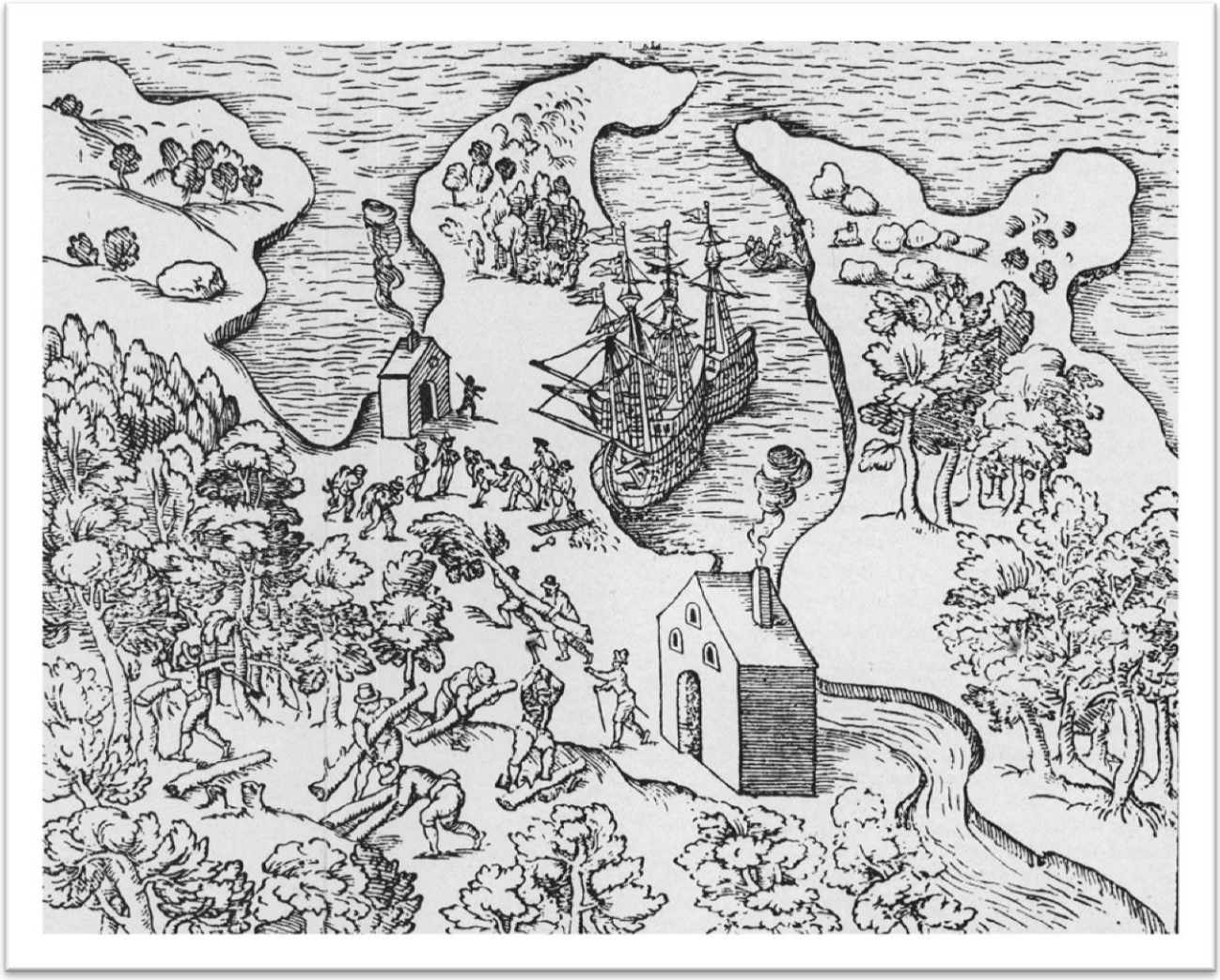
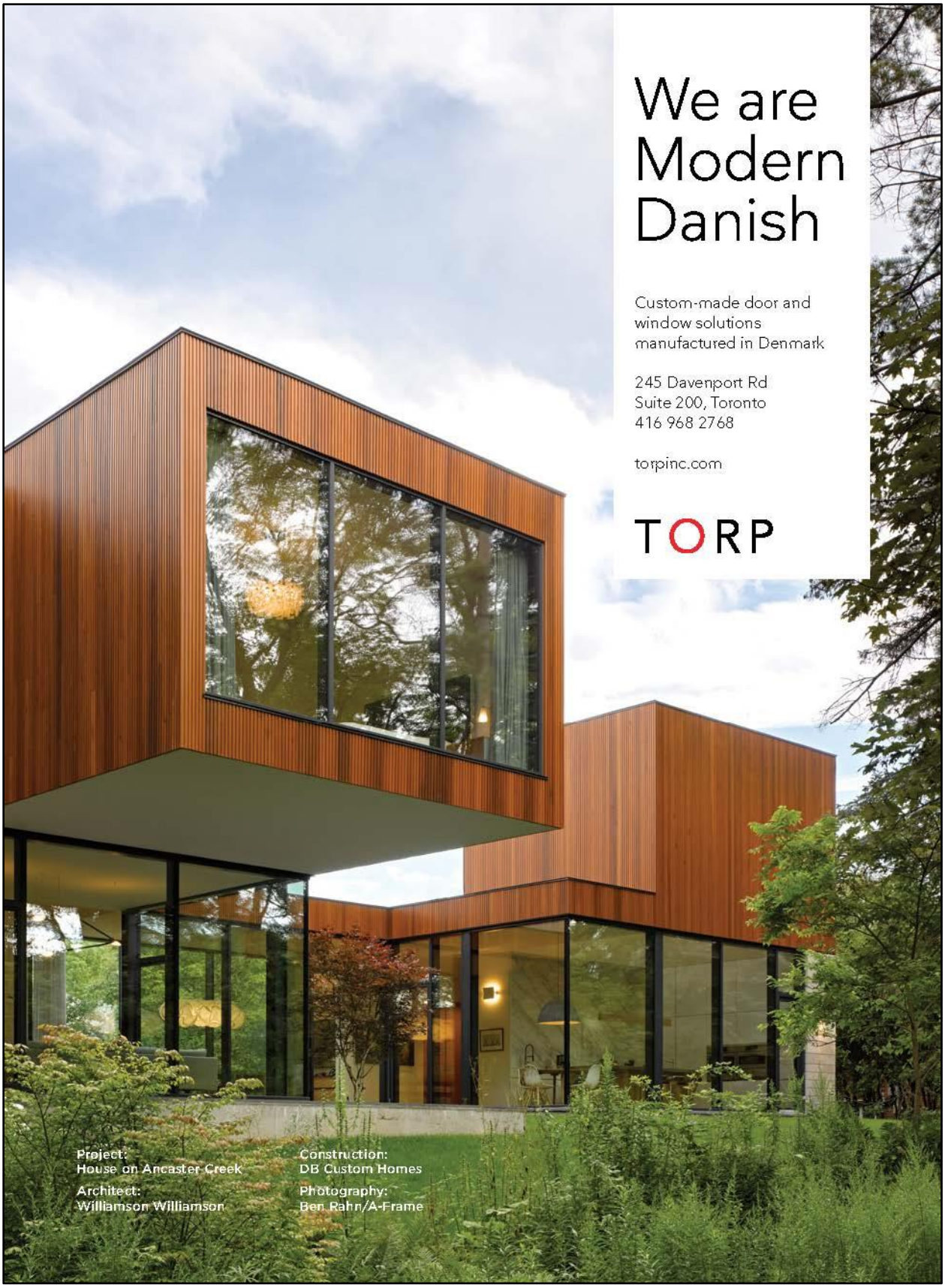
2019 HERITAGE BOOK



The Arctic – Past, Present and Future

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FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DANOISES DU CANADA

38th DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 23-26, 2019

THE ARCTIC: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



PHOTOS: The Franklin Expedition
Polar Bear - Face of the Arctic
Concept of Bering Strait Bridge Crossing
Photo Source: Internet – Bing Image Feed

The Arctic:
Past, Present and Future

Helle Wilson, Honorary Danish Consul for Manitoba

Look up … look way up … and you will notice one of Manitoba's well-known symbols, the *Golden Boy* located on the highest point of the Manitoba Legislative Building, at the top of the cupola. The impressive neoclassical building, built in an H, was completed in 1920. The Golden Boy faces north, where he sees Manitoba's bright future linked to the province's bountiful resources. The architects and builders, many of them Freemasons, designed the building with a host of symbols - one of them being the Golden Boy representing Hermes the ancient Greek god of trade and travel.



Manitoba Legislative Building with the Golden Boy
Photo courtesy of REMI Network

And trade was exactly the reason why Arctic explorer Jens Munk was sent on an expedition in 1619, to try to find a shorter route to the riches of China and India. Little did Jens Munk know that he and his crew would have to overwinter at the mouth of the Churchill River in Hudson Bay, having to suffer through the most horrible winter, they had ever experienced. Most of the crew died one by one from scurvy and the cold. Only Jens Munk and two of his crew members made it home the following summer. Four years later, Jens Munk published his Journal of the expedition.

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jens Munk's expedition, the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba has invited the Danish Federation to hold its Danish Canadian Conference in Winnipeg at the end of May 2019. The theme of the Conference is The Arctic: Past, Present and Future. As part of the conference, and commemoration, an exhibition focusing on Jens Munk's expedition has been arranged at Travel Manitoba at The Forks, where the Assiniboine and Red Rivers meet.

The Danish Canadian Conference in Winnipeg will be held at the Hotel Fort Garry on Broadway, an architectural landmark located in the heart of Winnipeg, between the impressive Manitoba Legislative Building and the historic Union Railway Station. The hotel was built in 1913 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The Sunday luncheon will be held at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre on Erin Street. In connection with the Conference both the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada as well as the Danish Canadian Museum will hold their Annual General Meetings. Moreover, Carl Sorensen of Edmonton, Chair of the Jens Munk Commemorative



Viewing tunnel in Assiniboine Park Zoo in Manitoba
Photo courtesy of Travel Manitoba

Steering Committee, will give an update on the work and activities of the Committee, which includes a reprint in English of Munk's Journal of his voyage to find the Northwest Passage.

Two presentations at the Conference will focus on art and research. Prof. David Barber, Director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science, University of Manitoba, will give a presentation about his extensive experience in the examination of the Arctic marine environment as a 'system', and the effect climate change has on this system. As well, Mr. Fred Ford, President of the Manitoba Inuit Association, will speak about the new Inuit Art Centre, which will open its doors in 2020 showcasing the largest collection of Inuit art in the world. The centre will raise the profile of "an art-making culture that, per-capita, is unparalleled in the world."

To give the conference participants a taste of the Arctic, they will visit the *Journey to Churchill* exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Zoo. Here they will learn about biodiversity, climate change and efforts of conservation in the Arctic. The exhibit is also home to polar bears, muskoxen, Arctic foxes, wolves and other northern species. Going through underwater viewing tunnels, known as the *Sea Ice Passage*, you have the rare opportunity to view majestic polar bears swimming above your head.



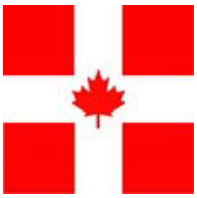
Winnipeg Esplanade Riel Bridge and Human Rights Museum
Photo courtesy of Travel Manitoba

Conference participants will also have a change to explore the magnificent Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which opened in 2014 at The Forks. Just the architecture of this new Museum is amazing. The purpose of the museum is to "explore the subject of human rights with a special but not exclusive reference to Canada, in order to enhance the public's understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others and to encourage reflection and dialogue."

This year also marks the 800th anniversary of the Danish flag *Dannebrog*. To celebrate this event, the conference participants are invited to a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall by Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman, followed by lunch. Mayor Bowman, the Danish Ambassador to Canada, H.E. Thomas Winkler, and Søren Søndergaard of Guelph, will speak at this event.

We look forward to welcoming you to Manitoba!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2019 Heritage Book
38th Danish Canadian Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. May 23-26, 2019

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Cover drawing:

Jens Munk's men felling trees and building shelters, preparing for their winter harbour at the mouth of what is now the Churchill River in Manitoba. The drawing is by Jens Munk himself, and was published in Danish Arctic Expeditions 1605-1620, edited by the Danish writer and scientist Christian Carl August Gosch, The Hakluyt Society, London, 1897.

Book Design/Layout: Ed Kuhlman

Acknowledgements:
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 the Annual Heritage Book 1982 – 2019

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
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Winnipeg	2019	Ed Kuhlman

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PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



May 23-26, 2019

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2019 Danish Canadian Conference.

This annual event, hosted by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, brings together individuals from across the country to discuss matters related to Danish culture and history. Under the theme of this year's conference, "The Arctic: Past, Present and Future," delegates will celebrate the 400th anniversary of explorer Jens Munk's expedition to find the Northwest Passage.

I would like to thank the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for preserving and promoting Danish culture. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions that Danish Canadians have made, and continue to make, to our nation.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable conference.

Yours sincerely,

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

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



Du 23 au 26 mai 2019

Chères amies, chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes les personnes qui assistent à la Conférence dano-canadienne de 2019.

Cet événement annuel, organisé par la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada, réunit des gens de partout au pays pour discuter de questions liées à la culture et à l'histoire danoises. Lors de la conférence de cette année, qui a pour thème « L'Arctique : le passé, le présent et le futur », les délégués célébreront le 400e anniversaire de l'expédition de l'explorateur Jens Munk visant à trouver le passage du Nord-Ouest.

J'aimerais remercier la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada qui œuvre à préserver et à promouvoir la culture danoise. J'aimerais également profiter del'occasion pour souligner les nombreuses contributions que les Dano-Canadiens ont apportées et continuent d'apporter à notre nation.

Je vous souhaite une conférence des plus mémorables.

Cordialement,

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

THE
AMBASSADOR

Ottawa, March 2019

Warm greetings from the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Canada to the Annual Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, this year we meet in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and I am looking forward to joining you there.

The focus of the conference on the Arctic is most timely. The Arctic is at a crossroad. The Arctic States in close cooperation with the peoples of the Arctic have to determine how to ensure the sustainable economic development of the region, which has been at the top of the agenda for so long, while at the same time ensuring the full respect for the fragile environment and the traditional ways of life in the region. This is not easy and will only be realized if all interested parties work closely together.

Greenland and Canada are neighbours in the Arctic. We have a long history together. At this conference, we will mark the 400 years of the expedition of the Danish explorer Jens Munk, and in 2021 we will mark the 100 years of Knud Rasmussen's 5th Thule expedition. We, however, share much more than history. We also face similar challenges in the Arctic today and an even stronger cooperation between the Kingdom of Denmark and Canada in all areas, including politics, business and culture, is the best way of addressing these challenges together.

I trust that also the conference this year will further promote the heritage of Danes in Canada. At the same time, it is also important to look ahead and consider how the Danes in Canada may contribute to further strengthening and deepening the relations between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark. It is my firm view, that everyone living in Canada with a Danish background or links to Denmark have an important role to play here as well!

Looking forward to seeing you in Winnipeg,

Thomas Winkler
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of all Manitobans, I am pleased to welcome you to the 38th annual Federation of Danish Associations conference in Winnipeg. Bienvenue à Winnipeg. Bienvenue au Manitoba. I would also like to welcome the Danish Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Thomas Winkler.

Four hundred years ago, Danish explorer Jen Munk fought to survive the harsh Manitoba winter during his search for the North West passage. It is in recognition of his remarkable courage and endurance that this year's conference has been dedicated to The Arctic - Past, Present and Future.

During your stay with us, I encourage you to explore our province and discover why it is so special. Whether it is our world-class artistic community, our rich and diverse cultural mosaic or our pristine wilderness, there is so much in Manitoba for you to experience and enjoy.

Successfully staging an annual event such as this conference requires the ongoing effort of a committed team. I join all Manitobans in thanking the many volunteers for the work they have done in order to ensure another successful conference.

Brian W. Pallister

The Honourable Brian Pallister

MESSAGE
FROM

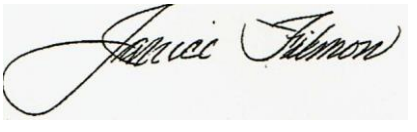
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MANITOBA

Manitobans are very fortunate to live in a province where multiculturalism is valued, celebrated and recognized as a vital part of the great quality of life we enjoy here.

As the Queen's representative in Manitoba, I am pleased to welcome Ambassador Winkler, along with delegates, volunteers, organizers and sponsors to Winnipeg for the Federation of Danish Associations annual conference.

The Danish Canadian Club has a proud history of preserving and promoting Danish culture and heritage for all to appreciate. Your efforts reflect your shared cultural pride and enrich us all by adding to the tremendous cultural mosaic that is such an integral and enduring part of our Canadian identity.

While you are in Winnipeg, I encourage you to take the time to discover the many reasons why Manitoba is such a wonderful place to live, work, and play - as resident delegates can readily attest. As you come together to honour your heritage, I wish you a pleasant visit and an interesting, productive conference.



The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba

Mayor's Message

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Federation of Danish Associations Annual Conference, including your very special guest, the Danish Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Thomas Winkler. I know that your conference organizers have a great program planned for you to help you experience all that Winnipeg has to offer. From the thought-provoking Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the thrilling Journey to Churchill polar bear exhibit, the Forks National Historic Site to the lively Exchange District you will find a vibrant and diverse city waiting to welcome you.

I understand that your conference this year, in Winnipeg's historic Fort Garry Hotel, will recognize and celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Danish explorer Jens Munk's mission to find the North West passage and his survival story of wintering near present day Churchill. It leads into the Conference theme The Arctic — Past, Present and Future which will no doubt lead to some great discussion.

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, I am happy to recognize the 800th anniversary of the oldest flag in the world, the Dannebrog (Danish flag) with an official flagraising at City Hall. I hope that it will be a highlight for Conference participants. I want to also take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the Conference organizers and volunteers. Their tireless work has laid the groundwork for a great Conference — enjoy your time in our city!

Warmly,



Mayor Brian Bowman
City of Winnipeg



Welcome by the Honorary Consul of Denmark for Manitoba

Let me extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Danish Canadian Conference in Winnipeg.

The conference theme is The Arctic: Past, Present and Future.

We will commemorate the 400th anniversary of Danish Arctic explorer Jens Munk's expedition to try to find the Northwest Passage – the first Dane to visit our province.

One of Winnipeg's top tourist attractions is the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which opened in 2014. Now another outstanding architectural construction is underway for an Inuit Art Center adjacent to the Winnipeg Art Gallery, which will open its doors in 2020. This world-class facility will showcase the largest Inuit art collection in the world. One of the presenters at the conference will talk about this unique Centre.

Going forward, climate change will have a big impact on the Arctic, where the ice is melting at high rates. One of the majestic Arctic animals – the polar bear – is having a hard time adjusting to these changes. We will visit the Journey to Churchill exhibit at the Zoo in the Assiniboine Park to hear about the research going on in the Arctic.

Additionally, we are planning to have a presentation about climate change from one of the leading researchers at the University of Manitoba.

I look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Helle Zeidler Wilson
Honorary Danish Consul for Manitoba



Greeting from the Mayor of The Town of Churchill

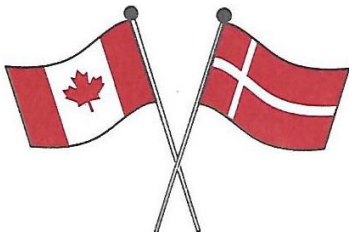
The area now known as Churchill was a meeting place for the indigenous people in the region, including Cree, Dene, Métis and Inuit. The Cree referred to this area as Mantayo Sepee, meaning “river of strangers”, recognizing the early explorers who visited the area, such as Jens Munk and his expedition.

The Town of Churchill is honoured to recognize the 400th anniversary of Jens Munk’s expedition. As everyone is likely aware, this expedition led Jens to be the first European to overwinter in the harsh sub-arctic along the shores of what is now the Churchill River. His harrowing tale of survival is a well-told story in the community, and we are delighted to share this tale with our many guests and visitors to Churchill.

We are very proud of our rich history that led to the development of Western Canada. Jens Munk and his expedition played an important role in the history of the area, but also that of Canada. We are sure the Danes hold Jens Munk in high regard for his bravery and fortitude in the face of extreme hardships.

Thank you for allowing us to say a few words as we honour the 400th anniversary, memory and accomplishments of a great Danish explorer.

