. Laurits Peter Aage Birck, who owned a large farm and was a wholesaler, had been born in Aabyhøj, a suburb of Århus, on January 1, 1867. Tage's mother, Camilla Ingeborg, née Hansen, had been born on October 22, 1870. Tage was the second-oldest of eleven siblings (five girls and six boys, born between 1895 and 1912). According to a census, covering the period 1904-1916, the family lived at one point in Sweden, at Kadesjögård, Katslösa, Malmöhus, in Skåne. The farm was about ten km west of Ystad. When they moved there, and how long they lived there, is not known. At the time Kadesjögården was owned by Tage's father's uncle.



Dr. Carl Krebs

Tage probably had some higher education as in one place he is referred to as 'polytekniker' (engineer). He might also have been conscripted into the Danish Army to do his duty for his country. Moreover, Tage was a gymnast and had participated in the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm – along with the Krebs brothers.



*June 1923: Henning Haslund-Christensen, Tage Birck, Kai Borgstrøm and Carl Krebs arrive in Shanghai, China
Photo: Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen*

Tage was an adventurer, and he was certainly inspired by his older brother. In April 1915, during the First World War, Tage's older brother, Mogens (1895-1918), had joined the French Foreign Legion. In July 1916 he was injured at the Battle of the Somme, and he was hospitalized for a couple of months. He was then back at the front, but unfortunately in July, 1918 Mogens was gunned down by enemy fire. His name is engraved on the war memorials at Rueil-Malmaison in France and Marselisborg Mindepark in Århus.

Preben, Tage's younger brother, made a name for himself in the fashion world, along with Holger Blom and Uffe Brydegaard. Preben Birck (1905-1992) created haute couture as well as costumes for theatre, film and shows (*Revyer*). In 1969, Preben closed his salon at Nytorv 19, as customers started to prefer ready-made clothing, rather than made-to-measure clothes. He then opened a high-end antique store in central Copenhagen. A small number of original sketches by Danish fashion designer Preben Birck can be found in the Archives for Danish Design in Copenhagen.

After his adventure in Mongolia, Tage could have returned to Denmark. Perhaps he was on his way back to Denmark, and just taking the long route - a trip around the world to get there.

Tage Birck landed in Vancouver on February 22, 1926. He arrived on the Canadian Pacific's *SS Empress of Russia*, which had left Hong Kong on February 5th. Tage had boarded in Shanghai sailing third class. He had given his occupation as farmer. Tage traveled on a Danish passport issued in Peking on September 14, 1925.

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I had first reckoned that Tage had left the Iga Farm in early 1925, but in a Post Script in a letter to Denmark dated October 30, 1924, Erik Isager wrote the following:

The worst thing that could have happened has happened. Tot and Benjamin have been flirting. This has resulted in Benjamin wanting to separate from Krebs and have Tot. Bøflen [Kai Borgstrøm] and I were told on Tuesday. Today we sent Tot out to meet Krebs, to settle the matter with him. It will be a showdown in the wilderness. I am shaken. I don't understand how Tot could behave this way towards Krebs. Poor Benjamin! She must of course also be sent home. So, we didn't get much joy from her visit. I'm waiting for the decision. Do not let this little post script come to anyone else's ear. It's like an exciting novel. I will tell you the end of the story next time.

Let me just add that Tot and Benjamin were the nicknames given to respectively Tage and Gerda.



*Tage Birck (front) and Erik Isager plowing in late spring 1924
Photo: Krebs family.*

But Erik Isager never mentioned it again. With this insight, there is no doubt that Tage left the Iga Farm in November 1924. It is noteworthy that Tage did not return to Denmark. It seems that Krebs' anger was so fierce that Tage wanted to get as far away as possible. From the time Tage left the farm, to September 1925, when he got his passport, we have no trace of him. The next time we are able to locate Tage, is on the steamship in Shanghai in February 1926. For a period of almost fifteen months we really don't know anything about Tage's doings or whereabouts.

Tage must have lived in Mongolia and/or China during this time, but exactly where, and what he did, is unknown. Tage must have worked somewhere, in order to make money to travel to Canada. Someone must have helped Tage, so there is still unknown information to dig up.

These were turbulent times in Mongolia. When the Living Buddha in Urga died in 1924, the country became the Mongolian People's Republic. In March 1925, Duke Larson was charged with gambling – which was just a pretext by the government – while Henning Haslund-Christensen was visiting him. The new Communist regime placed so many obstacles in his way that Duke Larson settled his business in Urga, and in the summer of 1925, drove south to Inner Mongolia. It is possible that Tage helped Duke Larson settle his business and personal affairs, and helped the Duke with the move. Tage had worked for Larson in 1923.



*Erik Isager, Gerda Krebs with son, Ove, and Kai Borgstrøm in the lounge at the Iga Farm
Photo: Krebs family.*

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After disembarking in Vancouver, Tage immediately headed east to Alberta, arriving in Vauxhall north of Lethbridge. Vauxhall was named after one of London's southwest suburbs, because one of the first inhabitants hailed from there. Tage has written about coming to Vauxhall in the book *Where Water Flows* (Vauxhall and Districts Book Committee, 1969, Volume I, pp. 35-36):

I arrived at Vauxhall in the middle of harvest in 1926, never dreaming that it was going to be any more than a stopping off place on a long journey that at the age of 29, had already taken me more than half way around the world. Vauxhall in those days did not appear to have anything to set it apart from scores of other small communities that dotted the prairie landscape, but it was vastly different from any place that I had ever been.... In 1926, you could almost count the citizens of Vauxhall on your fingers, if you used both hands.



*The CPR's SS Empress of Russia
Liner on which Tage sailed from
Shanghai, China to Vancouver*

Tage recalled that in 1926 there were almost fifteen businesses in Vauxhall and a one-room school, attended by eight students. He could name the proprietors of all the businesses by name. What particularly impressed Tage about Vauxhall was the kindness and hospitality of its people, residents would help each other. When a young couple married, everyone gave a contribution to help them get established. Likewise, they helped those who were ill or who had had a mishap or an accident.



*Tage's mother, Camilla Birck, with her children
Tage is on the left, back row, ca. 1910 or 1911
Photo: Joy Birck*

There were no relief associations at that time, but that did not prevent the people in town from building a community hall or town hall. When the decision was made, all the citizens of the town showed up and gave a hand. Those who were not able to use a hammer and saw gave money or helped in other ways. In the same book, Tage writes:

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I had been working on a farm in Scandia during the summer, and had just started pitching bundles on a threshing rig when one evening my boss brought a stranger out in the field where I was loading my bundle rack. The stranger turned out to be Mr. C. J. Bray, who owned and operated a general store in Vauxhall. Mr. Bray's clerk had quit, and he was badly stuck for a replacement, so my boss told Charlie Bray that he had a young fellow working for him who would be looking for a job for the winter, as he had nothing for him after threshing was over. He probably said something like this, 'He doesn't know much about farming, but he is not afraid to work, and he seems willing enough to learn'. The result was that the next day Mr. Bray brought a man out to take my place on the threshing rig and took me back with him to town.



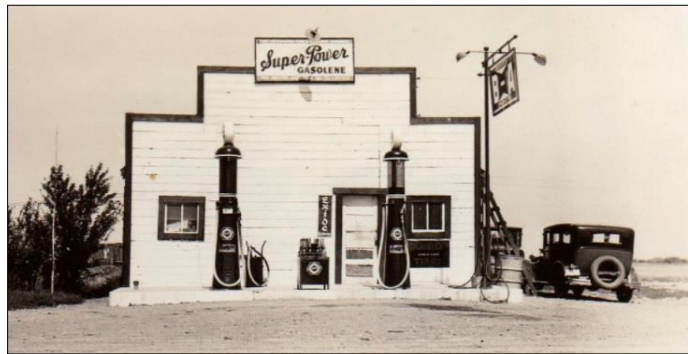
*Claes Birck
(1907-2003)*

Tage worked in the general store until it was sold in 1928 to J. J. Marshall, who later also took over the town's hotel. Already in 1927 Tage had become a grain buyer.

Tage's younger brother, Claes Birck (1907-2003), came to Canada in 1927, settling in Vauxhall. Claes had been born in Katslösa, Sweden, on May 10, 1907. After Claes arrived in Canada, Tage and Claes sent a photograph to Denmark of their new home on a farm northeast of Vauxhall. On the back of the photograph is written, "The main building on the day we arrived, April 1, 1927". But it was an April fool's joke, as the house on the photo was an old shack.

Claes was a mechanic and in Vauxhall he established his own workshop, repairing cars and agricultural machines. At one point during the Great Depression, Claes was just about to dissolve his Vauxhall Service Garage, but he stuck it out and survived. Later he expanded his business and had a modest car dealership.

In 1940 he married Margaruite Rathwell. She loved her after-dinner scotch and her cigarettes. She told the best stories and off-colour jokes. Together, Claes and Margaruite operated the Arch Theatre, Marg's Kwik Clean Laundromat, as well as a house next to the garage, where they rented out rooms. In addition, until 1950, Claes and Margaruite supplied electricity to the town of Vauxhall.



Claes Birck's first garage in Vauxhall, Photo: Joy Birck

Claes' hobby was making movies, later videos, of everything. He filmed everyday life in Vauxhall. These movies are still in the family's possession.

After Mr. Bray sold the general store, Tage went to Grantham, a few miles east of Vauxhall, to help build a grain elevator. In 1928, when Tage was needed in building the Vauxhall Grain Elevator, he went back to Vauxhall, working for Ogilvie. The local wheat was sold to the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, which was founded in the 1860s by the prominent Ogilvie family of Montreal. It was one of the largest companies in Canada until it was bought by the American food giant Archer Daniels Midland in the mid-1990s.

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In 1929 Tage went on a trip to England, arriving at Liverpool on May 18, 1929; perhaps he also visited Denmark. The passenger list states that Tage Birck is a grain buyer. In the column where you indicate your next of kin, Tage had written the name of his father. We do know that he visited Denmark at least a couple of times.

For 32 years Tage was a grain buyer in Vauxhall. He had many good memories of his dealings with the local farmers, who often

became his good friends. Tage said that he could talk for hours about his time in the grain business. In the book about Vauxhall, Tage enjoys telling this little story:

In 1932 Lou Burgess brought a load of wheat, which he sold for 18½ cents per bushel. After going up town to do some shopping, he walked back to the elevator, and placed a package of matches on my desk, you know the kind, three boxes in a package, and he said, "This cost me almost two bushels of wheat."

I like to tell this story because it illustrates as well as any other just how difficult things were for the farmers during the hungry Thirties, but it also shows how conditions have improved, as matches still cost about the same, while the price of wheat is ten times as much.

When I left Vauxhall in 1962, there were three elevators in town, instead of two. My two 'competitors', Gordon McLeod and Harold Cleland, together with myself, had served in the same elevators for a total of 81 years, which - as far as we know - was a record for Canada at that time. Perhaps this is not much to be proud of as records go, but we were all quite pleased nevertheless.

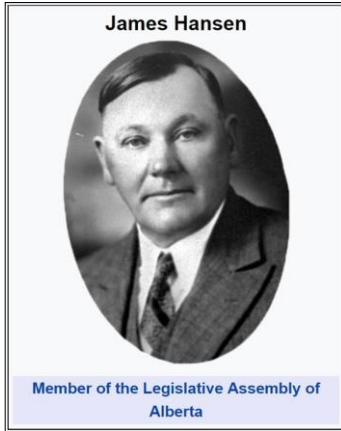
It took Tage a long time to find a female companion; yes, she was there all along, but not immediately. In Lethbridge on November 10, 1934, Tage married Kamilla Kail. He was 37 years old; Kamilla 30. She had been born in 1904 in Eggenburg in northern Austria. She had arrived in Quebec City in 1928 on board the *SS Montroyal* from Hamburg, and then settled in Calgary.

On January 8, 1945, *The Lethbridge Herald* reported on the celebration of New Year's Eve 1944 in Vauxhall: An evening of song was held in the Community Hall in Vauxhall on New Year's Eve, with Tage Birck as Master of Ceremonies. Mrs. Hart Taylor directed the choir and Mrs. J. Head played the piano. At midnight everyone sang Auld Lang Syne. This was followed by a ball. The paper also noted that it was extremely cold outside that night.

The marriage between Tage and Kamilla did not last. By 1945 she was back in Calgary and they were legally divorced in 1946. That same year Tage married again.

Tage and Melba Hansen were married in 1946. They had met in Vauxhall. Tage was 49 years old, while Melba was only 23. So, she was 26 years younger than him! Yet, they were happily married for 39 years. They did not have any children. Melba lived until she was 93 years, outliving Tage by 32 years.

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Melba Hannah Hansen was born in Taber, Alberta, on September 28, 1923, the daughter of James Hansen (1884-1951) and Louise Henriette Carla Madsen Hansen (1895-1978). Her father, born Jens Hansen in Højslev Sogn (near Skive), Denmark, to Kresten Hansen and Ane, née Sørensen, was a Social Credit MLA for Taber from 1935 to 1940.

Melba grew up and went to school in Taber. She became a teacher and a very good one too. Many of her students won the Governor General's Medal for the highest marks within the Taber school board. Melba also helped found the first library in Vauxhall. She was also very active in her church. It is interesting that Melba, a Mormon, got involved with Tage, as he both smoked and drank.

On July 23, 1947, *The Lethbridge Herald* reported that Mr. and Mrs. Tage Birck have just returned from a six-week visit to Denmark. On their way home, they stopped in Taber to greet Tage's in-laws. Mr. and Mrs. Birck had sailed on June 3, 1947, from Halifax via Southampton to Denmark. The paper said that one would almost think it was their honeymoon, as they had just married in 1946. The couple returned via Southampton, arriving five days later in New York.



Melba Hannah Birck

On January 19, 1951, *The Lethbridge Herald* announced that Jack J. Reid had been re-elected to the Taber Area School Board. His opponent was grain buyer Tage Birck. Out of the 442 votes, Jack Reid had received 210, while Tage Birck finished second with 172 votes. Tage had run as Melba worked for that School Board.

In 1960, after working for Ogilvie for 32 years, Tage retired. He was 63 years old. In 1962, Melba and Tage, now both retirees, bought a house in Lethbridge. Here they lived together for the next 23 years.

Tage passed away on January 14, 1985. He is buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Lethbridge. Space was left on the headstone for Melba's name and vital dates. *The Lethbridge Herald* obituary of Tage states:

Tage Birck held all the various offices of the Board of Trade and its successor, the Chamber of Commerce, during his years of activity with them. He enjoyed sports, being involved in the Curling Club, the Tennis Club, and in various youth training activities. He was instrumental in building the Community Hall. He served as the Executive Secretary of the Vauxhall Rural Electrification Association from the time of its inception until he left the district. He also served on the Taber Municipal Hospital Board for seven years.

Besides his beloved wife, Melba, he is survived by his brother, Claes Birck and his wife, Margaruite of Lethbridge, two brothers and three sisters in Denmark.

Then on February 12, 2017, Tage's wife, Melba Hannah Birck, née Hansen, passed away peacefully, at the age of 93. She was buried beside Tage on February 20th. Her obituary says:

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She always knew [when Tage] was in the room. He had a way about him. Many would know her as their teacher. She taught many grades over the years from Kindergarten to 9th grade, mostly in Vauxhall and Lethbridge, which she enjoyed immensely. Her countenance would brighten over the years when someone would recognize her and speak to her. Even in these final years, some of her caregivers had been students of hers, which also gave her comfort. She was an avid gardener. Her yard was immaculate and loaded with many varieties of flowers and bushes. She also spent many hours preparing meals and fancy sandwiches for company and gave many hours of service to others. She was a private, but independent, and sincere individual who was concerned for the welfare of others.

She loved to read and had a great time, sharing books and stories. She greatly loved her membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in many capacities including serving a mission in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her life was one of service. She had a great relationship with her Savior and found great fulfillment as she attended the Temple.

Here ends the story of Tage Birck and his family. On a personal note, my grandfather's brother, Svend Gilberg, immigrated to Canada, and one of his sons, Paul Gilberg, later settled in Calgary. It was through this branch of my family that I found the Birck family in Canada. I am grateful for all the help I have received from them. Above all I appreciate the help I have received from Joy Birck, Claes Birck's granddaughter.

On a final note, it has been interesting to discover that, although he was an excellent storyteller, Tage's relatives do not remember him ever talking about his time in Mongolia.



*From left: Tage, Melba, Marg,
Tage's brother Preben Birck, late 1970s.
Photo: Joy Birck.*

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BIOGRAPHIES

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328, Vancouver



The Board of Directors

Front Row Left: Manfred Hoff, Paul S. Rasmussen, Niels Jensen, N.W.D.P. Annelise Kromann,
Lodge 328 President: Peter Jensen, Arne Møller, Steen Larsen

Back Row Left: Kyle Andersen, Kjeld Christensen, Keld Jensen, Bill Dagoe, Per Molsen, Bent Østergaard

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Jakob Lauridsen
Brian Skov
Melanie Andersen
Pastor Lasse Hultberg

Carl John Andersen

Tony and Jette Blair, Montreal

Carl's father, Christian Andersen, came to Canada in the spring of 1928. In his passport he was listed as a farmer, but he was actually trained in Denmark as a machinist. Christian Rask Andersen was born in Haderslev, Denmark, on July 25, 1904; and he died in Montreal on September 16, 1966, only 62 years old. Arriving by ship Christian Andersen landed in Quebec City. From there he travelled by train to Winnipeg, where he worked on a Manitoba farm to fulfil his immigration obligation to work on a farm.



*Carl's father
Christian Andersen*

Later Christian Andersen met a logging agent in North Bay, Ontario, and got a job working as a lumberjack for one winter. The logging agent had an attractive daughter, Thelma. Christian and Thelma were married in July 1935, and moved to Montreal, where Christian worked at Canada Car for the rest of his life. Carl's mother, Thelma Rouselle, was born on April 13, 1914. She passed away in Montreal on May 18, 1974.

Christian and Thelma had one son, Carl, and two daughters. Thelma and the two daughters were only in their sixties when they died – of cancer. They were smokers. Carl, on the other hand, quit smoking forty years ago, and believes this is the reason for his longevity. So far, he has outlived them by more than twenty years.

Carl John Andersen was born in Montreal on June 6, 1936. He grew up in Westmount and was known as the “Little Danish boy from Selby Street”. He attended Queens Elementary, Westmount Junior High, and then Westmount Senior High for a while; but left early to join the army. Later he would take some courses at Concordia University.

Carl travelled a lot and had a varied career. After a short stint in the army he was honorably discharged, because it turned out he was underage. He then started work as a telephone installer and repair man working for Bell Canada for sixteen years. In 1965, he was asked to take an aptitude test and that led to him working in the sales department. Following that he worked for nine years with GTE in sales before switching to NCR designing online banking. In 1970 NCR downsized and asked Carl to move to Toronto. Instead he resigned and got a job working as a waiter in a tavern for thirteen years. After that Carl opened up one of Montreal's first running supply stores on Sherbrooke Street in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce area of Montreal. In 2009 he closed the store and gave the stock to charity.

On a blind date in Ottawa Carl met Sheila Dailey. They married in November 1963 and will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary in 2018. She worked for Air Canada. On their honeymoon they went to Athens, Rome and London. They had originally wanted to go to Ireland and Denmark, where they have their roots, but this was also the time when the Troubles started

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in Ireland. Carl and Sheila have one son, Chris, who has lived in British Columbia since 1997. When Chris was still living in Montreal, Carl used to do math puzzles with him.

As a child, Carl often visited the Muskoka District in Ontario with his mother, sisters, and cousins. Carl has always been an early riser and had to stay quiet until the rest of the family got up in the morning. Although Carl had instructions never to swim alone, he was tempted to do so one early morning. The dog was already in the water, so Carl jumped in and swam across the lake with the dog, to his uncle's house on the other side, about 1½ miles away. Carl was about ten years old at the time and a good swimmer. The rationale was that he was not swimming alone – the dog swam with him. Carl's uncle was horrified when they arrived at his home across the lake – the family at the cabin would panic when they discovered him gone. Carl and the dog were loaded into the boat and delivered across the lake to the cabin to face his mother. Carl also survived grabbing a large Massasauga rattlesnake in the lake; Canada's only venomous snake.



Carl Andersen at the Canadian Legion



Carl and penguins in Antarctica

When Carl was fifteen, he ran away from home and joined the army. He served for as short time, until they discovered he was underage. So, they gave him an honourable discharge and sent him on his way. Later Carl was drawn to the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Legion. For one, he lived nearby. He walked into the Legion where he had some friends. After a while he was told that he couldn't keep coming unless he had a connection. "Did your father serve in the army?" he was asked. "No, he is Danish." "OK, then, were you in the army?" "Well, yes", was the answer. "Did you have an honourable discharge?" "Yes", he said. "OK, you're in".

Carl used to play handball at a high level. But in 1969 after breaking two fingers, he started running to keep active. He claims it was a good break because he fell in love with long distance running. Other than playing handball and math games with his son, Carl's main hobby has, for many years, been running. At first, he ran for the Cedars Breast Clinic to raise funds. This was in memory of his mother and sisters.

Carl's mother had encouraged her children to help others and he began early. At eighteen he helped build a camp in Saint Lazare for challenged children. He likes to collect for charities. His first running efforts were for the Cedars Cancer Institute and he raised about \$750,000. Eventually he began running for Terry Fox to raise money for cancer. Over the years he has collected \$800,000 to \$900,000 in total. He has also spoken to students about his efforts and encouraged them to join in the cause. If that were not enough, he has also worked for other causes including multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy, but Carl maintains he has always

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had the support of a wide group of friends in his various endeavors. Carl would be delighted if people in Denmark were inspired to start their own Terry Fox Run.

Carl has run 95 marathons in far-flung places such as Greenland, Ottawa, in the Antarctic, in the Arctic, in 37 American states and in five provinces. He has totalled over 100,000 miles including several ultra-marathons around the island of Montreal. His best marathon time was 3:32. Five times he missed the Boston marathon, cut off by only two minutes. One of his very few regrets is not accepting a special exemption to run it anyway.



*Carl running a Marathon in Montreal
Note his T-shirt!*

Carl became a friend of Roger Doucet and his wife, Geraldine. Roger Doucet was a Canadian tenor best known for singing the Canadian national anthem at televised sports games in the 1970s. Carl got Roger and Geraldine to entertain at the McKay Center where he was volunteering. They both returned often. The Mackay Center School educates children with motor, speech or sensorial difficulties. At one point, Carl was given tickets to a hockey game at the Forum, so he could take some of the McKay children to a game. Carl asked to come beforehand to see where their seats would be, and to figure out how to get the children to their seats. When he arrived, famed hockey player Jean Béliveau met him and helped him find the seats for the children. Jean Béliveau also stayed with the children, during the game, to give Carl a second intermission break. Carl had been told to come in by the Press entrance. When game night came, the policeman told him he couldn't park there, even if it was just for the time it took to get the children into the building. In the end, the policeman relented and let Carl park there for the evening. When Carl came back after the game, there was a ticket on his windshield. On closer examination, it was a greeting from the policeman, asking if it had been a good game, and not a ticket, after all.



*Sheila and Carl, December 4, 2005
When he received the Caring Canadian
Award from the Governor General*

Another time, some disabled children from Scotland visited. Carl and two teachers took them and some children from the McKay Center to a baseball game at Jarry Park. They were given three signed baseballs by Tommy John, a Dodger's pitcher, one for the McKay Center children, another for the Scots, and the third ball for Carl.

For the past six years Carl has made weekly visits to the Veterans' Hospital in St. Anne to see members of the Canadian Legion residing there. For one patient he would always bring a bottle of good quality vodka, until he learned the recipient was taking it in his Ensure Vanilla Plus drink. Carl then switched to a lower quality brand.

On December 4, 2005, in recognition for his fundraising efforts, Carl was awarded the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. His citation reads:

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“Carl Andersen has been volunteering since the 1950s, and since 1997, he has collected funds for breast cancer treatment, education and research by running an ultra-marathon of over 120 kilometres. This is a gruelling challenge for anyone, and it is particularly arduous for a man in his sixties living with arthritis. Without any corporate support, Mr. Andersen has inspired individuals to donate more than \$750,000 for the state-of-the-art Cedars Breast Clinic at the McGill University Health Centre. Mr. Andersen's mother taught him that we always have time to give to others and his efforts honour her memory and the memory of his two sisters who died of breast cancer. At the same time, he has brought hope to numerous women facing the prospect of breast disease.”



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Lilly Faaborg Bruhn

Ed Kuhlman, Son-In-Law & Heritage Book Editor



*Lilly and Uwe Bruhn
Royal Dinner in Victoria*

This is the story of my beloved mother-in law's life as related to me in bits and pieces during the 42 years that I have been married to her daughter, Linda. This is a story that begins like most immigrant stories in Denmark even though Lilly was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on February 1, 1931. It is a story that is thankfully continuing as Lilly is without question the most loving and gentle mother-in-law any son-in-law could wish to have as well as one of the best grandmothers any grandchild could hope for. Like all stories it has its highs and its lows that need some context and background to fully appreciate. So this story begins with some details about her parents and the reasons for, as well as the challenges they faced, leading them to become immigrants to a new land.

Lilly's father, Lauritzes Marinus Lauritzen was born in Rødebul, Denmark on May 20, 1892. His mother died when he was six years old, leaving him and his sister and a half brother behind. For various unknown reasons his father separated him from his siblings, and sent Marinus to be raised by an aunt. On his aunt's farm he slept in the stable with the cows and did an assortment of chores, including milking the cows and guiding the plow horse even though he was barely tall enough to see over the plow. When he had time he attended a German school.

When the First World War began, Marinus was forcibly conscripted into the German Army, one of the many Danes who served the Kaiser against their wishes. He had taken the place of his half-brother, in order to spare him the consequences for having volunteered but then changing his mind. During her childhood Lilly fondly remembers her dad telling her stories about his war experiences, such as eating mouldy rye bread and drinking wine in the trenches. He was lucky enough to survive the war despite suffering shrapnel wounds to his neck, one of his ankles, and to his dismay years later, to his buttocks as well, as several years later a nasty piece of it worked its way to the surface.

After the war, young Marinus started a business in Aabenraa vulcanizing tires. Years later, either in 1925 or 1926, his business went up in flames taking with it most of his personal belongings including important papers and what photos of his family he possessed. To recoup some of his financial losses Marinus began travelling around the country doing odd jobs and as a result met his wife to be, Lilly's mother, Bodil Nilsine Jessen, when he took on a temporary job working for Bodil's brother Christian's vulcanizing business delivering tires. Bodil was born into a large family on September 6, 1908, in Vejle and shared the loving attention of her parents with 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

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*Marinus Lauritzen and
Bodil Jessen, 1927*

With his business up in smoke and a less than steady stream of temporary jobs, the lure of a better and more promising life overseas in Canada, a land of opportunity, seemed more and more inviting. So Marinus convinced Bodil to immigrate to Canada with him, even though Bodil was only 18 years old at the time and they were not yet married. They travelled to Southampton, England and boarded the Red Star Lines *SS Pennland* on February 19, 1927 for the long journey to Canada. They arrived in Halifax at Pier 21 on February 27, 1927 and then proceeded by train to Winnipeg. A Danish couple Marinus had met had a farm outside the city, and offered the couple jobs working on their farm. When it became apparent that they were not married and that the initial job offer was for a married couple they decided it was time to tie the knot. They were married on November 4, 1927.

Eventually, as with all temporary jobs, the work on the farm ended. Bodil had found employment as a cleaning lady at a boarding house in the city where the couple also rented a flat, and Marinus worked 3 jobs including as a doorman at the Cave nightclub, and as a janitor in a bowling alley.

With the weather more brutal than they were used to in Denmark, Bodil became ill with rheumatic fever. Nevertheless, this did not stop the couple from starting a family, and Lilly Faaborg Lauritzen was born on February 1, 1931. These were the Depression Years and not the most ideal time to start a family, with jobs not only difficult to find, they were also often temporary. Marinus continued to find and work a variety of jobs, some more steady than others.



Lilly Lauritzen, 3 years old in 1934



Lilly in Winnipeg in 1937

The weather of course did not take a respite and Lilly remembers learning a painful lesson after making the mistake of trying to lick the frost from a metal fence pole at school, when naturally her tongue got stuck to it. The weather also did not help with the struggle against the rheumatic fever and Bodil and John Larsen decided to listen to the advice of their doctor and move out west to British Columbia. Yes, the family were now officially Larsens as Marinus decided to change his name since it was apparent to him that Canadians seemed to have some difficulty with the pronunciation of his first, middle, and last names.

It was now 1938 and the Depression Years were slowly coming to an end, when the young family packed their belongings into the nooks and crannies of a Model T Ford and a trailer that John had patched together. They travelled together with an English couple John had met and headed south across the border into the USA because the better condition of American roads would make the

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The journey West to BC in a Model T in 1938

300 chickens. Lilly attended a school on Douglas Road, did her share of chores on the farm, often peeled potatoes for dinner, and enjoyed the luxury of sleeping on a bed made from raspberry crates.