Michael Spence, Mayor – Town of Churchill



Danish Canadian Club

764 Erin Street ★ Winnipeg, Manitoba ★ R3G 2W4
Telephone: *(204) 774-8047*

Dear Conference Participants and Guests,

On behalf of the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba, I extend a warm welcome and thank-you for joining us in Winnipeg for this year's conference. In recognition of Explorer Jens Munk's mission to find the North West passage and his survival story of wintering near present day Churchill from 1619-1620, we dedicate this year's conference to The Arctic - Past, Present and Future.

Our conference planning team has been preparing a rich conference itinerary which will showcase our many beautiful sights in Winnipeg, including the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Exchange District, the Forks Market area, The Dannebrog being raised at our City Hall, and the Journey to the Arctic display at the Winnipeg Zoo. It is with great pride we look forward to sharing our City with you, our guests. Of course there will be time for meetings, socializing and Saturday evening we will sit together for a fine feast and dance.

We encourage you to participate in the many events we have planned and we hope you find your stay with us informative, interesting and inspiring.

We are thrilled to be your hosts and look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Sincerely,

Susan Person
President, Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba

O Canada

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

Canada

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





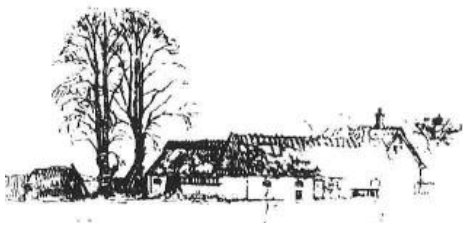
DENMARK
DANMARK

DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

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

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



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

Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

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

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

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

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

Inger K. W. Andersen
Kingston, 1983



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

Board of Directors 2018 - 2019

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Members of the

FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

1. New Denmark Historical Society, New Denmark, N.B
2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.
3. The Danish Club of Montreal
4. The Danish Club of Ottawa
5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto
7. Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto
8. 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. Danish Canadian American Friendship Association, Strib
33. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
34. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
35. Danish American Heritage Society, Salem, Oregon
36. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa



The Purpose of the Danish Federation

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

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

Danish Federation Activities

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

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

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

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

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

Educational and fun-filled Danish Heritage Seminars

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



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

Annual Report

2018 – 2019

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Danish Federation for the year 2018-2019. It has been a busy and exciting year. Our membership remains 36 member organizations, same as last year, and our Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee has been very active with a host of activities. Moreover, well-attended regional meetings have been held in the spring as well as in the fall in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

A highlight last year was the Danish Canadian Conference in Halifax organized and hosted by the Danish Federation. Chair of the Organizing Committee was Larry Kjearsgaard, with help from others, including Birgit Ballantyne, in Halifax. The Conference was held at the Delta Hotel and Pier 21 from May 24 to 27, 2018. The Theme of the Conference was Pier 21: Where we met Canada. Halifax turned out to be an attraction and drew many participants to the Conference. The Immigration Museum at Pier 21 was a drawing card as was the charming harbour front and the guided tour to the spectacular landscape around Peggy's Cove. The Conference was officially opened Thursday evening by Larry Kjearsgaard, with opening remarks by Rolf Christensen and Svend E. Nielsen, followed by a presentation by Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen.

The Danish Federation held its Annual General Meeting in the Windsor Class Room at Pier 21 on Saturday, May 26th. Once again, Gert M. Andersen chaired the meeting. Treasurer Sune Overgaard's financial statement was approved. Thank you, Sune. Regarding the elections, Rolf Christensen, Ed Kuhlman, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard were elected as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Following the election, the President thanked Gert Andersen for serving as Vice-President, for chairing numerous AGMs and for being active in the Ontario Region, also as President of the Region. In the past Gert had also represented the Danish Federation at events in Pass Lake, Ontario, and in St. John, N.B.

Lastly, Soren Sondergaard was re-appointed reviewer. And the various member organizations gave their so-called Club Reports. The Conference ended with a traditional Danish luncheon at the Austenville Owls' Club in Dartmouth, catered by the Scandinavian Society of Nova Scotia, where Larry Kjearsgaard handed the Fane and Mailbox over to Karl Sorensen of Winnipeg.

Over the past year National Secretary Aase Christensen has maintained our website as well as maintained and printed the Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada. Thank you, Aase.

I would also like to thank Ed Kuhlman for his excellent work of compiling, editing and shipping the beautiful and informative Heritage Books. The Heritage Book is a compilation of facts and stories of the various clubs, churches, settlements, as well as inspiring biographies of hundreds of

families. We must strive to get these stories written down and published before they become part of a forgotten past - of what was once a very active Danish community. Thank you, Ed.

Immediately following the Halifax Conference, twenty-four participants partook in the popular Danish Heritage Seminar, from May 28 to June 2. The Seminar was held at the Atlantica Hotel, with Pastor Birgitte Saltorp of Tersløsegård, and formerly of Vancouver, as Headmaster. The theme was Danish Manor Houses. The Heritage Seminar is a superb way to spend some days submerged in Danish culture, while exploring the local area.

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, Puslinch, Calgary, Dickson, Edmonton, and two in Denmark; Aalborg and Copenhagen. In Aalborg I gave Udvandrerarkivet sixteen Heritage Books to complete their collection. Complete collections of the Heritage Book can now also be found at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson and at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton.

Several of our member organizations are celebrating anniversaries this year. Danes Worldwide, formerly Dansk Samvirke, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Congratulations! And Dansk Kirke i Udlandet (DKU, now DSUK), or the Danish Church Abroad, was established in Copenhagen one-hundred years ago. Shortly after its founding it became active in Canada and already nine years after its founding DKU sent its first pastor to Canada, that is Pastor Max Mathiesen, who arrived in Edmonton in 1928. The Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada, which was formed during the Second World War, will celebrate its 75th anniversary at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary in October. The New Denmark Historical Society which operates the New Denmark Memorial Museum will celebrate 60 years this year. The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club also celebrates its 60th anniversary this fall. The Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary celebrates 55 years this year, while Dana Village in Calgary as well as the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club were founded thirty years ago. Congratulations to all! But above all, this year we can celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Danish Flag, Dannebrog! Tillykke!

The Jens Munk Committee has been extremely active which can readily be seen from the Committee's Report. The committee is still working on numerous projects. I would like to thank the Jens Munk Committee for its work. Thank you to Carl Sorensen, the Chair of the Committee, as well as Otto Christensen, Helle Wilson and Ed Kuhlman, as well as Karl Sorensen, Jens Woller, Barbara Schweger, Gunnar Kristensen and Sune Overgaard. Also thank you to Sven Erik Jensen of Copenhagen. Furthermore, you have all seen the retractable roll-up Jens Munk Banner and you have all been given a copy of The Jens Munk Journal.

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

Danish Canadian Conference in Halifax

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

This was the first Danish Canadian Conference to be held in Halifax. It was also the first Conference to be hosted by the Danish Federation. Holding the Conference in Halifax provided an opportunity to visit Pier 21, the old immigration shed, which is now the Canadian Museum of Immigration. Naturally, the theme of the Conference was *Pier 21: Where we met Canada*. At the opening reception of the Conference, at the Delta Barrington Hotel on Thursday evening, May 24, 2018, Larry Kjearsgaard, Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee, bid everyone welcome. As well, Honorary Danish Consul Melissa Mathers bid everyone welcome to Halifax. Words of welcome were also given by the President of the Danish Federation, and Svend E. Nielsen, President of the Danish Canadian Museum. The evening's guest speaker was Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen, who gave an overview of Danish-Canadian relations. The reception provided an opportunity to mingle and catch up, as well as study the program for the next three days.



Group Photo: Conference delegates enjoying trip to Peggy's Cove

Friday was Museum Day, where the Danish Canadian Museum held its Annual General Meeting in the morning. The luncheon speaker was Danish Consul Melissa Mathers, a fifth-generation Danish consul, who spoke about her work as a Consul and about the family business. After lunch, there was a guided bus tour to spectacular Peggy's Cove, where a group photo was taken. In the evening there was a Museum presentation by Svend E. Nielsen as well as a presentation about explorer Jens Munk by Otto Christensen of Gimli. Carl Sorensen, chair of the Danish Federation's Jens Munk Committee, gave a report on the work of the Committee. This was followed by an auction in support of the Danish Canadian Museum.



President Svend E. Nielsen Welcomes everyone to Danish Canadian Museum AGM

Saturday morning the Danish Federation held its Annual General Meeting at Pier 21. The AGM was chaired by Gert Andersen. The various member organizations gave brief reports on their activities during the past year. Treasurer Sune Overgaard presented the Financial Statements, which had been reviewed by Soren Sondergaard. Secretary Aase Christensen gave a quick overview of the Danish Federation's website, which she manages. The elections were chaired by Larry Kjearsgaard. Vice-president Gert Andersen of Waterloo stepped down and elected new vice-president was Ed Kuhlman of Port Coquitlam. Re-elected as president, secretary and treasurer were respectively Rolf Christensen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard. Moreover, Ed Kuhlman was thanked for producing an excellent Heritage Book with a host of immigration stories. The luncheon speaker was Pier 21 historian Steven Schwinghamer, who, after lunch, gave a guided tour of the premises. There was also time to do research and view the temporary exhibitions. Saturday evening dinner was aboard a harbour cruise ship, which sailed along the harbour with a great view of the Halifax skyline as well as docks and container terminal, in addition to the many coves.



Federation President Rolf Buschardt Christensen Speaking at Federation AGM

Sunday morning the delegates were picked up at the hotel and given a guided bus tour of Halifax, which included stops at the impressive Victorian Public Gardens, the historic Halifax Citadel and a cemetery with many of the victims from the Titanic disaster in 1912.

The Conference ended with a traditional Danish luncheon at the Austenville Owls' Club in Dartmouth, catered by the Scandinavian Society of Nova Scotia. At the closing, the participants thanked Larry Kjearsgaard as chair of the Conference Organizing Committee, as well as Birgit Ballantyne, who had been "the boots on the ground" in Halifax. Finally, Larry Kjearsgaard handed the Fane and Mailbox over to Karl Sorensen of the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba, as Winnipeg is the next club to host the annual conference.

CONFERENCE PHOTOS:



Friday at the Danish Canadian Museum AGM



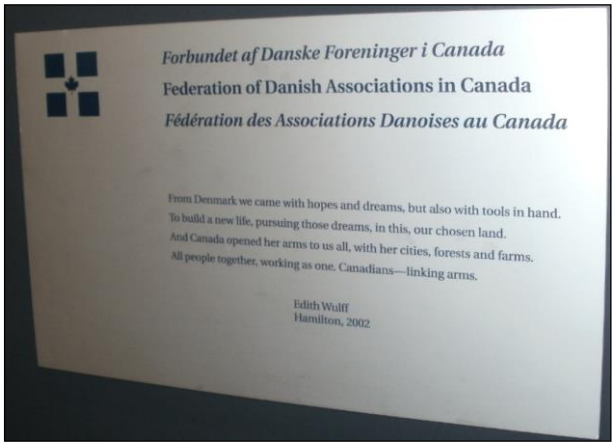
L to R: Lis Sondergaard, Sune Overgaard, & Audrey Urszulan – Out for a stroll

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Saturday at Pier 21 – Federation AGM & Museum Tour



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21



Danish Plaque at Pier 21



Karl Sorensen, Winnipeg presents Club Report



Eva Terp presents Ontario Region Report



Kari Morck presents
Dickson Store Museum Report



Pier 21 Tour Guide with delegates
At start of Tour

Saturday Night Dinner and Cruise of Halifax Harbour



Faye & Larry Kjearsgaard



Ed & Linda Kuhlman



Audrey Urszulan & Sune Overgaard



Lis and Soren Sondergaard



Thomas & Jannet Tricarico



Gert Andersen & Aase Christensen



Liselotte Ostergaard & Gerda Andersen



Arlene Jordan & Inge Andersen



Glenna Hitchcock & Gustav Rasmussen



Clockwise L to R: Karl Sorensen & Rolf Christensen



Left to Right: Lily & Svend B. Nielsen & Annette Jochumsen



Clockwise L to R: Steen Jochumsen, & Ole D. Larsen



Clockwise L to R: Joanne & Svend E. Nielsen,



Clockwise L to R: Ed & Linda Kuhlman, Margit Hansson & Carl Sorensen

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Highlights of delegates Tour of Halifax and Surroundings



Tombstones of RMS Titanic *victims*



World famous Lighthouse at Peggy's Cove

Sunday Luncheon at Austenville Owls' Club in Dartmouth







Danish Sisterhood Canada
DOGWOOD LODGE 179
BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Danish Sisterhood of America
4279 Norland Avenue
Burnaby, BC
V5G 3Z6
lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca
604 294 3369
www.danishsisterhood.ca

CAN DAN
REHATEC LTD.
ALLAN NISSEN
1500 Sandhill Drive, Unit 6 Ancaster, ON L9G 4V5
Tel: (905) 648-7522
www.can-dan.com
Fax: (905) 648-7799
info@can-dan.com

Reports from the Member Organizations

Given at the Annual General Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia May 26, 2018

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 2018 reports from the member organizations:

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

This past year has been a busy one for the Historical Society at the New Denmark Museum. Every year we have a memorial service, honouring those that have gone before us. Every five years, our Founders Day Celebration is extended over a four-day celebration. Last June, we celebrated our 145th anniversary of our forefathers arriving from Denmark. We had a parade, fireworks, family dance, pie contest, and barbecue, just to name a few of the events. We had visitors from across Canada, as well as Denmark. We were pleased to have Gunnar Pedersen as our guest speaker. He came to New Denmark when he was five years old, from Denmark, and at the age of 95, is one of our oldest residents. If you are ever in New Denmark, be sure to visit Gunnar as he builds replicas of buildings in the settlement that will take you back in time! The last week of August in 2017, we had the pleasure of having "Frantic Films" here filming the CBC show "Still Standing", with actor Jonny Harris. Jonny interviewed different residents over the course of filming, and some of the women of the settlement made Danish desserts for Jonny to try at a barbecue. With approximately 300 people in attendance, the actual filming of the TV show was held in the barn which is on the museum grounds. After a week of filming, culminating with the actual filming of the show, they returned to Toronto. After editing, sometime over the summer the show will be finished, and they will return to show us the finished product before it airs sometime in the fall. We anxiously await the finished product!

This past year was a test of perseverance and fortitude, as the Board was split due to an issue with our barn on the museum grounds. Moving forward, we have a new Board and we are back on track. That being said, there was vandalism on the roof of the barn, and now we have to replace part of it. We are in the process of trying to apply for funding to help us.

As I write this report, I am getting ready for our annual cleanup, which is always a busy time with lawn care, cleaning our Museum and getting ready for our tourist season.

Our Founders Day service is always as close to the 19th of June as we can make it, as that is the actual date in 1872 our forefathers arrived from Denmark, making us the oldest Danish community in Canada! This year, our service is on the 17th of June, starting with an ecumenical service at 11:00 am, followed by a barbecue and the Memorial service at 1:00 pm. We are in the process of hiring summer students and we are also looking forward to a successful summer!

Respectfully submitted by Heather Jensen, President, and presented by Glenna Hitchcock

2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.

I am pleased to report that the activities of the Danish Canadian Society Inc Montreal (DCS) in 2017/2018 were similar to what they have been the last several years. The younger generation is still participating in our functions, in particular the Fastelavn celebration and the Christmas party. A big thank you goes to Bodil Jelhof Jensen for preparing the many goody-bags for Christmas and for making sure the "fastelavnstønde" is always stuffed with candy. Sankt Hans Aften is still celebrated at Janet and Peter Nissen's green houses and as usual all the tables inside the green house 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 Bloksbjeg while everybody joined in singing a collection of our beautiful Danish songs. Thank you to Janet and Peter for their continued hospitality.



July 1st and Canada Day 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, "Vinland" 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. And often a few spectators are "kidnapped" and put on the ship. The Danish Club has a large stake in "Vinland" as the club shares in the up-keep of the ship and in any other cost involved. A warm thank you goes to Nis-Anker Jessen for pulling the float again this year. In mid-September, members and friends enjoyed a beautiful dinner at the Legion in NDG. Authentic Danish food prepared by friends and members was served. It was an enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to all who prepared the food, who helped set the tables and cleaned up after the party.

The Christmas party in December brought a full house. As usual Bjørg and Svend got the party off to a great start by serving gløgg and Christmas cookies. Thank you for serving and providing the gløgg and the cookies. The traditional Christmas dinner of roast pork, caramelized potatoes and red cabbage was served and of course followed by Ris-a-l'amande with cherry sauce. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked hard in the kitchen making sure the food was perfect - especially to Nis Jessen, who has become our in-house expert in preparing pork roast and always makes the best crackling. After dinner everyone 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. Once again, a big Thank-You is owed 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 help in the kitchen from preparing and serving the food to cleaning up after the dinner.

The Danish Christmas Service was held at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church and was well attended. The service was conducted by Anne Jørgensen and Pastor Samuel King-Kabu. The organist was again 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 and æbleskiver just like mom did. Both adults and

children were dressed in wonderfully imaginative costumes. Children of all ages had a great time creating their own fastelavnsris and had fun being taught by Anne Mette Justesen how to "flette julehjerter" with real "glanspapir" straight from Denmark thanks to Bodil. After some energetic batting-the-barrel, a Fastelavns King was crowned and the candy from the barrel shared by all the children. For the second time in years we had a real wooden barrel thank you to Kim Lebech, who organized transportation of the barrels from Denmark through the company he works for.

Thank you to 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. Sadly, we lost a very beloved board member in the month of June when Barbara Diehl, who was from Sweden, passed away suddenly in her sleep on June 20th, 2017. Barbara was a director on the DCS board. We miss Barbara, her supply of interesting stories, and her willingness to adopt and understand Danish traditions.

In closing I would like to thank our generous and faithful florists, Leif and Norma Jacobsen, who for many years - and at no cost - have provided beautiful flower arrangements for our many events. Norma and Leif decided to retire after many successful years in the florist business. I wish them all the best in their retirement and in their future endeavours.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Ole Larsen, President

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

It is hard to believe that another year has already passed since last year's Conference in Red Deer! In many ways, the Danish Club of Ottawa continues to thrive. To mention some highlights since our last report, our lovely seniors' luncheon at the beautiful Keg Manor restaurant saw record attendance. We even had to turn a few people down, a situation we will address for this year's repeat lunch. The Christmas bazaar saw close to record-breaking revenues, plus it was a delightful event. The Christmas party in early December and the Fastelavn celebration in February once again brought out lots of children, which brings out the joy and enthusiasm in the rest of us. The Queen's Birthday Party, our big "formal" occasion of the year, attracted 90 people, and, according to feedback from our members and guests, a good time was had by all. Attempts to introduce new and different activities have met with mixed reaction. A dinner and theatre tour to a destination an hour south of Ottawa did not materialize due to lack of interest. However, we continue to search for activities that may appeal to a younger audience and are also relatively uncomplicated to arrange. As a first for the Club, we have joined forces with the Ottawa Kubb organization and will hold a "workshop" in late June, teaching our members how to play the old Viking game of Kubb. We hope for a decent turnout – everyone is welcome, including children. Financially the Club is definitely holding its own, breaking even or better each year, while maintaining a cautious reserve against unforeseen setbacks. But, and there is a but … while member participation in events is good to excellent, the Board of Directors has been less successful in finding ways to share the workload



and get new people involved in the management of the Club. This is far from unique among Danish organizations, or among many other kinds of groups for that matter.

It will not be easy to find solutions to this dilemma as we move forward, but we hope that it is possible. Times have changed a great deal since the Club was founded almost 45 years ago. They are still changing, and we need to deal with that, thoughtfully and realistically. The Danish Cub of Ottawa is fortunate to have a strong, experienced Board, committed to the Club's traditions while also open to search for new directions for the future. However, the Club is a collective; it belongs to all members. We need member participation in developing appropriate visions and approaches for the future. More than anything, as members we need to take turns leading and managing the Club's affairs. Clearly this is much easier said than done, but well work the effort to try! As the President of the Danish Club of Ottawa, I regret being unable to attend this meeting. Best wishes for a good productive meeting and a great year ahead for everyone.

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

5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto

Greetings to all at the Conference here in Halifax: from the congregation of the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto. Once again we are pleased to have a respectable number from our congregation attending. Our church services start off our week with an average church attendance of 47. Every service is followed by lunch and good fellowship. As all across Canada, we find it difficult to attract a younger congregation and Toronto is no exception. English services and Music Services once per month don't seem to attract a larger attendance. Week day activities are generally well attended, so in our Kirke Hilsen you can read about Church Cafe, a Book Club, Morning Song, Golden Age Club, Folk Dancing, Opera Appreciation Sessions, and Movie Afternoons, which all should appeal to various interests and age groups. In the fall we will address the young people asking for Language Lessons and Cooking Lessons. Some really expressed interest in learning how to make our colourful Danish sandwiches, Danish cookies, and our kransekage.