Several years later, in 1940, they again moved, this time a few blocks up the road to Laurel Street where they went into the mushroom farming business. John sold and moved the small house on the property and then built a new home for his family. He now became known to his friends and customers as “Mushroom Larsen”. Their journeys had come to an end and Lilly could now enjoy the benefits of becoming part of the local Danish Community centered upon the Danish Lutheran Church at 808 East 19th Avenue and Prince Albert in Vancouver. Her father served on the Church Board and her mother, Bodil was one of the “ladies” of the Ladies Auxiliary, while Lilly was very much the precocious young girl who thought nothing of banging on neighbourhood doors to sing for money for the latest fund raising cause.

Settling into the life of a modestly successful mushroom farmer, John Larsen never forgot what it was like to move to a new country leaving behind family and friends, and often made his way down to the port of Vancouver where he would look out for merchant marine ships from the old country. He would befriend some of the young merchant sailors and invite them back to the farm for a home cooked meal.



The house on Laurel Street

Lilly had by now, in 1945, grown into a young and beautiful teenage girl attending Burnaby South High School. It was the year of her Confirmation. Sadly, the 1945 confirmation class of Pastor Sorensen is the only class whose photo was not taken and is therefore missing from the collection of class photos hanging on the wall of the downstairs auditorium in Burnaby’s Danish Lutheran Church.

It was in 1947 that Lilly joined the Folk Dancers Group at the Church and started to take a serious interest together with her best friend Kay Wallace in what else, boys. There were some boy friends such as Al and dance partners in the folk dancers. Around this time Lilly and Kay

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could often be found sitting on a hill outside the Cascades Drive-In Theater, a hill from which they could watch whatever movie was on at the time. They also made sure not to miss out on the fun at the early Scandinavian Midsummer Festivals, and Lilly found the time to teach Sunday school at the Church. And she also could be found sitting in the rafters of the mushroom barns hosing down the manure as her father convinced her that the steam coming off the manure pile was good for her complexion.

Then in 1948, it inevitably happened. John Larsen had once again travelled down to the boats and brought home a young Danish cook from one of the merchant ships, a lad of 17 years, Uwe Bruhn. Uwe was born in Aabenraa, Denmark on March 10, 1931. He had two brothers, one (Christian) 7 years older and a younger brother, (Udo) seven years younger. Shortly after the war, Uwe, at the young age of 14 years, left home to serve in the merchant marine as a deckhand on ice-breakers. He always had an extreme fascination with and love for the sea and open water, so in many ways he was following his dreams. His goal was to someday be the captain of a large freighter or passenger ship, but would never be able to fulfill that goal as he was according to the doctors color blind. After serving on the icebreakers he moved onto the *Erria* an East Asiatic Company passenger freighter, on which he served as a cook. The ship travelled to various ports around the world, including Vancouver, where in 1948 he was befriended by John Larsen.



Lilly with the Folk Dancers second from left



Lilly as a teenager in the 1940s

When John Larsen brought young Uwe home for dinner, Uwe clicked his heels, and bowed to Lilly, and she was immediately in a state of infatuation. It was the beginning of a budding romance, with Uwe coming and going over the next several years on his merchant ship voyages and Lilly always promising to wait for him, finishing school, and working as an account entry clerk at the Royal Bank on Hastings Street in downtown Vancouver.

In 1951, Uwe applied for immigrant status and returned to Vancouver so he could marry Lilly Larsen, the girl of his dreams to whom he was married for 62 years. They were married on November 8, 1952 and lived in the house with Mum and Dad Larsen in a basement suite on the farm where Uwe worked as a labourer when he was not off on another voyage. His first job as a “Canadian” was on whaling boats stationed at Kelsey Bay on Vancouver Island, and several years later after having saved up a tidy sum for a down payment he gave up his career as a merchant seaman and purchased acreage in Coquitlam with the intention of also going into the mushroom farming business. Unable to get approval to start the mushroom farm, he had begun working as a drywaller with the goal of learning as much about construction as possible, and he eventually started a construction company, Bruhn & Jensen Construction, with partner Marius Jensen and after Marius’s passing, Erling Vestad.

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In the mean time, Uwe and Lilly started their family with Linda (the future Mrs. Kuhlman) born on March 28, 1954. Having bought the acreage, Uwe then subdivided the land, sold all except one parcel, and built a small three bedroom rancher for his budding family on Grover Street. Lilly in the meantime gave birth to their son Glen on October 9, 1956. She also immersed herself in being a house mom, baking bread, having coffee with her South African, Boer War Veteran friend Foster, and continuing to help with events at the church.

Life went on, with friends (Julius & Erna Nicolaisen, Jens & Gudrun Olsen, Edith & Marius Jensen, Gerhardt & Eleanor Jensen, etc.) often visiting. Other activities included going on family vacation, and fishing trips to Gun Lake near Lillooet where they rented a cabin from "Auntie Margrit", and where they would often catch some trout in the early morning hours. On one such trip, with Uwe's parents visiting from Denmark, Lilly spent a good portion of the road trip in the back seat suffering from the agonies of a recent stay in the hospital having her teeth yanked to make way for new dentures.



*Wedding Day
November 8, 1952*

By this time spring of 1960, the family had outgrown the little rancher on Grover and Uwe and Lilly purchased a lot and built a spacious new three bedroom home on Rossmore Court in Coquitlam which they moved into in November of that year, the home that they hoped would be the final move in their life together, and it was.



Lilly & Uwe, Linda & Glen in 1958

Sadly, Lilly's father, John Larsen who had brought them together because he had to go down to the piers to see if there were any sailors from the old country, passed away on his 69th birthday in 1961. Lilly's mother Bodil "Mushroom" Larsen continued to hold down the fort on the farm for a few more years before finally moving into a basement suite with Lilly and Uwe in 1966. Bodil passed into the next life in 1991 at the age of 83.

Over the following years Lilly and Uwe continued to work hard, raising their family, and also found the time to join some Danish clubs. Lilly was a founding member in 1971 of the Danish

Sisterhood Lodge in Vancouver and later served as its President, and also served on the board of Directors of the Danish Canadian Community Centre of BC. She is still the President of the Ladies Auxiliary at the Burnaby Church.

They also found the time to pursue Uwe's love of boating, eventually importing a double-ended bare bones hull from Sweden in 1972 which they outfitted with cabins, galley, head, sails, motor

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and gear. Lilly sewed the curtains and the cushions for the galley and the cabins. Lilly and Uwe christened the 36 foot motor sailboat, the *Erria*, named of course after the freighter Uwe was serving on when he met Lilly. His success in the construction business, and a scary bout with



Lilly and Uwe launching & christening the Erria

lung cancer to which he lost a lung in the early 1970s, convinced him to retire as soon as he could afford it and spend as much time as possible on the boat. From 1980 to 1982, Uwe and Lilly sailed down the West Coast, through the Panama Canal to the Carribean and then back to Vancouver after having earlier practiced their sailing skills on local waters, and by also circumnavigating Vancouver Island. They made stops along the way in Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Curacao, and many other places.

Never having forgotten their roots, they visited Denmark as often as possible, starting in 1958 and then again in 1968, when the family drove from Vancouver to New York City, had the car lifted onto the *MS Bergensfjord* for the trip across the Atlantic, and then drove the Oldsmobile to Aabenraa in Denmark, spending the next 2 months travelling around Europe, before heading back on the *SS Bremen* to New York and another long drive back across the continent. Numerous other shorter trips to Denmark followed over the subsequent years.

Lilly and Uwe also bowled in the Danish Brotherhood & Sisterhood Bowling League and very much enjoyed the annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Pacific Northwest bowling tournaments. For their volunteer efforts with the Danish Canadian Community Centre of BC, they received an invitation to attend an official Royal Dinner with Queen Margrethe II in Victoria, an invitation they could not turn down.

Lilly, still like the precocious child that knocked on doors to sing for money, also liked to dress up in costume every Halloween. She was known as “The Witch of Rossmore Court” to the neighborhood kids who insisted that their parents take them to the house to see The Witch. In our teenage years Linda and I would also join Lilly, dress up in costume and help her entertain the neighborhood’s youngsters. Always interested in art Lilly also took up oil painting together with daughter Linda and became quite good at it despite her denials to the contrary, or was it the other way around?



Dressing up for Halloween

Along the way of course their kids grew up and Lilly and Uwe became grandparents. In the years that I dated their daughter, Linda, yours truly your Heritage Book editor Ed Kuhlman, had some interesting experiences in that regard. Lilly was always the loving mom who went out of her way to befriend Linda’s friends, she always made us feel welcome and always gave me the impression that I too was welcome even if father Bruhn was a little more distrustful of my intentions.

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Linda's wedding

It being the late 1960s, I had long hair and according to Uwe only hippies had long hair. One day in the winter Uwe offered to give me and a friend a ride up the hill in his truck as it was snowing heavily. My friend who also had long hair, got in first and did not want to sit too close to Uwe and left me little room next to him against the passenger side door. I slammed the truck door and got my long hair caught in the door and I casually pretended that nothing was out of the ordinary. When Uwe got home he told Linda and Lilly, "You know what one of those idiots did, he got his hair caught in the door and acted like nothing happened and rode all the way up the hill with it caught in the door". Linda hoped it wasn't me, but it was. Linda told me what he said and I jokingly told my friends that I would get even – I would marry his daughter and he would have to put up with me for the rest of his life. I married Linda on June 14, 1975.

Lilly in her own way slowly broke down Uwe's barriers and we overcame our differences and had a good father-in-law, son-in-law relationship. As my own mother died when I was 20 and my father when I was 22, they became my surrogate parents and I am forever grateful for that, after all he was just looking out for the best interests of his daughter.

I have digressed, but must mention that Uwe and Lilly became grandparents, with their first grandchild Tony born on April 20, 1977, their second grandchild Timothy, born on February 28, 1980, Christopher born September 15, 1984 and lastly, Nicole born to their son Glen and his wife Irina on January 23, 1999. Sadly, Christopher passed away from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in January 1985. Lilly became a great-grandmother on October 14, 2017 with the birth of Tim and Shelby's daughter Elsa, something Uwe always said he would not tolerate because he did not want to be sleeping with a great-grandmother.



*The family in 1984
Lilly, Uwe, Linda, Ed, Tony, Bodil
holding Christopher, and Tim*

Over the years "Love of the Sea" remained with them and virtually every summer would be spent sailing up to and around the waters of Desolation Sound on the *Erria* with Lilly always saying the problem with this boat is we need to get organized. Organized or not, it was always fun times with smørrebrød, aqavavit and beer for lunch every day, and hors d'oevres at 4:00pm.

Sometime after Uwe's 80th birthday he had a bout with pneumonia, which left him somewhat dependent on oxygen bottles and he slowly began to accept that his days on his "mistress" were over. He had begun to investigate moving into the Carl Mortensen Manor at Dania Home but unfortunately circumstances beyond his control took over and he passed away on August 25, 2015.

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I still have visions of the time Linda and Lilly decided to go out and buy a small wading pool for our son Tony when he was a toddler. The hard plastic pool was too large for the trunk so they decided it was a good idea to tie it to the roof of the car. Of course they tied it in such a way that they could not open the car doors. They managed to get in the car, but on the way they decided



*On the Boat in Desolation Sound
Uwe & Lilly with Ed & Linda Kuhlman*

to stop at Elite Bakery in Burnaby. They tried to get out through the windows and Lilly wearing white pants tried to get out buttocks first and got stuck with her big white butt in the window providing a show for the traffic passing by.

That is my mother-in-law, who taught me the value of diplomacy, the lady who served as a surrogate mother to me, whose wisdom and advice I value, who never has anything bad to say about anyone other than the odd complaint about a politician and who above all through her actions demonstrated the value and importance of what it means to have a family, and who also introduced me to volunteering. She begged me 16 years ago to serve as Secretary for the Danish Canadian Community Centre of BC for just one year, as they could not find anyone else willing to take the job. After repeatedly nagging me I finally accepted with the proviso it would be for just the one year. It is now 16 years later, and I am still Secretary, and also President of Danish House at the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby and on a total of 5 boards of directors, as well as editor of the Heritage Book. That is a fine mess you have gotten me into Lilly!



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Otto Hugo Antoft, Lakeville

Prof. Kell Antoft, Nova Scotia and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

One of our key note speakers at the 1985 Danish Canadian Conference in New Denmark, New Brunswick, was Prof. Kell Antoft of Dalhousie University in Halifax. The theme of the Conference was “How to Preserve and Document our History”. Kell Antoft addressed the theme in his presentation which he aptly



Kell Antoft (1923-2005) Scotia.

called: “The Importance of Preserving Archival Material”. His presentation was informative, practical and indeed inspiring. It led to Danish organizations appointing historians and it spurred many of our members to write about their club, association or church, as well as biographical articles about their family or others in their community. Moreover, Kell Antoft not only spoke about preserving documents, letters and photographs, but practiced what he preached. He compiled and organized his large collection of documents, gathered during an active life, and generously donated them, prior to his passing, to the Dalhousie University Archives and to the Acadia University Library in Wolfville, Nova

With the 2018 Conference being held in Halifax, I thought it might be appropriate to again turn to Kell Antoft, as he and his family had lived, and lives, in Nova Scotia. After perusing the Antoft files on-line, I phoned the Acadia University Library to inquire about the Antoft Collection. The librarian’s first reaction was, “That is one of our largest collections!” In fact, it is a huge collection, about twenty metres of shelf space, but fortunately much of the material has been uploaded to the Internet, and it is thus readily available to the public. The Antoft Collection consists of information and documents about Kell himself, as well as each of his parents, his two brothers and a wealth of other matters in which Kell and his family were involved.

The Antoft family, consisting of Kell’s parents, Hugo and Asta, and his two brothers, Otto and Finn, emigrated from Denmark to Canada in 1929. They first lived in Winnipeg, where Hugo worked for the Colonization Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1933, with immigration nearly coming to a halt during the Great Depression, the Antoft family moved to Lakeville, Nova Scotia, where the family then established a poultry farm and a pork curing business. When Hugo passed away in 1954, Asta wound up the farm operation. In order to support herself, she then started a nursery which eventually became widely-known as Mrs. Antoft’s Gardens. Yes, she always referred to herself as Mrs. O.H. Antoft.

Kell’s father, Hugo Antoft, lived a busy and remarkable life. I thought it would be interesting to recount what Kell wrote about his father, who was very much involved in the Danish community

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*Martha Larsen, Kell Antoft, Poul B. Christensen,
Ed Laine, Esther Machacynski,
Rolf Christensen*

in Canada. The following is primarily based on Kell's files and notes, which he made sure, would be preserved as part of Canada's heritage. Kell's father was a soldier, tour organizer for a travel bureau, immigration agent, newspaper correspondent, poultry farmer, smokehouse operator and editor. It all started on January 6, 1889, when Hugo was born in Copenhagen, the son of Hjalmar Madsenius Olsen Andresen and Laura Andresen, née Ottosen. Hjalmar Andresen had joined the Danish Army in 1864 to fight in the War of 1864 against Prussia and Austria. After the war he stayed in the army and became a career army officer.

Hugo, like his father Hjalmar Andresen, wanted to pursue a military career and was accepted at the Danish Military College in Frederiksberg, which he attended from 1911 to 1915. Attending the College were three young men who were all named O.H. Andresen. Due to their identical rank, initials and surnames, their identities were frequently mixed up. Otto Hugo therefore decided to change his last name to Antoft. After graduating from the Military College, Otto Hugo Antoft then attended the Lieutenants' School at Helsingør, where after he served as a lieutenant in the infantry of the Danish Army.



*Banquet in New Denmark Standing
from left:*

*Robert Brinkman (President, New
Denmark Historical Society),
MLA Douglas Moore,
Minister of Culture Jean-Pierre Ouellet,
Ed Laine (Public Archives of Canada),
Prof. Kell Antoft*

Sitting from left:

*Poul B. Christensen (President, Pacific
Region FDAC),
Torben Dithmer (Danish Consul
General, Toronto),
Rolf Christensen,
Gunnar Kristensen (SCVF, Kolding),
Julius Bruhn (Danish Consul General,
Montreal)*

Unfortunately, in 1917, while in the Army, Hugo twisted his knee. He was hospitalized for some months. But was finally honourably discharged and awarded a medical pension. While in the hospital, he met Asta Sigrid Rump, a nurse-in-training. Asta had been born in Aalborg on January 29, 1896. They fell in love, and Hugo and Asta were married in 1918, settling in Frederiksberg, which to many outsiders, is also Copenhagen. Asta had been born in Aalborg, one of nine children born to chief railroad engineer Harald Rump and his wife Petra Godskesen. Asta was briefly employed as a student porcelain painter at the Royal Danish Porcelain factory in

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Frederiksberg. When the First World War broke out, she volunteered to train as a nurse. During her stint in a military hospital ward, she met First Lieutenant Otto Hugo Antoft.

Asta's maternal uncle, Marius Godskesen, who was Mayor of Frederiksberg from 1919 to 1936, secured Hugo a position in the city administration. The family lived centrally in an apartment on Smallegade in Frederiksberg, where Otto and Finn were born. Their third son, Kell, was born later, in Roskilde. Then in 1920, Hugo was hired by Bennetts Rejsebureau (travel bureau) in Copenhagen, as a tour organizer and guide. His ability to communicate in seven languages made him ideal for this position. Later he became secretary for Bennett's department for guided tours, a position he held until 1927, when he had a disagreement with the manager of Bennetts Rejsebureau and resigned. He subsequently accepted a position with the Copenhagen office of the Canadian Pacific Railway's Colonization Office, which was managed by Marinus Bonde Sorensen, with whom he developed a life long friendship. From 1927 to 1929, Hugo's job with the CPR involved the recruitment of Danish families and individuals for immigration to Canada. At this time the transportation and settlement in Canada of people from Northern and Eastern Europe was a primary activity of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and it was the basis for the company's operation of ocean liners and the sale of company land across Western Canada.



The CP's SS Duchess of Atholl, built 1928

In 1929, Hugo was offered a transfer to the CPR Colonization Office in Winnipeg. It sounded like a wonderful opportunity, and he accepted. He sailed on the new CP passenger ship, the *SS Duchess of Atholl*, which had only been built the year before, landing in Saint John, New Brunswick, on November 30, 1929. From there he took the CPR train to Winnipeg, to prepare for the arrival some months later of his wife, Asta, and their three sons, Otto, Finn and Kell. In Winnipeg Hugo rented a house on Luxton Avenue in the East Kildonan area of the city, and quickly got it ready for the arrival of his family in April 1930.

Hugo's new position with the Canadian Pacific Railways Colonization Department was set up in a subsidiary organization entitled the Danish Immigration Aid Society, located at 765 Main Street, Winnipeg. His position was Secretary of the Society. Potential settlers from Denmark could receive help from The Danish Immigration Aid Society, which helped Danish farmers find work, and which would place Danish immigrants on farms on the Prairies. This service was free. As well, the Society could provide loans to Danish farmers in Canada in order to help them bring their family to Canada. The loan had to be paid back within two years. President of the Danish Immigration Aid Society was Mr. Anthon M. Rasmussen, a real estate agent and lumber dealer as well as land agent for the CPR in the Danish settlement of Standard, Alberta.

The Danish Immigration Aid Society was incorporated federally. Its application for letters patent had been submitted in December 1927 and was approved in 1928. The Society had a board of directors made up of several prominent Danish Canadian businessmen, professionals and clergy, who in some way were all associated with the CPR. Throughout its existence Anthon M. Rasmussen was president, and Charles W. Petersen of the *Farm and Ranch Review* in Calgary was vice-president – until his death in 1944. Serving as Secretary-Treasurer were S.P. Damskov,

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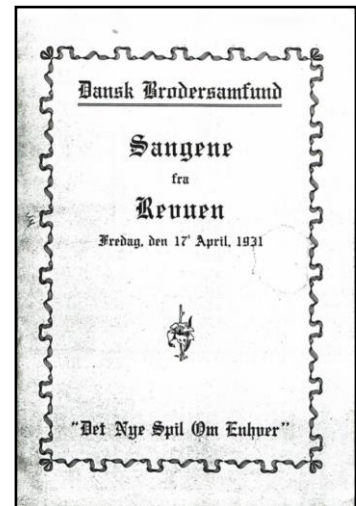
Otto Hugo Antoft, 1932.

Hugo Antoft and after 1933 S.H. Murphy, all three of Winnipeg. For Hugo, his new job provided an opportunity to travel throughout Canada and to become acquainted with a wide cross section of Danes who had settled in the country during the previous half century. The Society's representative in Denmark was Mark B. Sorensen, who headed the CPR Office in Copenhagen.

According to the bylaws, the purpose of the Society was: "To assist the settlement of lands in Canada and to aid Danish people in Europe to come to Canada as settlers and to establish them on farms in Canada; and to maintain and assist such settlers as may be deemed proper by the corporation to carry out this purpose." The Society was active from 1928 to 1931 – and then more or less dormant, until it was dissolved sixteen years later.

With the arrival of Asta and the boys in Winnipeg, the family soon took an active part in the activities of the other Danes in Winnipeg. Hugo and Asta joined the Danish Lutheran Church, as well as several social clubs. The boys were enrolled in summer school, held in the basement of the Church, where they were schooled in Danish, combined with Bible studies. A Danish children's folk dance group became a weekly activity for the boys, and Asta spent many hours creating and sewing folk costumes for her three sons. Hugo and Asta wrote scripts for the songs in the annual show (Revy), produced by the local Danish Brotherhood Lodge. In fact, Hugo played the lead role in a highly acclaimed production in the winter of 1931. Hugo also spent a good deal of his free time as a correspondent for Danish weekly newspapers in Canada and the United States.

With the rapidly deepening economic depression, the Canadian government passed laws in 1930 that virtually shut the door to further immigration. Hugo stayed with the CPR for several years, although work with new immigrants nearly dried up. To expand his duties, the CPR sent him to Nova Scotia to visit the CPR Colonization Office in Kentville and to examine the state of Danish settlements in the province. In April 1931 he was sent as a Travelling Colonization Agent to New Brunswick to find possible locations to place settlers in that province. At the time the population in the countryside in the Maritimes was dwindling and farms were being abandoned. His trip was reported in *Dansk Canadisk Tidende* of Toronto in its May 6, 1931 issue, which mentions he is in Montreal, on the way to the Maritimes. The short article also mentions that Mr. Antoft is Secretary of *Kirken og Hjemmet*, the church newspaper founded by Pastor Paul Nyholm of Dickson, Alberta.



Eventually, however, there was just too little work to justify his continued employment with the CPR. It came as no big surprise, when on November 8, 1932 he received a letter terminating his employment with the CPR, effective December 31, 1932. When Hugo was transferred to Canada in 1929, the agreement with the CPR specified that if his services were no longer needed, the CPR would pay the passage for the family's return to Denmark. However, the Antofts decided

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they would prefer to remain in Canada, specifically in Nova Scotia, and the CPR agreed that instead of the return to Denmark, the company would pay for their move to Nova Scotia. The decision to settle in Nova Scotia was based on an agreement made with the Danish newspaper publisher, Odin Kuntze, who had established his home in Lakeville, King's County, and had founded the Danish weekly, *Danske Herold*, published initially in Winnipeg, and subsequently in Kentville, Nova Scotia. Odin Kuntze had become acquainted with Hugo through his contributions as Western Canada correspondent for the newspaper. On one of Hugo's visits to Kentville, Kuntze told him of a house that he owned across the road from his own home in Lakeville.



Hugo and Asta's farm house in Lakeville, Nova Scotia

Although this house needed some major renovation, a deal was struck. While the house was being restored, the Antoft family could stay with the Kuntzes. In return for lodging, Hugo would contribute articles to the newspaper. When the renovations were completed, the Antoft family could rent the house and the surrounding five acres of farmland. Shortly after New Year 1933 the Antofts arrived. Within a few months the house was refurbished and the Antoft family was able to move in. Meanwhile Hugo

and Asta had gathered information and literature on the intricacies of raising chickens, as they had decided to start a poultry farm. They started with five-hundred baby chicks. They called their operation the Dana Poultry Farm, which was based on both egg production and on broilers. During the restoration of the house, which was originally built in 1844, they discovered a large walk-in bake oven. At Asta's suggestion, the oven was modified to be used for the smoking of

fish and meats. As neither of them had the slightest knowledge of such matters, Asta wrote to her parents in Denmark, and in due course they received books on how Danish farmers cured and smoked their meats. They experimented and soon found a successful way to cure and smoke fish and meat. Word of this new enterprise rapidly spread throughout the Annapolis Valley, and soon farmers were bringing their hams and bacon to be treated by this traditional Danish preservation process. It was not long before demand outstripped the ability of the Antofts



The Antoft's Dana Poultry Farm in Lakeville, 1937

to keep up. Expansion became necessary, and it would be vital to their continued success. But with no money of their own, and loans from wealthy investors or from banks being very difficult during the "Hungry Thirties", there was scant prospect for financial help from outside sources. But by a remarkable coincidence, the solution appeared in the person of an immigrant who had found his way through Canada's immigration restrictions, Mr. H. Grimm, a Swiss citizen, who had been granted entry to Canada by virtue of his financial resources. Mr. Grimm came to the

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Antoft house as a boarder, while he was looking around for a farm that would suit his ambitions and his skills as a machinist, toolmaker and blacksmith. Grimm undertook the design and manufacture of a large metal walk-in smoke box, which was located next to the existing smoke oven. It proved to be far more efficient and Hugo and Asta were able to expand the business many fold. In turn, this resulted in further increases in demand for custom processing, and it enabled the Antofts to build a new addition to the house for the meat business as well as in the introduction of improved processing methods.

Curing and smoking meat was a seasonal business, confined largely to the late fall and winter. The Poultry business, on the other hand, mostly involved work in the spring and summer. Despite having no previous farming experience, the family succeeded in the poultry business. By



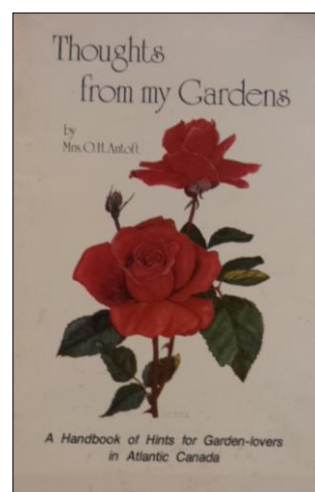
Asta Antoft (1896-1992)

1945 the Antofts had 200 acres of land with an annual output of 2,000 to 3,000 dressed broilers, and they had firmly established a reputation for producing high quality ham and bacon. Throughout this time, Hugo Antoft continued to proofread and write articles and literary critiques for *Danske Herold*, although this work was mostly unpaid labour.

Odin Kuntze had established *Danske Herold* in Winnipeg in 1932, but he had quickly moved it to the Brooklyn Farm near Kentville, Nova Scotia. When Odin Kuntze died in 1937, only about 54 years old, the management of the print shop and the publishing of *Danske Herold* fell to his stepson, Edmund Green. Unfortunately, Edmund Green's command of Danish was lacking, and Hugo Antoft therefore soon assumed increasing responsibility of the editorial tasks. With the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, revenue from advertising from the trans-Atlantic Ocean Liners serving Scandinavia dried up. It was impossible to continue, and *Danske Herold* ceased operations in July 1940.

Because of the potential loss of his Danish military pension if he ceased to be a Danish citizen, Hugo chose not to become a Canadian citizen. Meanwhile, Hugo Antoft continued to help Philip Sandford, the CPR's Colonization Agent in the Kentville Office. Conversant in several European languages, Hugo was often called on to act as an interpreter.

Hugo and Asta also brought leadership and entrepreneurship to the farming community in the Annapolis Valley. For instance, Hugo was one of the founding members of the Evangeline Credit Union. Similarly, when the middlemen of the poultry industry in 1943 made life difficult for farmers in the Annapolis Valley, Hugo was a driving force in establishing the ACA Co-Operative, a producer-owned poultry co-operative, focussing on chicken, turkey and egg production. The Co-op later processed broiler chicken, roaster chicken and breeder fowl. Hugo naturally served on ACA's first Board of Directors. To these ventures he brought his awareness and knowledge of how the cooperative movement had enabled Danish agriculture to survive and prosper in the intensively competitive conditions of an earlier era.



Mrs. O.H. Antoft's book, *Thoughts from my Gardens*

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The war impacted the Antoft family directly. Hugo and Asta's three sons, Otto, Finn and Kell, all enlisted during the Second World War, and none of them returned to live on the Antoft farm after the war, the two survivors seeking other careers. The oldest son, Otto, born in Frederiksberg (Copenhagen) on February 21, 1919, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942, after graduating with an honours BA in Public Administration from King's College in 1941. In the summer of 1943, Otto was sent overseas and posted to a number of bases in England. He was a navigator in one of the Stirling aircraft – a four-engine British heavy bomber – that for five days towed gliders and dropped supplies to the airborne units attempting to secure the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem in Holland. On September 21, 1944, Otto's plane was shot down over Holland and Otto was one of the crew members who died. Initially buried in Zetten, the Imperial War Graves Commission later re-interred him at Osterbeek Airborne Cemetery in Arnhem. In 1942 the Canadian government had granted Danish citizens serving in the Canadian military the right to add the "Denmark" shoulder patch to their uniforms and Otto did this. Otto posthumously received a number of Canadian war medals, as well as one from the Danish government in recognition of his service as a Dane in Allied war service.

Finn Antoft, the middle child, was born in Frederiksberg on February 12, 1921. He was only nine years old when he came to Canada. After completing grade ten in Kentville in 1937, he headed to Halifax and signed on as a cabin boy on a tanker. When the tanker finally called at a port in Europe he disembarked and headed for Denmark to enroll in the School of Marine Engineering in Helsingør. When Denmark was suddenly occupied by the Nazis in April 1940, Finn was unable to return to Canada, but he continued his studies. He was troubled by what he heard and



Otto and Finn, with two unidentified girls, standing on Antoft meat truck

saw, and he eventually joined the Danish Resistance Movement. He became responsible for organizing transportation, required for the various clandestine activities. At one point he escaped after being detained by the Gestapo and made his way to neutral Sweden. He secretly returned to Denmark and enrolled at the Copenhagen Business School, completing a degree in Business Administration. After the liberation of Denmark, he returned to Canada, where he with his brother, Kell, established Viking Air Service Ltd. in Montreal. Finn took on the role of representing the company in Europe. After selling the company in 1951, Finn became a highly successful marine photographer with an international clientele. He also dabbled in film, in 1953 producing the film "Die Hexe vom Arlberg" (The Witch of Arlberg). In 1956 he provided photographs for Burmeister & Wain's book *From Sea to Shining Sea*. In 1974 he was in Hong Kong photographing ships of the Maersk Line. In 1963 Finn married Lisbeth Hansen, a Danish girl, and they settled in Arlberg, Austria. Finn died in 1990 and is buried in Arlberg.

Kell Antoft was born in Roskilde on July 24, 1923. In 1941 he enrolled at Dalhousie University. Then in January 1943, not yet twenty years old, Kell enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Halifax and joined the University Air Training Corps Squadron. He trained as a navigator and in 1944 he was transferred to Britain for training as a radar navigator in night fighters. He also became a pilot. In May 1945, Kell was in Denmark as part of the Royal Air Force contingent

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which accepted the German surrender of Aalborg Airport (Fliegerhorst Aalborg West). With the Luftwaffe's surrender the RAF took over Aalborg Airport, and began destroying all the hangars, German military equipment and supplies, as well as 270 German airplanes. For his war service Kell received various illustrious medals. Kell had a busy and distinguished career and in 2002 he was awarded the Order of Canada. Kell was demobilized in 1946, and with his brother Finn he founded Viking Air Service Ltd. In 1951, they sold the company and Kell established Nordic Biochemicals, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company, which he then sold in 1966 to return to Dalhousie University, receiving a BA in 1967, while he was appointed Assistant Executive Director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada and of the Canadian Cancer Society. In 1969, he accepted an appointment at Dalhousie University as Assistant Director of the Institute of Public Affairs. In 1976 he was appointed Director. Meanwhile he studied part-time, receiving an MA in Political Science and Public Affairs in 1977. Kell stopped teaching at Dalhousie University and doing research at Henson College in 1990, but continued part time. Over the years, Kell served as a volunteer and as a board member of a number of organizations. On its establishment in 2002 he was appointed a member of the Council of the Order of Nova Scotia.

In 1949, Kell married Kirsten Hersom Petersen. Their children are Asta Ellen, Susan Kirsten, Nicholas Kevin and Timothy Steven. The couple divorced in 1978, and in 1980 Kell married Mary Lou Courtney. Kell Antoft passed away in Halifax on January 8, 2005.

Kell's father was a chain smoker all his adult life and Hugo's health clearly showed the ravages of this addiction to cigarettes. In his fifties, severe emphysema forced him to limit his physical activity. Frequent bouts of coughing, increasing symptoms of congestive heart disease, and ultimately a stroke, forced him to abandon the meat processing business. Sadly, on December 31, 1954, a few days short of his 65th birthday Hugo Antoft died of lung cancer. His ashes were buried in a family memorial park at the back of the family farm. The three-acre park is also the site of a memorial cairn erected to Hugo, as well as the burial site of the ashes of Asta and two of Kell's children who died in infancy. Before the farm was sold, the three-acre park was surveyed, and the park deeded to Kell, who in turn deeded it to his eldest son, Nicholas.

After Hugo's death, Asta liquidated the curing and poultry business. In order to make a living for herself she began a commercial nursery that became known as Mrs. Antoft's Gardens. While this venture was highly successful, by 1967 at the age of 71, Asta was unable to continue the daily demanding pace. She sold the nursery, including lands, buildings and equipment for a fixed sum, but a life lease on the house was negotiated with the purchaser so that she could continue to live in the family home. During her retirement, Asta was not idle. She authored a book entitled *Thoughts from my Gardens*, published in 1973, with a second edition in 1974.

In 1951 Asta had started a handicraft business, but it was only after her retirement that she could concentrate more fully on producing her needlepoint items. She also continued to paint, and the items were sold from her home. Eventually, in 1988, ill health forced Asta to move into the Grandview Manor in Berwick, although she did not give up the life-lease on her house. Asta Antoft died at the Grandview Manor in 1992 at age 96. She is buried in the family park at the back of their former farm. When the empty house was vandalized and became run-down, the municipality boarded it up. After Asta's death it was sold, but the new owner felt it was not salvageable, and had the fire department burn it down.

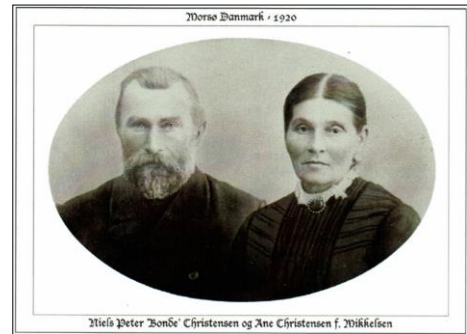
Simon Christensen Of Standard & Marcillieborg

Karl Jensen, Calgary

Niels Christensen and his wife, Ane, had nine children, eight of whom immigrated to Canada. These eight children left Denmark between 1909 and 1927, settling mostly in the farming areas around Standard, Hussar and Chancellor in Alberta. It was natural for them to head to Standard, as it was a Danish colony, founded in 1910.

Later two of the children, Mikkell and Konstance, moved into Calgary, while Kristen moved to Cloverdale, British Columbia, and Dorthea to Toronto. Jens eventually went back to Denmark, as did some of his siblings' children. Meanwhile, Simon had residences in both countries.

During their marriage, Niels Peter Bonde Christensen and Ane (née Mikkelsen), lived and worked on various farms in Thy and on the island of Mors, in northern Jutland. Their nine children were: Kristen, Mikkell, Dorthea, Margrethe, Simon, Ole, Konstance, Petra and Jens, that is, five boys and four girls. The nine children were born between 1875 and 1897. There was no farm to inherit and no one farm to call home, so it came naturally to the children to seek a home or farm for themselves, even far away. Obtaining a homestead on the Canadian Prairies sounded like a dream, and for most of them that dream came true.



Simon Christensen with his dog, Freya Hussar, Calgary 1942

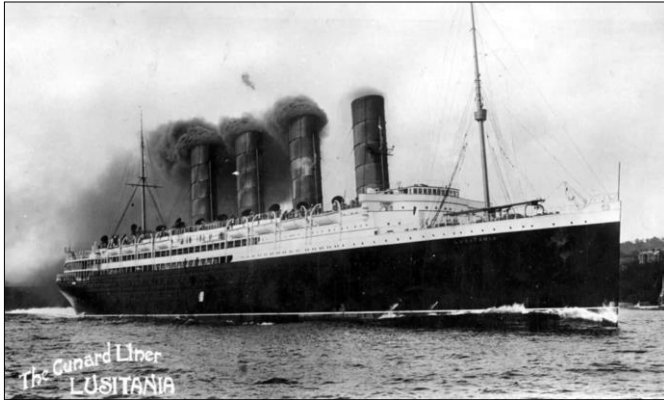
Well before retirement, Niels and Ane, left farming, and became managers of a Fattiggaard (or Poor House) on the nearby island of Agerø. The Fattiggaard was an early form of social assistance for seniors who no longer were able to take care of themselves. Seniors, who were unable to manage on their own, due either to their health or their finances, could live on this farm, which was owned by the municipality. Some of the tenants would receive a small allowance in exchange for whatever work they were able to do. Many of them had been farm hands, labourers or domestics. Niels and Ane were managers at the Fattiggaard on Agerø for many years.

When Niels stepped down as manager of the Fattiggaard in the early 1920s, his well-to-do son from Canada, Simon, purchased a small holding for him and Ane near Hurup in Thy. Niels lived

BIOGRAPHIES

there until he passed away in 1928.

The one child who did not immigrate to Canada was Petra (1892-1965), who trained as a school teacher and married Søren Mikkelsen, who was also a teacher. They lived in the towns of Todbjerg and later Hvilsager, a considerable distance from Thy. Søren became the school principal and deacon at the church, while Petra was teaching, and managing the local library. They had three children, Anna, Peter and Karen.



The youngest of Niels and Ane's children, Jens, was born in 1897. In 1920 he too left Denmark for Standard. Jens must have made good money, as already in 1923, he returned to Denmark and bought a farm on the island of Mors. In 1924 he married Marianne Skovbo Andersen. They sold the farm in 1959, and moved into the neighbouring town of Nykøbing Mors, where Jens worked as a mailman until his retirement. Being an excellent cook Marianne started a catering business and

would go to the customer's houses to do the cooking for parties, be they weddings, birthdays or anniversaries. They had one son, Villy, who became an engineer.

Simon Christensen is perhaps the most interesting of Niels and Ane's nine children, as he travelled a lot and never really settled down. Simon, born on a farm near Karby on the island of Mors on February 6, 1888, received a good education. After regular school, Simon attended Krabbesholm Højskole in Skive, a Grundtvigian boarding school for young adults founded in 1885, and located in the old historic Krabbesholm Manor, dating back to 1565.

At the age of 21 Simon left Denmark. He sailed to England, from where he boarded the Cunard Line's *RMS Lusitania* in Liverpool. The *RMS Lusitania* was a new luxurious ocean liner, which had just entered into service two years before. It could accommodate 2,198 passengers on nine passenger decks, who were served by a crew of 850. It had a cruising speed of an impressive 25 knots and was easily recognized due to its four funnels. It was a steamship and it received the Royal Mail Ship (RMS) designation due to its contract with British Royal Mail. For the young Simon his delightful experience on the *Lusitania* nurtured his love for luxurious passenger ships.

PASSENGER RECORD	
American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island	
First Name:	Simon
Last Name:	Christensen
Ethnicity:	Denmark, Scand.
Last Place of Residence:	P. Assels, Denmark
Date of Arrival:	April 23, 1909
Age at Arrival:	21y
Gender:	M
Marital Status:	S
Ship of Travel:	Lusitania
Port of Departure:	Liverpool, England
Manifest Line Number:	0004

Ellis Island Passenger Record, 1909

During the First World War, the *Lusitania* entered history when on May 7, 1915 it was torpedoed by a German U-Boat and sank, causing a major diplomatic uproar. In 1915 Germany had started waging submarine warfare against Britain, who had implemented a naval blockade of Germany.

Simon Christensen's ship duly docked at the Immigration Hall at Ellis Island in New York on April 23, 1909. In the spring of 1911 he was reported to be in Farwell, a Danish settlement in

BIOGRAPHIES

Nebraska. Sometime later he arrived in Standard, Alberta, where in 1916 he purchased a half-section of land from Jesse Jorgen Petersen, who had come to Standard in 1910, with his wife, and five children.

Later Simon Christensen bought several properties and farms in and around the Standard area. Some were rented out, while others were operated by a manager/foreman named Ejnar Vyrst, who worked for Simon for many years. Vyrst returned to Denmark when Simon died.

The Nazareth Danish Lutheran Church in Standard was founded in 1911, with the purpose of building a church in their community. The following year a parsonage was built, and a call was sent to Pastor J.K. Jensen, who came in August 1912. At first services were held in private homes, but later in the one-room school house, until the church was built in 1917. Many donated funds to the building of the church. It quickly became the community centre for Standard and area. Then in 1927, electric lighting was installed in the church. Simon helped by donating a chalice.



The chalice in the church in Standard was donated by Simon

For the most part, Simon lived in Calgary. He was more of a businessman than a farmer, owning holdings in Canada as well as an estate in Denmark. He always wore a fashionable suit, tie and hat.



Simon and Konstance, on a transatlantic crossing

He supposedly made his starting capital by trading on the United States grain markets, when he was in California. He was in Solvang, California, in 1920, where it was recorded that Standard, Alberta, was his permanent residence.

Simon frequently travelled to Denmark, usually from New York to Copenhagen, but on occasion disembarking in Göteborg, Sweden. Simon made at least fifty transatlantic trips, always travelling first class, whether by train or by ship, and often bringing family members with him.

On his annual trip to Denmark in 1927, he purchased a large estate called Marcillieborg, located just west of the city of Mariager, along the south shore of Mariager Fjord. He obviously had a good eye for beauty, as it is regarded as one of the most beautiful landscapes in all of Denmark. Marcillieborg consisted of 87 hectares (150 tønder land). Nearly two-thirds of the property was cultivated forest, rolling heaths and sandy beaches. In 1952-53 he renovated and modernized the stables and barn.



Beautiful Marcillieborg, in 2017

Sometime in the 1930s, on one of his trips he met a young Danish nurse, Anna Marie Storgaard, who became his mistress. She also acted as his house keeper at Marcillieborg and helped when

BIOGRAPHIES

he entertained. In 1935 they had a son, who they named Freddy Christensen. Anna Storgaard was a bit younger than Simon; she was born on August 22, 1901, but she passed away already in 1957.

In the late summer and early fall of 1939, Simon was in Standard, helping with the harvest. With the outbreak of war on September 3, 1939, Simon was unable to return to Denmark. Then on November 30, 1939, when the Soviet Union attacked Finland, Simon was spurred into action, collecting money for the Finnish war effort. Simon, along with his niece Karen Evans, solicited money on the streets of downtown Calgary. Karen was Mikkel's daughter.



Collecting for the Finnish war effort, Calgary

In December 1952 he arrived in Copenhagen on the Christmas Ship, which brought Danes from the United States and Canada home to Denmark for the holidays. The docking of the Christmas Ship at Langelinie was always a festive occasion and was covered live on the radio. Simon likely had a wonderful Christmas at Marcillieborg. But in January he suffered a stroke and spent considerable time in the hospital in Hobro. He never fully recovered from his stroke, but did return to the farm. In December he took a trip to Randers and Copenhagen. His health then took a turn for the worse and he died at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen on December 3, 1953, at the age of 65. Simon Christensen was buried in the Mariager Cemetery, not far from Marcillieborg, and a large impressive stone with the heading in capital letters 'DANISH CANADIAN' above his name was placed on his grave.



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My Transatlantic Trip 1951

Alfred Wulff, Hamilton, Ontario

This is a translation from Danish of a copy of the first letter which Alfred Wulff sent from Canada to his family and friends in Denmark, after he immigrated to Canada in July 1951. The original handwritten letter which he mailed to his girlfriend, Edith Nielsen, has unfortunately been misplaced and lost, after she gave it to Alfred's brother, Hans, so that he and other family members also could read the letter. It is most likely Hans who made a copy of the letter, as it was his son Ib, who gave it to Edith Wulff, née Nielsen, along with several other handwritten letters addressed to Hans and his family, during Edith's visit to Denmark in 2008.

Dear friends!

Hamilton, Ontario, August 6, 1951. I have now this morning at nine o'clock reached the goal of my travels, and will write a little about my trip here, if you feel like reading it.

The *MS Anna Salén* was a nice-looking ship, as you saw for yourselves. Thank you all for staying such a long time at Langelinie, until we sailed. That was nice of you. The deck was painted with red lead paint, and it stuck to everything, including us, when it got wet. So, we really looked great, when we finally reached Halifax. There they put us on a train that was so dusty that it covered all the red paint smear, so now we were charcoal grey. But I have just had a nice bath, and put on some clean clothes, so I feel like a new and better man!

July 26, 1951. The bunks are good, and I slept well last night. Kattegat was quiet, but it is so foggy now, that we can barely see one hundred metres ahead of us.

July 27, 1951. We are now in the North Sea. It is a bit choppy. We feel a little strange today. The waves and the change in diet are having an effect. A few are sea sick. But most are optimistic and happy to be under way to the new country. Life on board is like an ant hill. We are 149 Danes; some Swedes and Norwegians, and a lot of Germans, for a total of 1,400 passengers.

We have passed Skagen and the southern tip of Norway, and so far, the weather has not been too bad. All clocks were turned back an hour and twenty minutes this morning, so we have had a long night. I share a dormitory cabin with fifty-five Danes, all nice guys. We have two storey bunks, and sleep most of the day. We do not have to work on board, just look after ourselves, keep the cabin tidy and pick up our food at the long counter in the mess hall. Yesterday we had a safety drill. On with the life jackets! All hands on deck!

We have just had our supper: farmer's sausage and potato salad. It was OK. Everything is served on a tin tray with four depressions. We line up in a long row by the counter and our food card gets a clip before we walk past eight to ten guys who all put something on our trays. We get tea and coffee in a stained plastic cup. It sure would be nice with a beer and a slice of rye bread. We

FYI

each have a card to use when we buy cigarettes or candy, with a value of \$1.50. I bought a carton of Chesterfields, 200 for \$1.20. In Canada they are \$4.00 for a carton.

July 28, 1951. Scotland is behind us and we are now in the Atlantic Ocean. The swells are much higher, and sea sickness is spreading. But no one in our cabin (D.2) is really sick yet, although some do not feel very well. We get a little fruit every once in awhile, apricots, apples and oranges, and we would sure like more of that.

Many complain about the food. German cooking and we are used to better! But I do eat some, just to keep up my strength. They show a movie every evening in the mess hall. I saw the one last night; first some funny little short clips, and then a great colour film about desert pirates.

July 29, 1951. We are not too lucky with the weather. It is windy and cold. We are all laying down to calm our stomachs. When we are upright our innards come up in the throat fifty times a minute. Not too nice. The captain yelled at us yesterday. We are not allowed to lie and smoke on the bunks with our shoes on. We do not keep our cabin clean enough, and so on! As punishment we are locked out of our cabin five hours a day; so we have to behave or we will all die from sea sickness.

Some old Hitler Jugend boys, wearing special armbands, are ordering us around. They think they are generals. We are on a real cattle barge! We call it the queue-berge, as we have to line up for everything, several times a day. There are loudspeakers everywhere. They play recorded music and give out orders in several different languages all day long. We put cotton in our ears to avoid listening to all that volapük.



Alfred Wulff, Langelinie, 1951

July 30, 1951. Things are getting worse! The spray from the waves is right up over the funnels. Today we are moving at half speed, so the ship won't roll over. We are not making much headway. Sea sickness is everywhere, although I seem to be OK. I could not eat anything at noon, and I have only smoked two cigarettes today. I will get through this too!

July 31, 1951. The weather is a little better today, so I tried to read a little of "The Great Fisherman".

August 1, 1951. I think we are getting tired of this "holiday at sea". The Queue Barge is getting a little foul. You can't walk two steps without getting filthy. Don't ever recommend the *Anna Salén* to anyone. It is not pleasant to sail with. You get sick just being here. When we go down to eat our appetite disappears; the second we get to the stairs the greasy fumes hit us, and we start to gag. We have now been at sea for a week. The clocks have been turned back four and a half hours. And we have been delayed more than twenty-four hours due to nasty weather. Newfoundland is ahead. The ship is bouncing like a washtub. Awful ship!

August 2, 1951. The mood is getting better. We will be in Halifax tomorrow evening. We can see the coastline now and the weather is getting better, but still damp. I thought I was going to

sun-bathe on deck all the way over! Well, that did not happen. We did not have one single hour of good weather during the whole trip, so I am still a paleface.

August 3, 1951. Great weather today. The hardships are forgotten. The sun is shining, and the dolphins are jumping among the little fishing boats at anchor along the shore. Otherwise, no sign of life along the rugged coast. Last night there was a dance in the ballroom. Some dance! But happy faces all around. We were in port at 6:00 p.m. We were sent ashore to clear customs and have our papers checked. Then back on the ship for the night. Tomorrow we will board a special train for Montreal. Twenty-five hours!

August 4, 1951. Some of the guys went ashore to eat last night. Lots of nice stuff for sale and the Canadians are quite friendly. So, it looks promising. I am the only Dane going to Hamilton, along with a few Germans and a Swedish family. It will likely be a nice peaceful trip. Many are going to Vancouver, which they say is the best place for Scandinavians.

August 5, 1951. Montreal? Or is this New York? Not much difference they say. The skyscrapers, the neon lights, the traffic, the noise, the huge stores, hotels and restaurants – and lots of churches! We arrived at twelve noon, standard time, and I will continue tonight at 11:00 p.m. I have bought a ticket for a sleeper compartment on the train to Hamilton for \$2.75. I am dead tired. I did not sleep at all last night. And today I have walked about Montreal for eleven hours. I have had lunch twice, so now I am nice and full. It cost me one dollar to eat my fill in a nice restaurant. This is about an hour's pay. How much did I get for an hour's pay in Denmark? A pack of cigarettes, or a cup of coffee? But this here in Canada was really good food with nice vegetables, plus fruit and other goodies. Clothes are inexpensive here; a nice suit is thirty dollars, shoes seven dollars and a nice tie one dollar. Pants and shirts are about four dollars each. I could go on and on. I have taken a taxi and been to a movie! And now I am going to travel on the best train in the world, a Pullman Sleeper Car. I feel like a millionaire. And I still have fifty dollars in my pocket! I got \$11.75 for the 100 Danish Kroner that I brought with me. They can be exchanged here for dollars, one dollar for nine Kroner.

August 6, 1951. I arrived in Hamilton at 9:30 this morning, after a great night's sleep, even though the black porter roamed about all night. All the porters on the sleeper cars on the Pullman trains are black. Nice Guys. What luxury to travel with them. "Would you like to get up, Sir? Or would you like breakfast in bed?" "Please be seated Sir, it will be another two minutes until we arrive!" "Here let me take your suitcase!" Wow! Yesterday on the train I spoke to a real Canadian, a toolmaker. I did OK with the language. Hamilton is a city with 192,000 inhabitants, and the best place for immigrants to Ontario. I wonder if that was why I was the only one coming here? The city looks nice, and I was met by an Immigration Officer. He asked if I had any money and sent me to a small hotel near by, because the office where I am supposed to go is closed today. It is a holiday. So, I am at loose ends still. I will send my address, when I find a permanent place to live.

In closing I send my best regards to all of you. Hope you are all well. And that his letter can go on to Anna, Dorthé, Hans and Karl, as I can't write all of this to each of you.

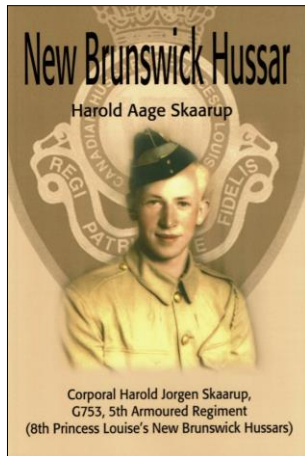
Greetings to all my friends and family from Alfred

Harold Jorgen Skaarup

New Brunswick Hussar by H.A. Skaarup

Book Review by Rolf Buschardt Christensen

New Brunswick Hussar is a book about Harold Jorgen Skaarup, who enlisted in the Canadian army in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in April 1941. He trained at Camp Borden in Ontario and army camps in England. He became a Sherman tank commander and was sent to Italy in November 1943. Harold Skaarup fought at various battles in Italy, the last being the Battle of the Gothic Line in August 1944, when his tank was hit, and he was fatally injured. He was buried in the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Montecchio, Italy. He was twenty-four years old.



Harold Jorgen Skaarup had been born on a farm in Broager, on the north shore of the Flensborg Fjord, south of Dybbøl, on September 27, 1919, when the area was still under German administration. He was the son of Frederik Christensen Skaarup and Anne Christine Kaad.

His father, Frederik Skaarup, had been born on February 9, 1889 at Egen-paa-Guderup, on the island of Als. On May 8, 1914, Frederik married Anne Christine Kaad. She too had been born on the island of Als, at Nordborg, on December 30, 1889.

As Southern Jutland was part of Germany from 1864 to 1920, Frederik Skaarup was called up for duty to serve in the German Army in the First World War. He served in Belgium and France. He was wounded several times. One such mishap was in 1917, when he was trapped in a salient, but this enabled him to help his unit miraculously withdraw to safety. He became a hero and was later called up before his entire regiment and presented with the Iron Cross Second Class.

After the War, Frederik set up a carriage-making business in Broager. But in the early 1920s, it was difficult to compete with the automobile, the newest form of transportation. So, he packed in his carriage business and thought about immigrating to Canada. It was not an easy decision, as he had grown up in Germany, and had now lived in Denmark for six years, which had been his and Anne's dream all those years under German rule.

Many other Danes, particularly farmers, were immigrating to Canada in the 1920s. In 1926 the family finally decided that they too would immigrate to Canada. Frederik Skaarup sailed on the *SS Montcalm* and arrived in May, while Anne and their three sons followed on the *SS United States*, arriving in July. They settled on a farm in New Denmark, New Brunswick, not far from Klokkedahl Hill.

Harold was seven years old when he came to Canada. He attended the local school and he became an excellent skier. In the 1930s he felt strongly about what was happening in Europe. Consequently, in April 1941 Harold Skaarup went to Fredericton with Cecil Hansen and Alfred Sorensen, two friends from New Denmark, to enlist. They joined the army and started training in Fredericton. Harold signed up with the 8th Princess Louise's New Brunswick Hussars, and was later sent to the Canadian Forces Base Borden, west of Barrie, Ontario, for advanced training in driving and operating a tank. He took tank maintenance courses, tank gunnery courses, gas warfare, and wireless courses.

In October 1941 he was sent to England for further training and practice. In England he was stationed near Marlborough. He was soon introduced to a new tank, the M2A4, but it was soon replaced. During the course of the war the Hussars were supplied with ten different types of tanks, each one with a slight improvement over the previous model.



Lance Corporal Harold Jorgen Skaarup, in Italy

In April 1942, the Hussars were posted to Aldershot and given Canadian-built Ram tanks. They continued training in England until they boarded the ocean liner *RMS Samaria* in Liverpool in November 1943, heading for Algiers, Algeria. They landed at Naples, Italy, in December 1943, disembarking and heading to Matera, where they were given brand new Sherman Mark V tanks, made by Chrysler in Detroit. By January 1944 the Hussars had 48 Sherman tanks at their disposal, and were ready to move to the front.

The Hussars were assigned a counter-attack role, two miles west of Ortona. Here they received their baptism of fire, as they were well within range of the German artillery. To withstand the German barrage the Sherman tanks were reinforced with additional armoured plates.

In April the Hussars moved into the Volturno Valley in preparation for the upcoming battles that spring. They moved close to the Monastery of Monte Cassino, overlooking the Rapido River, and then headed for the Liri Valley. Monte Cassino was the key to the valley, and the Germans had built two strong defensive lines across it, the Gustav Line and the Hitler Line.

The fighting began in earnest in May 1944, the Allies successfully breaching the Gustav Line, and then reaching the Hitler Line, at a great sacrifice. On May 27th the Hussars reached the strategic Liri River, but couldn't find a site to cross. But the Germans oddly withdrew, and they were able to cross the river, and continue to Ceccano, where they were brought to a stop. It was also an opportunity to rest and prepare to for the attack on the Gothic Line further north.

While stopped, the Hussars heard that Rome had fallen to the Allies on June 4th. But this event was overshadowed by the D-Day landings in Normandy two days later.

Montecchio, located near the eastern end of the Gothic Line, was practically razed to the ground by the Germans to provide an unhindered view and strong defence against the advancing Allies. The task of breaching the Gothic Line fell to a large extent to the Canadian forces, which accomplished this after a month of fierce combat, at an enormous cost in lives and casualties; cracking the Gothic Line ranks among Canada's greatest military feats during the war.

On August 29th the Hussars were moving toward the Gothic Line, which was the last major fortified German Line across the Italian peninsula. The Book details the fighting, and mentions the many casualties, right up until that fateful day in August 1944.

On the morning of August 31st, Harold and his tank crew were engaged in heavy fighting near a hill known as Point 136. The situation was grim. Harold's squadron had already lost 12 of 19 tanks. That morning, Harold's tank was hit by a shell fired from a German 88mm anti-tank gun. The shell entered the side of the tank, just under the turret and took off both of Harold's feet. This was followed by a salvo of German mortar shells. Harold was hit again, this time in the chest by shrapnel fragments. While all his crew perished, he was able to be evacuated to a field hospital, but died on September 6th from his wounds.

Due to the heavy losses a site was selected by the Canadian Corps for burying the dead. Chosen was a spot near Montecchio which is now a Commonwealth War Cemetery. This became Harold Skaarup's final resting place.



Hon. Lt.-Col. Hal Skaarup,
the author of the book.