Our 60th Anniversary did bring some younger members who were interested in our updated look in the Royal Hall and in the washrooms after our renovations. As you have read before we are 100% self-funded so depend on Sunday donations and money earned at fundraising events. The November bazaar reached an all-time profit of $20,000 and our twice a year dinners also contribute to our total. Brownies and Guides use our facilities for free but the Korean congregation and those that use our parking lot during the week pay rent. The Nordic Viking Event for all Scandinavian people planned for March did not result in the number of reservations hoped for and due to illness of our leader, Linda Stromberg, was postponed to a later date.

Each year since 1992 the church has held a well-attended "Welcome Back to Church" Sunday in September featuring a special theme. This September we hope to use the Viking Theme to attract a younger crowd. It will be advertised on Facebook and on our Church Blast to encourage many

to attend. Just recently members from the Toronto congregation attended the closing of the Grimsby church. Although a sad occasion Pastor Flensted-Jensen brought to mind many happy events through the years. Many church articles were passed on to their sister congregation in Toronto and will be cherished by us. Hopefully some carpooling will result in some of the congregation joining us on the occasional Sunday.

Details of Toronto Church Life can be found in our well written Kirke Hilsen or you can find us on Facebook or at www.dlctoronto.on.ca. Church services are held every Sunday at 10:30 at 72 Finch Ave. West.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Liselotte Ostergaard

8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch

Danes come here from near and far – united by their Danish genes and a craving for open faced sandwiches, Tuborg, and Danish pastry. They walk down memory lane together when they bring their children and grandchildren to walk around the pond, visit their loved ones in Mindepark, and then honour their heritage with one or more schnapps.

The restaurant is a key feature of the property, and last year Sunset Villa was at risk of losing this Danish gathering place for memorials, birthdays and anniversaries. Not to mention the famous monthly "Baker Day" when we all rush for authentic baked treats and candies. Anna and Benny, the operators for 18 years were retiring. A frantic search ensued to replace them and was concluded with a takeover by their own children – Kristine, Jacob and his partner Joanne. They undertook an ambitious renovation, to give it a more modern Scandinavian aesthetic. Everything was improved: all surfaces painted, new scandi lights everywhere, 100 new chairs and 30 new beautifully hand-crafted wood tables. The artwork was reconfigured into groupings, including a fun assembly of cuckoo clocks in the library. The Guards room walls were paneled and the Guards themselves were more artfully presented and honoured. That room now integrates better with the whole restaurant, instead of feeling like an afterthought addition. In the bar area, the overhead glassware structure was removed, leaving the space so much brighter and inviting – and people are sitting there now more than ever. The wooden floors have also been beautifully redone back to a natural blond tone. Upon entry, you get the feeling that you are in Denmark. And the best part is that they kept the already great Danish menu, and it continues to be called The Danish Place.



All generations of Danes coming to Sunset Villa love it, with renewed interest from young people. This is so important for the survival of Sunset Villa, which is a concern. Many founders have now passed away, and others are over 75 and can't be expected to actively volunteer anymore. And Danes aren't exactly immigrating to Canada like they used to! The next generation must step up to the plate!

Sunset Villa needs money to fix things (everything is very old) and to hire the services that we may no longer get for free – either now or in the next 5 years. We have to make sure that Sunset Villa is sustainable. The property is incredible, and rich with history. We all agree that we want it to survive, but how are we going to get there? We definitely need more members. It is our hope that we can galvanize the next generation to join and spend more time volunteering here. Or at the very least become members. We already know that they are sentimentally attached; their parents taught them to be very proud of their Danish heritage. And they are. They just lack time and many are spread out throughout southern Ontario. Perhaps they would consider renting one of our 56 seasonal trailer sites, to make the drive more worthwhile?! It is a great weekend retreat, especially for young children, with campfires and opportunities for Danish friendships.

Many from the next generation are also nearly old enough now to be eligible for the seniors' apartments, which were the inspiration for this place to begin with! Yes, a lot of time has passed since Sunset Villa's inception, and that this property has been run all these years by volunteers is an incredible statement about what can be accomplished when resources are pooled, and we work together. They say it takes a village, or in this, case, a Villa. At the time of writing this, we are getting ready for our yearly Constitution Day event, which is always well attended and a great community event. This year we plan to improve things by offering more for kids, including a fire truck to play on, face painting and props to take pictures dressed as Vikings! As always, the Danish folk dancers and the Vikings will be here to perform. And we will be serving open faced sandwiches, yummy æbleskiver, Danish hotdogs and traditional Danish waffle ice cream cones. We would love to see you here on the first Sunday of June each year.

Lastly, we can report on a new addition to the property – a beautiful red fox. Our 50 acres allow us to have all kinds of wildlife here, but this little fox has really captured our hearts. The seniors living here were enchanted by its beauty contrasted with the snow in the winter, and the restaurant has adopted it for their logo. Perhaps you will also be lucky to see it when you visit! We look forward to meeting you here at Sunset Villa. Please become a member to ensure that we can keep this property for generations to come!

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Olsen and presented by Inge Andersen

9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch



Sunset Mindepark was incorporated on December 10, 1990, so we are now only 2 years away from 30 years serving the Danish Canadian community in Ontario but, really, Canada and USA as well, since we do have urns from across Canada and from USA. With the new addition of 96 in-ground urn Plots and a new Niche wall with 88 Niches, we now have a total capacity of 807 double plots and niches. Plots: Total of 445 with 321 sold and 123 available for sale; Niches: Total of 362 with 246 sold and 113 available for sale. There are today 1,028 urns interred at Sunset Mindepark. With the current number of annual sales, we should have capacity for 10 to 15 years ahead. Now we just have to maintain the Cemetery and keep it a fitting final resting place for Danish Emigrants and their families.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Søren Søndergaard, President and Interment Director

11. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg

Our first event of the year is usually our Smørrebrødsaften, held in February. This is a very popular event, enjoyed by Danes and guests from other Scandinavian groups. Apart from enjoying delicious smørrebrød, we enjoy fun games, usually created by our President, Susan Person.

We try to celebrate Fastelavn, but we have found it more and more difficult to get people out for this event, so the last couple of years we have done it in connection with the Sunday brunch. The five Scandinavian nations take turns hosting the brunch, so when it is the Danes' turn around the time of Fastelavn, we make it our theme for the brunch. This year we tried something new and exciting: A Scandinavian beer tasting event. We tasted beer from Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden along with exciting foods and it was very well received by all, so it will be a repeat.

We are struggling to get new members, especially young people, so this Spring we tried a "Walk in the Park" event, which unfortunately only brought a few people out, so on May 27th we are planning a bicycle trip, starting in a park along Main Street, down back lanes to Kildonan Park. Hopefully this will encourage young people to participate.

Then it is time to get ready for Folklorama. Our Scandinavian theme this year is "Scandinavian Explorers" and the Danish room will feature Jens Munk, Vitus Bering and Knud Rasmussen, with emphasis on Jens Munk. We will have people in period costumes telling guests about our explorers and we will have posters of Jens Munk on display. Folklorama is the world's largest and longest running multi-cultural event, turning 50 in 2019.

For the fall we are changing our Smørrebrøds event to a Pub-night, again hoping to catch the younger crowd. In October we have our annual general membership meeting. In November we host another popular event, the Juleklip, where we teach how to make traditional Danish and Scandinavian Christmas decorations. The year ends with our very popular Christmas dinner in early December, always a sold-out event. We are struggling with ways to getting Danes to join the club. Most of our guests at our events are non-Danes, mostly Norwegians. There are no new Danes moving to Winnipeg, that we are aware of, so we are working on 2nd and 3rd generation Danes to join us.

Respectfully submitted by Karl Sorensen

12. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary

Greetings: from the shareholders, members and staff of the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary. Since the 2017 Federation Report, the club has continued to have a reasonably robust business and many active social functions, even though we are still affected by the recent economic downturn. On the positive side, we have seen a substantial financial improvement this fiscal year relative to the 2016/2017 fiscal year. Much of this improvement can be attributed to smaller companies/groups that have become aware of the DCC offerings thru social media. We continue to work through this recovery thru prudent management by our General Manager, Peter Christensen and his management staff.

The club hosted a casino in February 2018, under the stewardship of Lars Lehmann and his many volunteers. Funds from this casino are critical to the club so that we can continue to award scholarships, donate to charities such as the Danish Lutheran Church, Danish National Museum and provide funds to the club for necessary maintenance items. The annual shareholder meeting was held on September 20th, 2017. There were 44 out of a possible 350 active shareholders at the AGM. We were pleased to award two $2,000 scholarships. At this AGM, I was elected President of the club for a one-year term.

The club continues to upgrade the website along with other social media initiatives to keep our members current on club happening. This social media initiative has been well received and consequently given the club more exposure and generated new business. A "Speakers Forum" has been established, where we invite guest speakers to the club to speak on issues of interest to the local community, followed by a dinner. To date, we have had 3 outings, 2 of 3 were sellouts, and all were successful.

Social activities the club included were Stampede Breakfast, Viking Stag, Children's Halloween and Christmas parties, Grey Cup party, Christmas dinners, Great Dames 31st anniversary dinner, Katten af Tønden and Mother's Day brunch. In October 2018, the club will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the formation of "The Danish Canadian Society" in Calgary on November 30, 1933, which was then incorporated as the "Danish Canadian Club" in 1947. Planning has already started for this anniversary party. 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 1,180 members.

Respectfully submitted and presented by John Steffensen, President

13. 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 has been renewed for an additional 5 years. 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 service are very stable.



Twice a month The Sunday School is held with a typical attendance of 5 to 10 kids. Charlotte is always finding ways to involve the kids in the church activities. 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 other fun draws for different prizes. All prizes for this evening are provided by members from the total community. This year we had the kids from The Sunday School create pieces of art, which are auctioned off that evening. The kids raised over $1,700 for their project.

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

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! What are Danes without singing? So not to miss that, we meet once a month for a Sing-Along where older and newer Danish songs are sung. Our Danish classes for children and adults are well attended, with classes on Saturday mornings and on a couple of evenings throughout the month. Our other activities include a Crafters Night, Bible Studies, The Literate Vikings and the Stampede Breakfast. The Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary continues to thrive, but is seriously looking into what should be done in the future in order to not lose our momentum.

Respectfully submitted by Karsten Dalberg, President, and presented by Gustav Rasmussen

15. The Naver Club, Calgary

On February 5, 2018, the Calgary Naver Club celebrated its 60-year anniversary. The official celebration is taking place in the Danish Canadian Club (DCC) during the Calgary Stampede in July. We have guests coming from Demark and the USA. We have 45 members at this time and out of all the Naver clubs we have the most members. At each meeting, the first Thursday of the month, we start out with singing the Danish and the Canadian Anthem. We normally get a great turnout with 20 to 28 members showing up for the meeting. The members who are celebrating their birthday that month have to bring in a bottle of SNAPS for the members to share and enjoy with the sandwiches that we are enjoying that evening. The members will all stand up for the birthday person and sing "Blære Røv".

In March, we meet in the DCC for a Saturday Spring Brunch; we had a great turnout here in 2018 with the ladies and friends. In April, we have our AGM where we always enjoy Gule Ærter (Yellow pea soup) for supper and we seem to have a good turnout. In July we host Stampede breakfast for the members and family and also the guests of the families that are here on summer vacation. It is always a great turnout and fun time. In the month of August when the DCC is closed and we can't have our meeting, one of the members will host a BBQ at their place. In November, we have a dinner and dance for Mortens Aften with the ladies. At the December meeting we have JULEFROKOST, always full house. Med kno på bordet (with knuckles on the table).

Respectfully submitted by Jens Laursen and presented by Annette Jochumsen

16. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada

The Royal Danish Guards Association, Western Canada was founded in 1944. Currently it has 17 members, spread out over the western provinces, but with the majority in Alberta. Unfortunately, as we are seeing very little immigration of Danish Guards, our membership is slowly declining as the members pass away. The average age of our members is currently at 77.

On August 8th we held our annual Garden Party or as some call it "Garder Party". This year it was hosted by Jan and Eva Bjerreskov in Black Diamond. People gathered around a Danish coffee in the early afternoon and later on, the BBQs were lit for the meat and a fantastic potluck supper.

In October we had our annual general meeting at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. The men had their official meeting over a cup of coffee followed by a Danish luncheon with their spouses, friends and families. As the luncheon is an attractive event for many friends and second-generation Danes, we had quite a nice turnout.

To those who will be attending the annual general meeting for the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, we want to wish you a great weekend where new friendships are made and old ones are reunited.

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

17. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson

We are proud to send a representative to the Conference this year. Kari Morck is a new member of our Board of Directors, bringing not only lots of experience with small museums but a direct connection to two of the first Danish Families to settle in the Dickson area.



The Dickson Store Museum continues to thrive as a community museum with displays of artifacts celebrating our pioneer history housed in the original store building that is now almost 110 years old. We have a vast collection of artifacts and archives depicting the community history including the significant influence of the Danish pioneers. The Museum is very active in the local community providing an attractive site for visitors and a number of entertaining educational events.

In the last year we even hosted a concert with entertainers from Denmark – Helene Blum and Harald Haugaard. We have put on a Christmas "Julestue" with a Danish Restaurant for over 40 years and we have put on Theatrical Productions with local actors for many years. We are supported by a large number of volunteers and with partnerships with other Museums and the church. We are now the local Visitor Information Center. We are supported by the municipal government with grants for projects and staff, by the provincial government through the Alberta Museums Association and by the federal government by support for student wages.

A few years ago the building suffered significant damage from hail storms. We had to raise enough funds to redo the roof and the siding. Now we have that funding in place and can proceed with these repairs. We are now open for the 2018 season and will provide the same hospitality to our visitors that the original storekeepers provided for the years the store served the community. It is our goal to continue to maintain the building and staffing needed to showcase our collection to museum standards, and to provide educational opportunities, and events of interest to the local community. We have a hardworking Board of Directors, a great manager, and a strong base of volunteers. The Dickson Store Museum continues to celebrate its past while planning to present new and exciting programs every year. Check us out when you visit Central Alberta.



Respectfully submitted by Antonia Nissen, President, and presented by Kari Morck

19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club

The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club has about 80 members. The Club hosts five major events each year: Spring and Fall Campouts, St. Han's, Harvest Party and a Golf Tournament which attracts Danes and Wannabe Danes throughout Central Alberta. The Club also awards two, $1,000 bursaries to deserving Central Alberta post-secondary students each year. Our proximity to the Danish Canadian Museum means that we provide financial and volunteer support on a regular basis to the Museum. For a complete rundown on all of our activities, please check out our website at rddcc.com or our Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Joanne Nielsen, Vice President.

20. The Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton

Verbal Report given by Villy Christensen

21. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, located on Church Street in Edmonton along with a dozen other churches, is considered by many people in the neighbourhood as a beautiful little church, and compared to some of the popular, big churches in the suburbs our congregation is not impressively large either. But "big" and "small" are relative terms. Ansgar Church has a long history – it was founded 88 years ago – and is presently serving a small number of Danish immigrants and increasingly large numbers of second, third and fourth generation descendants of Danish immigrants. But not only that, lately a few people of the Lutheran faith from other countries have also chosen to make Ansgar "their" church.



Statistics show that the average number of attendees at the English services has grown the last few years, while the number at the

Danish services has declined. While many of us old-timers cherish listening to, speaking and singing in the Danish language, it is very encouraging to see young English-speaking families attending services on a regular basis. The fastest growing group is actually the Little Church Owls, the under-5-year-olds who meet twice monthly for play time and who participate in Sunday School activities, organized by Frederikke Hultberg, the Pastor's wife.

Other regular cultural activities have been added to the calendar: An enthusiastic choir singing four-part harmony with Pastor Lasse as conductor and a monthly Family Friendly Service where "flæskestegssandwiches" are served with freshly roasted park, red cabbage and cucumber salad Danish style. Throughout the season traditional customs are upheld as always, but the Kuriakos summer camp at Sylvan Lake has lately gained tremendous popularity and the social club Dania has welcomed the Ansgar congregation to their summer camp at Entwistle for a cheerful Sunday picnic and service. Thanks to the hard and persistence work of both Pastor Lasse Hultberg and Frederikke Hultberg, Ansgar Church is experiencing an upswing that is heartening and very encouraging. Please, visit our new and bright website and learn more about what is happening at Ansgar Church – www.ansgar.ca – and "like" our Facebook page to stay in touch – www.facebook.com/AnsgarChurch

Respectfully submitted by Marina Allemano, Secretary and presented by Svend B. Nielsen

22. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia

I am, again, pleased to report that year 2017 has been similar to the past several years. The DCCC and the Danish House Society 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. This year I will only elaborate on the Constitution day event which was held on the grounds of the Scandinavian Centre: People arrived at about 10:30 am to choose the right table and chair setting to enjoy their picnic lunch with family and friends. Although we do not sell anything at this event, we did have some lawn toys for the children, ice cream and Danish pastry available. The day started with church service by the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver, complete with musical accompaniment. After people had had time to enjoy their lunch, a short commemorative speech on the Danish Constitution was given. This was followed by entertainment by the Danish Choir of Vancouver (The Tivoli Singers) and the Gammel Dansk Folk Band with the Scandinavian Dancers who invited people to participate in their dancing. Of course, everyone had the choice to enjoy the entire day in his/her own style. All of these events were held at the Scandinavian Centre and all were very well attended by our Danish/Canadian community.

The DCCC awarded grants to a number of Danish organizations in British Columbia based on their cultural needs and our funds available. A modest "Out of Province" donation was made to the Danish Canadian Museum. We have about 80 annual and life individual and corporate members. In closing, we are making plans for our Constitution Day Celebration on Sunday June 2nd. It will be similar to last year's celebration. This year we are honoured to have a guest speaker: The Danish Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Niels Boel Abrahamsen, who will give a Grundlovstale.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Margit Hansson, President

23. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver

Lodge 328 still maintains a healthy membershiper of 82 and our monthly meetings continue to draw an average of 40 members. Following the monthly meetings delicious Danish Open-Faced Sandwiches are available for sale. The future of Lodge 328, like many other Danish organizations, is somewhat uncertain as the average age of members is 71. However, the Lodge is attracting some 2nd generation members who help maintain a healthy membership number. Lodge 328 maintains a male only policy and that has not been challenged so far. Our two annual social events continue to be popular, a Bingo/Dinner/Dance in the fall, and Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance in the spring. In 2017 Lodge 328 along with the Sisterhood Lodge 179 successfully hosted the annual Pacific North West District Convention.

Respectfully submitted by Kjeld Christensen, Secretary, and presented by Jannet Tricarico

25. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver

We have had a busy, but very fulfilling year in 2017. Looking back, we had lots of activities in connection with the celebration of the 500th year of the Reformation. Pastor Birgitte Saltorp arranged activities every single month, which kept us all informed and interested in the event. It was very rewarding, I felt. 2017 was the year to say goodbye to one pastor and welcome to another pastor. So, in April 2017 our Board of Directors had their plates full, with many meetings, as this obviously is a key decision to get right. We were pleased to invite Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen to give us a sample sermon in May of 2017 and to meet the congregation at the same time. She was accompanied by her husband Soren Sondergaard. Of course, it is very important for both parties to get to know each other. Shortly after that we extended an offer of employment via DSUK to pastor Susanne; she accepted; and she and her family arrived here in September. All good news!



In July we got new carpeting put in the church building, in time to celebrate the church's 80th Birthday on August 13th (the actual anniversary date being August 15th.) First the service led by pastor Birgitte Saltorp with a sermon delivered by Pastor Bodil Toftdahl visiting from Denmark, who introduced her husband Hans Jorgen Mikkelsen to us. It was great to see Bodil Toftdahl again. Afterwards there was a delicious 'kroplatte' lunch downstairs for a full house. There were many greetings from friends of the church, and many songs were sung.

On September 3rd Pastor Birgitte Saltorp gave her farewell Service, after having been here 5 years, followed by a potluck lunch. We presented Pastor Birgitte with an Inukshuk carving, which will remind her of her days with us in BC. We look forward to seeing Pastor Birgitte back in the fall of 2018 in Vancouver on a visit. Before Pastor Susanne's arrival a thorough upgrading of the parsonage was called for, and the job got finished just in time, with a very pleasing result. Have a successful conference

Submitted by Jorgen Rohweder, President, and presented by Margit Hansson

27. Danish House Society, Burnaby

For the Danish House Society, 2017 was a successful year. Our membership remains constant with around 465 members and new members continue to replace those that leave us. The finances are in excellent shape, and our Language Classes are doing very well. In partnership with the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of B.C. we award ten $1,200 scholarships annually with each society contributing 50% of the award. 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, and we honor them each year by awarding two scholarships in their names in the amount of $2,400. These scholarships are in addition to the scholarships that we award each year in partnership with the DCCC.