The author of the book, retired Army Intelligence Officer Harold (Hal) Aage Skaarup, is Harold's uncle. H.A. Skaarup is the author of numerous books about warplanes, military tactics, military intelligence and the First and Second World Wars. He is therefore well qualified to write about tank commander Harold Skaarup. H.A. Skaarup has served in West Germany, Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan. He has been posted to NORAD in Colorado and has taught at the Canadian Forces School of Military Intelligence at CFB Borden and at the Tactics School in the Combat Training Center at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick. His specialities include conducting intelligence analysis, managing and liaising in a multinational environment, writing intelligence summaries and giving effective briefings.

H.A. Skaarup's book *New Brunswick Hussar* was published in 2001 by Writers Club Press, an imprint of iuniverse.com Inc. in Lincoln, Nebraska. The book is 180 pages in length and contains a bibliography, twenty-five photographs and maps, as well as an annex with the origins of both the Skaarup and Kaad families. The book has ISBN number 0-595-19046-4 and can be purchased online. The book places Harold in the context of what was happening during the war. These events are not difficult to follow, as the book is well-written and easy to read.

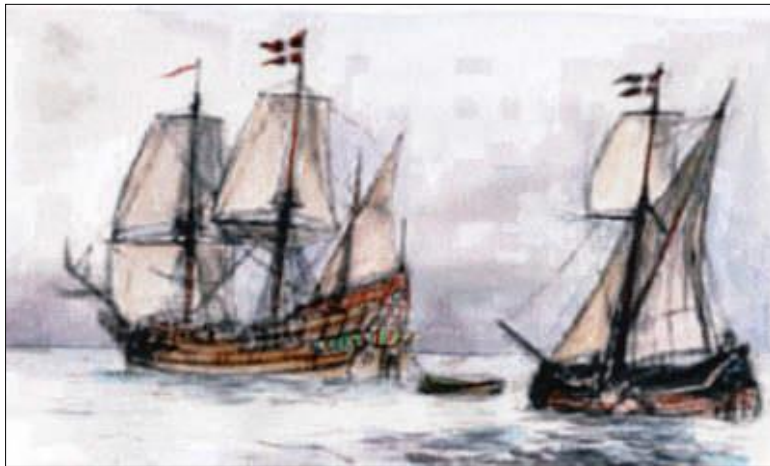
During the war Canadian soldiers fought their way up the Italian peninsula, at an enormous cost in lives. They also had to battle heat, snow and mud. The book *New Brunswick Hussar* tells the story of a brave and courageous young man, who as a front-line soldier took part in the campaign in Italy. Nearly every day he could face death. In short, Harold Skaarup was a hero. He was willing to give up his life, so we, and others, could be rid of fascism, and live in freedom.

Jens Munk's Journey 1619-20

A 400-Year Commemoration of an Epic Expedition

Otto Christensen, Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

On May 9, 1619, a worshipful dedication service was held in Christian IV's newly built church – Holmen's Kirke in Copenhagen. The service was arranged for a group of 64 sailors and their families to bless the crew and ships before they started on their expedition. Their goal was to find the route to China and India by sailing a north-western route. The hope was to reach their destination by Christmas time. After the service, a procession took the participants down the canal to the two waiting ships. They were towed out of the harbour and set sail.



This took place nine years after Henry Hudson was commissioned by the Muscovy Company to find a Northern route to China, with no luck. Hudson's crew mutinied and only a few of them made it back to England. Now Christian IV of Denmark-Norway was eager to try his luck in establishing a new trade route and perhaps establish a colony in North America. King Christian IV was a king with ambitions!

For this expedition, he had chosen Jens Munk to be the admiral of his two ships – a frigate *The Unicorn* (*Enhjørningen*) and a yacht *The Lamprey* (*Lamprenen*). These two ships - the frigate with a crew of 48 and the yacht with 16 crew members – were among the best of the King's ships and were stocked with trade goods for the journey

Captain Jens Munk was one of the best seamen in the kingdom. If anyone could navigate the northern waters, it would be him. He had sailed several whaling expeditions north of Norway and successfully chased pirates in the North Atlantic. He spoke Portuguese, English, Dutch, among other languages. He had time and again earned the respect of the crew that sailed with him. Christian IV also engaged two English pilots to assist Munk on the journey.

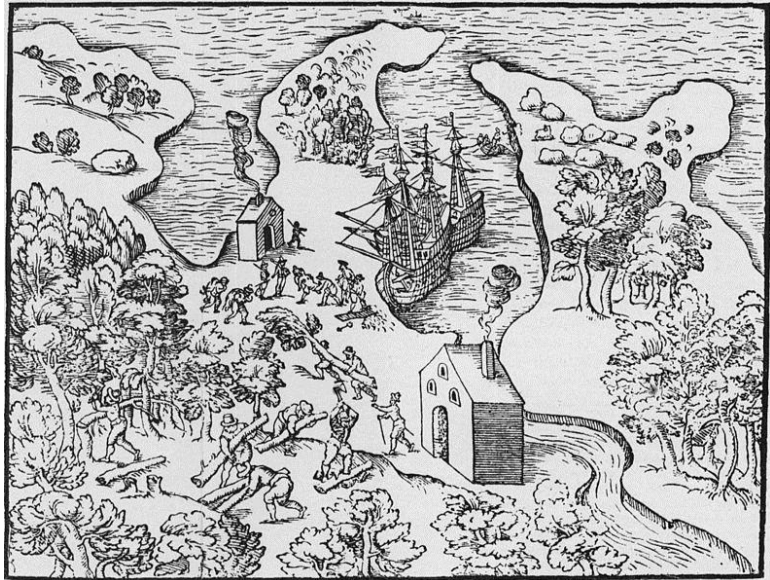
Everything was promising. A year and a month later – on June 4, 1620 in “Munk's Winterhaven” – today's Churchill, Manitoba, Canada – Munk thought he was the last person of the expedition alive. He wrote his testament:

In as much as I no longer have any hope of living in this world I request for the sake of God if any Christian people should happen to come upon this place that

they bury my poor body in the ground, along with the others who may be found here, receiving their reward from God in Heaven. And further, that this my journal, may be forwarded to my gracious Lord King (every word found herein is altogether truthful) in order that my poor wife and children may obtain some benefit from my great distress and miserable death. Herewith farewell to all the world and my soul into the hands of the Almighty etc. - Jens Munck

Certainly, things had not gone according to the plan. The English pilots miscalculated the route. When they finally reached the “Big Sea” (now Hudson Bay), it was already September of 1619 and the approaching winter made further progress impossible. They did not have clothing to withstand the Canadian winter (Churchill is the same latitude as Bergen, Norway), their food supply ran short, and vitamin deficiency (scurvy) ravaged their physical bodies. Jens Munk wrote meticulously in his journal how one by one his crew succumbed to the cold and disease. At first, they were able to bury the dead. However, as the days again began to lengthen their strength declined proportionately. No one had any strength left, least of all to bury their fellow crew members.

Four days after Munk wrote his last will and testament on June 8, 1620, he opened his eyes again and realized he was still alive. He left his berth to get outside in the sunshine since the stench of the dead bodies around him was unbearable. The sun warmed his poor body and to his surprise he saw two people on land. They turned out to be crew members whom he had written off since they had left the ship and not returned to *The Unicorn*, which the crew had made into their winter survival shelter.

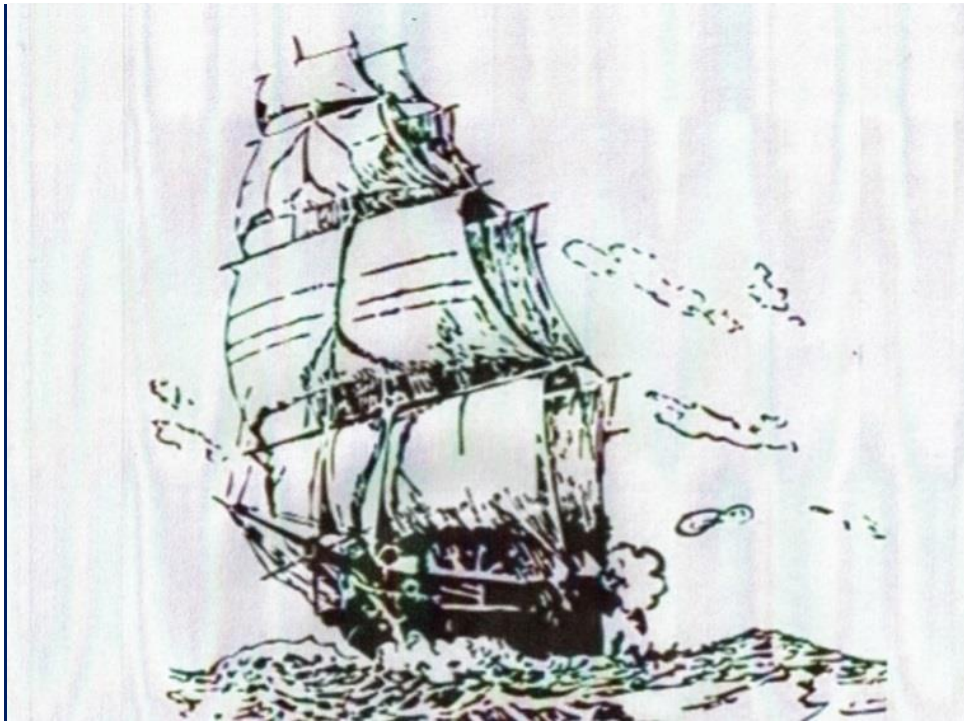


The three men got together, and the melt revealed berries and greens from the previous year. They collected them on all fours and ate whatever they could find. Within a few days they started to gain a bit of strength. They set nets in the river; made fish soup, the only thing they could manage after losing almost all teeth in their mouths. Slowly they strengthened. By July 16, 1620, they managed to get *The Lamprey* afloat and stocked the boat with a few supplies and they commenced the journey home – three very weak men in a boat meant for a 16-man crew. There was no other hope for making it back alive.

But they did! After an epic 68 days at sea, out of Hudson Bay and into Hudson Strait, east and south through Davis Strait, around the south of Greenland, past Iceland and through fierce North Atlantic gales that tore their sails and masts apart, they eyed land on September 20, 1620. It was the coast of Norway – near Bergen. Munk reported his arrival to the local governor (Knud Gyldenstjerne) who happened to be an old nemesis of his. Three days later the governor had Munk thrown in jail. There had been a brawl in one of Bergen’s parlours involving some of the

Jens Munk Expedition

1619 – 1620



A Danish search for the
Northwest Passage

The *MS Anna Salén*

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Alfred Wulff came to Canada on the *MS Anna Salén*, sailing from Langelinie in Copenhagen in late July 1951, and arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax in early August. It was an experience he would never forget, and a ship he would never recommend. In Halifax Alfred took the train, and headed for Hamilton, the steeltown at the western end of Lake Ontario. For the rest of his life he lived in Hamilton, with frequent visits to the family cottage at Wasaga Beach on Georgian Bay. He also enjoyed holidaying in Canada, Denmark, the US, as well as the Caribbean.

Alfred Wulff was born on the family farm in Hjortlund, north of Ribe, on May 7, 1927. After losing their farm, due to an outbreak of mad cow disease, where nobody was allowed to visit the farm, the family moved to Vester Vedsted, south of Ribe, and this is where Alfred grew up. He attended school for seven years; but in grade six and seven he only attended during the winter months. After being confirmed he worked as a farm hand on neighbouring farms. In November 1944, towards the end of the War, he went to Aarhus to work for his brother Carl, who had a delivery business. After the War he went to Copenhagen and lived with his sister, Anna. Through his brother-in-law, Alfred found a job in a machine shop, work which became his life's passion. After serving in the military, as all men had to do, in his case the Air Force, Alfred was again back in the machine shop.

Canada opened its borders to Danish farmers and agricultural workers in 1948. Then in 1950-51 the Canadian government opened its doors to Danish trades people. With the Danish economy in the doldrums, and the country facing a severe housing shortage, Alfred decided that Canada offered a better future and applied for immigration at the Canadian Embassy. He was accepted and bought passage on the *MS Anna Salén*, which was cheaper than passage on a regular immigrant ship.

Prior to leaving Denmark he had met Edith Nielsen in Copenhagen. She was also the one who received his first letter from Canada. The letter was circulated to the immediate family and read over and over. Alfred eventually sent for Edith, and made sure she came on a proper immigrant ship, the luxurious *MS Stockholm*. In March 1954, Edith sailed from Copenhagen to New York, from where she took the bus to Hamilton. On May 8, 1954, Alfred and Edith were married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hamilton. They had three children, Maryann, Robert and Johnny, who all live in the Hamilton area.

Alfred worked in the sheet metal industry, working for Bochek Fabricating Limited for many years. He enjoyed retirement, but, unfortunately, already on March 21, 2005, he passed away.

Alfred's bad experiences on board the *MS Anna Salén* are primarily due to the fact that she was not built as a passenger ship. Indeed, she was planned as a cargo ship, and at the end of her life, she went down as a cargo ship. During her lifetime the *MS Anna Salén* had eight different names,

and served as an aircraft carrier, a cargo ship and as a passenger ship, primarily transporting displaced persons and immigrants from Europe to Australia and Canada.

The *Anna Salén* was built in 1939 by the Sun Shipping & Drydock Company of Chester, Pennsylvania, for the Moore-McCormack Line of New York. She was laid down as a standard C3 type cargo ship with five holds, as designed and proposed by the United States Maritime Commission, and named *Mormacland*. She was an 11,672 gross tons ship, 150 metres long and 31 metres wide. The power plant consisted of four Busch-Sulzer seven-cylinder diesel engines. She had a single screw and boasted a service speed of up to 17 knots.



HMS Archer transporting 35 Warhawk fighter aircraft on its flight deck
 Courtesy: Royal Navy Research Archive online

In 1940, before completion, she was requisitioned by the United States Government, and refitted as an auxiliary aircraft carrier (also called pocket sized aircraft carrier) for the US Navy. This entailed adding a flight deck so anti-submarine aircraft could land on the ship's runway. Up to twenty aircraft

could be accommodated on the ship, which was outfitted with one aircraft elevator, one hydraulic catapult and nine arresting wires. To operate in combat zones, it needed a crew of 555. The role of the airplanes was to protect the ship and Allied convoys, while hunting for enemy U-boats. Due to its new mission, the ship was renamed *USS Archer*.

Before the *USS Archer* had been fully converted to an aircraft carrier, the Second World War Lend-Lease Agreement between Britain and the United States came into effect, and the ship was handed over to the Royal Navy at Norfolk, Virginia, in November 1941. The British renamed it *HMS Archer*.

During robust sea trials the *HMS Archer* was plagued by numerous engine problems. Then in January 1942, she collided with the Peruvian steamship *Brazos*, some 320 kilometres off the South Carolina coast. The *HMS Archer* suffered a huge hole in the bow and experienced serious flooding. She was towed to port with her single propeller half out of the water. The *SS Brazos*, however, sank to the bottom of the ocean.

Finally, the *HMS Archer* departed for active duty, being based at Freetown in Sierra Leone on the West African coast. Unfortunately, the *Archer* continued to be plagued by various machinery defects. Moreover, in June 1942, a bomb stored on the flight deck unexpectedly exploded, causing much havoc.

In November 1943, the *HMS Archer* was relegated to a store ship, and finally in March 1945, she was decommissioned. She was then transferred to the British Ministry of War Transport. During her time with the Ministry she was managed by the Blue Funnel Line of Liverpool, under the name *Empire Lagan*, and used as an aircraft ferry carrier, transporting planes back to America. But already in January 1946, she was returned to the United States Maritime Commission, which laid her up, unable to use her. The Commission was nevertheless looking for a buyer.

Such a person was found in 1948, the same year that the International Refugee Organization officially came into being. The ship was bought by Sven Salén of Stockholm, a well-known Swedish shipowner, who renamed the ship *MS Anna Salén*.



The *MS Anna Salén*

Note the many cranes and near-absence of portholes
 Courtesy of Allan Green/Gordy, ShipSpotting.com

The refugee camps in the Western Zones of post-war Germany were full of displaced persons, mostly from Eastern Europe, who refused to return to their homeland, and were clambering to go to the United States, Canada, Australia and Israel. The International Refugee Organization, established under the auspices of the United Nations, was set up to deal with the massive refugee problem created by the Second World War, and its aftermath of ethnic cleansing and resettlement within new national borders.

The refugees lingering in the camps, often for years, were frustrated by deliberate delays in the receiving countries, as well as plain opposition to taking them in. Gradually the circumstances changed, and in 1948 the camps in Europe started being emptied. By 1952, well over one million displaced Europeans had been resettled overseas.

When Sven Salén signed the contract with the International Refugee Organization to transport refugees from Europe for resettlement overseas, he urgently needed a passenger ship. From the US Maritime Commission, he bought a cargo ship, which had been laid up for over two years. The flight deck had in the meantime been dismantled. He had the ship sailed to Italy, where she was refitted as a passenger ship, with the superstructure extended to the stern. Rather basic sleeping quarters for over 1,500 persons were built into the cargo holds. A dormitory for fifty men, adjacent to the boiler room, was crammed with bunk beds. An array of extra lifeboats, as was required, was also installed on each side of the ship.

In May 1949, the *Anna Salén* departed Naples on its first International Refugee Organization voyage, carrying 1,503 displaced persons to Australia. In December 1949, on her fourth voyage to Australia, the *Anna Salén* encountered problems in the Indian Ocean, and limped into Aden, where the passengers were transferred to the *MS Skaugum* a Norwegian immigrant ship on the Europe-to-Australia run. In June 1950 the *Anna Salén* returned to service, taking 1,561 displaced persons from Bremerhaven to Melbourne. On her return voyage to Europe, the *MS Anna Salén* called at Tientsin in China, to take refugees back to Europe, mostly Russian Jews, who had fled from the Soviet Union, and who now urgently wanted to leave what had become Red China.

Then in 1951 and 52, the *Anna Salén* made a number of trips to Canada, mostly with refugees. In 1951, the Government of Canada introduced the Assisted Passage Loan Scheme, to help European immigrants who could not afford the cost of the transportation, and who were in urgent financial need. The loan then had to be paid off within two years after landing in Canada.

On Boxing Day in 1951, the *Anna Salén* encountered the Canadian coaster *SS Mayfall*, flying a distress signal. The *Mayfall* had run out of fuel, and the weather was terrible. The captain of the *Anna Salén* instantly knew what to do and hauled the *Mayfall* into St. John's, where after he continued to Halifax.

In July 1952 the *Anna Salén* was chartered by the XV Olympiad Helsinki 1952 Organizing Committee, sailing athletes from New York, via Halifax, to Helsinki. During the Olympic Games that summer, the *Anna Salén* provided a ferry service between Stockholm and Helsinki.

After the Games in Helsinki, the *Anna Salén* sailed for New York with 630 passengers, many of them American athletes. However, in thick fog, in the Pentland Firth, sailing north of Scotland, the *Anna Salén* collided with the Norwegian whale factory ship *Thorshovdi*. The bow of the *Anna Salén* was severely damaged, and the *Thorshovdi* had damage to her port side. Fire broke out on both ships, but they were quickly brought under control by the crews. The *Thorshovdi* was able to continue her voyage, but the *Anna Salén* had to be piloted into Scapa Flow for repairs to the bow. After repairs the *Anna Salén* headed for the US, but was soon redirected to Halifax.

In 1955, Sven Salén sold the *Anna Salén* to the Hellenic Mediterranean Line of Piraeus, Greece. Apart from repainting the ship, and changing the name to the *MS Tasmania*, she was not altered. She was immediately put into service on the Piraeus-Melbourne run, this time carrying Greek immigrants to Australia. But already in 1956, the *Tasmania* was refitted as a cargo ship.

In early 1961, the Greek owners sold the *Tasmania* to the China Union Line of Taipei, who named her *MS Union Reliance*. The China Union Line used her on its regular cargo service to ports in the US. This would be the ship's last service, a run which would last less than a year.

In Texas on the night of November 7, 1961, at 11:15 p.m. the *Union Reliance* collided with the Norwegian tanker *Berean* in the narrow Houston Ship Channel. The collision was caused by a steering gear failure aboard the *Union Reliance*, which meant the steering wheel could turn, but the rudder did not respond.

The *Union Reliance* rammed the tanker, penetrating the *Berean*'s number one cargo hold to a depth of over three metres. The hold contained acrylonitrile, a colourless volatile liquid, widely used in industry to produce rubber and plastic. The acrylonitrile cargo in the tank sprayed over the forward half of the *Union Reliance*, and the resilient flames rapidly engulfed the forward portion of the vessel. The intensity of the fire and smoke caused the crew to flee. The fire continued to spread to the aft portion of the ship, prohibiting the launching of all but the aft starboard lifeboats. As a result, twelve Chinese *Union Reliance* crew members lost their lives and two others suffered severe burns. The ferocious fire on the *Union Reliance* continued to rage for three days. Totally charred and gutted, her sailing days were definitely over. Consequently, the *Union Reliance* was sold as scrap to a shipwrecking firm in New Orleans. While in the early stages of demolition, on February 19, 1962, the *Union Reliance* was swept by yet another vicious fire, which completely disembowelled what was left of the unfortunate wreck.

A year in Denmark

Tara Zerbe, Kelowna

When I applied to become a Rotary Exchange Student, my motivations were geared to learning another language and culture. Little did I know that the culture I would live in for a year would change me so much as a person, and in turn teach me a language with mouth movements and sounds that I had never considered possible. Before I knew it, I was bound for Denmark, living a Scandinavian lifestyle and constantly being asked to say *Rødgrød med fløde*.



Tara Zerbe

My initial dream was to go to a country of Spanish or French origin to learn a “useful” language. From the lucky draw of my six submitted choices, being assigned my last choice of Denmark was a bit of a heart break at first. I wasn’t sure what to think, being offered my last choice. I had included Denmark on my list purely for cultural aspects to better understand a high quality of life, not so much for the sake of the language. At the time, I was passionate about Spanish and French, praying I would be able to fully immerse myself and learn a language I had been trying to master for years. To get my last choice out of six, without one of my preferred languages, I was initially very disappointed about going to Denmark. What would I ever be able to take away from such a small country, with a language not spoken outside its borders?

As conflicted as I was about Danish, I began to ponder what Denmark would be like from my small amount of knowledge of the tiny country: A social democratic nation with a high happiness-scale and socialized health care. To me it sounded very much like Canada, maybe the Canada of Europe. I was starting to think that other than the mass number of bikes and large difference in geographical size, Denmark couldn’t be that much different to my home country. The fact that I would be traveling to a culturally similar country with a sparsely spoken language had me torn for most of my time prior to the Exchange.

In fact, it came down to making a decision of yes or no in less than a minute, when I had expressed how I felt to the Rotary Committee. They gave me thirty seconds to decide whether to choose the adventure offered to me, or reject it for not being what I wanted. In those thirty seconds, I understood that the situation was not exactly what I had hoped for, but at the same time, my resistance to such an adventure was an indication to me that it may be what I needed to grow, and allow life to carry me to a new place in my life, beyond what I already knew. Little did I know that the single “yes” I said that day, would bring so much to my life.

Leaving the airport from my hometown of Kelowna, British Columbia, was easier for me than it was for my friends and family. By then I had come to terms with going to Denmark. I was looking forward to discovering Denmark, and whatever adventures were ahead. I had everything packed. I was ready to face the windy weather of Denmark, dressed in my Rotary uniform with a



*Meeting my wonderful Danish family
Outside the terminal in Copenhagen*

red pin filled blazer and Canada hat to match. My parents and my friend, Queena, were all quite surprised by how calm I was sipping my last double-double in Tim Horton's before my flight. I knew I would be leaving for a full 12 months, and be without family and without any Tim's coffee or timbits. By this time, there was no fear or anxiety in me, only joy and excitement. After a heartfelt goodbye, I made my way to my flight, noticing the many Canadian posters and trinkets that were symbols of my country; maple leaves, first nations totems, wildlife, maple syrup bottles and scenic mountain ranges. It was then I began to wonder how these symbols I grew up with would be a rarity for the next twelve months.

After many long flights and layovers, I began to see my host country through the clouded weather on my descent into Copenhagen. Once I had collected my luggage, I walked out to find my new host families, hoping they would see my Canada hat and find me. Before I even had a chance to look, everyone was there to welcome me with posters with my name and Danish flags everywhere. We were all so excited to meet each other as all the planning to my arrival had finally come to life. Seeing my two host families and my Rotary Councillor welcoming me with open arms was completely surreal. All of my past doubts went completely out the window and replaced with nothing but joy and excitement, to enjoy Denmark to the fullest.

In just one day, I was introduced to a barrage of Danish things! My host families were all excited for me to try koldskål and Smørrebrød with Leverpostej, and remoulade, while my host brothers carried me on their bikes to show me around my new hometown of Stenløse, a small town forty minutes away from Copenhagen by S-tog (S-train). Over the course of the year, I got to know every bit of that town square, from the little shops like Kvickly, the neighbourhood pub, to the kebab shop my friends and I would go to after school. My host families had made it a mission to show me, beyond our hometown, as much as they could during my first few days. Every day we followed a schedule that my counsellor, Charlotte, had made of things to do as well as places to see. It was a perfect example of Danish organization. Within a week I had seen much of beautiful Copenhagen, Bakken, the Carlsberg Museum, Kronborg Castle and even Tivoli. As my time as a tourist came to a close, I began to try to understand the Danish ways of daily life.

Over the course of my Exchange, I lived with three host families for 3 to 4 months, each being just as loving and kind as the last. The amount of value that Danes hold to the concept of family is inspiring. Being a part of each family allowed me to understand the importance of spending time together, even in the little moments of making dinner together, playing cards and relaxing in a way that can only be described as *hygge*. Everything we did together brought us closer. Whether it was helping my host mother, Lene, during the markets in Hillerød or Danish folk dancing with my host father, Henrik, every week, every moment we shared brought us and our cultures closer together. They trusted me as they trusted their own children, encouraging me to explore and embrace the freedoms of being a Dane. The amount of independence I was granted was overwhelming at first. I had gone from a society of parent dependent youth to a self-carrying society of youth. Children roaming the streets alone slowly became normality, as it did for me. I

went from relying on BC Transit, to being unlimited in opportunities on the S-train, biking my way through city streets, feeling free as a bird. The amount of independence I was given allowed me to grow beyond myself and make my own choices in life a reality. It surprised me that this sense of freedom was the normality of most in Denmark. Every Danish child had already been accustomed to so much access to self discovery and independence. It led me to believe that the satisfaction in the Danish quality of life is highly due to the self awareness and psychological composure of its citizens. Danes are in touch with who they are and what they want out of life. They are taught to learn through self discovery and seek their passions. With accessible government-funded afterschool activities and education that is highly self-directed, they are encouraged to do so. I experienced this first hand while attending Egedal Gymnasium.

To me, education is everything. It is one of the most important civil rights, and the right of every individual in society. Coming to Denmark gave me an opportunity to experience some of the best educational practices in the world. Being raised in the public schools of B.C., I had been there



*My Counsellor Charlotte and her family
She is truly amazing, and I will never forget the
kindness she and her family showed me.*

for everything; I was just starting school when the B.C. Liberals ripped up the teaching contracts. As young as I was, even I could see the dramatic changes in the classroom. Gradually there were fewer resources available to students and in exchange, more and more students per class. I remember half of my school in portables, with my biggest class being two grade levels managed by only one teacher. It wasn't easy fitting 45 kids in a portable, but thanks to all the amazing teachers in my life, they've always made things work for the sake of the students. The fact that the government was so resistant to the educators, who raised-up generations that soon support the province and country, was extremely frustrating to both

teachers and students. It got to the point where students were used as pawns during the B.C. teachers strike, and I began to look into other approaches to education in other countries, including Denmark.

I was sick of the North American trend of being unappreciative of education and taking it for granted. Soon I discovered the Scandinavian approach to education. Self directed learning with a broader and more applicable curriculum. I was enamoured by the concept of forest Kindergartens where kids learned to harness their curiosity through physically experiencing the world around them. This approach continued into higher education, and was the right of every child. Danes were raised into a broad set of skills within their education system, which were then applied to post secondary schooling which had no price tag, but the tax dollar that paid it.

I was excited to start school in Denmark. Aside from the challenge of trying to understand Danish and the constant battle of falling asleep from lack of understanding, I took a lot away from the experience! The Gymnasium separated classes into interest groups. I was in class 2r, a social science and economics line. Our class did every general course, but often with the spin of the theme of the class. It was great for students who are branching out into their specific interests. Learning these interests in the Gymnasium is an amazing system that is set for the age

groups between 16 and 20. After a gap year of *Efterskole* (boarding school) or an exchange, students come into the Gymnasium learning material in very broad and applicable ways. Subjects are taught in very open ways, allowing students to learn things individually while applying their own opinions of the material. The main goal of most subjects in the Gymnasium is for students to be able to take home and apply what they have learned. For example, learning how to critically analyse a passage of text with the right skillset is more important than a right or wrong answer on what the message of the text was. Instead of compacting vocabulary lists of a certain unit in French, we spoke and gave our opinions on a general topic, building up our vocabulary as we discussed. Subjectivity is an asset of Danish education, which in my opinion is more beneficial to the student and builds a sense of direction in learning. Teaching students how to use knowledge as a tool rather than blindly memorising is the best approach to critical thinking and to education in a world of high tech. Our ambitions and efforts are self directed and almost never in the form of a bubble sheet.