Our monthly Kroaften club nights continue to be very successful and are regularly 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.

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, as well as the annual April Cultural Weekend during which we offer and host open-faced sandwich making classes . The success of these events is primarily due to the combined spirit of cooperation shared by the individual Houses that make up the Scandinavian Centre and to the dedication and support of our joint volunteer networks.

The Danish House Family BBQ is held in the Beer Garden each August and continues to be popular with over 120 guests attending in 2017, including some friends from the other Houses.

This year we decided not to focus so much on the auction portion of our Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction and instead focused on having a nice meal with some entertainment and a much smaller mini auction. This event held in October, featured a fifties themed performance by the Tivoli Singers otherwise known as the Danish Choir of Vancouver. It was a most enjoyable evening with about 115 attending.

The "Christmas by the Fireside" co-sponsored with the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. kept Santa busy giving out gift bags to the kids while the guests managed to drink and eat their share of gløgg and æbleskiver.

Lastly we send our greetings to the other member clubs of the Federation.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Ed Kuhlman, President

29. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver

Since our last report we have held 9 meetings that start with enjoying Danish open-faced sandwiches before we conduct the business ritual. Afterwards, our Social Committee makes the meetings more interesting by creating special "*Themes"* where we play various games, trivia or other interesting subjects - all with prizes. We issue 4 local newsletters a year, advising of upcoming events and other interesting news, - 97% are sent by email, helping to cut down

expenses and only 3% by regular mail. Our very informative Website also contains a Photo-Gallery with pictures taken at all our events.

2017

June: 'Grundlovsdag' (Constitution day) was celebrated with a picnic at the Scandinavian Community Centre, 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 celebrated our Lodge's 46th Anniversary and at the same time honoured our members' special round birthdays and anniversaries during a special dinner. We participated in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, (our annual Membership drive). Sadly, we lost a dear Sister, Helle Overgaard, who passed away in June last year.



July & Aug: Though we do not hold meetings in July or August, we hosted together with the Danish Brotherhood Lodge #328, our annual Summer Picnic with chicken and Pacific salmon on the grill – always a festive day.

Sept: After the summer holiday, we started our meetings again with a regular business meeting at which we nominated Officers for the following year. We now also advertise in the Danish Church and Danish House newsletters.

Oct: Started preparing for our upcoming Bazaar and our Bingo party. The Sisterhood attended Danish House 'Kroaften' as a large group and contributed a donation to the raffle prizes that fund the DHS/DCCC scholarships.

Nov: We participated in the combined Brotherhood/Sisterhood Andespil/Bingo, for which the Sisters made and sold about 400 Danish Open- faced sandwiches. We also held our Bazaar and sold many of our art & crafts items and all our homemade bake-goods were quickly sold out.
Dec: We held our very festive Christmas party with a typical Danish dinner, followed by many 'Julesange' and 'Julegaver' ((nobody goes home empty handed) and with our raffle we were able to donate $270.00 to our favorite charity. We also did the Installation of the nominated Officers.

2018

Jan: The first meeting of the year was filled with paper-work, including, Officers' assigned duties, a review of our Bylaws and the Calendar of Events, and the new Officers duty list was handed out. We welcomed our new Treasurer, Pia Petersen, who took over from our long-time Treasurer, Ella Wolder. We were also very grateful that we again received a Grant from the Danish Canadian Community Centre, so our annual Financial Statement is doing alright.

Feb: During our meeting which had a Valentine's Day theme, we played games and trivia and also handed out gifts. Our yearly Financial Statement was presented, and our Membership List was revised. Membership fees were collected, and dues sent to both the PNW District and to

National. We also paid our yearly rental to Dania (CMM), our membership to the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and to the Danish Museum in Alberta.

Mar: Our meeting, with the theme of St. Patrick's Day, was a fun evening, with everyone dressed in funny 'green' outfits. A potluck dinner was served with green wine –that went down well.

Apr: An Easter 'Theme' with Easter eggs and gifts during our business meeting. I represented our Lodge at the PNW Convention in Enumclaw, Washington.



May: We now start every meeting with an interesting "Danish Segment" about a famous Dane, a well-known monument or a background about a Danish Tradition or Culture. Our goal is to motivate our present members, to attract new members, to develop and enjoy our heritage and our Danish traditions. However, like most organizations we strive for new members to join.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Delegate: Jannet Tricarico

30. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo

In 2017, we had several long-standing members pass away including our Club President, Niels John Nielsen, and that left some very big shoes to fill. The rest of the Board soldiered on and we managed to finish the year's activities successfully. We held our AGM in early March 2018. We are pleased that three members stepped forward on their own volition to stand for election to our Board. At the first Board meeting after our AGM, we assigned the positions to our nine-member Board as follows: President: John Jensen; Vice-President: Sophia Sorensen; Secretary: Lena Tsuji; Treasurer: Tom Hedekar; Directors: Lillian Howard-Gibbon, Darlene O'Neill, Shelagh Boggs, Carsten Krogh and Louise Krogh.

Financially, our club had a good year in 2017 and we showed a significant increase in our cash reserves. This was due to a modest increase in our annual membership dues and a small increase in the fees we charge for our events. In the past, we have hosted some events that ended with a loss but in 2017, there was no red ink on any of our event accounts. We continue to enlist new members and we are finding that our new web page as well as our Facebook page is both quite instrumental in attracting interested people to inquire about our club. We now have a brand-new web page address that will make it easier for internet search engines to find our page at www.danishclubnanaimo.com and our Facebook page can be found by searching for *"Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club"*.

Our schedule of activities for 2018 is very similar to that of past years although we are combining our two Andespil (bingo) events with our Pandekager event in May and our Æbleskiver event in November. This actually reduces our activities by two events, but it provides some food for both Andespil events.

Our annual Sankt Hans Celebration was held at Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park last year and was very well attended. This year we have booked the same venue and we are in talks with the local lodge of the Sons of Norway to host the event jointly and bill it as Sankt Hans/Midsummer Celebration.

Our newsletter continues in a format similar to that of the past and is now edited, published and mailed by our club Secretary, Lena Tsuji. In our last issue, we asked for members to contact us if they would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail in order to reduce our printing and mailing costs. The last newsletter just went out, so we are unable to report on any progress on that matter at this time. Our membership numbers vary monthly from between 185 and 200 members.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Hedekar, Treasurer, and presented by Margit Hansson



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

Ontario Region

The Ontario Region holds two meetings every year, spring and fall. Our AGM is held at the fall meeting, and again the board was re-elected by acclamation. Twenty-three people attended the fall meeting in September at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and 16 people, representing six member clubs, came to the spring meeting in April at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto. The Region's membership has dwindled and there are now only eight member organizations. Only five were represented at the AGM. As you may recall, we have a member in Pass Lake, where we held a conference in 2003. We have not had a delegate from Pass Lake for many years. The Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce has not sent delegates for many years, and the Danish Women's Association very rarely sends a delegate. Unfortunately, we have lost two member organizations due to closure of the congregations in Waterloo and Grimsby. The Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, also called 'Grimsby Kirken', held its last service on April 22, 2018. The church was filled to capacity, and the luncheon following the service was sold out. It was a wonderfully festive occasion, although it signified a very sad event, the end of an era for the congregation. The church was inaugurated in 1957, and it has seen many Danish ministers come and go through the years. The last minister was Jørgen Flensted-Jensen, who is known to many of you. You might remember Jørgen and his wife Kirsten as a very popular "forstander-par" at two Heritage Seminars.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Eva Terp

Alberta Region

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

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

Our Scholarship/Bursary for worthy Alberta post-secondary students was awarded to Heidi Giles who is attending the University of Mobile in Alabama on a soccer scholarship. Prior to moving to Mobile, Heidi honed her soccer skills while attending a sport Højskole in Denmark. We were also able to provide a partial Bursary to Eva Bonde who is from Denmark and currently attending Red Deer College, as well as playing basketball there.

We continue to be a communication channel for our Alberta organizations to help each other and to support individual club projects. To this end we have made application to Alberta Gaming for a casino license which, if approved, will provide us with source of funds and greatly enhance our ability to further our goals.

2018 Board of Directors:

President	Larry Kjearsgaard, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
Vice President	Jens Woller, Dania Edmonton
Secretary	Pernille Nielsen, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
Treasurer	Ellen Bonde, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
Director	Kari Morck, Dickson Store Museum
Director	Carl Sorensen, Dania Edmonton

Respectively submitted and presented by Larry Kjearsgaard

Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region

The Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region has not held a meeting for a number of years. The Saskatoon organization became defunct after the last known person who was a member of a Danish organization in the Saskatoon area passed away. The Swan River, Manitoba, organization has also been dissolved. The Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba is the only club still functioning as an organization within the Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region.

Respectively submitted and presented by Karl Sorensen

Pacific Region

I have had a good year settling into my new role as President of the Pacific Region. I, along with Secretary Jannet Tricarico and Treasurer Kjeld Christensen, joined the board in 2017. I am pleased that long time directors, Past-President Solvejg Nielsen and Past-Director Henny Andersen are on our board. All elected positions are for the period of one year. The Pacific Region held two meetings in 2017: one was held on the mainland of British Columbia and the other was held on Vancouver Island. The two meetings were well attended by a total of 41 guests and representatives. We appreciate the expense incurred by the individuals as well as the effort

made to travel to and from Vancouver Island to attend the meetings where informative reports from our various Danish/Scandinavian/Canadian organizations are presented and discussions are made based on the Federation correspondence received during the last half year. The Heritage Book, articles and distribution; past, current and future Conferences and Seminars are among the topics for discussion. The meetings are followed by a typical Danish lunch. As in past years, we were present at the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver with our Pacific Region of the Federation Flag, at Flag Day on the first Sunday in May.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Margit Hansson, President

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3485 Mainway
Burlington | ON | L7M 1A9
P: 905-335-8844
F: 905-335-8868
E: info@danswelding.com
W: www.danswelding.com

THE PACIFIC REGION
WISHES

THE FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2019 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

Speech by Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen

At the Danish Canadian Conference in Halifax on May 24, 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Canadian and Danish friends,

Thank you for inviting me again to your annual conference. I'm very pleased to be among so many Canadian Danes and Danish Canadians. Denmark is present in Canada in many ways, and the most important way is YOU – the Danes in Canada! The work you do in the Danish Associations in Canada is fundamental in keeping the relationship between our two countries both close and strong. It is great to be with you here in Halifax, the birthplace of Danish immigration to Canada.

Denmark in Canada

As you know, many Danish immigrants came in one of three waves between the 1860's and the 1950's. And most of these immigrants arrived right here in Halifax, at Pier 21. From here, many traveled to Montreal, where the Danish consulate helped them travel further west by train. The Danish immigrants settled as farmers, foresters, cattlemen, shipwrights and entrepreneurs. And today, more than 200,000 people with Danish roots live in Canada. There is no place in Canada that hasn't been shaped by the many Canadians who trace their ancestry back to Denmark. Thank you.

However, the first presence of Danes in Canada goes much further back than those arriving at Pier 21. Around the year 1,000, Vikings reached the shores of eastern Canada and were actually the first Europeans to set foot on Canadian soil. Columbus arrived in North America nearly 500 years later. Viking Leif Eriksen (Leif den Lykkelige) and his men reached the shores of Canada, which they named 'Vinland'. Viking settlements from that era have been discovered in Newfoundland at L'Anse-aux-Meadows. I had the pleasure of visiting there myself with my family two years ago.

In 1619, another group of Danes reached Canada. As you can probably guess, I'm referring to the Danish explorer Jens Munk. He and his crew sailed out to find the Northwest Passage on behalf of King Christian IV. After a slight detour into Frobisher Bay, Munk made it to the mouth of the Churchill River in northern Manitoba. Unfortunately, almost the entire crew perished from scurvy and the harsh Canadian winter, forcing Munk to give up his search and return to Denmark. I look forward to celebrating Jens Munk's efforts during the 400th anniversary of his expedition next year.

Shared values

Last year, we celebrated 150 years of Canadian Confederation. You, and the people who came before you, have built an amazing country founded on the values we share: democracy, the rule

of law, human rights, and freedom of speech. These shared values are one of the reasons for the close Danish-Canadian relationship. And an excellent example of our shared values is seen in our international commitments.

Denmark and Canada stood side by side in Afghanistan just as Canada stood by our side during the wars of the 20th century. In Afghanistan, Danish and Canadian soldiers were neighbours: Danish soldiers were deployed to Helmand province right next to the Canadian troops in Kandahar. I personally witnessed this while I was posted there as Denmark's Ambassador to Afghanistan before I came to Canada. The combat mission in Afghanistan is over, but that doesn't mean the end of our common international commitments. We are both engaged in Ukraine, and we show our strong support to our allies in NATO. Both Canada and Denmark have provided reinforcements – soldiers and fighter jets – to police the air space. And both Canada and Denmark provide troops to the Baltic countries as part of NATO's enhanced presence there. Once again, our countries show our respect for multilateral cooperation.

Trade

Our common values, and both countries' high level of trust, also provide a solid foundation for doing business. Both Canada and Denmark are among the most developed and competitive countries in the world. We are strong trading nations and both of us are believers in free trade.

And trade already closely connects our countries in areas such as health care, architecture, green-build, agriculture, and energy and the environment. In my opinion, our countries can learn many things from each other. I see great potential for strengthening the cooperation between our two countries even further.

The incentive for Canada and Denmark to do business has already been strengthened through the free trade agreement, CETA. Denmark took a lead in the negotiations and we were the second EU country to approve the agreement, because we believe in free trade, AND because we believe in the importance of our relationship with Canada.

The Arctic

Although Denmark may seem far away in terms of kilometers, Denmark and Canada are in fact neighbours. We share a 3,000 km maritime border that runs from the southern part of Greenland, via the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay, all the way up to the Arctic Ocean north of Greenland. Inuit people migrated from Alaska through Canada to Greenland to hunt for muskox and marine mammals. This is one of the reasons Denmark and Canada have common interests in the development of the Arctic.

The increased global interest in the Arctic brings challenges as well as opportunities. The Arctic is increasingly affected by global climate change and we need to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. This balance must ensure that the people who live in the Arctic, in Denmark's case the people of Greenland, can develop their communities, business sectors and link up to the world economy. And we must protect the environment. Growth and development need to respect the Arctic climate and benefit the Arctic communities. There are many opportunities such as fisheries and tourism as well as mining.

The cornerstone of cooperation between the Arctic states is the 2008 Ilulissat Declaration. The declaration was signed by ministers from the five coastal states of the Arctic Ocean known as the Arctic Five. They are Denmark/Greenland, Canada, Norway, Russia and the United States. The

declaration sends a strong political signal that we five states will act responsibly concerning future development in the Arctic. We will cooperate and remain committed to international law.

Culture

Another example of cooperation between Denmark and Canada is on culture. The Ordrupgaard Museum in Denmark has been very generous to loan part of their magnificent art collection to the National Gallery in Ottawa. Last week, I had the pleasure of opening the exhibit. The exhibition features beautiful French impressionist paintings as well as a number of Danish Golden Age paintings. I strongly recommend seeing the exhibit if you are in Ottawa this summer. And I encourage you to come to Denmark and enjoy the whole Ordrupgaard collection in its unique and beautiful home just outside Copenhagen.

Closing remarks

Denmark is Canada's friendly and like-minded neighbour. We are your reliable partner in the North, an ally in NATO and a strong Trans-Atlantic and free-trade proponent in the EU.

Thank you.

Best wishes
for a successful
Conference in
Winnipeg



Visit us at ***danishclubottawa.com***

Manor Houses Seminar

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Spøttrup Castle goes back to at least 1404.

The theme of the 2018 Heritage Seminar was Danish Manor Houses: Past and Present. The Seminar was held from May 28 to June 2nd at the Atlantica hotel within walking distance of the Halifax Citadel. Various aspects of the Danish Manor Houses were explored, from daily life to war, the manor as an agricultural unit, the various forms of gardens, and the Manor in film and reality. It was also interesting to hear about the many ghost stories associated with the Manor Houses. Lastly we heard about the Manor Houses today, with their numerous uses, which could be anything from a conference centre, museum, park, research station or different kinds of entertainment, including zoos.



Pastor Birgitte Saltorp
Relaxing in a Titanic deck chair

The Seminar's headmaster was Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, the former minister at the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver. She now lives at Tersløsegård, the Manor House in Dianalund north of Sorø, which the playwright Ludvig Holberg used to own.

Aase Christensen gave a presentation on Nisser, from kravlenisser to Santa's helpers, to nisser on the lofts of farm houses as well as Manor Houses. There was Show and Tell, singing in Danish from the Folk School Song Book in addition to excursions to and tours of Pier 21 – the Canadian Museum of Immigration as well as the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. At Pier 21 it was possible to do immigration research and at the Maritime Museum two highlights were the Titanic exhibition and the story and displays relating to the 1917 Halifax Explosion during the First World War. The Seminar ended with a dinner and party in the classroom which had been nicely decorated by the Decorating Committee. The Entertainment Committee looked after the entertainment for the evening, getting many of the participants to perform. For the evening event each seminar participant was asked to be a specific Count or Countess. The evening ended with a lottery and auction, and a big thank you to Birgitte.

During the seminar there was lots of free time. The twenty-four participants from across Canada had adequate time to explore Halifax and enjoy the beautiful weather, some taking the ferry to Dartmouth, some visiting the brand-new Halifax Central Library, designed by a Danish architectural firm, while others fancied a stroll along the busy and charming harbour front. The participants agreed that it was another delightful Seminar in a vibrant and exciting city.

SEMINAR PHOTOS:





Aase Christensen delivers lexture presentation about Nisser



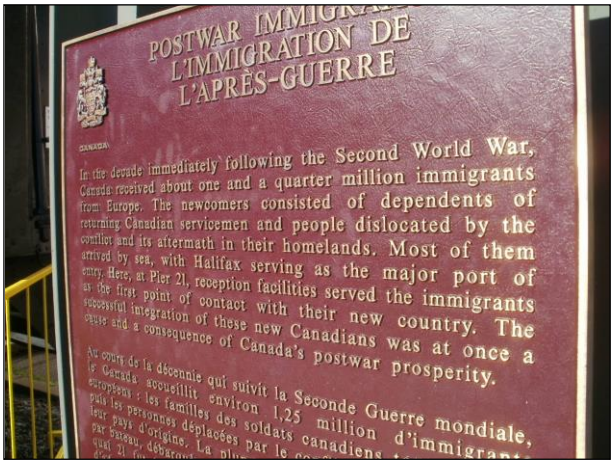


Seminar participants waving at the photographer and hard at work reading and studying





Visiting Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Group Photos Courtesy of Anne Jorgensen & Margrethe Hiebert

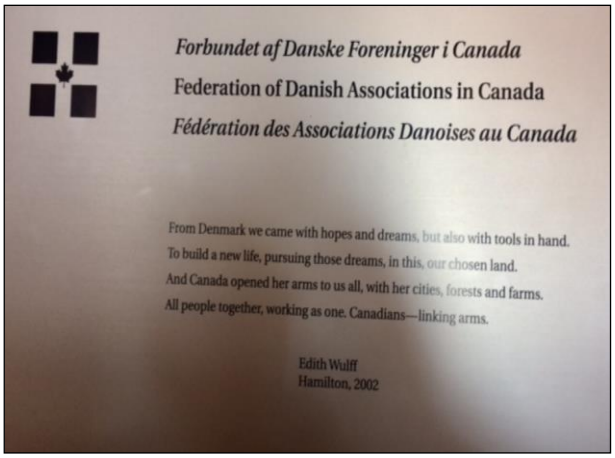




At Pier 21 on L: Plaque about postwar immigration to Canada & on R: Canadian National Railway Car

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Jens Kaack & Birgit Bakgaard in front of Federation Plaque at Pier 21



Margethe Hiebert, Henrik Langer, Johanne Olsen



Margrethe Hiebert, Rolf B. Christensen
Aase Christensen & Johanne Olsen



Doris & Knud Nielsen



Rolf B. Christensen, Susan & Ray Mallory



Glenna Hitchcock & Aase Christensen



Lilly Nielsen, Lise Shearer, Jytte Kristensen



Patricia & Jens Kaack



Anne Jorgensen & Patricia Kaack



L to R: Elin Bæk, Inger Quistgaard,
Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, & Anne Lise Pedersen



Margrethe Hiebert & Johanne Olsen

Other Halifax Sightseeing Highlights





Halifax Public Library & View of Halifax Harbour



Group Photo of Seminar Participants



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THE DANISH FEDERATION
WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL
CONFERENCE





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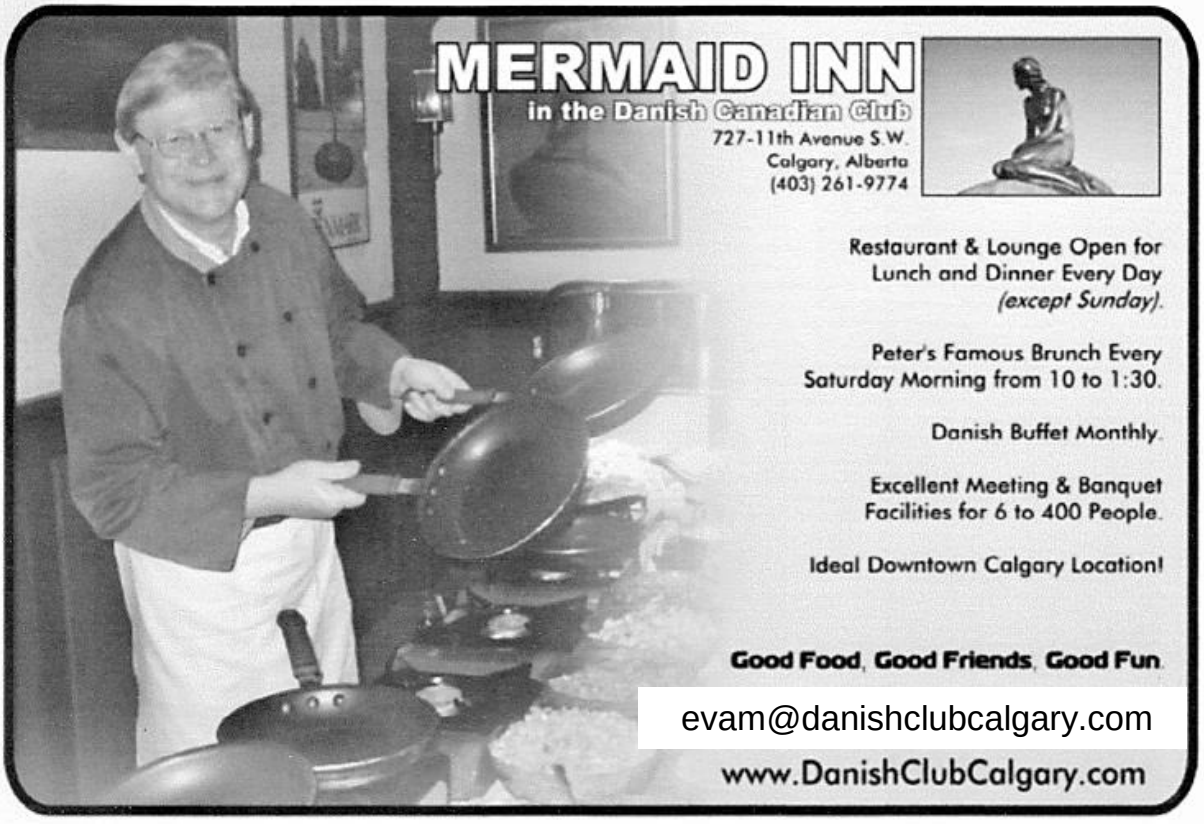
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CONVERGE NET

The Danish Canadian Museum

2018-2019 update from the Museum

The past year at the Danish Canadian Museum has been a year of learning and evolving, with new ideas and changes to the Museum. You may all have noticed a few of the changes on our social media.

The theme for 2019 is the Jens Munk Expedition, as 2019 is the 400th anniversary of his expedition to find the Northwest Passage, as well as the 800th anniversary of Denmark's flag, Dannebrog. These are exciting themes and will guarantee a memorable year at the Museum.

The first change this year was extending the season. We were open daily until October 2018, then open through the fall and winter with special events and classes, such as Halloween and Christmas. The classes were from food to astrology, and they were enjoyed by all who attended.

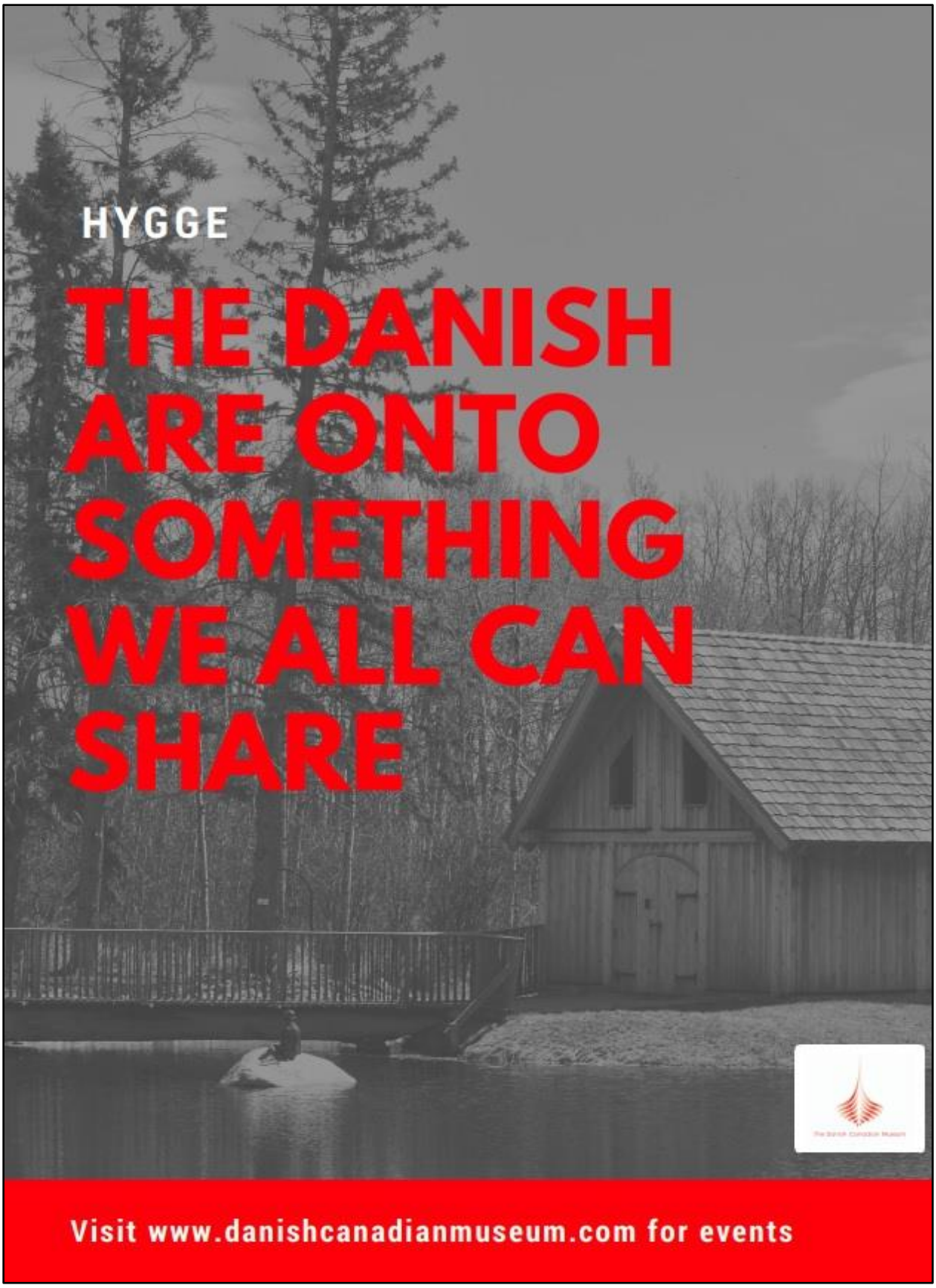
A wonderful addition this year was our Nisser. We are working on adding a Nisse in each exhibit as a visual aid to signify where the interactive portion of the exhibit is, so children and adults know where they can touch. Increasing interactive exhibits is part of our three-year plan. With the new Danish Canadian Experience Tour, our bookings are increasing and word about our Museum continues to spread.

The Saga Café's culinary experience continues to improve with the menu changing seasonally, new weekly features, and now evening dining. The amount of people calling and booking to be able to get into the Saga Café has increased greatly, with an in-house chef and pastry chef. The menu has something for everyone, to experience a Danish Canadian meal, thereby broadening their pallet and immersing themselves into the culture and atmosphere. We have created a new experience for both young and old. It's not just a Danish experience, it's a Danish CANADIAN experience as when Danes immigrated to Canada their recipes evolved and fused together with local traditions to create their own style and flare. In the Saga Café we hold firm to it being Authentically Danish Canadian!

We now host events every month of the year! The Museum never stops; we always have something going on. From January to December, watch our social media and website to stay informed of upcoming events.

In 2018 we greeted about 7,500 visitors at the Museum. The longer season made a dramatic increase in the number of visitors. Hope to see you at the Museum in 2019!

Susan Hayduk, Manager.


HYGGE
THE DANISH ARE ONTO SOMETHING WE ALL CAN SHARE
Visit www.danishcanadianmuseum.com for events

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton

Kirsten Olsen, President, Church Council

For Danes and people of Danish ancestry in Edmonton, we are fortunate to have an active Danish Lutheran Church. It goes back to 1928 when DKU sent its first pastor to Canada. Pastor Max Mathiesen arrived in 1928 and the Ansgar congregation was established on January 1, 1930. Our current church was consecrated on August 25, 1942.



The Swedish and the Norwegian churches are now gone, but ongoing support of the Ansgar Church by the Danish community has kept alive the language, customs and traditions of Denmark, while we have integrated with the Edmonton community. Although non-Danes also participate in our services and activities now, the church is an active centre of Danish traditions. We are a small congregation, with challenges similar to those of other immigrant communities spanning two to three generations. Most of the original immigrants have passed on, so our challenge is to integrate the old and the new, the young and the old. We alternate between Danish and English services throughout the month. The younger part of the congregation is often less fluent in Danish and tend to come to the English services and activities. We are also trying to include the little ones in more of the activities in the church, so this is where we hope to grow.



Christmas Bazaar

In 2016, our new Pastor arrived with his wife and three boys from Denmark, thanks to DSUK, to make Edmonton their new home for several years. They have been an inspiration to us, reaching out to the community, working with both young and old and revitalizing our services and many of our activities. We are very grateful for Pastor Lasse, Frederikke, Cordelius, Ambrosius and Thaddeus Hultberg, for choosing this adventure and making Edmonton their home! They have introduced us to openness to inviting new members and an expressed wish to help people and make them feel welcome in our church family.

Let me take you through a year in the Ansgar Church community: Just before Advent, in late November, we start preparing for Christmas with the annual Ansgar Christmas Bazaar. This event is organized by the Danish Women's Club and is one of our fundraising events, involving the work of many volunteers. The main attractions are home-baked Christmas goodies, and open-faced sandwiches (Smørrebrød) and fresh pastry (Kringle)! In addition, we sell crafts, Danish advent candles and Christmas ornaments; host a silent auction and run a Fish Pond to entertain the children during the event. However, the real attraction is getting together with many old friends who we might not have seen since enjoying coffee last year.



St. Lucia procession

During the Advent season, we celebrate "Julestue" by gathering in the church basement after the Service, to begin Christmas preparations. After a yummy lunch of "risengrød" (rice porridge), we make Christmas decorations (braided hearts and folded stars), decorate the Christmas tree in the basement and make "æbleskiver". Baking "æbleskiver" fills the whole place with a warm, delicious aroma, making for a Danish "hyggelig" event. Finally, we celebrate the Festival of Light with a Saint Lucia procession of children carrying candles. This year the basement was lit up with a full procession of white garbed "angels" singing as they proceeded.

Later in December, we have a tradition of going carolling and singing favourite Danish songs and hymns to older and housebound members of the congregation. It is always a satisfying time for both the carollers and those visited, marked by several stops for "coffee" and baked goodies on the way, and concluding with good wishes for Christmas to all.

We are very lucky to have a musical family living in the manse, which also attract musical friends to support our efforts. Our new little choir is growing, though we are always eager for more male voices, but it sings at special services several times a year now. The Pastor's whole family participates, with Pastor Lasse conducting, Frederikke and the two older boys singing along and young Thaddeus "conducting" from his high chair. Christmas was made more festive this year with their performances at both services on Christmas Eve and we enjoyed hearing them again recently at the Candlemass service.



Candlemass and Baptism

The celebration of Candlemass ("Kyndelmisse") in the church, lights up the darkness during a dark time of the year. It marks that half the winter is gone. This year, we celebrated Candlemass by combining a choir performance with a baptism in the church.

Last January we started getting together once a month at the nearby community facility to play recreational badminton. This sports activity was a superb way to bring together people of all age groups and we all enjoyed the occasional pot luck supper at the church afterwards, to warm us on a cold winter night. Once the summer weather set in, this activity was suspended.

As a fundraiser and just-for-fun night in February, we hold a "Frikadeller" (Danish meatballs) contest and dinner. Individuals submit a plate of their best Frikadeller anonymously and leave the three judges a challenging task…. to taste and rate whose Frikadeller are best! Three prizes are awarded, and the overall winner gets a ("vandre pokal"), a challenge trophy (a little golden pan), for a year. It's always a bit tricky rating one's mother or grandmothers' favourite recipe, but everyone else attending has the enviable task of eating up all the Frikadeller. Lots of laughs at this one!

In 2017 Lutheran churches everywhere celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. At Ansgar, we held a monthly Study Group to consider and discuss such questions as "What does it mean to be a Lutheran?"; "Who was Luther anyway?"; "What happened during the Reformation?" These topics generated thought-provoking conversations about our values and beliefs within the context of our church.



Easter at Ansgar Church, Edmonton

Of course, early in the year we celebrated the pre-Lenten festival of "Fastelavn", with adults and children dressing up in imaginative costumes, but only the children attempting to break the barrel. Because we can't buy a real Fastelavn barrel in Canada, our ever-handy handyman Gunnar Jensen, has to rebuild and repaint the barrel every year. But the pleasure is renewed annually when some strong youngster finally beats the barrel hard enough and spills out the candies to the eager youngsters below.

We have not yet attracted sufficient school-age children to hold a regular Sunday School. Once a month, however, we hold a "family service" in the church. This service is intended for the young ones and often features a story with the Pastor, children's hymns and a craft session in the basement during the adult sermon and communion. One such successful service culminated in an Easter Egg Hunt. Whatever the theme, all enjoy the roast pork sandwiches in the basement after the service!



Children enjoy the Play Group

In April, we all look forward to the Spring Supper and Bingo. Again, this is a recurring event and a big volunteer effort. We enjoy a delicious pork roast dinner with all the trimmings, including "flæskesvær" (crackling). The crackling is so popular with old and young Danes alike that we have had to establish "flæskevær police" to monitor servings of the crackling….not that anyone ever goes away hungry at these traditional Danish meals! Following the scrumptious "æblekage" (apple cake), all ages join in playing Bingo. With an amusing caller, everyone has a laugh and enjoys the winnings and the competition between the tables.

The little "Church Owls" meet in the church every other week, accompanied by a parent, grandparent or godparent. These one-to-five-year-old children gather to sing and play and enjoy

new friendships. Frederikke (who used to lead "Baby Hymn Sing" in Denmark) and Pastor Lasse brought this good experience to us. It's a good opportunity for people from the surrounding community to come inside.

It seems we are fortunate to have a confirmation class every other year lately. This past year we were delighted that Pastor Lasse had four young confirmands in his confirmation class. The four were confirmed at a June service, in which they shared the readings.



Participants at Camp Kuriakos at Sylvan Lake

For the last couple of years, we have been heartened by the revival of an old tradition for Danes in Edmonton: a return to Camp Kuriakos at Sylvan Lake. This Lutheran Church Camp was actually started on land donated by a Dane and the original buildings were built by several members of the Danish congregation. In recent years, we had celebrated this connection by hosting a congregational family weekend in the spring at the camp. Then, it seemed the interest in this activity had died. So, we are delighted that in the past couple of years, many families have shown a renewed interest in this camp weekend. A vibrant group of 40 to 60 individuals have participated recently, enjoying nature, campfires, cookouts, swimming and boating, soccer and KUBB, crafts sessions, conversations about faith, and a Sunday Service outside, weather permitting. The cooking, meal preparation, cleanup and fire building responsibilities are all shared and bring participants closer together. Several of the participants have their own RV's and have brought them along. Others stay in the cabins and chalet provided by the camp. We even have a Finnish family attending who take sole responsibility for providing a unique and authentic Sauna experience!

Ansgar is located on "Church Street", along with eight to nine other churches, side by side. The street was even featured in the Guinness Book of Records at one time. For the past couple of years, several of the churches have shared a "Hallelujah Garage Sale" and Open Church Day. It provides an opportunity for the public and people residing in this older, inner city area to visit the churches, ask questions and have some refreshments. Walking together from church to church provides a good opportunity to get to know our neighbours, find a bargain, learn about others' place of worship and welcome newcomers to our church.

Once again this year, our congregation together with other Danish churches in Alberta (e.g. Dalum and Calgary) were invited to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, in central Alberta. We held an outdoor Sunday service in front of the miniature church on the Museum grounds, with Pastor Lasse Hultberg from Edmonton and Pastor Charlotte Berg from Calgary sharing the service. A picnic lunch was served, and everyone had ample time to explore the lovely grounds and the exhibits on display. We were delighted to learn, from a member of our

congregation, Else Andersen, that the windows featured in the miniature church were actually made by her husband, Carl Ove Andersen, who had just passed away in April.

A couple of years ago, with a generous donation from a member of the congregation, we were able to install an elevator in the church to reach all three levels. This has been a godsend and is used almost every Sunday. This year, we were again most fortunate to receive another donation to cover the expense of installing a "hearing loop". As of September, anyone who wanted to be connected directly to the Pastor's microphone could do so with the new "loop". This addition has made it possible for more people to participate fully in church services.

We celebrated "Mortens Aften" again this year with a duck dinner served in the church basement. We had tried this for the first time last year, to introduce another Danish tradition (and to replace the usual Thanksgiving Turkey dinner) and it was a big success. Many people were involved in the preparation, cooking 16 ducks in their homes and donating them, complete with stuffing, for ticket holders to enjoy! For the second year, the dinner seems to have been a hit. We can only accommodate 50 or so in the basement for a dinner, and tickets were sold out early.



The Easter Choir led by Pastor Lasse Hultberg, by the altar

An out of the ordinary thrill for us this year was a visit by the Frederiksberg Sogns Pigekor from Copenhagen. Both the Vancouver and Edmonton DSUK congregations hosted this choir. In addition to the lovely concert the girls performed at the conclusion of their visit, we enjoyed the interaction with these young Danes, by billeting them in members' homes and travelling around the city to see sights such as the new Royal Alberta Museum, Elk Island National Park with all its wild animals and Uncle Ed's Ukrainian Restaurant one evening. The choir also had a chance to visit Victoria School of the Arts and participated and sang with Canadian music students in their classes for a day. Apparently this was a highlight for them, and several said they would like to stay in Canada and go to school here. The obligatory shopping trip to the West Edmonton Mall for a day was something the girls managed; all on their own! What a treat their visit was, and it was instructive for some of the older members of our congregation to observe just how diverse Danish students look these days.

Our Ansgar Newsletter is issued six times per year, with 215 copies printed; 168 copies are mailed out and 120 are sent by e-mail. Alice Nickel is our editor and webmaster. Our secretary, Marina Allemano posts events on Facebook. The other Board Members are Brian Mogensen (Vice-President), Bent Skousbøl (Treasurer), Niels Hansen, Gunnar Kjær Jensen, Mette Rasmussen, Christopher J. Sorensen, Valerie Sorensen as well as Pastor Lasse Hultberg.

All Saints Sunday is traditionally celebrated in November every year. It is another festival of light, when we remember those who have passed away during the past year by lighting candles in their memory. It is a meaningful and personal service which gives us all a time to reflect on the events of the past year, remember our dear ones and to give thanks for our many blessings. It is a time to be grateful for all that we share in our Ansgar congregation.

Fra Dansk Samvirke til Danes Worldwide

Jesper Malmose

Organisationen Danes Worldwide hjælper udlandsdanskere og deres familier med at fastholde dansk sprog og kultur og kæmpe for deres rettigheder. Den 30. april 2019 kan foreningen fejre sin 100-års-fødselsdag.