My studies aside, I was also offered the opportunity to volunteer at the local elementary school in Hareskoven, one of my home towns. My little host brother was happy to have me in class and so were the rest of the kids. I loved teaching them about what made Canada special. We had lessons on Canadian animals, food, and sports and even got to watch a hockey game or two! It also gave me the best opportunity to improve and apply my Danish. No matter the country, kids are always the easiest and most fun to talk to! I fell in love with the teaching format of elementary education in Denmark.

Along with the similar concept of open environment learning, kids were heavily in tune with themselves, thanks to the teachings of empathy. Kids were taught to think about the choices they make and how they influence others around them. Of course, kids will be kids, but as rowdy as they get, Danish children had a large amount of understanding of how their behaviour matters. To do something and instinctively think about how the receiving party feels is not a subject taught in Canadian schools. Every



Bikes parked outside Egedal Gymnasium in Stenløse.

child was extremely sweet and was supported by both a teacher and a mandatory assistant teacher referred to as a *Pædagog*. The Staff was thrilled to have me there, and was just as fascinated by the differences between Canadian and Danish education as I was. The biggest differences between the Canadian system and that of Denmark were issues of trust and social exposure. Compared to Canada, there was trust in the teachers within the flexibility of what they felt necessary to teach. They had their own approach to teaching the material and rightfully so, their skills as teachers are highly regarded in the country. Parents trust that their children are safe in the hands of the school. As a class we could walk over to a student's house for soccer and ice cream in the day without having a mountain of insurance and a parent permission form. It was normal to see kids no older than four years old in a large group on a train with their teachers, all dressed to face the day in their adorable outdoor onesies. Kids were climbing trees and working with knives without the slightest concern.

Despite Canada having more protective guidelines in a physical sense, a Canadian school is a highly adaptive environment in terms of socializing. Rather than stay in the same class from the beginning of elementary school till the beginning of the Gymnasium, Canadian children are under constant exposure to new students with every new grade. Class structures are often shuffled, pushing kids to meet new people and associate with many different students and social groups. This might be a reason for Canadians' openness and comfort in meeting new people.

The lack of variety in socializing from such an early stage may be a major influence as to why Danes are more reserved. The fact, that Danish parents would do anything to shelter their children from having to move to another class and restart making friends, is astounding, it being quite normal in Canadian schools. Both aspects have their pros and cons, but my time experiencing both stages of Danish education was truly a dream come true. To this day I still have all the letters every student in the class wrote to me. Meanwhile, I hope they remember the Canadian girl who saw so much in each and every one of them.

Seeing Denmark through Canadian eyes was a view that was more contrasting than I had thought. As similar as I assumed the cultures were in the beginning, all I began to see were more and more differences between the two countries. My bubbly Canadian attitude and openness to everyone around me always came as a huge shock to Danes. I'm not sure if I made them feel



My little Canadians in-training at Hareskovskolen

scared or intimidated, but I do know that I definitely made a few people uncomfortable. In return I was very confused as to how quiet and reserved interactions between most Danes were. People were so quiet at first! Even the common custom of saying "How are you?" was non-existent. And when I would ask, the phrase that I saw as a polite greeting was taken as an in-depth personal question. After a while, I began to understand why that was. Danes are some of the most generous people I have ever met. When they say something, they truly mean it. They value honesty and directness of opinion rather than dancing around a subject for the sake of being polite. They value time with their loved ones more than anything, and will rather invest their time and energy into their own self care and to those they care about, than freely giving out acquaintance based conversation. If I had to put it into metaphor, Danes to me are like coconuts: Behind a tough exterior is a soft and sweet center! The work that it takes toward getting to that centre may be challenging sometimes, but in the end of the day it is more than worth it. Being close to a Dane means you have a true friend: someone who truly dedicates a piece of themselves to you and genuinely values the time you share together. This was especially true during my time in the Gymnasium, where making fast friends was one of my biggest challenges in Denmark. I fully understand and respect the amount of time a Danes take to earn and form relationships, but as an exchange student who only had a year to make friends, the process was still a bit too slow for me. I was a kind and energetic student, and never thought that I would have much of a problem. I was cheery and even happy to give hugs to everyone I knew. Much to my surprise, what I had thought of as warm and welcoming was a bit too overwhelming for my classmates. So much so that one of my classmates pulled me aside to let me know how it

was causing a lot of confusion. Seeing as how this kind of behaviour was quite normal for my friends and me back home, it made me come to the conclusion that Canadian girls can be quite touchy with friends.

Instead of being as forward as I am, I had to adjust my approach in order to fit in, slowly building a level of comfort between each other and meeting half way. Over time, I made some amazing friends who were kind enough to teach me Danish and taught me everything I had to know about fitting into Danish culture. Fitting in rather than standing out was a reoccurring theme as I continued my exchange. As a social democratic country, Denmark divulges a mentality of similarity and equality of the individual through a concept called “Janteloven”. To put it simply, Janteloven is the basis of not being raised to think that you are more special than anyone else. As unlike as this is to encouraging individualism in North America, Janteloven encourages Danes to lay out attainable goals without relying on any ego built on the standard of being “special”. This way of thinking raises a lot less entitlement in an individual, raising Danes to be more considerate of the condition of others, while expecting realistic successes from themselves. The concept also overlaps with the Danish politics of re-distributing wealth through taxes and the universal approach and guarantee to social security systems.

What I did	What they thought
Said hello with a hug	Handshake first please
Apologize for everything	Why are you sorry?
Casually started braiding my classmate’s hair	What!
Casually leaning on a classmate’s shoulder	Why is she touching me? You have a chair!
Resting my head on the head of a classmate	???
Goodbye with a hug	Not again!
Asking “How are you?”	My cat died this morning...
Having a personal or deep conversation	I’m uncomfortable!

Even as I began to adapt to the comfort levels of my classmates as the year went on, I could never get to a personal enough level with them to form any close friendships. Even by my seventh month in Denmark and by the time of our class trip to New York, I was still alone in the crowd. I had a lot of conflicting feelings, wondering if it was me who was wrong in my ways, or if it was the culture. Maybe I was too different and just couldn’t fit the mold I needed to be fully accepted. My classmates were kind and always nice enough to let me into what they were doing, but there was always a prominent wall that I could never break as hard as I tried. I asked my teachers for advice, and even they didn’t understand why I couldn’t be warmed up to. I didn’t want to give up, but at the same time, I had to come to an understanding that you can take a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink. If none of my classmates felt comfortable enough to become close friends with me after all that time, so be it. That time of my life was one of my biggest learning curves as an exchange student and overall as a person. And with that lesson, I decided to let go and approach things with the Danish perspective. I put more time into the friendships I had already made rather than my classmates.

I left the Gymnasium to volunteer at my host brothers' elementary school for the rest of the year, teaching kids about Canada and having one of the best experiences I could ever give myself. My Danish friends outside of school were dear to my heart and I was so grateful to have them. With that experience, I learnt to better appreciate those whom I have in my life, and value my own worth as an individual, much like any other Dane would.



Saying goodbye at Copenhagen Airport

If I could go back to before the Exchange, and do it all over, I would study more Danish. If it hadn't been for the fear of swallowing my tongue and being disappointed about the choice of Denmark, I would have had a much easier time. Yes, I had consulted the odd dictionary and had tried language learning apps like Duolingo. But Danish was not that easy, the sounds are so different to the way words were written. The letter J became the letter Y, the letter Y sounded like the letter U and even the letter D had now become silent. I even had more vowels to consider with æ, ø and å. By the time I had left for my flight, I had only a few words under my belt!

Realizing that I could get only so far with words like turtle and potato, I practiced a lot of basic conversation while on my flights to Denmark. Much to my surprise, the little Danish I had learnt in that time impressed a lot of Danes, including my host family. I don't think they were expecting me to really know anything, but then again, having anyone even try to pursue Danish in general is already impressive in itself. Fortunately, I was still able to communicate despite the little amount of Danish I knew, since most Danes were quite fluent in English. This was a blessing, but also a curse once I had gotten a handle on Danish and wanted to practice speaking it. People would hear my Canadian accent and would persist with English, which got a little irritating. However, I was no better. As much as I did learn Danish, it was tough to resist switching to English, and a lot of times I gave in. The language is so difficult in pronunciation and vocabulary. Every time I spoke I sounded like I was choking on a potato! Getting the right sounds for æ, ø and å was essential; and intonation could change the meaning of a word.

Memorable mistakes I've made while learning Danish include me thinking for over half a year that "Er du sur?" meant "Are you sure?", when it means "Are you angry?" In Denmark, I wasn't sure about a lot of things, and asked this a lot. You can imagine how much I confused people.

I tried to explain that the washing machine wasn't working. "Vores vaskemaskine arbejder ikke". To be clear, the washing machine was not working, as in going to work at its office position in upper management. Functionality of an object is "virker" in Danish, while "arbejder" is occupational. Whoops!

Then there's me talking about all the beautiful lights during Christmas time. The difference between the words "lys" (lights) and "lus" (head lice) is only a matter of word stress on the "Ooo" sound of the Y and U. I said Lus every time. Watch your head during Christmas time!

My worst mistake was the time I "missed" my bus. One day I had to leave class early and when I missed my bus, I came back to the classroom. My friends asked me what happened, and I said:

“Jeg savnede min bus.” They lost it; and roared. And I had no idea what I said wrong. Apparently, there are two types of “miss” in Danish: to miss the bus, and to miss/mourn someone. I had mourned and emotionally “missed” my bus. And it was such a good bus! As embarrassing as these moments were, each of them helped me learn something new and improve. Every language requires failure before achieving success. And after many, many mistakes, I can confidently say that each one of them brought me closer to learning more Danish! By the end of my exchange I could read and more or less write Danish, as well as speak it fairly fluently. Moreover, I am able to baffle English-speakers with how strange it sounds!

As an exchange student, I was enamoured by the amount of differences between my country and the one I was staying in, not really thinking about similarities. Before I had arrived, I assumed that Denmark was the Canada of Europe. The more I lived my life in Denmark, the more I realized how completely wrong I was. Aside from the colour of our flags, ways of life were so different. Relationships, school, geography, technology, food, traditions and even state of mind were flipped in my eyes. Experiencing these differences for a year made me appreciate the



Back home with family and friends

uniqueness of both cultures. I deeply missed the open kindness of Canadians while appreciating the genuine selective kindness earned from Danes. I flourished in the cyclable and modern cities of Denmark, while still missing the beautiful valleys, mountains and forests back home. But most of all I missed diversity, a part of my life that I could never live without. Being raised in Canada and being surrounded and embraced by many cultures were things I saw as normal. I had been raised by parents from different countries while growing up in a community that had roots stretching from around the world. What’s unique about this normality is that it plays a huge part into our identities as Canadians. The principle of coming together with the loves of different countries is what makes Canada, and is the reason I am so proud to call this country home. Coming from such a diverse country to the small nation of Denmark made me realize how unique my upbringing of multicultural normality was. Denmark is a country of emigration more than it is of immigration. And in comparison, to Canada, Denmark seemed somewhat homogeneous in my eyes. Most were eating the same food, celebrating the same holidays, doing the same traditions and being raised in the similar Danish upbringing. With so many people wearing just black and white, and all the blonde hair and blue eyes, a lot of people started to look the same to me after a while! I understand that this is the case for many countries around the world, and to me it was beautiful to see such a unified and singular culture with such an established identity. But as a Canadian, raised around multiple cultures it made me miss and appreciate the identity that Canada has created through its diversity that surrounds me every day.

My time in Denmark coincided with the 2016-2017 school year. I thought I should write a bit about the current state of Denmark, and how it reflects on the current state of the rest of the globe. Denmark is an efficient country with life satisfaction being second in the world, next to Norway. Citizens are hard working and live satisfying and stable livelihoods. Danish businesses are competitive both domestically and on the international market. In a world of globalization, Denmark has maintained a balance between national and international interests, permitting major companies from outside the country to participate in the economy without driving out small or

local businesses, as much as in other countries around the world. This is very much due to an efficient and effective government which strives to protect Danish interests.

Denmark is a champion of free speech, which is diligently defended by the government, even when the government is attacked. It is inspiring to see many sides of every argument openly and freely debated. Every opinion is given a chance to be heard. I remember visiting my host mother's family, whose neighbour had been targeted for publishing some cartoons of the prophet Muhammed. This issue was, and is, controversial, and made international headlines. The Danish government continues to provide security, protecting him against repeated attempts on his life.



*Receiving bursary from
Hans Frederiksen and Finn Sander,
Danish Social Club of Victoria*

A huge issue under debate while I was in Denmark concerned itself with the Syrian refugee crisis. Denmark is a small country of less than six million people. It is a country with no significant history of immigration. The recent massive influx of refugees and its accompanying clash of cultures are something that Denmark has never experienced before. Seeing how it was already difficult for me to try and integrate into Danish culture, I cannot imagine how those of non-western cultures are able to integrate themselves, especially in times of tension and fear. Tensions are high between Danish citizens and these newcomers. I believe Denmark is not able to handle mass immigration. A highly singular culture with a mindset revolving around social policies that support a high redistribution of wealth cannot properly integrate a massive number of people from a very different culture. Traditional immigrant countries such as Canada are better suited to receive these refugees.

Coming back to Canada I realize how much Denmark has changed me as a person. I have returned with another language, new views on the world, as well as a higher level of independence. I came back having built an entire network of new friends and family. My parents and my friends were pleased and surprised by how much I had changed. The girl who left a year ago is nowhere to be seen. I have become more direct as a person, saying what is on my mind and knowing my thoughts are my own. I am patient and much more composed, seeing Canadians as too interrupting and loud. I now feel uncomfortable by the outward kindness of Canadians, particularly those I don't know. I have become much more reserved when in public or interacting with new people; not because I am shy or resistant, but because I put much more social energy into those whom I am blessed to have in my life. The phrase "How are you" holds no significance in my mind, and servers are too attention seeking when all I want is to get my food and leave. Not long ago, these were Danish points of view, which I thought were strange. Little things like this have made me realize how much Denmark has influenced my view of the world. It also makes me realize how much that single "yes" one year ago changed my life. As I begin my studies at the University of Victoria and join the Danish Club of Victoria, I take every bit of what I have learnt in Denmark with me, in what I say, in what I do, and how I act. My Danish experience has brought me so much opportunity. I can now say *Rødgrød med fløde*, and I say both "nå" and "eh" in response to every other sentence. With love and pride for my home country and the one that adopted me, I wave both red and white flags high. I have written these words with a Canadian heart and a Danish mind, knowing the experience of loving two beautiful cultures bring us all together to learn and celebrate one another.

The Jens Munk Expedition

Report for the 2018 Conference

Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Carl Sorensen - Chair of the Commemorative Steering Committee

Background:

At the May, 2017 Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, Otto Christensen, Gimli, Manitoba, gave a fascinating luncheon presentation to the conference on the subject of the 1619-1620 Jens Munk Expedition, sent out by King Christian IV of Denmark-Norway to find the Northwest Passage across the north of what is now Canada, and to reach China and India. In addition to the facts of the presentation, it also drew attention to the fact that 2019-2020 will be the 400th anniversary. Elsewhere in this 2018 *Heritage Book* is Otto Christensen's description of the Expedition.

In summary:

On May 9, 1619, the Danish sea-captain Jens Munk and 64 crew set sail from Copenhagen across the North Atlantic in two small royal ships, the frigate "Unicorn" and the sloop "Lamprey", under the auspices of Christian IV, King of Denmark-Norway. The Expedition's mission was to find the Northwest Passage to China and India. King Christian's objective was to demonstrate and proclaim Denmark's rightful and historic membership among the principal trading and sea-faring nations of western Europe. The Expedition was almost 200 years before the more famous Franklin and other expeditions in the mid-1800s (British), and only a few years after the discovery of Hudson Bay and Champlain's founding (1608) of what is now Quebec City (New France).

The mission failed.

The Munk expedition made valiant attempts to penetrate the ice of the Arctic, sailing as far north as 69 degrees latitude in Davis Strait, and in September fought its way into Hudson Bay and became the first European expedition to explore western Hudson Bay. The expedition spent the winter caught in the ice near the mouth of what is now the Churchill River, near what is now Churchill, Manitoba. Only three members of the Expedition, including Munk, survived the winter. The rest died of starvation, the fierce winter, and of scurvy. On July 16, 1620 these three sailed for home aboard the "Lamprey", eastward again across the North Atlantic, two months later on September 20 almost inconceivably reaching Bergen in what is now Norway, and then sailed on to Copenhagen.

Otto's presentation was received with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm, and led to discussion at the conference and subsequently as to whether and how the 400th Anniversary could be properly commemorated and celebrated in Canada and Denmark – in Canada not just among people of Danish background but among all Canadians. The Jens Munk Expedition was a significant event in the very early history of Canada as well as in Danish history.

Discussion following the conference led to general agreement that the work towards commemoration and celebration should be done under the auspices of the Federation.

Federation Action:

At its meeting on September 12, 2017, the Federation Board agreed as follows:

- *That the Danish Federation establishes a Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee. The Committee shall consist of:*
 - *Jens Woller, Edmonton*
 - *Helle Wilson, Winnipeg*
 - *Karl Sorensen, Winnipeg*
 - *Carl Sorensen, Edmonton*
 - *Barbara Schweger, Edmonton*
 - *Sune Overgaard, Toronto (ex officio)*
 - *Ed Kuhlman, Vancouver*
 - *Gunnar Kristensen, Kolding*
 - *Rolf Christensen, Ottawa*
 - *Otto Christensen, Gimli*
- *The Chair of the Committee shall be Carl Sorensen.*
- *In view of the upcoming 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's voyage, the mandate of the Committee is to initiate and carry out the commemoration of the arctic expedition to find the Northwest Passage by Danish explorer Jens Munk in 1619-1620.*
- *The Committee shall routinely keep the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation informed of its initiatives and plans.*
- *The Danish Federation shall endeavour to promote the initiatives and events of the Committee, also through its Member Organizations.*
- *Etc.*

The Federation Board also established a reporting relationship for the Steering Committee, and provided for the addition of other members. The Board allocated \$500.00 of “seed money” to this undertaking, noting that the Committee could do fund-raising. (In that connection it is noted that neither the Federation nor this Steering Committee have a charitable organization status with the Canada Revenue Agency. Therefore, in fund-raising, it is not possible for either to issue tax-deductible receipts for any funds raised; this somewhat limits fund-raising by donations.)

Moving Forward:

The Steering Committee essentially began to be operational in October. After organizational discussions, the Committee has proceeded with a number of activities. Some of these are noted here (this is not an exhaustive list!):

- Winnipeg area Committee members (H. Wilson, K. Sorensen, O. Christensen) together with S. Person of the Winnipeg Danish Club, and augmented by phone communication and emails including C. Sorensen and R. Christensen, have taken on a central rôle in initiating and coordinating ideas and making connections.
- G. Kristensen (Denmark) has gathered together and is coordinating a group of people in Denmark who have an interest in the “jubilæum” in Denmark.
- Jens Munk Expedition page created on the Danish Canadian Museum’s website:
<https://thedanishcanadianmuseum.com/jens-munk-expedition/>
- Discussions with Danish Ambassador to Canada, Niels Boel Abrahamsen, for ideas, support and contacts.
- Connected, through H. Wilson, with a freelance journalist and a film-maker in Denmark; both have a strong personal interest in the Jens Munk story; the film-maker has already recently created an action movie based on the Expedition.
- Exploring the possibility of having a documentary film created.
- Connected with interested officials, persons and a museum at Churchill, Manitoba.
- Consideration of how to include First Nations people in Canada in celebrating and commemorating, based in part on references in Jens Munk’s diary to the Expedition’s contacts with indigenous people in the Churchill area, and in recognizing the Expedition as an early example of European “colonization” attempts.
- Connected with the publication *Canada’s History* (formerly the *Beaver*) and with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for publication of articles.
- Connected with the co-director of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society’s explorations program, for the Society’s interest in and possible support of further archaeological research.
- Connected with a University of British Columbia emeritus professor of history and archaeology who has done research on the Jens Munk Expedition “site” at Churchill, Manitoba, and is supportive of further archaeological research at Churchill.
- Exploring through connections with the Royal Ontario Museum the possible re-printing of a Jens Munk Expedition publication issued by that Museum in the 1980s.
- Connected with officials of the Government of Manitoba to explore and develop their interest in the Jens Munk Expedition 400th Anniversary Commemoration.
- Connected with officials of the Government of Manitoba for their interest in further archaeological research.
- Discussions respecting the official recognition and designation of the Jens Munk Expedition “site” at Churchill.
- Discussions with the Arctic Institute of North America (University of Calgary) respecting an Institute’s proposal to sponsor and host a Jens Munk lecture series in 2019 or 2020.
- Connecting with G. Kristensen’s group in Denmark and further with the contacts they have established, through connections recently made in Denmark by H. Wilson on a

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trip to Denmark, and through C. Sorensen's connections to Danes Worldwide and the previous Danish Canadian Friendship Society, supporting Danes in working towards a 400th Anniversary "jubilæum".

- Providing connections and encouraging support and involvement to officials of the Danish National Museum (Copenhagen) and the Danish Maritime Museum (Helsingør).
- Discussions with R. Christensen respecting high-lighting the Jens Munk Expedition and Commemoration at the 2019 Federation conference (Winnipeg) and the 2020 conference.
- Working to produce posters, banners and other display material for use at Federation conferences and to make available to local organizations across Canada.
- Establishing a FaceBook account and presence.
- Encouraging and supporting a variety of important but not-so-prominent activities across Canada, such as:
 - local Federation member organizations developing their own commemoration-related activities;
 - encouraging the planting of the "Jens Munk Rose" in various public parks and other places in Canada;
 - writing the script for a live theatre production (i.e. a play) which could be performed on various occasions and made available to local Federation member organizations and other interested organizations;
 - developing a collection of "period clothing" for display on various occasions and at local Federation member events;
 - encouraging and supporting the Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, Alberta, in developing appropriate displays and activities related to the Jens Munk Expedition;
 - etc.

As noted, it is recognized that the foregoing list is not exhaustive. It is likely that some activities and items, which should have been included, have been inadvertently overlooked or omitted.

Members of the Federation's member organizations are encouraged to participate in and support the Jens Munk Expedition Commemoration, both locally and in connection with any interest in the activities listed above. Note that the Federation Board's September 12, 2017 decision to proceed with and support the Commemoration includes:

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Carl Sorensen
Chair, Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

March, 2018



Hello ROCKWOOL



The world is changing. And so are we.

You've always known us as ROXUL, the company behind high-quality stone wool insulation. But in a time when the potential energy savings of buildings has yet to be reached, how can we simply sit back? We can't. United under one global name, we can innovate, explore and

develop new ways to do more for our customers and our planet.

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The I. H. Mathers Story



I. H. MATHERS

The Mathers as Honorary Danish Consuls

Melissa Mathers, Honorary Danish Consul, Halifax



The order came from the Court of St. James in the time of Queen Victoria. It started a five-generation, 123-year Danish Consulate, based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Consular appointment was made by King Christian IX (left) and required the assent of the court of St. James. It reads:

“Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.....To All and Singular Our Loving Subjects to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting! Whereas, our Good

Brother the King of Denmark has by a Commission bearing the date the 12th day of September last appointed Mr. Isaac H. Mathers to be his Consul at Halifax and We having approved of this appointment according to the Commission before mentioned, Our Will and Pleasure are, and We hereby require that you do receive countenance, and as there may be occasion, favourably assist him the said Isaac H. Mathers in the exercise of his Office, giving and allowing unto him all the Privileges, Immunities, and Advantages at our Court at St. James the twenty seventh day of November One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Five in the Fifty-Ninth Year of Our Reign”.






By Her Majesty’s Command

This assent proclamation by Queen Victoria hangs in the head office of marine, offshore and logistics service provider, I. H. Mathers & Son Limited (“I. H. Mathers”) in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Why, because, five generations later, a Mathers family member is still the Honorary Danish Consul of Nova Scotia. I, Melissa Mathers, CFO of I. H. Mathers, received my Consular appointment in 2015 from Queen Margrethe II and Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen, Danish Ambassador to Canada.

Over the years, members of my family have served as Honorary Consuls for several nations. My great-great grandfather, Isaac H. Mathers, the founder of I. H. Mathers, applied to become Consul for Denmark, Norway and Sweden and received these appointments in 1895, due to the strong shipping, port and trade connections that our family business maintained. My great-grandfather, Harry I. Mathers I, also received appointments for all three positions (c. 1906) and became Vice-Consul for Russia in 1899, until the Russian Revolution in 1917, when that appointment was cancelled by the Bolshevik regime. My grandfather, Harry I. Mathers II, was made Consul for both Norway and Denmark (1966) and in 1977 he was made a member of “The Royal Order of Knight of the Dannebrog”. My father, Harry I. Mathers III, received his

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appointment as Danish Consul in 1981 and was also made a member of “The Royal Order of Knight of the Dannebrog” and was subsequently made a Knight, First Class in this order.

	<p>Isaac H. Mathers Founder and former President of I. H. Mathers, b. 1845 - d. 1932. Received Danish Consul appointment in 1895.</p>
	<p>Harry I. Mathers I Former President of I. H. Mathers, b. 1870 – d. 1945. Believed to have received Danish Consul appointment c. 1906.</p>
	<p>Harry I. Mathers II Former President of I. H. Mathers, b. 1915 – d. 1980. He was Danish Consul from 1966-1980.</p>
	<p>Harry I. Mathers III President of I. H. Mathers, b. 1943 - He was Danish Consul from 1981-2015.</p>
	<p>Melissa Mathers CFO of I. H. Mathers, b. 1969 - Current Danish Consul Appointed in 2015.</p>

Our company founder, Isaac H. Mathers, was born in Newry, Northern Ireland, in 1845. Isaac's father, Francis Mathers, apprenticed his son to a local merchant firm in 1863. Over the course of the five years of indenture, the young Isaac was to receive the sum of 100 pounds: 12 pounds in the first year, 15 in the second, 18 in the third, 24 in the fourth and 31 pounds in the fifth year. During these five years, the indenture document says, the apprentice:

"....shall not contract matrimony. He shall not play at Cards, Dice, Tables or any other unlawful games whereby his said master may have loss with his own or other goods. During the said term without the license of his said master, (the apprentice), shall neither buy or sell merchandise, shall not haunt nor use Taverns, Ale-houses or Playhouses not absent himself from said master's service day or night unlawfully".

In 1870, Isaac said goodbye to his home in Newry and joined a Liverpool-based shipping company and sailed to New York City. There he started a shipping office for his employer and the following year he went to Saint John, New Brunswick, to open a Canadian branch. When he arrived in Halifax in 1872, Isaac decided to stay and set up his own business – I. H. Mathers & Son.

By the late 1800s, the port of Halifax was a busy place with a forest of masts. Coastal and deep-sea ships travelled to and from a great variety of foreign ports. It was, as it is today, Canada's premier east coast naval and commercial port with a fine sheltered deep-water harbour.



Halifax's Citadel Hill

Isaac wasted no time in joining the ranks of Halifax's marine sector. Competition between numerous shipping agents was very heavy, requiring a great deal of stamina and agility in order to get ahead. From the beginning, the Mathers firm took a leading position in developments. This was exemplified by a legal notice appearing in the Halifax Morning Chronicle on May 30, 1872:

"The fine new brigantine, LADY JOSVEN, will be dispatched from Liverpool on 23rd May for this port. For freight and other particulars, apply in Halifax to Isaac H. Mathers."

To obtain an advantage in this fierce competition, Mathers would station a man on Halifax's Citadel Hill to watch for incoming ships. When he saw one, the man would race down to the waterfront, row out to the vessel and bargain with the captain to appoint Mathers as agent. Many agreed and our company flag, a black "M" on a white square with a green background, became a well-known sight flying from Citadel Hill's commercial signal mast.

Halifax's Citadel Hill

In those days, Maritime and Quebec lumber represented a huge export trade, particularly to Britain. Throughout much of the nineteenth century, it was common practice to build sailing vessels—particularly barques, brigantines and schooners—and load them up with lumber. Both the ship and cargo would then be sold to the highest bidder in a British port. Quite a few British

ship owners got their start by putting Canadian east coast-built vessels into regular trade. Many of them traded with Canada for lumber and salt.

By 1890, I. H. Mathers was exporting Nova Scotia lumber and canned lobster. That same year, Isaac was joined by his son Harry Isaac. The numbers may seem insignificant today but in 1898, I. H. Mathers bought over 26,000 pounds of canned lobster at an average price of 20 cents per pound. The lobster was then exported overseas.



*The 343-ton schooner, **Helen Mathers***

In 1906, Harry succeeded his father as president of the firm, which, by then, had further diversified into exporting wood pulp, salt fish, and importing molasses.

To supply markets in the West Indies, I. H. Mathers chartered two sailing vessels, the first of which was the three-masted schooner christened the *Helen Mathers* in 1919. They also became agents in Halifax for leading Scandinavian marine insurance firms, overseeing repairs made in Halifax to Danish and Norwegian vessels.