Det hele begyndte med salget af de dansk-vestindiske øer Sankt Jan, Sankt Croix og Sankt Thomas i 1917 – og Islands løsrivelse fra Danmark i 1918. Det betød, at foreningen *De Danske Atlanterhavsøer* ikke alene mistede en masse medlemmer, men faktisk også sin eksistensberettigelse. Men i stedet for at nedlægge foreningen, fandt man på at udvide interessesfæren og besluttede efter mange overvejelser at nå ud til alle de steder i verden, hvor der boede danskere. Ikke mindst i USA, hvor mange tusinde danskere fra midten af 1800-tallet havde slået sig ned.

Bindeled mellem danskerne

Så af asken fra *De Danske Atlanterhavsøer* rejste sig en ny forening, som fik navnet Dansk Samvirke. Foreningen skulle med datidens formulering være ”Bindeleddet mellem Danske Jorden over”. Og da kommunikationsmidlerne dengang ikke var så mange som i dag, foregik det hovedsagelig via *Danmarksposten*, som foreningens medlemsblad hed den gang. Første nummer udkom i januar 1920 med nyt fra Danmark – stort og småt. Fra nyheden om et ”Stort tørlægningsprojekt i Sønderjylland” til “Verdens største Motorskib løbet af Stabelen i København”. Samt “Lensgreve Mogens Frijs afrejst til Østafrika”.

Men allerede året før – den 30. april 1919 – var der stiftende generalforsamling i foreningen Dansk Samvirke. Med det formål “at samle danske Interesser på alle Områder, både i Hjemlandet og ude i Verden, samt i Udlandet at bidrage til Oplysning om danske Forhold”, som der står i formålsparagraffen. Kong Christian X indvilligede i at blive foreningens protektor; et hverv, som siden er gået i arv, så det i dag er Dronning Margrethe II, som varetager protektoratet for Danes Worldwide.

Danes Worldwides medlemmer i dag består af mange forskellige typer danskere – heriblandt udstationerede medarbejdere fra danske virksomheder. Sådan var det også i 1919, og derfor har Danes Worldwide altid haft god kontakt til erhvervslivet. Det var derfor også naturligt, at det var virksomheder som Carlsberg, FLSmidth og Østasiatisk Kompagni, der var blandt de ”Stiftende

Bidragydere" – som hver især indbetalte den nette sum af 500 kr. Hvilket betød en startkapital på ca. 15.000 kr.

Kronborgmøderne


DANMARKSPOSTEN

DANMARKSPOSTEN

DANSK SAMVIRKE

DANSK SAMVIRKE

AARG. 1 · 5 · MAJ 1920

SØNDERJYDSKE PIGER BYDER DE DANSKE SOLDATER VELKOMMEN

Danmarksposten, maj 1920

At komme hjem på besøg var ikke noget, der skete for udlandsdanskerne hverken hver eller hver anden dag. Rejserne – hvad enten det var med skib, tog og/eller fly – var både dyre og besværlige. Alligevel lykkedes det hvert år fra 1935 at samle et betydeligt antal udlandsdanskere – både tidligere og nuværende – til medlemsmøde på Kronborg. Her mødtes de for, med et moderne udtryk, at *netværke* og udveksle erfaringer. Og naturligvis var der også taler, fællessang og underholdning af tidens populære kunstnere, samt afsluttende middag på hotel Marienlyst. Der blev ikke sparet på de store ord og følelser – heller ikke i de aviser, som refererede fra mødet. I *Berlingske Tidende* kunne man således om det første Kronborgmøde læse, at "Sjældent har vi overværet et nationalt Møde saa ægte i tonen og saa naturligt i sit Udtryk for Kærlighed til Land og Sprog som dette Sommermøde i Kronborgs Riddersal."

De årlige sommermøder på Kronborg fortsatte til for ca. 10 år siden, hvor tilslutningen efterhånden blev så begrænset, at de ikke længere kunne løbe rundt økonomisk. For tiderne ændrer sig som bekendt.



Kronborgmødet I Riddersalen på Kronborg Slot, 2011

Danes Worldwide i dag

Og tiderne HAR virkelig ændret sig. Og det samme har naturligvis Danes Worldwide. Men hvem – eller hvad – er Danes Worldwide så i dag? Foreningens general-sekretær siden 2010, Anne Marie Dalgaard, forklarer:

"Det er vores mål at være talerør for udlandsdanskerne og forbedre deres vilkår. Vi befinder os i en niche mellem offentlig og privat servicevirksomhed for medlem-merne, der samtidig har mulighed for at benytte sig af vores tilbud om rådgivning, netværk, mærkesager og undervisning. Kort sagt fokuserer vi på udlandsdanskernes trivsel."

Og hun fortsætter: "Gennem årene har vi genereret en stor viden, som vi formidler gennem medarbejderne på sekretariatet, på hjemmesiden samt på de sociale medier: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram og LinkedIn. Og via medlemsmagasinet *DANES*, der udkommer fire gange om året i både en elektronisk og en papirudgave."

Anne Marie Dalgaard er uddannet cand.jur. fra Københavns Universitet, men har i store dele af sit liv boet og arbejdet i udlandet. Først i Bruxelles – bl.a. som lobbyist for det multinationale ingeniørfirma ABB Daimler Benz – og siden i otte år i Moskva, hvor hun boede med sin familie, studerede russisk og arbejdede for ISTC (International Science and Technology Center). Så generalsekretæren ved, hvad hun taler om, når det gælder livet som udlandsdansker.

Stort netværk



Frimærke i anledning af 50-års jubilæet

"At flytte til et andet land er spændende. Men de, der har prøvet det, ved også, at det kan være både udfordrende og tidskrævende at skabe sig et netværk i udlandet. Og selv om man kan forberede sig, inden man tager afsted, så er der rigtig mange ting, man ikke kan google sig til, og den personlige kontakt er guld værd, når man står midt i det," siger Anne Marie Dalgaard.

Men selv om udlandsdanskerne forbereder sig grundigt inden afrejsen, har de ofte mange forskellige spørgsmål, de gerne vil have svar på – stort og småt mellem hinanden. Det kan være alt fra det bedste supermarked eller den bedste tandlæge over adresser på danske foreninger og grupper til den offentlige transport, sundhedsvæsenet og skolevalg. Derudover kan der også være spørgsmål af mere overordnet karakter som fx de kulturelle forhold, lokale hierarkier – formelle som uformelle - eller konventioner i forhold til påklædning. "Og nogle gange har man måske bare brug for at drikke en kop kaffe med en anden, der taler dansk," smiler Anne Marie Dalgaard og tilføjer: "Og det er her, vores repræsentanter kommer ind i billedet." En repræsentant er en person, der laver et stykke frivilligt arbejde for foreningen. Repræsentanterne er engagerede mennesker, som kender og forstår deres lokalområder – personligt, politisk og kulturelt. I øjeblikket har Danes Worldwide 100 af slagsen fordelt over hele verden.

Råd og vejledning

Det er altså muligt – som medlem af Danes Worldwide – at få råd og vejledning på mange forskellige områder. Derfor har foreningen ansat en juridisk medarbejder, der besvarer de mest almindelige juridiske spørgsmål. Derudover har foreningen tilknyttet et panel af danske rådgivere, som medlemmerne kan drage nytte af. Ekspertpanelet er bredt sammensat og består i øjeblikket af bl.a. en advokat, en revisor, en psykolog og en skolekonsulent. Derudover har Danes Worldwide og Danish Students Abroad (DSA) indgået et samarbejde for at forbedre informationen omkring udlandsstudier. Målgruppen er ikke kun unge studerende fra Danmark, der ønsker at læse i udlandet, men også unge danskere bosat i udlandet, men som ønsker at studere i Danmark.

"Studievejledningen er et supplement til gymnasiernes og de højere læreanstalters nuværende vejledning for studerende, der søger udveksling som led i de etablerede udvekslingsordninger. Vi henvender os også til de studerende, der ønsker at studere uden for de i forvejen etablerede udvekslingsordninger," uddyber Anne Marie Dalgaard.

Mærkesager

Danes Worldwide forsøger at påvirke lovgivningen og beslutningstagerne, så forholdene for udlandsdanskerne bliver bedre. Bl.a. ved at afgive høringssvar, når nye lovforslag fremsættes, og selvfølgelig ved at deltage aktivt i den offentlige debat i form af kronikker og artikler, samt udtalelser til radio og tv om relevante emner.



Michael Laudrup, årets Verdensdansker 2008, H.M. Dronningen og tidl. bestyrelsesformand Christopher Bo Bramsen

"I de seneste år er der kommet meget mere fokus på den politiske del af Danes Worldwides arbejde," fortæller Anne Marie Dalgaard. "Det begyndte med retten til dobbelt statsborgerskab, hvor vi gjorde en stor indsats for at fortælle politikerne på Christiansborg om, hvad det ville betyde for rigtig mange af foreningens medlemmer: at de ikke skulle opgive deres danske statsborgerskab, men nu fik mulighed for at deltage som samfundsborger i det nye land og for eksempel stemme til valgene dér. Og det lykkedes altså i 2015."

Siden har Danes Worldwide engageret sig i en lang række sager – blandt andet familiesammenføringsreglerne, som er blevet ændret flere gange. "Cirka halvdelen af Danes Worldwides medlemmer har en udenlandsk ægtefælle eller partner, og vi har fået mange henvendelser fra mennesker, som ikke kan lov til at tage deres familie med tilbage til Danmark. Og det kan jo ikke være rigtigt", understreger generalsekretæren.

Senest har reglerne for optjening af retten til dagpenge været på dagsordenen. Også her har den seneste stramning stor betydning for foreningens medlemmer, fortæller Anne Marie Dalgaard. "Og faktisk er det lykkedes os – via vores høringssvar – at få regeringen til at ændre lovgivningen," tilføjer hun.

Online Danskundervisning

Som nævnt har over halvdelen af Danes Worldwides medlemmer en udenlandsk ægtefælle. Og for rigtig mange er det vigtigt, at deres børn lærer det danske sprog og/eller holder det ved lige. For selv om der tales dansk i hjemmet, kan det være svært at holde fast i sproget. Især kan det være en udfordring for børnene at få deres ordforråd udvidet og vedligeholde et skriftligt niveau, der matcher kravene i det danske uddannelsessystem. Derfor tilbyder Danes Worldwide online danskundervisning fra 0. – 9. klasse på folkeskoleniveau.

"Vores lærerne udvikler otte opgavesæt om året, og til seks af opgavesættene hører der undervisningsfilm, som lærerne også selv har produceret. Ved at eleverne ser programmerne og løser de tilhørende opgaver, får de et bredt kendskab til dansk kultur, historie og danske

samfundsforhold. Undervisningen er med andre ord skræddersyet til danske børn i udlandet," fortæller generalsekretæren, "og det benytter over 500 børn sig af hver år."

"Derudover tilbyder vi også undervisning i Begynderdansk og Basisdansk. Begynderdansk er for de elever, der ikke taler, læser, skriver eller forstår dansk. Det danske sprog læres altså på samme måde som andre fremmedsprog. Og Basisdansk er for de elever, der taler og forstår dansk, men ikke nødvendigvis er så gode til at læse og/eller skrive dansk," uddyber Dalgaard.

Sommerskolen

Den moderne teknologi har gjort det muligt at undervise børn i hele verden i dansk. Og priserne på flybilletterne har gjort det muligt at sende børn fra hele verden på sommerskole i Danmark.



Interview med Generalsekretær Anne Marie Dalgaard, Danes Worldwide, umiddelbart efter Folketingets accept af dobbelt statsborgerskab den 18. december 2014

"Den Danske Sommerskole – i daglig tale bare: Sommerskolen – begyndte i 1981 og har fra starten været en succes. Der kommer ca. 500 børn mellem 10 og 17 år på Sommerskolen, hvor de i knap tre uger bliver undervist i dansk sprog, kultur, historie og danske samfundsforhold. Samtidig får de en oplevelse for livet sammen med andre jævnaldrende, som også bor i udlandet. For det ER noget helt særligt at være *third culture kids*, som disse børn og unge kaldes," siger generalsekretæren. Fra 2016 har både de 6-9-årige og de 10-13-årige nu også fået mulighed for at komme på Danes Worldwides Familie-Sommerskole – sammen med for eksempel en forælder eller bedsteforælder.

Fødselsdags-fejringen

2019 er som nævnt et jubilæumsår, og 100-års-fødselsdagen fejres ad flere omgange. Selve dagen – den 30. april – markeres med en reception i sekretariatet på Kultorvet i København. Desuden er der forskellige andre arrangementer i støbeskeen – bl.a. et medlemsmøde med mere politisk indhold. Og endelig kulminerer det hele med en stor festmiddag på Hotel d'Angleterre i København med taler, underholdning og kåring af "Årets Verdensdansker." Siden 2008 har Danes Worldwide nemlig uddelt prisen "Årets Verdensdansker" til en person, som har formået at sætte Danmark på verdenskortet. Den første i rækken var fodboldlegenden Michael Laudrup. Og siden har også fysikeren Lene Lau, balletmester Nicolaj Hübbe og kokken og iværksætteren Claus Meyer været blandt modtagerne.

"Vi glæder os rigtig meget til at fejre Danes Worldwides 100-års-fødselsdag her i 2019," siger Anne Marie Dalgaard, "men vi glæder os mindst lige så meget til at tage fat på de mange opgaver, der venter, så foreningen kan holde hundrede år mere – til glæde for vores mange medlemmer," afslutter generalsekretæren.

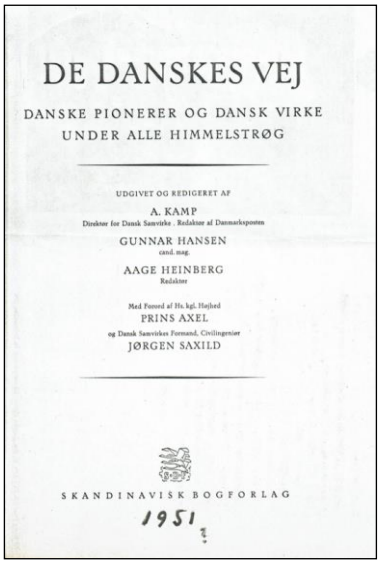
Danes Worldwide in Canada

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Original logo

The organization Danes Worldwide helps Danes living abroad, maintain their Danish language and culture, as well as fight for their rights. Thus begins Jesper Malmose's article about Danes Worldwide, the Copenhagen-based organization which on April 30, 2019, celebrated its 100th birthday. Jesper Malmose then goes on to explain how it all began with the sale of the three Caribbean islands of St. John, St. Croix and St. Thomas - the Danish West Indies - to the United States in 1917, followed by Iceland's secession from Denmark in 1918. This meant that the society *De Danske Atlanterhavsøer* (The Danish Atlantic Islands Society) not only lost a substantial number of its members, but also to a large extent its raison d'être. Yet, instead of dissolving the society, some key board members toyed with the idea of expanding their sphere of interest and, after some deliberation, agreed to reach out to Danes around the world, and create a global organization, which they named Dansk Samvirke, which is difficult to translate, but could be translated Danish Interaction.


DE DANSKES VEJ

DANSKE PIONERER OG DANSK VIRKE
UNDER ALLE HIMMELSTRØG

UDGIVET OG REDIGERET AF
A. KAMP
Direktør for Dansk Samvirke · Redaktør af Danmarksposten
GUNNAR HANSEN
cand. mag.
AAGE HEINBERG
Redaktør

Med Forord af Hs. kgl. Højhed
PRINS AXEL
og Dansk Samvirkes Formand, Civilingeniør
JØRGEN SAXILD

SKANDINAVISK BOGFORLAG
1951

Danes Worldwide has an office in the centre of Copenhagen, overlooking Kultorvet, and a network of representatives around the world, including Canada. Already in 1920, the organization launched its magazine *Danmarksposten*.

In 1998, Dansk Samvirke changed its name to Danes Worldwide, and dropped its logo with Kronborg Castle. In its place it adopted a new logo with a Danish globe, designed by Piet Hein, a celebrated Danish architect, mathematician and poet. Later, in 2010, the title of *Danmarksposten* was changed to *Danes*.

The first editor of *Danmarksposten* was Albert Kamp. He soon became secretary and in 1947 director of Dansk Samvirke. Albert Kamp enthusiastically signed up members around the world, and in the process he made contact with hundreds and hundreds of Danes working and living abroad. Based on the information he collected he published in 1935 with A.J. Poulsen the book *Danske i Udlandet 1935*, a reference book of over 500 pages with short biographies and the addresses of Danes around the world. An impressive updated version was published in 1956. During the war Albert Kamp wrote *De rejste ud og gjorde Danmark større* (They left and made Denmark bigger). Then in 1950-51, together with Gunnar Hansen and Aage Heinberg, Kamp

published the three-volume history *De Danskes Vej*, about Danish pioneers and activities around the globe. This work laid the foundation for Dansk Samvirke's biographical archives.

In 1935, Albert Kamp started the annual Kronborg Meetings where Danes from around the world would meet in Denmark in the summer. And they always sang "*Med Kronborg om styrbord igen*." Over the years it evolved into an excellent and elaborate program followed by a wonderful dinner at nearby Hotel Marienlyst. Albert Kamp was also preoccupied with the housing problem numerous Danes faced when returning to Denmark after many years abroad. To address this housing issue, he initiated the plans for the building of the Fredensborg houses for returning Danes.



CANADA

SPECIALTILLÆG FEBRUAR 1987

Ambassadør Per Fergo i Ottawa interesseret i samarbejde med de mange dansk-canadiere

I forbindelse med Dansk Samvirke's fremstød i Canada aflagde Danmarksposten besøg hos vor danske ambassadør i Canada. Ambassadør Fergo, som har været på posten i Ottawa i omtrent to år, finder, at det er enestående for den danske repræsentation, at kunne fremvise så mange danske organisationer.

Af Ole Clifford Pejtersen

The first contact the Danish Federation had with Dansk Samvirke was with Niels Alsted, who like Albert Kamp, was deeply interested in what Danes were doing around the world. Niels Alsted was keen to have lots of news and information about Danes around the world in his column *Udefra*, which consisted of several pages of titbits in *Danmarksposten*, arranged according to continent and country. Niels Alsted also wrote short biographies which he submitted to The Danish Biographical Encyclopedia. Yet, some would say that Alsted's legacy is the Summer School for children which has become a cornerstone of the organization, with hundreds of Danish children from abroad returning to Denmark for an unforgettable stay, in the process learning about Danish language and culture.

In 1985 Danes Worldwide joined the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. The Emigration Archives in Aalborg had previous joined, while the Danish Canadian American Friendship Association was a founding member. Joining the Danish Federation was undertaken by Arne Dyhrberg, who in 1986 participated in the Danish Canadian Conference in Toronto on behalf of Danes Worldwide. He was a sociable and vibrant person. He could tell stories about his experiences in Indonesia, Malaysia and Canada in such a lively way that he had the audience in the palm of his hand. Arne Dyhrberg had been director of exhibitions at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa from 1965 to 1968, before becoming director of the Zoo in Copenhagen.



Arne Dyhrberg in Canada, 1986

The February 1987 issue of Danmarksposten was special. It included an eleven page insert about the Danes in Canada and highlighted the Danish Federation. An extra 2,370 copies of Danmarksposten were printed and sent to Danes across Canada. The Danish Federation provided the addresses across Canada as well as the articles for the insert. The cost of the mailing was generously covered by Knud Simonsen, the then representative of Danes Worldwide in Toronto. Secretary General Jens Witthøfft Nielsen of Danes Worldwide attended three Danish Canadian Conferences, in Winnipeg in 1988, in Ottawa in 1989 and in Vancouver in 1990. And then in 1991 Danes Worldwide hosted the Danish Canadian Conference in Copenhagen, where it had

chosen the theme: Danish Culture and Danish Identity. The various business meetings and the lectures on culture and identity were held at the parish hall belonging to the Trinity Church, with its famous tower Rundetårn. There were excursions to the castle ruins at Gurre and to Frederikssund to see the Viking play Amlet, followed by a large Saint Hans bonfire. There was a reception at the Canadian Embassy and a dinner at Peter Lieps House in the Deer Park. It was an unforgettable Conference. Moreover, the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg launched the book *Danish Emigration to Canada* at Copenhagen City Hall, where the famous City Hall pancakes were served to the Conference delegates. Later, over 800 copies of this book were sold in Canada through the Danish Federation.



Jens Witthøfft Nielsen
Vancouver 1990

In 2015 the Danish Federation helped Danes Worldwide organize speaking engagements in Toronto and Vancouver, which took place at the beginning of June. Danish organizations in Toronto and Vancouver hosted Secretary General Anne Marie Dalgaard and Head of Instructional Services Carina Kjær Busk, who spoke about the mandate and activities of Danes Worldwide in general, and then specifically about the Summer School, but above all about the proposed legislation to grant Dual Citizenship to Danes.



Secretary General
Anne Marie Dalgaard

Danes Worldwide has always had excellent relations with the authorities as well as access to the Danish world of business, whether it's Danish consuls or trade commissioners around the world, the large shipping companies or the big Danish engineering firms. Queen Margrethe is the Patron of the society. From its beginning Danes Worldwide has been part of the establishment and has enjoyed access to the powers that be. And that is still the case. Yet, this state of affairs has gradually changed somewhat since Anne Marie Dalgaard, with a degree in law, became Secretary General of Danes Worldwide in 2010. With her background in European Union law as well as international law, in addition to seeing herself as a spokesperson for Danes living abroad, she believes her duty is to meet with politicians and other decision-makers to bring forward concerns or problems that members of Danes Worldwide face. Similarly, Anne Marie Dalgaard has been publicly active in the media and has tried to influence the political agenda.

One of Anne Marie Dalgaard's biggest achievements is the Danish dual citizenship law which came into force on September 1, 2015. For years Danes Worldwide had lobbied very hard for this change to Danish law. The acceptance of dual citizenship by Denmark is of major significance to numerous Danes around the world. It means you can now apply for citizenship in the country you live, WITHOUT losing your Danish citizenship. It also means that Danes who have previously surrendered their Danish citizenship can now regain it before August 31, 2020. For this revolutionary change we can partly thank Danes Worldwide. Tusind tak!


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100th Anniversary of

Dansk Kirke i Udlandet

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Danish Church Abroad, or DKU for short, can celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019. A centennial must be commemorated and celebrated. It's an occasion to look back and reflect on the many milestones over the years. Although DKU is based in Denmark, its mission and work are carried on outside the country. Much could be written about DKU's impressive global outreach, but here the focus will be on how DKU was established, and very briefly on some of the highlights of the contribution DKU has made to church life for Danes in Canada over the past century.

At present there are five congregations in Canada which are connected to DKU, or DSUK, as it is now called. These five congregations which all have churches, a meeting hall and a parsonage, and a pastor supplied and hired through DSUK are all located in large metropolitan centres. They are: Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, as well as, Burnaby and Surrey in the Vancouver area.



Pastor Andreas Fibiger

Since its founding, DKU has helped and supported various big and small congregations across Canada. Indeed, Canada was one of the countries singled out early on for special consideration, due to the dire need for funds and pastors in the 1920s and 30s, and again in the 1950s and 60s when Danish immigrants streamed to Canada. It is not an understatement to say that DKU has made a substantial contribution to church life among Danes in Canada, and thus to the Danish community in general, and continues to do so.

DKU was established as a Danish volunteer organization with the aim of supporting church activities and services for Danes living abroad. The original bylaws of DKU emphasize that the primary mission was to preach the gospel to Danes residing outside the country. The missionary zeal was necessary if congregations were to be established and churches built. It is only natural over a one-hundred-year span that the focus of DKU has changed and evolved over the years. In 2004, DKU, a Non-Governmental Organization, gave up that coveted status, and merged with the Danish Seamen's Church, and became DSUK, Danske Sømands - og Udlandskirker (The Danish Church Abroad/Danish Seamen's Church). The merger entailed that the new organization, DSUK, was organizationally established as a separate Non-Governmental Organization, and yet theologically and ecclesiastically DSUK became (or remained) a part of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark, the national and state church of Denmark, as laid down in the Danish Constitution. In North American DSUK might be called a Synod.

The Danes in Berlin start a congregation

To explore how the concept of a Danish Church Abroad arose, we have to go back to Berlin in the late nineteenth century. Under German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, Berlin had become the capital of a united Germany, which was fast industrializing. Berlin was in the 1870s a boom town, which attracted migrants willing to work in the thriving construction industry or in one of the many emergent factories. Among these migrants were Danish trades' people, the so-called Navers, journeymen with certificates. In 1880 these Danish trades' people in Berlin founded the Naver Club Freja. Then in the first decade of the twentieth century they formed a Christian association they named *Derude,* or Draußen in German. Through the YMCA to which these Danes belonged, they came into contact with diplomats at the Danish Legation (*Gesandtskab*) to Germany. Among them were the Danish Ministers to Germany, Johan Hegermann-Lindencrone and then his successor Count Carl Moltke, who were willing to help the Danish community establish a congregation in Berlin. These efforts succeeded and in 1912 they formed a Danish congregation which they called Hans Tausen, after the leading Lutheran theologian of the Danish Reformation. The small congregation then sent a call to Denmark and eventually received Pastor Bent Lindhardt, who became the first resident Danish pastor in Berlin. From the Bohemian-Lutheran Congregation in Berlin the Danish congregation rented a parish hall on Neuenburger Strasse 3 near the Hallesches Tor in Kreuzberg.



Friedrichstrasse, Berlin, 1900

Bent Lindhardt was born in Frørup near Nyborg on August 13, 1883. He had graduated from the University of Copenhagen with a master's in theology in 1907. After finishing his studies, he spent a fruitful year travelling in France and England. In 1908 he was hired as a teacher at Hesselager Boarding School, located just south of where he was born. In late 1911 his life changed, when he was hired by the Danish congregation in Berlin. He started his new position in early 1912. Again, in August 1914 his situation changed, with the outbreak of war. Danish children in Berlin were sent back to Denmark, Danish students returned home and Pastor Lindhardt now lived in a country at war.

As the posting in Berlin was his very first as pastor, Lindhardt thought it would be a good idea to learn more about how city congregations functioned in Denmark. Coming from a big city like Berlin he thought it would be a good idea to learn something about church life in a congregation in Copenhagen, particularly at a church where the pastor was a fervent missionary, set on saving souls and converting unbelievers while gathering a congregation and erecting a large city church. Such a church was found on Vesterbro Square in Copenhagen, where Pastor Andreas Fibiger and the Inner Mission had built the Elias Church, consecrated in 1908. Pastor Fibiger had succeeded after much hard work, assembling a congregation and raising funds to build what some referred to as a "cathedral".

And so, it came to pass that during the summers of 1915 and 1916, Pastor Bent Lindhardt volunteered at the Elias Church in Copenhagen. In this way Lindhardt met Pastor Andreas Fibiger and from that encounter between these two pastors would blossom the first ideas of a Dansk Kirke i Udlandet.

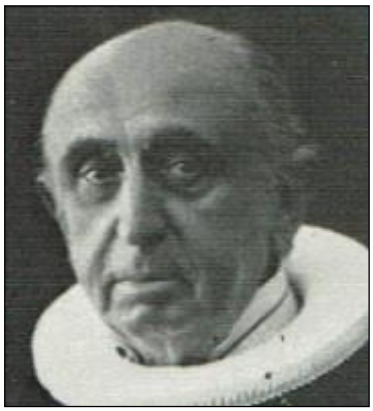


Elias Church, Vesterbro Torv, Copenhagen

Pastor Andreas Fibiger was not just pastor at the Elias Church. He was a leading figure within the Inner Mission, the largest revival movement within the inclusive state Church. It was a conservative pietistic Lutheran movement, operating within Denmark's borders.

Andreas Fibiger was a well-spoken revival preacher with rare abilities. He could attract people to his church. Moreover, he was the leading fundraiser for the Elias Church and became its first pastor when it was inaugurated, with no debt or mortgage.

Pastor Bent Lindhardt's stay at the Elias Church made a big impression on him. On his return to Berlin, Lindhardt worked to acquire a church. It was difficult, as it was during war time, and the congregation was not growing. However, with the help of a generous donor as well as with help from the Danish Legation it was possible to acquire a church in 1916. To cover the remaining costs of paying for the church Pastor Lindhardt contacted Pastor Fibiger in Copenhagen.



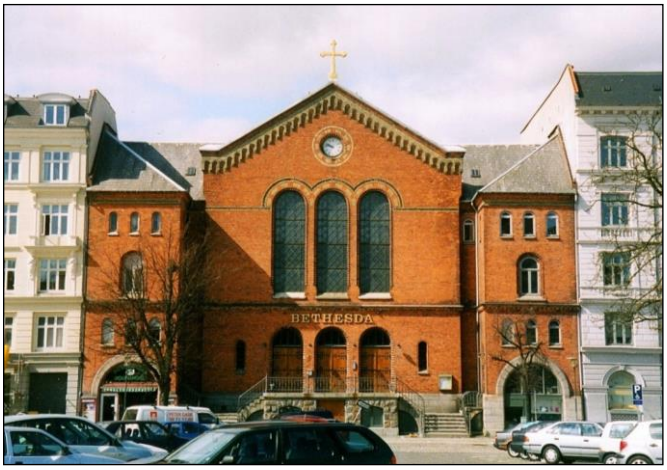
Bishop Caspar Wegener

Liaisons to Denmark were through the YMCA, in addition to Pastor Lindhardt's contact with Fibiger. Lindhardt asked Fibiger for financial help. In response to this request, Pastor Fibiger established in 1917 a committee of six people. It was called the Committee to provide funds for the building of a Danish Church in Berlin. This Committee, as can just be seen from its name, became the precursor of DKU. The Committee realized this, and in the summer of 1918, the Committee considered becoming permanent, and expanding its field of operation to include all Danish congregations outside Denmark, and not just focusing on Berlin. The Committee felt that it would be natural to ask one of the Danish Bishops to head a permanent organization devoted to supporting Danish church life outside Denmark. The Committee approached Bishop Caspar Wegener, the Bishop of Lolland-Falster, to head the new organization. After some consideration he answered yes. In the winter of 1918-1919, Bishop Wegener visited the majority of pastors on the islands of Lolland and Falster, to interest them in the idea.

The founding of Dansk Kirke i Udlandet

The founding meeting of DKU took place on March 25, 1919 at the Bethesda Mission on Grønttorvet, a large square with apartment buildings, built for the upper middle class in the

1870s and 1880s. The most distinctive building on the Square is the red brick Bethesda Mission, which was erected by the Inner Mission in 1882.



The Bethesda Mission on Grønttorvet, in Copenhagen

The founding meeting was held at a time when the Spanish flu raged, the Poles and the Soviets were engaged in full-scale war, and Germany was grappling with its defeat in the War, as well as economic and political turmoil. Indeed, times in Berlin were tough and chaotic.

Participating in the founding meeting of DKU were Pastor Bent Lindhardt, Pastor Andreas Fibiger, Bishop Casper Wegener, Pastor Vilhelm Kold, who was on the Board of Directors of Inner Mission and Pastor Christian Seidelin, who was secretary of Københavns Kirkefond, a large Inner Mission foundation which raised money for the building of churches and had built many churches in Copenhagen. In addition, there were the three directors Allin, Will, and With, as well as Church Secretary Poul Erichsen from the Danish Church in Berlin. Elected President of DKU was Bishop Wegener and chair of the management committee (*forretningsudvalget*) was naturally Andreas Fibiger. Predictably, at the first meeting of the board of DKU it was decided that the first field of operation would be Berlin.

In 1921 the outreach work of DKU was extended to Flensburg and Stockholm. In 1923, the field of operation was expanded to Rio de Janeiro, Malmö and Paris. In the following years the following were added, Brisbane, New Zealand, Shanghai and Helsinki. DKU was a going concern, well-managed and able to raise funds for its evolving commitments.

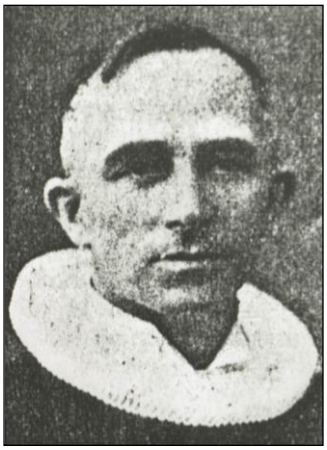


Ansgar Church in Winnipeg

DKU reaches out to Winnipeg and Edmonton

The first contact between DKU and Canada took place already in 1919, when Pastor Niels Damskov arrived in Winnipeg at the end of 1919 and sent a letter to DKU asking if they were in a position to support financially the building of a church in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg congregation had been started in 1910. However, it was not until 1919 that the congregation was able to acquire its' own pastor. A call was sent to Pastor Niels Damskov in Montana. He accepted the call and came to Manitoba in late 1919, as the first resident pastor of the congregation in Winnipeg. He wanted to build a church and therefore wrote the letter to DKU. He received a favourable reply, but the congregation was not yet ready to build a church. Damskov served in Winnipeg until 1925. A call was then sent to Pastor Vilhelm Beck who immediately began to work on acquiring a church. The church at 133 Bannerman Avenue was begun in 1926 and completed the following year. The church received the promised funding from DKU and was consecrated on March 6, 1927.

In 1928 DKU sent its very first pastor to Canada, that is, Pastor Max Mathiesen who was sent to Edmonton. He arrived in May 1928. Already in January 1930 the congregation was officially formed, and Pastor Mathiesen was elected President of the Church Council. Pastor Mathiesen, who was supported financially by DKU, served until March 1931, when he was called back to Denmark by DKU.



Pastor Max Mathiesen

Pastor Mathiesen was followed by Pastor Emil Nommesen, who moved from New Denmark, New Brunswick, to Edmonton, starting in December 1931. Then in 1940, with the occupation of Denmark, and no funds from DKU, Pastor Emil Nommesen was forced to resign, and he accepted a call from Bethany Church in Tilley, a Danish settlement located between Calgary and Medicine Hat.

Initially church services in Edmonton were held in the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and later in a German Church, which was then bought from the German congregation in 1933. Eventually a new Danish church was built on the property, which in style reflected more accurately the congregation's Danish heritage. Despite the war and the congregation's dire situation, the congregation was able to consecrate the Ansgar Lutheran Church in August 1942. This was a major feat considering that from 1941 until 1947, the congregation was served by a number of pastors from The United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UDELC), based in Blair, Nebraska, interspersed with periods with no pastor. After the war a heated controversy arose whether to call a pastor from UDELC or from DKU in Denmark. It was decided to approach DKU first and DKU responded quickly, sending Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen.



Ansgar Lutheran Church in Edmonton

Danish Settlement of Pass Lake



Salem Lutheran Church in Pass Lake

In the summer of 1926, Pastor Vilhelm Beck was sent to Pass Lake by UDELC to investigate the possibility of establishing a congregation. Pass Lake, about 60 km east of Thunder Bay, was a forested area which had been started as a Danish settlement in 1924. In order to obtain the deed to their homestead, the settlers had to build a house and barn; clear and farm at least two acres of land during each of the first three years; had to live on the land at least six months of the year and also obtain citizenship papers. After the three-year period they could apply for the deed to

the homestead. The settlers were required to work three days per year on the roads but the reward for this was getting paid for six days of roadwork.

The settlers would cut pulpwood in the winter for the Provincial Paper Company, which was situated north of Port Arthur, and then clear land for the purpose of farming in the summer. Many Danish immigrants joined the settlers between 1926 and 1930. They eked out a living by selling wood products, such as pulpwood, lumber, firewood, railway ties and fence posts until the land was cleared for farming. Around 1930, enough land had been cleared and farming began. Cream was shipped to Port Arthur, and potatoes and other garden produce began to be sold on a commercial scale. Interestingly, in the 1930s Pass Lake became well known for its strawberries.

In November 1927, DKU sent missionary Kristian Ludvigsen to Pass Lake. He had been trained as a missionary by the Sudan Mission in Denmark. Already in October 1929 Pastor Ludvigsen was able to establish a congre-gation, which came under UDELC. Then at a meeting in the fall of 1930 the year-old congregation decided to go ahead with building a church to be called Salem Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Great Depression made it impossible to receive financial assistance from UDELC in Nebraska. But the building program survived with a gift of $200 from DKU as well as other private donations. The completed church was dedicated by Pastor Vilhelm Beck in April 1932.

Ostenfeld is named after DKU Bishop Ostenfeld



Pastor Niels Damskov

In the 1920s Pastor Niels Damskov would regularly welcome the Danish immigrants at the railway station in Winnipeg. Many of the Danish immigrants were farmers. Often Pastor Damskov would provide housing and food for the immigrants until they were on their way to a farm or a Danish settlement.



Ostenfeld Lutheran Church

In the mid-1920s, Pastor Damskov applied for a tract of land to be set aside for a Danish colony. He succeeded, and in 1926 a Danish colony was established about 48 km east of Winnipeg. The colony was named Ostenfeld, after DKU Bishop Harald Ostenfeld, who had visited Winnipeg in 1923. The Colony remained fairly small as it was heavily forested and very rocky making it difficult to clear. In 1931 Pastor Damskov left Winnipeg (but continued to serve) and moved to Ostenfeld, receiving a DKU grant to augment his salary. DKU also gave a donation to the building of the Ostenfeld Lutheran Church.

In 1930 DKU provided financial support to Pastor Paul Nyholm in Dickson, with the purpose of travelling to the various Danish Lutheran communities in Alberta. Later, in 1937, Pastor A. Th.

Schultz, Winnipeg, wrote to DKU and informed them that the Danes in Swan Lake desperately needed $300 to help build their church. DKU generously sent $500.

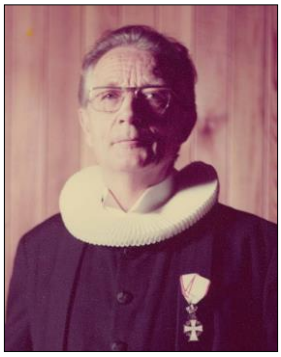
In the United States there were two Danish synods, the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, based in Des Moines, Iowa, and UDELC, based in Blair, Nebraska. The former was Grundtvigian in orientation and focused on Danish culture and on education. The latter, the United Church, inspired by the Inner Mission in Denmark, was pietistic in orientation and more engaged in missionary work. Both Synods were active in Canada.

The first Danish congregations in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Calgary were established by UDELC. The three churches in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg were all named St. Ansgar, while the church in Calgary was named Sharon.

Pastor John Martin Jensen of New Denmark, New Brunswick, who belonged to UDELC, worked as a travelling preacher from 1922 to 1926, serving Danes in the Maritime Provinces, Montreal and Toronto.

In 1925, Pastor John Martin Jensen conducted the first Church Service among the newly arrived Danes in Toronto. He also saw to it that Pastor Anton Hansen was hired to serve the Danish immigrants for a year. St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto was founded the following year, in April 1926. With the founding of the congregation the next challenges were acquiring a permanent resident pastor and building a church. It was a long and hard struggle to survive, but the pastors and a few die-hard parishioners were tenacious, and the congregation made it through the Great Depression and the Second World War, acquiring both a resident pastor and a church. During the war the language of the congregation changed fully to English. The argument was that it wasn't the language that was important, but the faith. Moreover, as an English-speaking congregation it would be possible to attract others, than just Danes.

In the 1950s a large number of Danish immigrants arrived in Toronto. When they came to St. Ansgar's Church they were met by a pastor who was not proficient in Danish, and a congregation which was pietistic in its orientation. Most of the new immigrants had not belonged to the Inner Mission in Denmark and so did not really feel at home at St. Ansgar's Church.



Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen

In 1947, DKU sent a representative to St. Ansgar's Church offering to send a pastor and provide some funding. But the congregation felt it had moved on and declined the offer from DKU. The rejection meant that DKU, as far as Toronto was concerned, more or less held back for the next ten years.

DKU sends Youth Secretary to Toronto

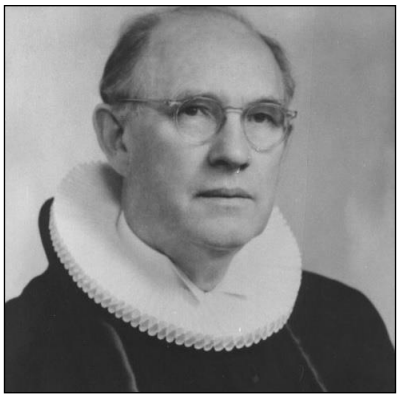
Many of the Danish immigrants were young people, so in 1957 DKU sent a Youth Secretary to Toronto. But, a pastor as well as a church which welcomed all orientations, like the mother Church in Denmark, w also needed. Consequently, in the fall of 1957, DKU asked Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen of Edmonton to move to Toronto to establish a DKU congregation. Already in October a congregation was formed. At first the congregation rented a German Lutheran Church on College Street. In 1958 a building committee was established, which also raised

funds. By 1964 the congregation was able to buy a piece of land on Finch Avenue West. Then at an Extraordinary General Meeting in June 1965, the plans and a budget for a church were presented to the congregation, and duly approved. The ground breaking took place in October and in November the cornerstone was laid, while the *Rejsegilde* was happily celebrated before Christmas. The new Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto was finished by Spring and was consecrated on April 24, 1966, by Bishop Hans Fuglsang-Damgaard, the President of DKU.