World War II convoy in Halifax Harbour, 1942

Throughout both world wars, I. H. Mathers was the agent for many ships that gathered in Halifax to carry cargo across the Atlantic. After the sudden death of Harry in 1945, two of his sons took over the organization. The eldest, Harry Isaac Mathers II, became president, and brother Evatt became senior vice-president. After World War II, the company bought eighty-four merchant marine freighters from the Canadian government for various clients. Some of the 10,000-ton vessels remained Canadian operated, but most became British registered.

In the 1960s, I. H. Mathers expanded its shipping agent business, dealing with a growing number of vessels, including tramp freighters and fishing fleets, container ships and passenger liners. In the late 60s, I. H. Mathers inaugurated a tugboat business for oil carriers in the Canso Strait area.

During the 1970s, Reliance Offshore was formed to act as a marine recruitment agency. It was during these years that they began providing crewing services for both Canadian and international offshore projects. During the 80s, I. H. Mathers also acquired Atlantic Custom Brokers, a customs brokerage firm, allowing them to offer clients a full trade service for their imports and exports.

In the 1990s, I. H. Mathers continued to expand their service offerings by adding cargo handling and warehousing to the family owned and operated group of businesses. Mathers Freight Management was formed in order to provide clients with consolidation/deconsolidation, container handling, inspection, documentation and warehousing services.



Mathers' cargo handling equipment

There was also a push to expand Reliance Offshore's ability to supply a wide range of offshore construction personnel locally and internationally. Throughout the 2000s, I. H. Mathers established itself as a leader in offshore project logistics by providing services to every significant offshore project on Canada's east coast.

In 2009, after significant expansion within the business that required them to move five separate times, I. H. Mathers moved into its brand new 25,000 sq ft warehouse. The new warehouse was surrounded by 5.5 acres of outdoor storage space and equipped with a full fleet of cargo handling equipment.

Today, I. H. Mathers is still family owned and operated. It is also still based in Atlantic Canada and has grown

into a fully integrated marine, offshore and logistics services provider. When my father, President of the firm, was asked for the secret to its success, he responded by saying that "we don't just think of ourselves as service providers but as partners with our clients. He elaborated by adding "our continued success is based on providing quality service to local and international clients—measured on an international standard."

The illustration to the right shows the earliest known design – found in 1952 in the Record Office - of a Danish envoy's uniform, approved c. 1800 with his personal signature by King Christian VII. It is taken from the back cover of a book entitled "Consular Meeting 1964". Danish Consuls all over the world were invited to attend this second Consular Meeting. Harry I. Mathers II was in attendance and received a copy of this book, published by the Press and Information Department of the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Early Envoy's Uniform

I am deeply honored to serve the Kingdom of Denmark, as the fifth generation of Mathers to do so. As the first Mathers woman to take a leading role in the family business, I admire the strong entrepreneurial spirit of my forefathers and, in particular, I am proud of my father who served as Danish Consul for 34 years. I don't know of many Danish Consuls who can say that they have 34 years of experience as backup from the former Consul. I am grateful for the training that I received when I assisted my father during the last sixteen years of his Consular service.

Consular services certainly look different today than when my great-great grandfather was appointed in 1895. What remains the same is the true enjoyment that the Mathers family have in meeting and working with Danes and supporting those who wish to trade, visit, receive education and professional training with Denmark and between Denmark and Canada. I visited Denmark when my father received his knighthood from the Queen. Those memories of a wonderful trip remain with me today. I hope to visit Denmark again soon with my family and enjoy the many delights that the country has to offer to visitors and residents alike. As always, I am here to assist the Embassy in Ottawa and the Trade Council in Toronto in the commercial, political and consular services provided to Danes and Canadians.

Memories from a Child's Farm Holiday

By Eva Terp and Jenni Murrell

Jenni Ekelund Murrell's story is one that many of our readers will recognize with fond memories. For Jenni Ekelund (now Murrell), the Children's Holiday Program was a godsend, which became an important and memorable part of her life.

During "the war" and many years after the war, thousands of children from Copenhagen and other cities in Denmark were given the opportunity to spend their summer holidays with a farm-family and thus escape the dreary city life in summer for a nice respite in the country. On the farm, the children could get back to basics – take part in the daily life of caring for animals, learning about growing the food they ate, and play outside in the fresh air without the noise and pollution of the big cities. Memories for life were made!

The idea to send school children away from the cities for their holidays was actually conceived already in 1853, the year of the cholera outbreak in Denmark. Since then, the idea grew and groups such as school teacher organizations and others across the country saw to it that many disadvantaged school children in cities and towns across the country could take advantage of this opportunity.



C. Østrup
1891-1981

Christian Østrup (1891-1981) became one of the most important people in the development of this worthy cause. In 1912, he graduated from Blågård's Seminarium (teacher's college) and then rose through the ranks of teacher, vice-principal and finally in 1927 principal with "special responsibilities", namely as secretary for the national organization for school children's holiday program; he became its leader in 1933, a position he held until 1961.

Being very much a cause close to his heart, the Children's Holiday Program became popular through Østrup's enthusiastic leadership. Taking advantage of all available avenues to inform the public about the importance of the programme, he lined up radio, newspapers and



Jenni Murrell with her first-place winner: "Nature Palette"

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magazines, sent out fliers and set up posters everywhere in order to spread the word. It worked, and in 1932, 600 new placements were created, growing to 7,900 in 1945. The program is still active, although on a smaller scale.

Jenni now lives in Innisfil, Ontario, with her husband Bob. She is an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Gilford & District Horticultural Society. Her love for nature was nurtured at the farm, where she spent her childhood summers and took part in every aspect of farm-life where she was allowed. She especially loved tending the roses and picking berries. Jenni is now a certified Ontario Horticultural Association Judge of Horticulture and Floral Design and organizes and competes in flower and vegetables shows year-round.

Following is the story of Jenni's wonderful experiences with a loving farm family just after the Second World War as told to Sara Carlson in the *Regional Reporter*, Metroland Media, Barrie, April 4, 2017.

Summers on a Danish farm leave fond memories

Jenni Ekelund milked cows, rode horses, jumped from barn rafters into hay, and picked berries. She loved life on the farm.

By Sara Carlson

Summer has arrived, and Copenhagen's massive central railway station is bursting with thousands of children all eager to bid farewell to the city for a five weeks' holiday. Soon they will board trains set to snake across Denmark's picturesque land.

It's 6 a.m. on June 23, 1947. And seven-year-old Jenni Ekelund has a full day of solo travel ahead by train and ferry. She's brought her bicycle, one suitcase with a flower press inside handmade by her father, and food coupons because the entire country was on rations.

"I had a name tag on me, a brown cardboard piece of paper. And it had my name, the name of my host family, and the time and name of the town where I was supposed to get off. And besides that, I had my lunch," Jenni recalled.

Today, Jenni lives in Innisfil and her married name is Murrell. She lights up like a child when she smiles and laughs.

Jenni's first trip was in 1947. It's her first holiday away from her parents, brother, and sister, and she's excited to meet her host family. "I never thought about 'would I like them, or not'. Of course, I'd like them. Of course, they'd like me," she said.

Jenni hugged her parents, goodbye, and boarded the train. Among her group of friends Jenni is the "leader of the pack," but on the crowded train her tendency to be shy takes over and Jenni opts to stand by a window alone.

"I never spoke to anybody. I never made friends with anybody. I stood by a window the whole time. I don't know why," she said. From the window, Jenni watched Copenhagen's high-rises disappear and she marveled at the flat and lush green countryside.

She remembers her exact date of travel, because Denmark celebrates the midsummer festival annually on June 23 (St. Hans Eve) and the traditional witch bonfires were blazing in every community the train passed.

“As part of the celebrations you send all the witches off to Bloksbjerg in Germany, so you have these huge bonfires topped by witches, made from straw and fabric,” Jenni said. “I noticed from the train there were all these bonfires going. Each little community had one.”

The train pulled to a stop often to let children off. There were host families in every town. The first two years, Jenni spent summer holidays in a town called Ikast, 300 km from Copenhagen.

“One of the first things I told my host parents was ‘It’s my birthday in two days’” Jenni said. “Birthdays are important to kids and I just wanted to let them know and they had a party for me.”



Jenni with her host family, “Mutter”, Sofie Foldager Jensen (right), Sofie’s mother (left), Jenni and a friend.

There were three grown daughters in the family and they treated Jenni like a sweetheart. Each night at bedtime, they read her fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen.



“Bedstefar”, Rikard Foldager Jensen

One of her most vivid memories is being given an orange tiger lily. “It was my flower, probably the first one I got in my entire life. I changed the water every day and I cried when it died,” she said.

Jenni joined a different host family in the summer of 1949 and felt so very much at home they became her second parents. She called them Mutter (mother in German) and Bedstefar (grandpa in Danish). They had three boys and Jenni always the leader of the pack had them wrapped around her little finger.

They lived on a working farm in Aulum, Denmark [between Holstebro and Herning], and Jenni pitched in any way she could. “One of my favourite things was going out with my ‘grandpa’ when he went out to weed the potatoes, or whatever else they were growing,” she said. “I’d walk up and down these long rows with him and just talk to him and sing to him.” Jenni admits she “can’t sing worth a damn,” but that wasn’t going to stop her from enjoying it. “I would take one of those little three-legged milk chairs and I would sit there and sing my heart out and pick berries,” Jenni said. “I loved my own company.”

She helped turn the hay; she rode horses bareback and even rode cows. She repeatedly jumped and did front flips from the farm’s rafters to flatten hay, tended to the gardens, and picked flowers for her flower press.

Jenni has many black and white photographs from this cherished time in her life. In one photo, a curly haired Jenni holds her left hand out as straight as an arrow and gently touches the nose of a

black and white calf. The other arm is pinned to her side. “I am not scared at all. You can see that on my hands,” Jenni laughs.

One morning, Jenni woke up early, so she could get into the barn before the farmers. “I was going to milk the cows as a surprise,” she said. Jenni had never milked a cow before and didn’t know how. She sat on a stool, put a bucket under the cow’s udder and clenched and released her fist up and down the teat. It wasn’t the perfect technique, “but I got some milk in there,” she laughed.



“I am not scared at all! Ha, ha!”



Rikard and Sofie Foldager Jensen’s Farm, in Aulum, or as Jenni called it, “My farm”.

At the end of every summer, Jenni didn’t want to leave. She cried the entire journey back to Copenhagen. “They made me all my favourite dishes the last day there. And they gave me candies, my favourite candies. And I kept them for months and months because that was my hold on them,” she said.

Jenni’s relationship with her farm-family continued for many years after her holiday stays with yearly visits to the farm. After immigrating to Canada, she made sure that her trips back “home” also included a visit to Aulum.

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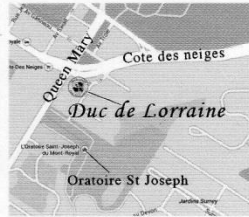
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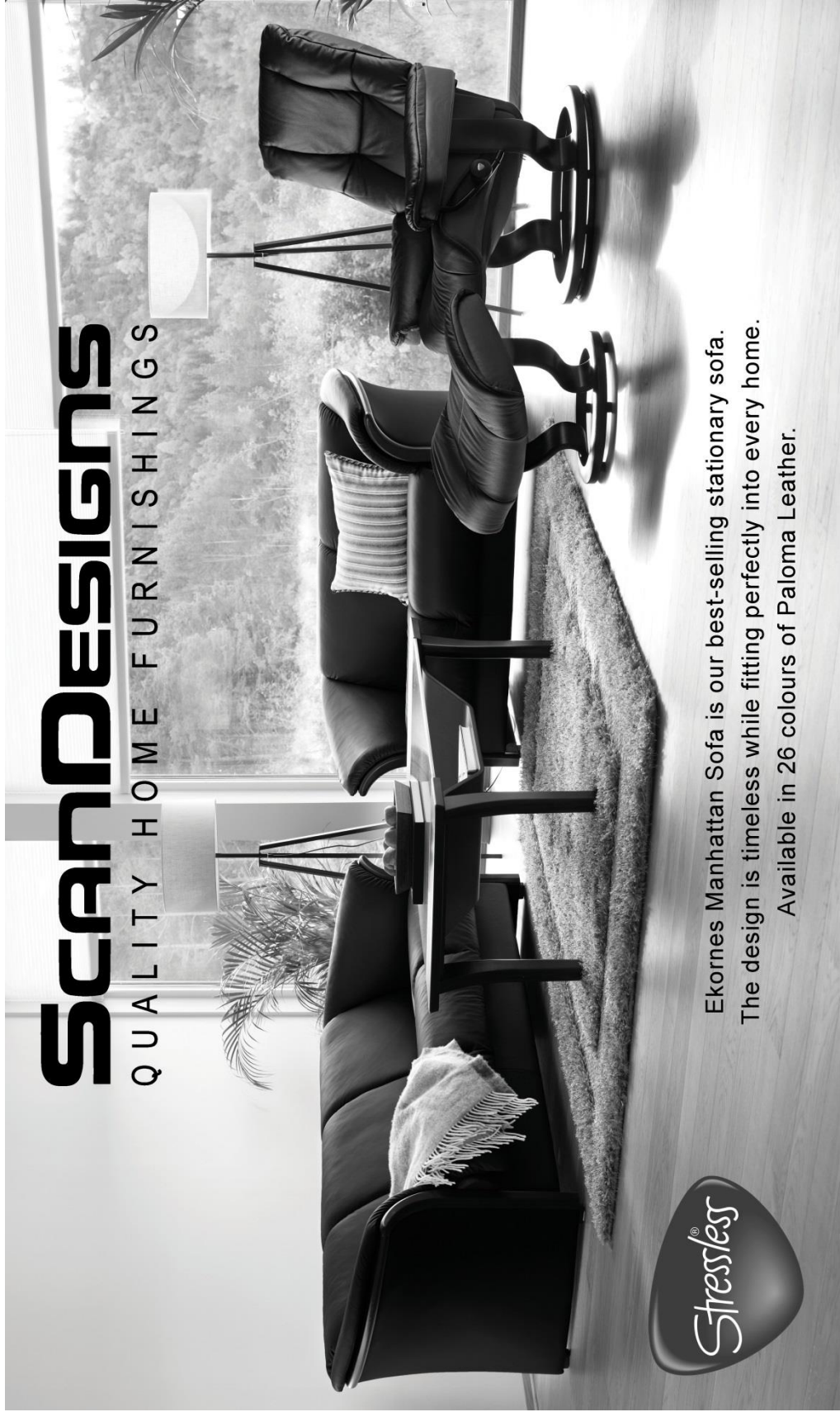
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OBITUARIES

Jesper Ottosen

1924 - 2017

Rolf Buschardt Christensen, with files from Skråhuen

Jesper Ottosen died in Victoria, B.C., on November 22, 2017, after a life well lived. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, their three children, Donald (Shelley), Diana (Brad) and Brian, eight grandchildren as well as one great-grandchild.

Based primarily, but not only, on his obituary as well as his autobiography in the July 2003 issue of *Skråhuen*, published by the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest, it is



possible to sketch a short outline of Jesper's life, which begins in West Jutland. Here Jesper was born near Herning on May 22, 1924, to Otto and Hansine Ottosen, farmers outside Herning. Jesper was the third child, with four more to follow. Times were tough, Otto and Hansine having to feed and clothe seven children on their meager earnings. As the oldest son, Jesper had to help out. Already at the age of twelve, he lived and worked on neighbouring farms, and his earnings were sent to his parents. At one point he was brought to court, because he had run away from a farm, after he had been beaten by the farmer. In those days a boy was pledged to a farm for a year, and if he didn't complete the year, he could be taken to court, as Jesper was.

Within six months after the liberation of Denmark in 1945, Jesper was called up for military duty and served with the Royal Danish Guards in Copenhagen, proudly serving under King Christian X. He was called up on November 20, 1945 and was given number 568-3-Nov-1945. It was an experience, and a highlight of his life, which he never forgot. In British Columbia Jesper later became a member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest. His parents had their last son while he was in the army, so the spread between the children was considerable. Following his tour of duty in the army, Jesper worked with cattle on different well-known farms in Denmark, training as a veterinarian assistant.

In 1949 he was distracted from that and drawn to Norway, where he worked on various farms. One summer his job was to drive 6,000 sheep up to their mountain pasture. There were three sheep dogs, and three shepherds to direct the sheep to their pasture. It was quite a job to keep track of that many sheep, but they kept a rough estimate by counting the black sheep, because for each black sheep, there were one hundred white sheep. The sheep were watched over by Seger (girls), who stayed up there for the summer. The sheep had many lambs during the summer, which were then brought down to the farmers in the valley.

OBITUARIES



Jesper Ottosen (1924-2017)

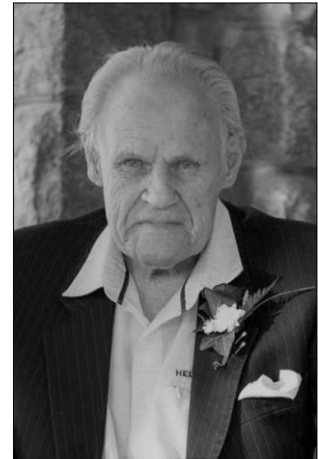
In 1951 Jesper decided to immigrate to Canada. With him to Canada he brought a green tin suitcase, filled with a few pictures, a leather ski hat with fur flaps, and his treasured Royal Guards memorabilia. Over the years he became quite a collector of things.

Jesper arrived in Canada, on June 21, 1951. He was sent to Alberta, as Sam Otland of Enchant, Alberta, needed a helper. Jesper came to Canada with two ten-dollar bills in his pocket; but arrived penny-less at the Otland farm. He stayed there for five months, earning \$125 per month. He then left for Victoria, where his aunt and his uncle Christian were pleased to welcome him. Jesper helped them in their garden and laundry room, as they managed a large nursing home on Rockland Avenue. He then landed a job at Stuart and Hudson's feed department, making baby chick mash and pig food. This turned out to be the last time he worked in the agricultural sector, as he was offered a job at the

B.C. Cement Company in Bamberton, working shifts nine days on, and three days off. However, he only stayed at the plant for nine days! The drive up the steep Malahat Drive was difficult for his car, a 1950 Prefect, which he had bought for \$850.

A new life started for Jesper in 1953, when he started to work for B.C. Forest Products. This enabled him to buy a brand new 1953 Chevrolet, which attracted friends, who he took for drives around Vancouver Island. Then in 1955, at Victoria's Willows Beach, he met Dorothy MacLeod, a pretty nurse. She had been working the night shift at the hospital, and she had decided to sleep on the beach. Jesper was willing to drive her home. Soon he was taking her anywhere she wanted to go in his new Chev. Less than a year later they married. They were married in Dorothy's hometown, Hamilton, Ontario, where her father, Dr. George D. MacLeod, was minister at the United Church. It was also in 1955 that Jesper joined the Pentecostal Church. Later he joined the United Church. Jesper has served as an elder as well as a Sunday-School teacher at the Metropolitan United Church in Victoria.

Jesper worked at B.C. Forest Products for thirty-six years. In retirement Jesper helped Peter Kjaergaard paint tennis court lines. Peter was another former Guardsman. He also helped his younger brother, Axel B. Ottosen (1925-2017) with his painting business. His brother was married to Oda, née Brodsgaard, and they had five children.



Jesper's brother, Axel B. Ottosen (1925-2017)

Over the years Jesper enjoyed the sport of archery, and he has taken part in many shoots both on and off Vancouver Island. A few years ago, he took the plunge and "bungy jumped" without any noticeable ill effects! But his passion has been coins. He had always been fascinated by coins and their history. He was a member of the Numismatic Society. He originally collected coins from all over the world, but later concentrated on Danish and Canadian coins. He could easily spend hours acquiring, studying, sorting or cataloguing his coin collection.

For over 48 years Jesper was a proud member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association. He enjoyed the friendship and the fine comradery. Ære være hans minde!

Ben Sorensen

1928 - 2017

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

It is with sadness that we received the news of the passing of Ben Sorensen of Manotick, Ontario. He was born in Glostrup, Denmark, on December 7, 1928, as the fifth of six children. At the time, his father, Marinus Bonde Sorensen, was manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway office in Copenhagen.



His father had immigrated to Canada in 1911, and in 1914, he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Regiment, serving in France. From 1920 to 1940, M.B. Sorensen managed the CPR office in Copenhagen, being responsible for Scandinavia and the Baltic countries. In the course of his work he met many Jews who had escaped from Germany and assisted them in their applications for immigration to Canada. Often these refugees were accommodated in the Sorensen home. M.B. Sorensen was interviewed by the authors of the book *None is too Many*, which exposed the disgrace of the Canadian Government in its immigration policy with regard to the discrimination of Jews in the 1930s. In the book M.B. Sorensen is quoted six times and the last paragraph of that book ends with a quote from Sorensen.

With the new situation in Denmark the Sorensen family left for Canada, where Ben and his brothers eventually signed up to fight Nazi Germany. Ben served in the Navy, while his brother, Frank Sorensen, joined the Air Force. Frank Sorensen, a fighter pilot, was shot down over Tunisia in April 1943. He survived and was taken prisoner, and then shipped off to the German POW camp Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Silesia. Frank Sorensen was part of The Great Escape in March 1944. He was number 76 in the tunnel when the German guards discovered the escape. Frank did not make it out, and was imprisoned until the end of the War. On his return to Canada, Frank settled in Kingston, where he became a dentist.

Ben grew up in Glostrup and Kingston. After serving in the Navy in Halifax, he studied law at Queen's University. He later moved to Ottawa where the emphasis in his law practice was marital litigation, divorces and the custody of children. He was also honoured with a Queen's Council designation. In Halifax Ben had met Joyce Hart, and they were married in 1951. They have one daughter and two sons. The Sorensens lived in Ottawa for many years, but in retirement they moved to Manotick. Ben Sorensen passed away peacefully on October 11, 2017.

There are articles about Mark Bonde Sorensen in both the 1987 and the 2013 Heritage Books, published by the Danish Federation. An article about Frank Sorensen appeared in the 2011 Heritage Book. And finally, in the 2015 Heritage Book, there is an article about Ben Sorensen, who was clearly proud of his family. Ære være hans minde!

Else Scheel, née Reinhold Jenk

1919 - 2017

Rolf Christensen, with files from Scheel family and Kren Clausen

Else Scheel passed away in Montreal on April 17, 2017, after a long and exciting life. She was ninety-eight years old. Else was the devoted wife of the late Ambassador Jørgen Ditlev Scheel. She leaves behind her children Ulrich (Monica) and Birgitte (Paul Keefe); her grandsons Erik (Leslie), Christian (Karyn) and Brendan; and her great-granddaughter Ella.

Else was born in Copenhagen on August 16, 1919, as the daughter of Erik and Ellen Jenk. After completing her studies in translation, she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark where she met the love of her life, Jørgen Ditlev Scheel. Their diplomatic life led them to Switzerland, Great Britain, Canada, North Africa, Central and South America and ultimately the United Nations. Upon retirement, they settled in Montreal.



Else & Jørgen Ditlev Scheel, 1990

Else had a younger brother, Jørgen Reinhold Jenk, who was born in Kerteminde on March 20, 1923. Jørgen was a key member of the Danish Resistance in the Second World War, distributing underground newspapers and carrying out acts of sabotage. In October 1943, he helped rescue Jews to safety in Sweden. Wanted by the Gestapo he fled to Sweden and then England, where he joined the London-based Special Operations Executive, which was organizing sabotage behind German lines. Jørgen, given the rank of captain, parachuted back into Denmark in 1944, as one of about fifty agents of the SOE. Ole Lippmann, chief of the Danish Resistance, picked him as his right-hand man. After the war Jørgen returned to England, where he was named a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and joined the Colonial Service. He later worked in the private sector in Denmark, England, India and Switzerland, moving to New York in 1965, where he then managed the Georg Jensen store on 5th Avenue. Jørgen predeceased his sister, dying in London in May 1988.

Else was a gracious lady who always had an interesting story to tell from her many adventures around the world. Some of them appeared in her autobiography in the Danish Federation's *1999 Heritage Book*. Her husband's biography appeared in the *1996 Heritage Book*. One memorable event, for Else, was Expo in Montreal in 1967, when Canada celebrated its centennial.

Announcing her passing to the members of the Montreal Club, President Kren Clausen said, "On behalf of the Danish Club of Montreal, our sincerest condolences and sympathies go to the family of Else Scheel, wife of the late Ambassador Jørgen Ditlev Scheel, former Danish Consul General to Montreal from circa 1961 to 1968, and author of the book, *Cars of the World*, published in 1963." Else was generous and helpful to all, including her much loved and loyal assistant for the past twenty-five years, Carol Lacrete. She will be missed. Ære være hendes minde!

Kaj Rejmon Bisgaard

1932 - 2015

Bisgaard family, Fruitvale, Trail Times, May 2015



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our father, Kaj Rejmon Bisgaard, on May 4, 2015, following a stroke. Kaj was born in Odder, Denmark, to Rasmus and Nielsine on February 10, 1932.

Following his formal education, he took a carpentry apprenticeship with Jørgen Knudsen. In June of 1952 our dad immigrated to Canada. After travelling across Canada to Vancouver, then through the Okanagan picking fruit for some cash, he ended up in the Trail area boarding with the Klit family, a Danish family he came to know. The following year on May 17, he married Ellen Margrethe Mikkelsen, once she arrived from Denmark. After boarding for another few weeks in a room next to the Klit's, they rented a small house in Waneta behind the drive-in, until they were able to build their first home on Waneta Road. In 1954 a son, Allan, was born, then in 1960 a daughter, Alice, followed by another son, Stanley in 1962. Over the years 1962-63, Dad built a second home on half of the property they purchased for their first home. Then in December of 1967, Kaj purchased an acreage past Fruitvale, that had stolen his heart the year before.

In the fall of 1968 he moved the family to the new place after building a house for the previous owners as part of the purchase agreement. So, began the adventure of owning a large property suitable for many endeavors. Kaj worked in the construction industry for many years with various people, and for a number of years formed a partnership with Jorgen Jorgensen, a dear friend who had also immigrated to Canada. They called their company J K Construction. Not long after moving to the acreage, Kaj left the partnership and worked either on his own or for other people, including *Karl Monk* of Fruitvale. Much of his time was devoted to working on the acreage in various ways including a thorough renovation to the home: haying, selling firewood, snow plowing and growing potatoes, to name a few. He also acquired an adjoining piece of property in 1971 and built a 4-plex as well as three houses for rental income. Over the years much of the property has been sold including the rental property, but he always found things to do, whether for income or as a hobby: riding his electric powered bikes, picking up cans, building saw horses or ladders and building pelton wheels to power a table saw, which he used to make wedges, which he sold and delivered to Maglios for over fifteen years.

Kaj is predeceased by his beloved wife, Ellen, of nearly 57 years in 2010, a granddaughter, Belinda Hawkins in 2014, a brother Frederick Howard formerly of Trail in 2009, as well as his other siblings, who lived in Denmark. He is survived by his son Allan of Torrington, AB, daughter-in-law Vicki of Trail, granddaughter Jessica (Darcy) of Edmonton, AB, great-granddaughter Taylor, grandson Josh of Fruitvale, daughter Alice (Jay) Hawkins of Fruitvale, grandson Kris Hawkins (Jenn) of Fruitvale, great granddaughter Jordyn, grandsons Eric and Daniel Hawkins of Fruitvale, and son, Stanley, of Fruitvale.

Karl Monk

1923 - 2017

Rolf Buschardt Christensen, with files from Skråhuen

Karl Monk passed away on June 16, 2017. He was 93 years old, and died surrounded by his loving family, including Charlotte, his wife of 63 years. A memorial service was held on July 7, at Peace Lutheran Church in Sidney, B.C.



Karl Monk was born on December 21, 1923, in Holeby, on the island of Lolland, to Alfred Monk and Emma, née Jensen. He had six siblings. His father was a finishing carpenter, and so was his grandfather, so it felt natural for him to choose this trade. He was an apprentice for four years. He was then accepted at the Tradesmen College in Haslev on the island of Zealand. After a three-year course he would become a Master Builder. However, in 1944, in the second year at the college, the German Wehrmacht (Army) took over the school for use as a hospital. They were 320 students who had to vacate the premises in three hours. It caused quite a commotion. Only in 1947-48, after the war and after having served his tour of duty in the Danish army, did he return to Haslev to finish his studies and receive his certificate. After being evicted from his college, Karl became active in the resistance movement. He vividly remembered the liberation on May 5, 1945.

About four o'clock in the morning on May 5th he was awakened by the leader of his group. They got up and went to a nearby sugarbeet factory, where for the next ten days his group with fifty other members of the resistance, would be sleeping on the floor at night, with sugarsacks for blankets. They were all given a gun. Their job was to intern German soldiers, and also the Danes who during the occupation had collaborated with the German Nazis. One of the members of his group had planned to get married at the time. Their local pastor, who was also a member of the resistance group, then took them to the local church to get the poor fellow married.

Karl didn't serve long in this group, as already on July 18, 1945, he was summoned to the Jægersborg Barracks to serve with the Royal Danish Guards. Since the Germans had taken everything from the barracks, all they were issued was one pair of trousers, a shirt, and utensils for eating. After a couple of weeks, they were given boots, and they also obtained some rifles from Sweden. In August they were sent to Camp Sandholm, where Karl was picked for troop leader. He only stood guard at Amalienborg Palace thrice, since he had to train new recruits, including Jesper Ottosen, who he would later meet in British Columbia.

After returning to civilian life in 1946, he landed a job as a carpenter at the venerable Ollerup Gymnastic School. The Germans had occupied the school during the war, and they had left it in a

OBITUARIES

terrible condition. They were thirty tradesmen working on the clean-up and restoration. Working quickly, they were able to get the school ready for students in four months.



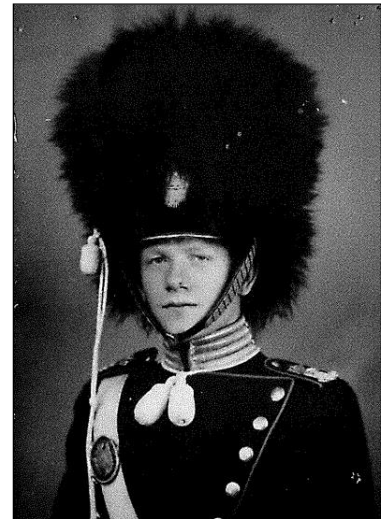
In 1948, after finishing the last of the three courses in Haslev, Karl and two good friends obtained jobs in Switzerland as carpenters. This was an exciting experience for Karl. Travelling through Germany to get there, he saw the bombed-out cities of Germany. Back in Denmark, in his spare time, he played soccer and coached handball. He also took a course at the Ollerup Gymnastics School, so he could teach gymnastics.

In 1951, he decided to immigrate to Canada. He sailed to Halifax, landing at Pier 21 on November 15, 1951. He then took the train to Regina, where he got a job as a carpenter with the CNR Building & Bridge Gang. With nine other people, a bunk car was his home for four months. After “just about freezing to death”, he headed into the mountains of British Columbia.

In the spring of 1952 he arrived in Trail, B.C. and got a job at the lead and zinc company, Cominco, as a carpenter. Trail is where he met Hans Fogh-Dohmsmidt, another former Guardsman. Karl then moved to Fruitvale, in the Beaver Valley, where he met Charlotte Chisholm, a high school home-economics teacher, who agreed to teach him English. They realized it would take a long time for Karl to learn English! So, they decided to get married, and were wed on August 22, 1953. They had three children, Marie, Suzanne and Peter.

Karl became involved with the local community. During his thirty-five years in Fruitvale he was a committed Rotary Club member, who served in many positions, including president. Some of their many community efforts included starting a gymnastics club, teaching gymnastics to children and young people, coaching soccer teams, starting the school UNICEF program, building a ski hill on Beaver Mountain, and helping renovate the Fruitvale Lutheran Church.

In 1958 he started his own business, building houses. In 1982 he built a bigger shop, and incorporated, becoming Karl Monk Sash & Door Ltd. Also, in 1982, Karl and Charlotte were recognized as Beaver Valley Citizens of the Year, an annual award sponsored by the Fruitvale Women’s Institute. But then in 1991 he sold the business and retired. Like many others, Karl and Charlotte moved to Victoria to enjoy their retirement.



In the summer of 2010 the Fruitvale Village Council asked residents to submit names for the lanes in the village. One of the fourteen lanes was named Monk Lane; and this was many years after they had left the community!

Retirement in Victoria saw Karl enjoy his ongoing membership in the Pacific Northwest Guards Association, participate in the BC Seniors Games in track and badminton, as well as become an active member of the Sidney Lutheran Church, which included a major building renovation. Many have remarked on his honesty, integrity, loyalty and great sense of humour. He will be dearly missed. Ære være hans minde!

Margrethe Friis

1937 - 2017

Aase Christensen, Guelph

Margrethe Friis passed away peacefully on Monday, March 13, 2017 at the Hamilton General Hospital at the age of 79. She was the beloved wife of 58 years of Tage. Devoted mother to Mary Anna Ostrander, Catherine Friis and predeceased by her youngest daughter Karen Lynn Friis (2000). Margrethe cherished her three grandchildren, Stephen, Michael and Jamie Ostrander.



Margrethe was born on August 2, 1937 in Hjerm, Western Jutland. She emigrated from Denmark to Canada with her parents, Henry and Karen Jensen and her siblings, Bodil, Jørgen, Henny and Peter. A third brother, Dan, was born in Canada a year and a half after their arrival. They arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax on April 9, 1958 aboard the ship *Stockholm*. The family was accompanied across the Atlantic, by a journalist from “*Familie Journalen*”, who came along to record the events of a typical Danish family leaving Denmark for a foreign destination. Arne Falk-Rønne, another “*Familie Journalen*” journalist made a follow-up visit twenty-two years later, which resulted in a magazine article in three installments.

Margrethe was a quick study. She was soon speaking English and working in Brampton. Her family became involved in the Danish Community almost immediately and it was at Sunset Villa, in Puslinch, that she met Tage Friis. They were married on March 5, 1959 in the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto by Reverend Overgaard Thomsen. Three wonderful daughters, Mary Anna, Catherine and Karen Lynn, were born within the next 5 years.

Tage and Margrethe were driven to provide a good life for themselves and their three daughters. In 1962, they purchased a small two-bedroom wartime house in Dundas and soon made it their home. Over a period of five years they worked hard to expand it. For a while, the house was raised up on supporting beams while a basement was excavated underneath. When the young family became physically active, the house would shake on its high perch. Tage continues to live in this now totally modernized home to this day.

Margrethe was a multi-talented, active, energetic and social woman. She worked in the restaurant business until her retirement in 1997, and also led a very active life as a volunteer. She volunteered at McMaster Hospital in Hamilton and was a very active member of the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula. She was also a valued member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Sunset Villa. Her warm smile and great sense of humour will be greatly missed by her family, and many close friends and neighbours.

Niels John Nielsen, Nanaimo

1940 - 2017

Lena Tsuji

Niels John Nielsen was born near Hareskov, Sjælland, on August 21, 1940. He immigrated to Canada at the age of 18 in February 1958. He sailed on the *SS Stockholm* along with his parents, and his younger brothers, George, Ole and Johan, as well as his sister Gundhild, landing at Pier 21 in Halifax. After a journey across Canada and several short stops along the way, they settled just east of Red Deer, Alberta, in the farming community of Alix, where they met a number of fellow Danes, and Niels met his first wife.



They moved to Edmonton where their children Suzan, Connie and twins Robbie and Marnie were born. The young family then moved to acreage in Stony Plain, Alberta, where Niels lived until his retirement. In 2007, he moved with Johanna to Nanaimo.

Niels had numerous ventures in his life. His first job of note was at Palm Dairies, in Red Deer. When he moved to Edmonton he started as a courier driver. Then for a number of years he owned a warehouse business, which he later sold with thoughts of retiring. But always looking for another challenge, he began raising chinchillas, operating a greenhouse and owning a charter bus business. In the meantime, he raised chickens, turkeys, pigs, cows, sheep and horses at various times on his hobby farm.

Niels was a man of many talents. He had a pilot licence and owned his own aircraft. He was also involved with an accordion group. His love of the outdoors could be seen in his vacations in his fifth wheel trailer, as well as his ventures in fishing, gardening and travels on his scooter.

Niels was predeceased by his father, Peter Gunnar, twelve years ago. His mother, Anna Mette, passed away on September 17, 2017. About a month later, Niels passed away in Nanaimo, on November 16, 2017.



*Niels and family came over on the **SS Stockholm**, landing at Pier 21 in Halifax*

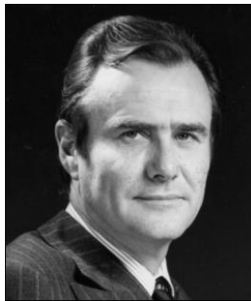
Niels was very proud of his Danish heritage. We were lucky to have him as President of our Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club for nearly seven years, since February 2011. We will miss the hard work he always put into making Club events successful. Ære være hans minde.

Prince Henrik

1934 - 2018

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

His Royal Highness Prince Henrik passed away at Fredensborg Castle on February 13, 2018. It was his wish to die at Fredensborg; and in his will, he had requested a private funeral service which took place on February 20, 2018, at Christiansborg Slotskirke. Following his wishes, he was cremated, with half of his ashes scattered in the seas around Denmark, while the other half were interned in the royal private garden at Fredensborg, his favorite residence in Denmark.



Prince Henrik was born Henri de Laborde de Monpezat on June 11, 1934, in Talence, Gironde. He was the second child out of eight, born to Count André de Laborde de Monpezat and Countess Renée de Monpezat. Henri grew up in the wine chateau Le Cayrou in the Cahors region of Southwest France, as well as in the French quarter of Hanoi, French Indochina, where his father owned a couple of manufacturing plants. Henri went to school in Hanoi and later studied law, literature and oriental languages (Chinese and Vietnamese) at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 1959, he was drafted into the French Army, first serving in the military intelligence service in Paris and

later serving in the army in Algeria, where France was fighting an independence movement. In 1962 Algeria gained its independence from France, and the following year Henri joined the French Foreign Service, first serving at the ministry at Quai d'Orsay and then being posted to the French Embassy in London.

In the spring of 1965, Henri was invited to a formal dinner party by some London friends. They told him the heir to the Danish throne would be present. Crown Princess Margrethe had come to England to study sociology at the London School of Economics for three months. She lived with a lady-in-waiting (*hofdame*) in the upscale Belgravia area of London, where she led a busy social life. Prior to the dinner Henri had his hair cut and he donned his best tuxedo for the occasion. Little did he know that he would be seated next to her at dinner. They both enjoyed the party, but it was not until the following year at a wedding in Scotland, where they met again, that it clicked.



*The Queen and Prince
at Châteaux de Cayx*

Crown Princess Margrethe and Henri were engaged in September 1966, and they were married in Holmens Kirke in Copenhagen on June 10, 1967. Henri became Prince Henrik and they soon had two boys, Frederik and Joachim. When her father, King Frederik IX died in January 1972,

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Margrethe became Queen of Denmark. As in most monarchies, a princess traditionally becomes queen when her husband becomes king, but a man does not become king if his wife becomes queen. Prince Henrik was named Prince Consort (*Prinsgemal*). However, at home he was the man in the house, making the decisions. At home they spoke French, he decided the menu and he was in charge of the upbringing of the children.



Gordon Christiansen, Prince Henrik & Queen at Dickson Store Opening, 1991

Prince Henrik spoke French, Danish, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Despite speaking Danish fluently, he always spoke it with a pronounced French accent, which irritated many Danes as they were not used to hear Danish spoken with an accent.

Prince Henrik shared many interests with his wife, above all art. He was indeed an artist, just like her. He was an accomplished pianist, and he was a composer. He was a sculptor, and his works of art can be seen in public places in Denmark and in France. Yet, he is probably best known as a poet. In 1982 he published a collection of poems entitled “Chemin faisant”.

In 1981, Prince Henrik and Queen Margrethe translated Simone de Beauvoir’s “Tous les hommes sont mortels” into Danish (*Alle mennesker er dødelige* or in English *All Men are Mortal*). In 2000 Prince Henrik published a collection of poems under the title “Cantabile”. The book was dedicated to “my loving wife”. The book was illustrated by Queen Margrethe. The poems were both in French and Danish. The poems had been freely translated into Danish by Per Aage Brandt, a writer, poet, and linguist. Then in 2014, Prince Henrik published a collection of poems entitled “Dans mes nuits sereines” (*I mine lykkelige nætter*). The poems were both in French and Danish; the translations or rather retelling, was by Niels Lyngsø, a Danish poet.

Prince Henrik wrote several cookbooks, primarily about French cuisine. In 1996 Prince Henrik published his autobiography entitled “Destin Oblige” with Philippe Viguié Desplaces. It was translated into Danish (*Skæbne forpligter*) by Else Henneberg Pedersen. It deals with his childhood, youth, the family, life in French Indochina, his career in the French Foreign Service, his meeting with Princess Margrethe, the royal family and the Danish people. Unlike his poems, his autobiography got rave reviews and had to be reprinted.



Visit to Dickson Pastor Gundersen's grave, 1991

Prince Henrik was the patron of many organizations. He was patron of the Royal Danish Guards Associations in Foreign Countries (De Danske Garderforeninger i Udlandet or DGU). DGU established and named a travel fund in his name. Together with Queen Margrethe he was also the patron of The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson (now the Dickson Store Museum – see photo).

In 1974, Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik bought Châteaux de Cayx in Cahors, near where he had grown up. Prince Henrik became a vintner, and his wine was also sold in Denmark. He truly enjoyed his chateau in France. He loved having his family visit, and for them to enjoy some good food and wine. Wherever he lived, he indulged in life as a bon vivant! Ære være hans minde!

Fred & Patricia Hansen

Kren Claüsen, Montreal

Years ago, at my third Danish Club luncheon, I met Fred and Patricia, where we instantly took a liking to one another. At that lunch Fred informed me how he was raised in Western Canada, yet his parents (early 20th century immigrants) wanted him to be born in Denmark, to be a Danish citizen and be "truly Danish".



In those days, the journey to Denmark, and return to Canada, was by train across Canada, a sea voyage to and from Denmark, and train within Denmark; and that was precisely what Fred's mother endured through very lengthy travel. At club lunches, Fred took pride in informing new guests of his ancestry and the story of how he was "born in Denmark". Fred was a true delight, a jovial character and knew a wealth of stories from his long-lived exciting life.



Both Fred and Patricia raved to each of their children about the joy, laughter and camaraderie they both experienced at our lunches. They wouldn't miss a lunch! Whenever they attended our club's lunches Patricia and Fred were like two doves perched on a branch side by side, as they sat together. Patricia cherished the monthly lunch. Her humour and laugh were infectious.

It is with great sadness and with fond memories of both Fred and Patricia that I extend my personal sympathies to Fred and Patricia's families. On behalf of the Danish Club of Montreal deepest condolences are extended to both families.

John Fred Hansen, born in Denmark in 1926, died peacefully on October 9, 2017. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 34 years, Patricia, on August 4, 2017. Fred will be deeply missed by his children, Jack (Christine), Cathy, Frederick Michael (Malvene), grandson David Hansen (Sarah), and great-granddaughter, Lillian, stepchildren Sallie Baird (John Bannerman), William Baird, and step-grandchildren Brendan, Hailey and Devon Bannerman. Predeceased by his first wife, Evelyn, sister and brother-in-law, Eleanor, and Jim McNaughton, and parents Christian and Ella Hansen. Fred was proud of his Danish heritage. He spent the first half of his life in Winnipeg, where he was an active community member, devoted family man, avid curler and coached his sons' little league teams. He was proud to be a member of the R.A.F. and Freemasons. As part of his 40-year career with Ogilvie Flour Mills, he was transferred to Montreal in 1967. There, his greatest passions included gourmet cooking, Danish Club luncheons, travel and enjoying the simple pleasures of life with family and friends. A true gentleman, he will be fondly remembered for his joy of life, integrity, kindness and generosity.

Patricia MacMillan Baird Hansen passed away on August 4, 2017, at the age of 91. She was the cherished mother of William Baird and Sallie Baird (John Bannerman) and devoted grandmother to Brendan, Hailey and Devon. She will be deeply missed.

Helle Mai Overgaard

1963 - 2017

Sune Overgaard

Helle was born on March 11 (on King Frederik IX's birthday!) in 1963, in a little Danish town called Osted, which lies between Roskilde and Ringsted on the island of Zealand. She was the third child of Lilly and Poul Poulsen, having an older brother Ole and sister Tille. From all counts she had an active young school girl's life – with siblings and parents and grandparents all around. She unfortunately lost her father to a heart attack when she was only 14. This was a major loss for her, but the void was quickly filled in by her brother Ole and her grandfather.



Helle was extremely studious. She finished the Danish equivalent of high school and was admitted to the University of Copenhagen at Roskilde in the economics program when she was only 18. She moved to Roskilde, to live “on campus”. A few years later she graduated with a master's degree in economics from the university. Her first job was in the planning department of the city of Roskilde.

It was also around this time she travelled quite extensively. The western United States was a popular spot. On various trips she visited the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Mt. Rainier, and Mt. St. Helens – even a side trip to Vancouver. She was also in the South-East Pacific and visited Tahiti, Bali, Fiji, The Cook Islands, New Zealand, and Hawaii. After a lot of travelling she settled down in the Silkeborg area in Denmark with her then husband, and this is where her daughter Maria was born in 1993. Five years later, in 1998, they moved to Brighton, England where she started working in an insurance company. Five years later they were on the move again; this time to Canada where she continued to work in the insurance field.

Canada soon became a fresh start for Helle and Maria. With a failed marriage behind her, she was determined to make things better for the two of them. Before long, she found out about the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and started to go there, where she could feel comfortable with the Danish language and customs that she was used to. She became a member, had her daughter baptized and confirmed, and quickly took part in various church activities. Helle helped out wherever she could and eventually became a board member. She was a person who wanted to make things better. She also kept in touch with her DK family exchanging visits now and then.

It was at this time she met her second husband, Sune Overgaard, who was also involved with the church. A while later, in September 2009 they were married. In the meantime, Helle continued with her insurance work with RBC Insurance as a project director. In 2010, RBC Insurance

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chose to restructure her department along with many others. Helle had not ever been out of work, so she was quite determined to find a new job as quickly as possible. Within a few weeks she responded to an ad for a position with Allstate Insurance of Canada and was accepted. She also completed her CIP course and got her insurance registration. Helle really enjoyed working at Allstate and was instrumental in putting their Market Intelligence department on the map as the manager of that department.

Most of us at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto knew Helle because of her work at this church. Her dedication and endless support along with a smiling face and caring demeanor allowed her to get into our hearts in no time. She was a deacon, a board member, made Sunday coffee, made sandwiches for the bazaars, was part of the Silent Auction team, reinvigorated the Movie Afternoon program, prepared liturgical services, sang in the choir, was part of the Cleaning Day team, was instrumental in getting the church catering team going, helped at all fund raisers and special events – usually in the kitchen but not always, was the lead editor of the church newspaper, became the “official” sign maker for the church, etc. There is very little that she did not get involved with. There was very little that could hold Helle back.

Helle was living a fulfilled life of travelling and working with her family and friends until she was unfortunately diagnosed with a very aggressive form of colon cancer in May of 2017. This was a total and unexpected shock to her and everyone else. Sadly, she passed away on June 27, 2017. She was a mother, a sister, a daughter, a best friend, a co-worker, a good Christian, an amazing volunteer, an artist, a sportswoman, an adventurer, a listener, a doer, an opportunist for the benefit of others - all in all a loving, caring, happy, gentle, forgiving, hardworking, respectful, responsible, and otherwise amazing person. She was much too young to be taken away this way, and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Her ashes are now resting in the Sunset Villa Mindepark. May God bless her memory. Ære være hendes minde!

Ruth Johnson, Sunset Villa

1922 - 2017

Sharon Ellis

Ruth Johnson was born in Randers, Denmark, to Christen and Helene Andersen, on May 25, 1922. Her brother, Karl, was two years older. Her father, Christen Laurits Andersen, immigrated to Canada in 1929, and would later send for the family. He came on the Cunard Line's *SS Letitia*, arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax. From there he took a train to Sarnia, Ontario, where he was employed by a farmer.

Helene and her two children, Karl and Ruth, came to Canada on the Cunard Line's *SS Ascania*, arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax on March 29, 1930. Ruth loved to tell how she and her brother had the run of the ship because her mother was seasick the whole trip over. Had she not been seasick, she would have kept a tight rein on Karl and Ruth.



Karl, Helene, Ruth and Chris Andersen, 1929

Helene and her two children also took the train to Sarnia. This is where Ruth grew up. Later the family moved to Hamilton where Chris, as he was called in Canada, worked as a blacksmith.

On September 23, 1939, Ruth married Alton Spearman, who worked for a refinery in Sarnia. They had three daughters, Sharon, Sandra and Sonia. They divorced, and Ruth then married Ed Johnson in Hamilton on February 28, 1953. Ed Johnson worked for Bache & Co., a securities firm that provided stock brokerage and investment banking services.

After leaving school Ruth attended Hamilton Business College. Ruth was then a secretary for a professor at McMaster University, and then worked at The Society of Industrial and Cost



The six apartments were built in 1973

Accounting, where she learned bookkeeping. Later she was a bookkeeper for Niagara Ice and then for Pioneer Pools and Petroleum. She was known to be very exacting in her work – the books had to balance!

In the mid-1950s, Ruth's parents, Chris and Helene Andersen, became involved with Sunset Villa. In early 1950, a group of Danes in Southern Ontario wanted to build a retirement home for Danes. The first Board of Directors was elected in May 1950. By 1954 enough money had been raised to purchase about fifty acres of land in Crieff, Ontario, from Lt-

OBITUARIES

Col J.B. MacLean. On June 5, 1955, Sunset Villa was inaugurated, in conjunction with a celebration of Danish Constitution Day.

When Sunset Villa was first purchased, Chris and Helene Andersen lived on the property and looked after it. Later Ruth also moved to Sunset Villa. For many years Ruth had a trailer at the campgrounds at Sunset Villa. Ruth kept the trailer even after she moved into Sunset Villa, living in unit six, in the building adjacent to the restaurant. The six apartments were built in 1973, and each had a small garden patio. Ruth lived in unit six from the mid-1980s until 2016. She met many people at Sunset Villa, and could often be found at the bar, talking about the old days. Being a sturdy Dane, one of her favourite drinks was a strong, Danish snaps.



Ruth, her early 30s



*Ruth on her 80th birthday,
with her brother Karl Andersen*

Ruth served on the Board of Directors of Sunset Villa as treasurer for many years. She is also known to have helped other treasurers. Indeed, Ruth took a great interest in all the activities of the Sunset Villa Association. She is also the one who came up with the name Geritol Gang, for the crew of volunteers who regularly come and make the Sunset Villa grounds look amazing.

Ruth enjoyed fishing with her husband, Ed. She also became an avid golfer. In her later years, whenever you visited her, the TV Golf channel would likely be on. She was right up to date with the names of the players.

Ruth travelled to Denmark about five times; mostly on her own. She would also visit Germany, Switzerland and other countries. Her visits included Sweden, as she had family there. When asked what country she liked best, she always, of course, replied 'Denmark'.

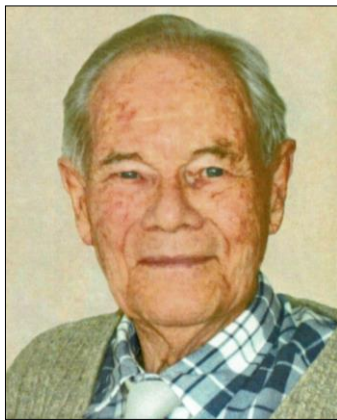
It was her wish to die at Sunset Villa, but unfortunately, she spent the last ten months of her life in hospital and then in two nursing homes. Ruth passed away on July 29, 2017. She is buried at Sunset Mindepark. Ruth is survived by her daughter, Sharon, and her husband Harold Ellis, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Olaf Poulsen

1925 – 2017

Olaf Poulsen Jr., Waterloo

Pastor Olaf Poulsen passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 14, 2017. He was 92 years of age. He is survived by his children Olaf J. and Valerie Poulsen of Waterloo, Ontario, and Ellen and Robert Wade of Durham, North Carolina, as well as his cherished granddaughters Kristen Wade and Rebecca Wade. He was



Olaf Poulsen 1925-2017

predeceased by his wife Rigmor Elisabeth Bogh (2010), and his daughter Else Marijanne Bogh Poulsen (2016). The funeral service was conducted at the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula in Grimsby, Ontario, on December 20, 2017 with the Reverends Olaf J. Poulsen and Claus Franck presiding.

Olaf was born in Odense, Denmark, on April 2, 1925. He was the only child of Olaf Carl Poulsen and Martha Andersson. Olaf and Martha were active members of Sct. Hans church in Odense. Indeed, the family of Olaf and Martha Poulsen reflected a tradition of involvement, both with church and mission and with life on the sea. Olaf's grandfather Lars Christian Poulsen, educated as a ship's carpenter (1870), provided shipping service with his own schooner throughout the waters of Scandinavia. He eventually left the sea to become a builder of model ships. In 1906, he became the proprietor of the Seaman's Home (Sømandshjemmet) in Odense. During this time, he built church ships (kirkeskibe) which are still found throughout Denmark today. One of these ships, the Aron, would eventually berth at the Danish Seaman's Church in Baltimore.

Olaf's father, Olaf Carl Poulsen worked as primary investigator (kriminalassistent) for the Odense municipal police. He was awarded with the Knight's Cross (Ridderkors) for service rendered during the Second World War.

In his early years, Olaf attended Hørlücks Skole, a private elementary school that taught languages in the primary grades. Here, he gained his grounding in English, German and French. Then he attended Odense Katedralskole where he studied Greek and Latin. On Sunday, March 14, 1943, Olaf would meet his life-long companion, Rigmor Elisabeth Bogh. She was a day younger than he, born April 3, 1925. She hailed from Sønder Bjert near Kolding. The couple met at a young people's Christian conference – Kristelig Gymnasiast Forening. Rigmor went to the southern part of Jylland for her training as a pharmacist. Olaf pursued theological studies at the University of Copenhagen. Blessed with a gift for languages, he majored in Old Testament, Hebrew and Semitic languages. When he graduated, the two of them were married on June 23,

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Olaf Poulsen ordained.

1951, at Sct. Nicolai Church, Kolding. This union created a ministry team that would serve the call of Christ until retirement in 1986.

Olaf and Rigmor would serve each of the two major global outreach branches of the National Church of Denmark – The Danish Seaman’s Church in Foreign Ports (Dansk Sømandskirke i Fremmede Havne) and The Danish Church in Foreign Lands (Dansk Kirke i Udlandet or DKU for short). The former was called to serve Danish seafarers at their most prominent and frequent ports of call. The latter was called to serve communities of Danish emigrants throughout the world. The goal of these ministries was not to replace the Lutheran churches that already existed in the host countries. The goal was to provide service and ministry in the Danish language for as long as it was needed.

After their wedding, Olaf and Rigmor had little time to settle down. In the Spring of 1951 the Danish Seaman’s Church in Foreign Ports voted to create an outreach to Danish seafarers whose ports-of-call centered primarily upon the areas south of New York City. A new position was created for a Danish seaman’s pastor. The pastor would partner with the Norwegian Seaman’s Church in Philadelphia and operate from the Norwegian base.

With strong family roots in the Danish merchant marine, Olaf applied and was offered the position. This resulted in a “moving forward” of the young couple’s schedule. The first change involved the military service requirement. Olaf served in the Royal Danish Guards (Livgarden) at the Sandholm Camp near Birkerød. Through a special dispensation granted those serving chaplaincy roles within the navy, Olaf was allowed to complete his service early.

Another event that was moved forward was the ordination date. As a result, this occurred at the Jesus Church, Copenhagen, on May 29, 1951. Bishop Hans Fuglsang-Damgaard was the presider. With words that proved to be ironic for the Poulsen family, the Bishop commissioned his ordinands to “go into the large city and beat the pavement! Go down the long streets and walk up the stairs of tall buildings. People won’t come to us, so we have to come to them.”

Securing U.S. immigrant visas set the stage for the journey. A. P. Møller, the founder of Maersk Line, provided passage to New York. The ship, *Oluf Maersk* would depart from Genoa on the day of Epiphany, January 6, 1952. Olaf and Rigmor received a warm welcome from the Rev. Poul Baagøe, one of the great proponents, and might we say, one of the architects of the Danish outreach to seafarers in this part of the world. An equally strong welcome was given by Rev. Trygve Voxen of the Norwegian Church in Philadelphia.

In many ways, the time with the Norwegian community (1952-1954) became an apprenticeship for the young pastor. The guidance provided by Revs. Baagøe and Voxen facilitated a host of “first” experiences with this unique form of ministry. Olaf discovered the joy of visiting parishioners at the place that was both “home” and “workplace” for the majority of them – the ship. He gained contacts with Danish families that would prove crucial in the future.

The years in Philadelphia became an orientation in terms of Danish shipping patterns. The “big three,” at least as far as Danish shipping lines were concerned, involved Maersk, Lauritzen and Torm. These firms provided global service to the Philippines, Japan and South America. A

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smaller Danish firm, Progress, was involved with the transport of raw sugar from Cuba to the U.S. It served a route that was affectionately known as the “Rum and Coke” line.



26 South Broadway, Baltimore, Maryland.

It became apparent that lay-over times in Philadelphia were becoming shorter, while they were becoming longer in Baltimore. This change was primarily due to the fact that the port of Baltimore was more competitive in its pricing of services. With increased activity towards the south, various elements concluded that newer arrangements were needed in terms of the ministry to seafarers. Indeed, the Norwegians were already making plans for a mission in Baltimore. The Danish Seaman’s Mission was a little more reticent about a move south as its resources were already fully committed elsewhere. The challenge for the young pastor was thus to secure seed money without help from the mother organization. This involved the proverbial attempt to “think outside the box.”

Many within the Danish community were beginning to entertain the prospect of a new station (sømandskirke) in Baltimore. Indeed, one could say that the project for such a station was first conceived during a coffee klatch between Olaf and a prominent Danish emigrant in Baltimore – John Sørensen. Representing a contingent of emigrants who had come to the States during the “dirty thirties,” this person set up a church committee that included Dr. Nis Skau, Martin Christensen and Capt. Ejnar Christensen.

The “first fruits” included the establishment of preliminary facilities within a space that was rented from a German congregation, Christ Lutheran Church. This church was located within the Locust Point area of Baltimore and it was situated just a few blocks from the famed Fort McHenry where Francis Scott Key wrote the “Star Spangled Banner.” This place provided facilities for worship, and for a place of gathering. Indeed, it even provided lodgings for the pastor’s family. However, in the midst of this work, the dream of establishing a separate Danish Seafarer’s Mission gained momentum.



Pastor Poulsen, 1956.

A search was set in motion for a site. One was found at 26 South Broadway. It was owned by the Y.M.C.A. and it was perfect in every respect. There was ample room for a sanctuary, a “parish hall,” and apartments for both pastor and custodian. A finance committee was set up to raise the purchase price of \$15,000. Henrik Kauffmann, the famed Danish ambassador to the United States during the Second World War, offered to serve as honorary chairman. The pastor was given the mandate to raise financial contributions from Danish shipping lines such as Maersk and Lauritzen. The Danish consul in Baltimore, Robert E. Herd, lent his support to the project.

What was created on Broadway was a congregation with two bodies of membership: (i) the seafarers who regarded this as “home” when they stopped at the port of Baltimore and, (ii) a

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dedicated colony of Danish emigrants. With its dedication on January 20, 1957, the Baltimore Church became the first Danish seaman's church in North America.



Checking the Ship Board.

also looked after the distribution of Christmas presents that were prepared and donated by volunteers in Denmark. These gifts were known collectively as “Dronningens Julegave.” The Broadway church served as the base from which services were held in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.

The Poulsen family returned to Odense, Denmark, for a brief interlude in 1959-60, but the final departure from Baltimore did not occur until August 1965. It was the intention of everyone to return to Denmark, and indeed, the Poulsons did settle in Aalborg serving the beautiful Vesterkjar parish. But the love of North America was not so easily dismissed! When the prospect of serving a Danish congregation in the Hamilton-Niagara area of Ontario presented itself, the lure proved irresistible. As a result, the family crossed the Atlantic once again, this time on the Norwegian America Line's *MS Bergensfjord*.

The Poulsen family arrived in Hamilton on July 27, 1966. The Danish parish here presented a different set of circumstances. To start with, the church was organized as a two-point charge under the auspices of DKU. The first point consisted of families living within the greater Hamilton-Oakville area. The place of worship was located at 131 Stinson Street, downtown Hamilton. This facility provided worship and fellowship space on the first floor, the pastor's residence on the second and a teaching space in the basement. The second point served families residing within the greater St. Catherines-Niagara area. Worship space was rented at Christ Lutheran Church, in St. Catherines.



Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, 1970.

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The Hamilton-Niagara churches also differed in that they presented a more traditional form of parish ministry. A third aspect may be noted in that the membership consisted primarily of Danish immigrants that had arrived during the immediate post-War period (1948-1965).

Throughout the latter part of the 1960s, the idea of merging the two congregations arose time and again among more and more people. The facility on Stinson Street in Hamilton was in need of significant renovation. The question naturally came up as to whether financial resources should be used for the renovation of an older structure or for the purchase of a new centrally-located site that could serve both parishes. This conversation eventually led to the convening of a joint meeting between the two Church Councils on November 6, 1969. At that gathering it was formally decided to merge the two entities. The name for the new joint-congregation would be the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula. Prior to the meeting, a suitable church site had already been identified. This was the Centennial House, built in 1867, at 130 Main Street East in Grimsby.



*Olaf and Rigmor were a team
Here on a trip to Denmark in 1973*

The new church home was not “move-in-able,” as they say. It needed considerable renovations and an addition was required to provide space for a sanctuary. So, throughout the long hot summer of 1970 the work proceeded apace. When the construction was completed, a new sanctuary, parish hall and pastor’s upstairs apartment stood ready. The church was formally consecrated at a grand service of celebration on October 18, 1970. The guests included the Danish Ambassador to Canada, Arne Bøgh Andersen. This place of worship became the “port of call” for Olaf and Rigmor Poulsen until they retired in 1986.



With Kristen and Rebecca, 2012

For the Poulsen family, these years (1970-86) became the “golden years.” They were special in the sense that strong relationships of friendship were established. They were special in that the ministry was supported by a dedicated group of families who met the challenges ahead with a sense of grace and a sense of purpose. One of these challenges involved the financial obligations attendant upon the purchase of the property. Indeed, these were met with a unique proposal that invited members and friends to purchase debentures. Such was the success of this program that the mortgage was paid off within a few years.

The commitment to support the mother organization, DKU, was met through a variety of ingenious fund-raisers. The most popular of these was the annual Christmas Bazaar, held usually on the last Saturday of November. The latter featured a raffle (Tombola) in which prizes were pre-assigned to winning tickets.

In essence the period prior to 1986 became “the good old days,” for it was during this time that a host of cherished memories were created. These included the annual Lucia Christmas Pageant, which was a Swedish tradition that had been adopted by the Hamilton-Niagara community. They involved the Sunday School which was inaugurated by Rigmor Poulsen in 1977. They involved

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the offering of a course in the Danish language taught by the pastor. This course was popular with Canadian spouses of Danes who sought to gain insight into the mysterious language that they had “married into.” Memories centered upon Bible Studies, Confirmation classes and field trips to churches representing other faith-expressions. Olaf and Rigmor followed the dictum that “church” is not simple a “Sunday-event.” It is a daily event, and this notion is best fostered through the offering of activities that occur throughout the week.

The Grimsby church also became a focal point for ministry at other points throughout Ontario. Regular services were thus instituted at Sunset Villa, Waterloo and Ottawa. The ministry was well-received and cherished traditions emerged at each site.

As part of the DKU mandate to prepare Danish immigrants for the eventual integration into the mainstream of the host country, Olaf went to significant efforts to reach out to Lutheran congregations within the Eastern Canada Synod family. As a result, the Grimsby church became a participant in the Hamilton-Niagara cluster. This of course led to the development of cherished friendships with local Lutheran clergy. Members of the Danish community were blessed with friends such as Rev. Charles Dechert and the late Rev. Earl Haase.



*December 14, 2017
Flags at half mast for Olaf Poulsen's
funeral*

However, at the core of the DKU mission was the effort to preserve a “bit” of Denmark and an element of the Danish faith expression. A community that is based primarily upon an ethnic identity naturally seeks to share its traditions and culture. It is for this reason that Olaf became an ardent supporter of the project of creating a Synod of Danish Churches in Canada. Succeeding Rev. Overgaard-Thomsen as the Dean (Provst) of the Danish-Canadian churches, Olaf was in a unique position to facilitate such a goal. However, the proposal was eventually abandoned (1979) as it would be difficult to integrate such a synod into the structure of the DKU mother organization.

In retirement, Olaf and Rigmor resided first in Grimsby, then in Smithville, Ontario. When Rigmor passed away in 2010, Olaf moved to Waterloo in order to gain proximity to Olaf Jr. and Valerie. He also became a member of their two-point church, the Heidelberg-Erbsville Lutheran parish. In retirement, Olaf pursued a host of interests. These included his passion for the study of Scripture and the archaeology of the Holy Land. His love of Biblical Studies was in part connected with a passion for writing. He wrote and self-published a number of works in both English and Danish. The titles of his books include: *Tvaa Svenska Invandrare i Kopenhamn paa 1890-Talet* (1988), *Friends and Foes of Jesus* (1992), *Min Farfars Kirkeskibe* (1994), and *Kirken paa Broadway* (2013).

His life-time interests were not confined to the library. Throughout his life, his recreational activities involved a number of handicrafts. He shared a passion for woodworking. He built everything from Barbie-scale doll houses, toys for the children, and book-cases for both himself and his son. He enjoyed larger projects such as framing and dry-walling, to say nothing of wall-papering. He was an avid devotee of model railroading. From church to church, he built ever-

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expanding train layouts. He collected Märklin H-O scale trains. He loved to paint landscape backdrops for the layouts, build bridges, tunnels and H-O scale tall buildings.

Olaf's greatest joy was of course found in his grandchildren Kristen and Rebecca. He regarded them as his "best friends." Their presence illuminated his life and their activities were of the greatest interest to him.

And so, we end his biography with a quote from Olaf's cherished Bible:

Min sjæl, lov Herren, og alt i mig love hans hellige navn! (Ps. 103:1)

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. (Psalm 103:1)



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Short Obituaries

Bernice Brinkman, New Denmark 1927 - 2018

Bernice Lillian Brinkman passed away peacefully at the Tobique Valley Manor on February 28, 2018. She was the wife of the late Simon Brinkman. Bernice was born in New Denmark, N.B., on August 16, 1927. She was the daughter of the late Soren and Bessie (Carlsen) Hansen. Bernice leaves behind her children, Peter Brinkman (Linda) of New Denmark, Nancy Hawkins (Cyril) of Fredericton; her grandchildren, Polly Brinkman–Mills, Ashley Hawkins, Joshua Hawkins, and Kayla Hawkins; great grandchildren, Stanley Brinkman–Mills and Rachel Brinkman–Mills; her sisters, Yetta Christensen of New Denmark, and Betty Ketch (Arthur) of Jacksonville, N.B. Bernice was predeceased by her parents; her husband; her daughters, Debbie and Janice Brinkman; her sister, Aimee Merriam; brothers, Gordon and Harmon Hansen. A funeral service was held on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Amazing Grace Church, in Limestone Siding, N.B. The Rev. Roy Dee officiated. Pallbearers were Donnie Christensen, Ronnie Christensen, David Christensen, Stephen Christensen, Dean Hansen, and Larry Brinkman. Interment will be in St. Ansgar's Anglican Cemetery, New Denmark.

Tom Engberg, Pass Lake 1934 - 2008

Tom Engberg, of Pass Lake, Ontario, died November 5, 2008, at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Tom was born November 11, 1934 to Jacob and Idun Engberg and was a lifetime resident of Pass Lake. Tom was owner-operator of his own small trucking business Tom Engberg Trucking, for 47 years and a seasonal snowplow operator for the MTO, from the patrol yard in Pearl for over 30 winters. Tom was devoted to raising his large family, and he took great pride in his flock of children and grandchildren. He was a dedicated member of Salem Lutheran Church and the Pass Lake community, volunteering his time to anyone in need of a helping hand. Tom sought adventure and delighted in his annual trips, of which there were many to all corners of North America, everything from quiet hours of canoeing the Wolf River, skiing top to bottom at Whistler, driving the entire Alaskan Highway, or camping under the stars in the Florida Keys. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Annmargaret, children Helen (Bruce), Kathleen (Raymond), Peter (Melisande), David (Shari) and Rosemary (Donald), grandchildren Janet, Daniel, Mark, Erik, Lindsay, Lexy, Emma, Hannah, Grace and Ophelia. He was looking forward to the arrival of grandchild number eleven in March. Tom is also survived by his brothers James and John (Helga) and nieces Sara and Nina, Roslev, Denmark. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Franklin. His mother wrote the book "Danske Nybyggere i Canadas Skove", about the Danish pioneers in Pass Lake. Tom will be missed by his family and all his many friends and customers.

**Dora Marie Hansen, Toronto
1928 - 2018**

Dora Marie Hansen was born in Denmark on November 22, 1928, and came to Canada with her husband, Leif, in 1957. They resided in Oakville, Carlson, Scarborough and Toronto. Together they created L. Hansen's Forwarding, an industry leader in automotive transportation. With offices strategically located across Canada, L. Hansen's can pick up and deliver to homes or offices with its large fleet of trucks. The partnership with CP Rail allows L. Hansen to provide fast, efficient service by enclosed rail cars across the country with door-to-door service anywhere in Canada. L. Hansen also provides truck service point-to-point anywhere in Canada. The cross-border service to and from Florida, Texas and California delivers vehicles by truck, with weekly departures, and guaranteed delivery times. Dora Marie Hansen passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 4, 2018, beloved wife of the late Leif Hansen, and loving mother of Karin, Michael (Cindy) and the late Brian. Cherished grandmother: of Tina, Chris, Rob, Rachel, Holly and four great-grandchildren. Dora enjoyed ballroom dancing, relaxing at her cottage in Lagoon City and spending time with family and friends.

**Minna Hansen, Stettler and Red Deer
1920 - 2017**

Minna Signe Hansen passed away on October 12, 2017 at the age of 96. Minna was born on December 23, 1920, in Copenhagen, Denmark, to parents Valdemar Jensen and Sorine, née Poulsen, the eldest of three. She came of age just before the start of WWII and lived through the occupation of Copenhagen, where her younger brother, John, was killed only 16 years old. This was a very difficult time in her life and one she did not like to talk about. In 1948 at 27 years of age, she decided to come to Canada to visit some uncles and aunts who had immigrated earlier. She planned on staying six months. However, on the ship over to Canada, she met Axel Hansen who was coming back to Canada after spending three months in Denmark. They were married in April 1948 and settled on his farm south of Stettler. This must have been a very difficult time for this city girl, but she eventually settled into and thrived in her new life of raising chickens, growing a garden and raising a family. Minna and Axel were able to go back to her beloved Denmark in 1975 with good friends Kris and Rose and in 1984 with her daughter and son-in-law. Unfortunately, Axel passed away in 1980 and in 1981 she moved to Red Deer to be closer to her family. She would talk about the activities of the Downtown House, such as floor curling and dancing, which she loved to do, if she could talk a friend into going with her.

The last six years of her life were spent in the loving care of the staff at the cottage West Park Lodge, Red Deer, where they became like her extended family. Left to mourn her loss is her daughter Kris (Willie) Nelson; son Jim (Maureen) Hansen; granddaughter Lisa (Tyler); grandson Ryan (Lisa); great grandchildren: Jordan, Addison and Sienna all of Red Deer and three nieces, two residing in Denmark. She was predeceased by her parents Valdemar and Sorine; brothers John and Aage, and husband Axel. A graveside service was held at the Lake View Cemetery, Stettler, on October 19, 2017, with Rev. Jonathan Aicken officiating, where she will be laid to rest beside her husband. Following the graveside service all were invited to St. Peter Lutheran Church, for fellowship and lunch.

**Elmer and Leona Jensen, Standard
1914 - 2018 & 1915 - 2018**

Leona and Elmer Jensen passed away at the Sagewood Age Care Facility in Strathmore, Alberta; Leona on February 22, 2018, at the age of 102 years, followed by Elmer, her husband of 77 years, on February 26, 2018, at the age of 103 years. They were the loving parents of Jackie Jensen (Janice) of Standard, Ellen Ann Jordan (Jay) of Nanoose Bay, B.C., Dallas Jensen (Sandy) of Standard, and Charlotte Wilson of Strathmore, Alberta. They will also be dearly missed by their six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. They farmed and ranched in the Standard area for over forty years. Elmer and Leona served on several community boards, as well as being active members of the Lutheran Church. Elmer served as Mayor of Standard for thirteen years. A service in honour of Leona and Elmer will be held at the Nazareth Lutheran Church in Standard on Saturday, March 3, 2018. Their biographies appeared in the Danish Federation's 2016 Heritage Book.

**Grethe Jensen, Standard
1925 - 2009**

Grethe Sissa Jensen, née Løgsted, was born on September 25, 1925 in Denmark, and passed away on December 5, 2009, in Drumheller, Alberta. Like many other Europeans, the Logsted family immigrated to Canada for the increased opportunities offered here. They settled on a farm near Tofield, Alberta. Grethe's early school years were spent in Tofield and Camrose, following with high school at the Dickson Boarding School. 1949 was a special year for Grethe; she graduated from Edmonton's Royal Alexander Hospital School of Nursing and on April 16 she and Simon Jensen, of Standard, Alberta, were married. Their family of four was raised on the family farm in the community of Standard. She is survived by her sons Lawrence (Anne), Don (Peggy) of Standard and Bob (Sharon) of Quesnel, B.C.; grandchildren Craig (Celeste) Christensen, Jeremy Jensen (Elyse), Janelle (Wade) Evans, Lindsay (Kyle) Anderson, Trisha Jensen (Lance Larsen), Miriam and Diana Jensen; two great grandsons Jayden and Nicholas Jensen; son-in-law Murray Christensen; her sister Ellen Hansen, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her daughter Sonia, husband Simon, and elder sister Elsie Skanderup. Her family, her church, her friends and music were her greatest treasures. Her last several years were spent at Drumheller Hospital Extended Care. Her funeral service was held on December 10, 2009, at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Standard. See the Danish Federation's 2007 Heritage Book for "My Story" by Ellen Hansen, née Løgsted. Ellen Hansen and Grethe Jensen were sisters. In addition, see the Danish Federation's 2015 Heritage Book for "Pastor Skanderup" and the Skanderup family. Grethe Jensen and Elsie (Else) Skanderup were sisters.

**Simon Peter Kresten Jensen, Standard
1924 - 2005**

Simon Peter Kresten Jensen was born at home near Standard, Alberta, on March 3, 1924, and passed away on April 24, 2005, at Drumheller Extended Care. He is survived by Grethe, his loving wife of fifty-six years; son-in-law Murray Christensen; sons, Lawrence (Anne), Don

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(Peggy), and Bob (Sharon); grandchildren, Craig Christensen, Miriam and Diana Jensen, Janelle and Trish Jensen (Standard), Jeremy (Tanya) and Lindsay Jensen (Kelowna); one great-grandson Jayden Jensen (Kelowna); one sister Margaret (Erik) Laursen (Calgary) and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Alfred, in 1985, and daughter Sonia in 2001. Simon farmed in the Standard area until retirement. He was a very active and proud community member and served on Boards of the Nazareth Lutheran Church, the Standard Co-op, the Alberta Irrigation Council and was a member of the Standard Lions Club. He loved to sing and sang with the Nazareth Lutheran Church Choir and the Gleichen Community Choir. Simon loved his church, his family, his community and his friends. Funeral Services were held on April 30, 2005 at Nazareth Lutheran Church, in Standard, and interment at Standard Cemetery.

Ruth Kjaer, St. Catharines 1927 - 2017

Ruth Magda Kjaer, the daughter of Kristian Dahlstrøm and Anna, née Jensen, passed away peacefully at home in St. Catharines, Ontario, with her family by her side on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in her 90th year. Ruth was the beloved wife of the late Rev. Jens Kjaer, loving mother of Erik (Peta), Peter and Paul and loving grandmother of Erin, Jordan and Jonathan. Ruth was born on a farm near Stenvad Hede, Jutland. After elementary school she attended Vivild Efterskole and then Haslev Husholdningsskole, studying home economics. She met Jens Kjaer on a farm and they were married on April 15, 1951. A week later they boarded the Norwegian Line's *MS Osloffjord*, bound for New York, and then took the bus to Ontario, settling in the St. Catharines area on the Niagara Peninsula. An article about Ruth and Jens Kjaer appeared in the 1997 Heritage Book, written by Martha Larsen. Ruth was a strong supporter of the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, located in Grimsby. Her son, Peter, has served on the Church Council for many years, including a stint as president. A memorial service took place at the Church in Grimsby on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

Ejnar Blæsbjerg Madsen, Calgary 1932 - 1997

Ejnar Blæsbjerg Madsen of Calgary passed away at the Foothills Hospital on Saturday, December 13, 1997 at the age of 65 years. Ejnar was born February 3, 1932 in Skjelbak, Denmark, the youngest of twelve children. In 1956 Ejnar immigrated to Canada and settled directly in Calgary. Through association with Sharon Lutheran Church, he met and married Joyce Slinn in 1958. Together they raised five children. In 1972 Ejnar took over Northland Refrigeration, a business belonging to his late father-in-law. Besides the huge responsibilities of running a business, Ejnar found time to be a member of the Danish Canadian Club, and the Sons of Norway. He was quite proud of his heritage and loved being involved with his fellow Scandinavians. Ejnar was well known for his card playing, and he could figure out even the most difficult of Danish crosswords. He will be missed by many and remembered by all. He is the loving father of five children, Margaret Madsen (Dean Murdoch) of Stavely, Jens (Jo-Ann), Arne, Sven, Ben, all of Calgary; his four grandchildren, Jackson of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Stephen of Stavely, Amanda and Kyle, both of Calgary. He is also survived by three sisters and

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two brothers, Lis, Elly, Oda, Karl, and Svend, all of Denmark; and also, numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce, in 1996 and brother, Arne, also in 1996.

Oksfeldt (Philip) Molby, North Vancouver 1934 - 2017

Philip passed away peacefully on June 6, 2017, with family by his side after a short illness, and sadly after the recent passing of his eldest son Kim (May 6, 2017). Philip is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gurli, his sister Bodil, their daughter Pia (Mel), sons Ian and Roy (Sacha), daughter-in-law Donna and grandchildren Rianna, Jenna, Jordan, Ryan, Mishaela, Connor, Austin, Tyrell, Erika, Brooke, Taryn and great grandson Lucas. Born in Boris, Denmark, on February 14, 1934, Philip left home at the young age of nineteen to immigrate to Canada eventually settling in North Vancouver, while enjoying a successful career working as a carpenter/builder/developer. Lucky enough to retire early through clever real estate investing, if not found reading the paper, Philip was known to be up on the roof, replacing appliances, cutting the grass and generally tinkering around his rental properties well into his 80's. Philip was a gentle, quiet soul who was most comfortable at the back of the room enjoying his entertaining family and offering sage advice when the opportunity arose. A service was held June 20, 2017, at the Danish Lutheran Church.

Jorgen Stampe Munck, West Kelowna 1935 - 2017

Jorgen Stampe Munck passed away on March 20, 2017, at the age of 81 in West Kelowna, B.C. He is survived by his loving wife Lona, daughters Ruth Rob (Ron) and Kari Purvis (Clark), son Erik Munck (Jade) and grandchildren Hannah Guenther (Dave), Erika Rob, Whitney Purvis, Ian Purvis, Vienna Munck, and Brock Munck. He was predeceased by his sister Anna Kuhlman and will be missed by her husband Henry and their children Marika and Carl-Erik. Jorgen was born on September 5, 1935, on the family farm in Clouston, Saskatchewan to Danish immigrant parents, and grew up in Salmo, B.C. He worked in various mines as a driller/blaster during summers while earning a B.Comm at UBC (1958) and earned his MBA from the University of Washington (1964). Jorgen worked primarily in sales and marketing, across Canada from Vancouver to Montreal, and points in between. Prior to retirement, he served in Chilliwack as a returning officer for federal elections. Having a strong belief in social justice and helping others, he was a proud member of Rotary and served on the boards of many community organizations. In his free time, he loved gardening, golfing, wine-making, woodworking, and raising Norwegian Elkhounds. Jorgen and Lona loved to go for drives just to see where the road might take them. He will be remembered as a gentleman with a fine sense of humour and love of stories. A Memorial Service was held on May 6, 2017, at Westbank United Church in West Kelowna. In Vancouver he attended the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby as well as events arranged by the Danish House Society at the Scandinavian Centre.

OBITUARIES

Dr. Leonard Carl Pallesen, Calgary 1916 - 2004

Dr. Leonard Carl Pallesen, beloved husband of Rita Pallesen of Calgary, passed away peacefully at the Bethany Care Centre Harvest Hills on April 5, 2004, at the age of 87 years. Len was born September 1, 1916, in Calgary. He received his early education in Calgary and post education at the University of Alberta, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in education in 1939. He then taught in Botha before joining the army in 1942, serving with the Survey Wing until his honourable discharge in 1945. Len worked with the Calgary School Board from 1945-1979, during which time he returned to the University of Alberta, and taught while he obtained his Master's Degree in 1948. He also returned to the University of Calgary in 1970, at the age of 57, to obtain his Ph D. and served as Deputy Superintendent for the Calgary School Board from 1973 until he retired in 1979. He served as Councillor and Mayor of the then Summer Village of Chestermere, east of Calgary, from 1977 until 1990. Len was always involved with many communities over the years in Calgary and area. He was also a founding member of the Calgary Winter Club. Besides his loving wife Rita, Len is survived by son, Blair and his children Tria and Chad (Marnie) and their mother Denise; son Greg; all of Calgary; daughter Margo and her husband Noel Stampfli and their sons Sean and Kyle of Novato, California. He is also survived by Rita's family, son Ben and his wife Sue Atkins, their children Jaime, Phil, Ryan and Brittany of Chestermere, son Jim Atkins and daughter Barbara Nemez and her children Helen and Isaac all of Calgary. Len was predeceased by his first wife Dorothy in 1993 and a brother Stan. Len's funeral was held on April 8, 2004. Bethany Care Centre, where he died, had been founded in 1944 by Chris Morck of Dickson, John Larsen, Chris Mikkelsen, the Rev. M. Jorgensen as well as the Rev. Theodore M. Hansen of Sharon Lutheran Church in Calgary.

Bente Pedersen, Burnaby 1929 - 2016

Bente Pedersen, born on April 17, 1929, passed away quietly at Burnaby Hospital, on April 5, 2016 at the age of 86. She was predeceased by her husband, Herluf Pedersen, who was born in 1929, and who died on April 4, 1993. Herluf was involved with the Danish Brotherhood and Dania Home. Bente is survived by her six children, Mogens, Ken, Erik, Bent, Frank and Marianne as well as their spouses, fourteen grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and relatives in Denmark. She'll be missed by her family and her many friends at the Carl Mortensen Manor, The Danish Lutheran Church, Danish Sisterhood, The Danish House Society, and Dania Ladies Auxiliary. A Memorial was held May 20 at The Danish Lutheran Church, where she was known as the 'alter-brass polisher-in-chief'. She and her honesty as well as her great sense of humour will truly be missed.

John Smidt, Montreal and Toronto 1924 - 2014

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our beloved John on the night of November 25, 2014, at Toronto's Humber River Regional Hospital (Finch site), surrounded by family, at the age of 90, after a long illness. John was predeceased in Denmark by his parents and all four siblings. John was the loving and devoted husband to Elga for 64 years; together, they enjoyed a long, happy life filled with many wonderful trips which John treasured. A proud and caring father to son Peter (Brenda) and daughter Susan Climo (Chris), John will be lovingly remembered by his family and former colleagues at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, where he worked for thirty-four years.



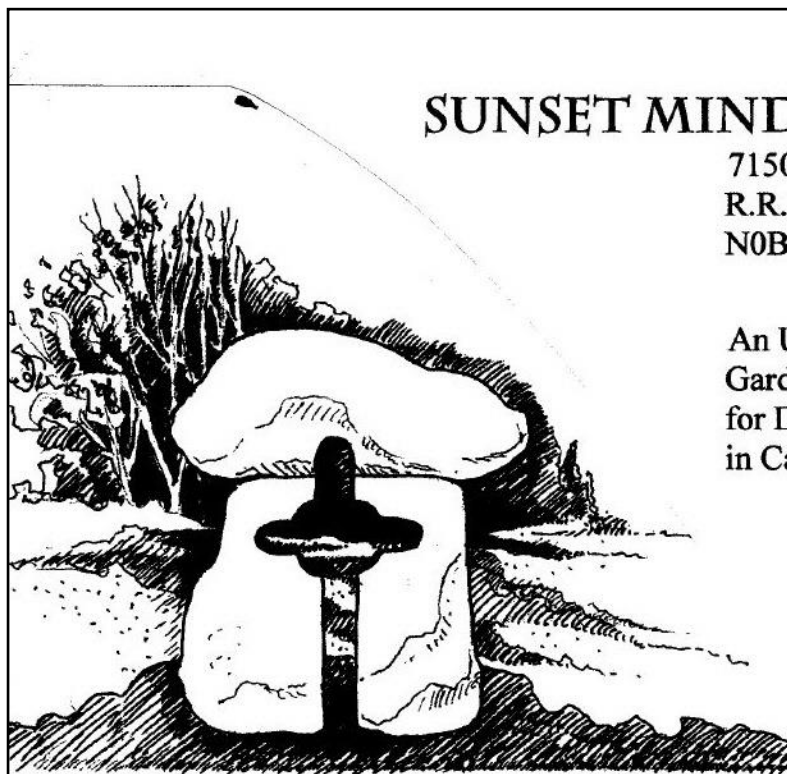
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INVITATION



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Telephone: (204) 774-8047

An invitation to the 2019 conference:

The Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba invites all Danish Federation delegates to join us in Winnipeg for the 2019 annual conference. Our Head coordinator Karl Sørensen and his committee are busy planning for your arrival. Our theme for the 2019 conference is: “The Arctic – Past, Present and Future”.

This theme has been selected to coincide with the 400th anniversary celebration of Danish sea-captain and explorer Jens Munk and his wintering near what is now Churchill, Manitoba. Jens Munk was sent by King Christian IV of Denmark-Norway to find the Northwest Passage, and then make his way to China and India. He did not succeed, and the tale of his survival is a story of wonder. As well, we will take time in 2019 to honour the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog!

At our 2010 conference in Winnipeg, the theme was Human Rights and the Canadian Museum of Human Rights was under construction. We are pleased to include an optional tour of this beautiful building and its displays. In short, along with our guest speakers, additional tours and events, you are promised an insightful, informative, fun and entertaining conference.

We look forward to being your hosts in 2019.

Sincerely,

Susan Person
President, Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba

Information on the 2019 conference will soon be available on our website at:
www.scandinaviancentre.ca



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