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church founded in Montreal

After having laid the ground work for a congregation in Toronto in 1925, Pastor John Martin Jensen turned to Montreal where he moved to in 1926. Already the following year he was able to establish a permanent Danish Lutheran congregation in Montreal, which they called St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

At first the congregation held services at the German Church, St. John's Lutheran Church on Rue Jeanne-Mance. Then in 1928 the congregation rented a four-storey house. It was converted into a Church with meeting rooms and offices. It had a dining area and rooms to rent for a minimal amount to young Danish immigrants. Pastor John Martin Jensen was in charge of the administration of the building and the rooming house. St. Ansgar's Church became a focal point for the Danish community. The church's Danish Lutheran Ladies'Aid helped with practical matters and with fundraising.



Pastor Vilhelm Beck

The Great Depression was a difficult time. Some of the Danish immigrants in Montreal moved back to Denmark, others came to rely on the help of friends or the church. The congregation had difficulty paying the pastor's salary. Else Gøtsche, who worked at the Danish Consulate General, gave part of her monthly salary to the church to help pay for the pastor's salary. When the Young People's Home was closed in 1937, Pastor Jensen felt it was time for him to move on.

With the arrival of Pastor Vilhelm Beck in 1938 a high priority was given to finding a suitable building for purchase, so the congregation could have its own permanent premises. A building was found on Dorchester Street. Renovations were begun in 1939. The building was divided into three, church on the main level, meeting rooms in the basement and the parsonage on the second floor. The new building was dedicated in December 1939. The congregation did not have enough money to buy the building on Dorchester Street, but DKU answered a request and sent $1,000 to Montreal.

Starting a congregation in Vancouver

In the 1920s both the Danish Church in Iowa and UDELC in Nebraska considered sending a missionary to Vancouver to establish a Danish Lutheran congregation. Pastor Peter Rasmussen from Dalum, Alberta, a dedicated Grundtvigian, who had started a Folk High School, held a service in Vancouver in May 1923. Pastor Rasmussen had invited Pastor Alfred Sorensen, Seattle, to join him. This first Service in Vancouver led to the holding of monthly services, led by Pastor Sorensen from Seattle. In 1928, the Danish Church sent Pastor Elias Favrholdt from

Michigan to Vancouver, and he became the first resident pastor. 1928 was also the first year where DKU provided a grant towards Pastor Elias Favrholdt's salary.

But Pastor Favrholdt left Vancouver in 1930, due to differences with the congregation. The congregation contacted both the Danish Church in Iowa and UDELC for a replacement for Pastor Favrholdt, but without success. Then in 1932, the congregation called Pastor Jørgen Nielsen from Enumclaw, Washington. He belonged to the Danish Church in Iowa and was willing to serve on a meagre salary and modest financial support from DKU. Having a resident pastor improved the finances of the congregation and in April 1933 the congregation was able to buy a corner lot on 19th Avenue and Prince Albert Street. However, in July 1933, Pastor Jørgen Nielsen abruptly resigned.



Danish Church on, 19th Avenue Vancouver

Again, the congregation in Vancouver approached the Church in Iowa as well as UDELC for help in finding a pastor, but without any success. As a consequence, the congregation was more or less dormant for two years.

In 1935 the Danish Church in Iowa suggested that the congregation ask DKU if they could provide a pastor – as well as help with his salary. DKU replied favourably and in the fall of 1935 DKU sent Pastor Clemens Sorensen to Vancouver, with support from "Derude". His contract was for five years. This was his first posting as pastor. But he was a man of action. He had worked his way up from able-bodied seaman to sea captain on transatlantic freighters. In Vancouver he saw his first challenge as building a church, which would give the congregation an achievable goal as well as solidify the congregation. Already the year after his arrival the plans and then the building of a church got under way. It was a community project and many of the local Danes pitched in.

The lot on 19th Avenue had remained barren for four years. But the fact that the church had a piece of land as well as about $150 in the building fund was actually a good start. With the arrival of Pastor Clemens Sorensen local fundraising was intensified. He wrote letters to every Dane he could find in British Columbia as well as letters to Denmark. Finally, on a cold December 31, 1936, a small group gathered to participate in the breaking of the ground.

First the basement had to be dug and thus a team of horses were brought in to excavate the basement. It was during the Great Depression and many of the Danish immigrants were unemployed. But they could help build the Church and all unemployed who helped were paid one dollar per day. When the money ran out Danish Consul L.L. Jessen offered to lend the congregation money to pay the workers. If they were short of men, Pastor Clemens Sorensen would drive around in his old Ford seeking out unemployed men. The ladies helped serve soup and coffee to the workers from a shed. A *Rejsegilde* was held on Saturday, February 20, 1937, the raising of the roof tree and Danish flag being a traditional and solemn occasion. All the work

was done by hand. By May the church was almost finished, and it was inaugurated on August 15, 1937.

Pastor Clemens Sorensen did not make it back to Denmark before his homeland was occupied by Nazi Germany. This meant the pastor had to stay in Canada. It also meant he was cut off from Denmark and did not receive a salary from DKU. The Sorensen family was forced to vacate their house in Vancouver and moved to a friend's farm outside Vancouver, where the family lived for free during the rest of the war. As soon as the war was over, he and his family quickly moved back to Denmark. On their return Clemens Sorensen became pastor at Vor Frue (Our Lady) Church in Svendborg, where he immediately felt at home, in a town with shipping companies and numerous ships in the busy harbour.



Pastor Clemens Sorensen

When Pastor Clemens Sorensen returned to Denmark in 1945, the Vancouver congregation considered calling a pastor from UDELC, in the belief that a North American pastor would better be able to handle both languages. But DKU quickly sent Pastor Rudolph Arendt. In 1950, when Pastor Rudolph Arendt returned to Denmark, the congregation voted 34 to 33 against severing all ties to Denmark and linking up with North American Lutherans. In fact, Pastor Rudolph Arendt had predicted in 1947 that the Vancouver congregation would completely convert to English within a few years and that the Danish mission work in Vancouver would be superfluous, unless new immigrants came. And what happened? In the 1950s they started coming in droves.

In 1943, Pastor Emil Nommesen left Bethany Church in Tilley, to serve the Danish seamen in Halifax, who sailed for the Allies during the war. Pastor Nommesen served at the Seamen's Mission in Halifax and he was heavily involved with the Canada-wide Danish Relief Fund, created to help the Danish sailors. After the war with the work in Halifax completed, Pastor Nommesen moved to St. John, New Brunswick, in November 1947, to work among the Danish immigrants. In St. John Pastor Nommesen was helped financially by DKU.



Pastor Emil Nommesen

After the War a new wave of Danish Immigrants

In 1948, when Canada opened its doors to Danish immigration, a number of Danes started settling in London, Ontario. As a consequence, DKU sent Pastor Mogens Predstrup to London in 1954. At the same time Pastor Predstrup would drive from London to visit Hamilton and St. Catharines each month to conduct an evening service on a week day. Attendance at the Services in Hamilton and St. Catharines grew to such an extent that a resident pastor was required for the various tasks. In 1956, DKU therefore sent Pastor Emil Nommesen from St. John to Hamilton to look after these worship services and to establish two congregations. The congregation in Hamilton was founded in 1957 and acquired both a church and a parsonage.

The congregation in St. Catharines, organized in 1957, was not able to acquire its own church but rented space for services. Over the years there was talk of merging the two congregations. In 1969 the two congregations were amalgamated into one congregation in Grimsby, situated between Hamilton and St. Catharines, where a mansion on Main Street was turned into a combined church and parsonage. Throughout the years the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula in Grimsby was supported by DKU (later DSUK), until it was closed in April 2018, due to dwindling support from a diminishing congregation.



St. Ansgar Lutheran Churcn, London

Pastor Mogens Predstrup had come to London in January 1954 and made arrangements to hold Services in Danish in St. Mark's Anglican Church on Dundas Street. In the summer of 1955 a piece of land was purchased at 546 Beaverbrook Avenue. The parsonage was built first during the winter of 1955-56, and already in March the Predstrups could move into the parsonage. By mid-August worship services could be held in the church basement. Finally, on June 9, 1957, the church was consecrated. Then in October the Predstrups left. Pastor Predstrup was followed by Pastor Emil Nommesen, who served as minister in London until he retired at the end of 1967. He in turn was followed by Pastor Jens Rode, who served from 1968 to 1973, when he returned to Denmark. Pastor Rode was the last DKU pastor, and when he left, the congregation was without a resident pastor until 1977, when the congregation joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In 1960 Pastor Arnold Vang of the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver bought a piece of land in Surrey to use as his cottage - or summer house as the Danes called it. Pastor Vang named it Granly. In 1962 Pastor Vang began a Sunday School for children on the property. Already the same year some ladies founded an Auxiliary. When Pastor Vang returned to Denmark in 1966, the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver bought the Granly property from him; and continued the church services and Sunday School. In 1968, the Granly congregation acquired its own minister, Pastor Jens Hansen, who was supported by DKU. And in 1984 Granly became an independent congregation, three years later also building a parsonage.

DKU starts its work in Calgary

Quite an impressive number of Danes arrived in Calgary in the 1950s. They could of course attend Sharon Lutheran Church on 10th Avenue, which had been founded by Danes in 1913. However, the Services were in English and there was a generational gap. Moreover, Sharon Lutheran Church had been founded by UDELC, and it reminded many of the newcomers of the Inner Mission in Denmark. Some of the recent immigrants hoped a more Grundtvigian or liberal congregation could be established. In 1961, Pastor Peter Rasmussen from Dalum, Alberta, who now lived in Calgary, started renting Sharon and holding worship services in Danish. Later worship services were held at the Norwegian Trinity Lutheran Church. Meanwhile, Pastor Peter Rasmussen worked to establish a congregation and have a church council elected. The

congregation then approached DKU for a pastor. Their prayers were answered. In April 1964, DKU sent Pastor Charlo Staal Nielsen and family to Calgary. The congregation then rented a hall from a German Mormon Church. To raise money for their own church, Pastor Staal Nielsen and the president of the church council went around to all the Danes in Calgary they could find, trying to raise money for a church. Already in December 1965 the congregation could inaugurate the Church on 32nd Avenue, which they had bought from the Mennonites.



Church on 10th Avenue in Calgary

On an interesting note, the two churches in Calgary, Sharon Lutheran Church and the Danish Lutheran Church, were amalgamated in October 2010. The church on 32nd Avenue was sold and the two now use the church on 10th Avenue, which was built in a typical Danish village church style. It has since the merger been renovated and expanded.

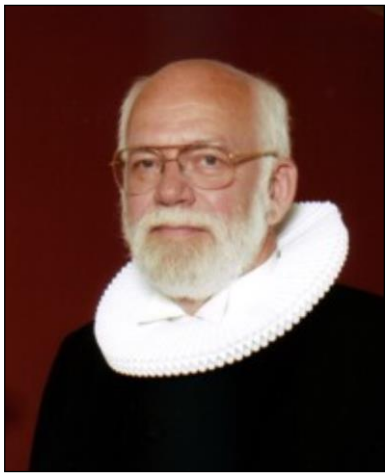
Education, language, sentiments and identity

In Canada there is no official state church and religion is not taught in school, primarily due to the fact that Canada is a multicultural and multi-ethnic society. In Canada religion is only taught in the public Catholic schools, and in some others. To learn about religion in Canada or more specifically to become a Christian there are churches such as the DSUK congregations. Children can be sent to Sunday School, attend confirmation classes or attend Church Services. Some of these young people do not speak Danish, but grow up in the Danish Lutheran tradition, and sometimes feel very Danish. Their sentiments and ties to the Danish Church tradition and view of religion and life, is therefore much stronger than their ties to the Danish language. In other words, they belong to a DSUK congregation, but their knowledge of Danish is limited or nearly non-existent. Yet, they feel strongly to be part of this Danish tradition. Indeed, there are people in DSUK congregations in Germany, Argentina and Canada for whom Danish is not their first language, but who feel that the Danish Lutheran Church is their home and is part of their identity. Pastor Christian Dickmeiss, who had served in Toronto, recognised these facts in a March 1994 article in *Dansk Kirkehilsen*.

Pastor Kai Glud in Vancouver also realized that a person could feel Danish, without being able to speak the language. He mentioned this several times in his Annual Reports. In his 2001 Annual Report Pastor Kai Glud encouraged the congregation to start thinking about the future, to the time when the first generation of immigrants has passed on. When the old generation is gone, who would carry on? Pastor Kai Glud suggested that the Danish Lutheran Church should reach out to all the other Danish organizations and clubs in the Vancouver area, and anchor itself in the community. He encouraged better communication with the world outside the Church. Perhaps more importantly, he called for more openness towards other churches, and in particular the Canadian Lutheran Synod, which the congregation might want to associate itself with, should the

congregation want to survive, after DSUK withdraws its support, which might happen if there is no use of the Danish language during church services.

In his 2001 Annual Report Pastor Glud mentioned that the average attendance at Sunday Services was 45 people when the Service was in Danish and 80 people when the Service was in English. By 2018 it was about 25 people on average when the Service was in Danish and nearly 60 people on average when the Service was in English.



Pastor Kai Glud

One English-speaking church-goer in Vancouver, who shall go unnamed, came to the Danish Lutheran Church and felt the congregation and the pastor were open, inclusive and tolerant. She specifically emphasised the near absence of guilt, sin and fear. In other words, the Danish Lutheran Church offers something, which other congregations might not offer or support. This in turn leads into the Danish concept of *Hygge*, a concept which includes the absence of fear.

The difference between a church in Denmark and a DSUK church in Canada is that in Canada the church is also a community centre with a host of social and cultural activities. A Danish Lutheran Church in Canada is a place where people of Danish heritage, or people who want to be part of a church with a Danish Lutheran background, are actively involved. In Denmark the pastor receives his or her salary from the state according to a predetermined salary scale. In other words, the pastor is a civil servant who receives his or her salary through the state, which raises the money through the church tax, which is paid by members of the Church.

Churches in Denmark exist primarily to provide worship services and pastoral care. In Canada each DSUK Church is also a business. It has to make a profit or break even. It can only exist if it raises money to operate, including paying the salary of the pastor. As a consequence, the DSUK Churches carry out many social functions, which in the process raise money for the church. Many events are regular fundraising measures, such as fundraising drives, lotteries, bazaars, rummage sales and raffles. This also means that the congregation is actively involved in the running of the church. It is 'their' church, they own it.

Once the DKU congregations in Canada had become established and could manage on their own, the arrangement between DKU and the congregations in Canada would primarily concern the hiring and salary of the pastor. It has not changed with DSUK. The arrangement means that the pastor's salary is guaranteed and paid by DSUK, and the congregation pays this amount into its DSUK bank account. Ideally, the congregation should pay 100% of the pastor's salary.

In 1996 Pastor Jens Arendt, president of DKU, sent a letter to the Danish congregations in Canada stating that the congregations had now reached a stage where they should be self-sufficient. Diplomatically he asked them to cover 100% of the pastor's salary. Within a year or two the four larger DKU congregations in Canada fully covered the pastor's salary. And that continues to be the case, while Grimsby and Surrey made special arrangements for when the congregation would be dissolved, and the church/parsonage would be sold. In other words, at dissolution the outstanding balance would be settled.

DKU becomes DSUK

In 2004 DKU was amalgamated with the Danish Seamen's Church, which had been founded in 1867 as the Danish Seamen's Church in Foreign Ports. The first Seaman's Church was established in Hull, England, as Britain was at that time becoming the major market for Danish exports, primarily livestock, grain, butter and bacon. Other Seamen's Churches were gradually established, particularly in Europe, and later around the world. There was never a Danish Seaman's Church in Canada, and yet, Pastor Clemens Sorensen, a former sea captain on transatlantic freighters, would often visit the Danish ships that came into port in Vancouver. Between 1931 and until the outbreak of the Second World War, the East Asiatic Company (ØK) operated a regular cargo service between Copenhagen and Vancouver. Pastor Clemens Sorensen wrote about visiting the ships in his book *Nordpaa og Vesterud*.

Prior to the merger, DKU and the Seamen's Church each had their own field of operation, yet increasingly the Seamen's Churches started to serve resident Danes, and thus the two organizations started to seem similar. Indeed, they would often cooperate, and in Göteborg, Sweden, they went further, and established a joint church. This was noticed, not least by the Danish Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs, which encouraged closer cooperation and even wondered about the possibility of merging the two organizations. The two church bodies also joined forces in a joint fundraising project, selling lottery tickets. As well, the contract and the conditions of employment for pastors were similar in the two churches.

Another development from the 1970s and on was the number of Danes who were now living along the Costa del Sol in southern Spain, as well as in Brussels, due to Denmark's membership in the European Union. These Danes were not emigrants, but Danes working for European institutions in Brussels or Danish pensioners who had retired to Costa del Sol. These Danes sought Church Services and DKU not only saw but responded to the need. The Danish Church (Folkekirken) and the Danish Parliament agreed that these Danes were members of Folkekirken and therefore had the right to be served, just like Danish emigrants and Danish seamen.



Former Danish Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Arne Oluf Andersen

The financial situation of DKU and the Seamen's Church also spoke in favour of a merger, as the thinking was that money could be saved by amalgamating the two. Both received funding to cover the salary of pastors from the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs. In the case of DKU, funds to operate were raised by collections, a lottery, bazaars, donations, stamps as well as the support for pastors' salaries from the Danish Ministry. At the same time, the board of directors of both DKU and the Seamen's Church had also talked about closer cooperation and even a fusion of the two. But for the most part it was the Ministers of Ecclesiastical Affairs and their civil servants who pushed for the merger. Arne Oluf Andersen, who was Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs from 1993 to 1994, was appointed to head a joint committee which from 2000 to 2002 explored the possibility of a merger. Already in 2003, the Board of Directors of both DKU and the Seamen's Church approved the proposed merger. In December 2003, the two were dissolved, and DSUK came into being on January 1, 2004. Elected as the first head of

DSUK was Arne Oluf Andersen, who served in that position until 2011. Elected as the first Secretary General of DSUK was Pastor Margith Pedersen, who was aware of the importance of reaching out and visiting the various congregations, in the process becoming well acquainted with the Danish congregations in Canada.

The merger was a challenge as the corporate culture of the two organizations differed substantially. DKU was a democratic organization with elections to the Board of Directors in Denmark, and the DKU congregations around the world were not owned by DKU, but independent not-for-profit societies, incorporated locally, and with democratically elected church councils.

The Seamen's Church did not have similarly elected church councils. New members to the church councils would be appointed by the sitting council. It could be said that DKU was a democratic bottom-up association, while the Seamen's Church was a top-down organization. The merger was therefore a major change for DKU, a private organization, as it came under the tutelage of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark. It has therefore been important for DKU to ensure that it has representation on DSUK's elected bodies, such as DSUK's Council of Representatives (*Repræsentantskabet*). Perhaps this change in governance was even greater for the Seamen's Church, due to the introduction of an elected Council.

The patron of DSUK is Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. There are three bishops who are responsible for different aspects of DSUK's work. Responsible for Canada is Bishop Marianne Gaarden, Bishop of Lolland-Falster. The new DSUK secretariat is located on Smallegade, Frederiksberg, and is headed by Pastor Pia Sundbøll, who has also served as pastor abroad, in Oxford and Luxembourg. The Secretariat takes care of the daily management of DSUK, including the hiring of pastors.

Each congregation abroad is entitled to send two representatives to the annual meeting of *Repræsentantskabet*. Elected in 2018 to represent their congregation in Canada at DSUK's *Repræsentantskabsmøde* (Meeting of Representatives held at Nyborg Strand), which elects the Board of Directors and approves the budget, were Marilyn Dybhavn and Karsten Dalberg from Calgary, Pastor Lasse Hultberg from Edmonton, Poul Erik Rasmussen from Vancouver and Arne Møller from Surrey.

Looking back over the last one-hundred years and trying to detect a pattern we see that the two Danish Lutheran Synods in the United States as well as DKU were supportive of establishing Lutheran congregations among the Danish immigrants in Canada. While coming from different backgrounds and perspectives the three church bodies all shared the mission of wanting to help Danish immigrants establish viable congregations.

In the 1920s the UDELC was more active than the two other church bodies, while in the 1950s and 1960s, DKU took the lead in establishing new congregations. While the UDELC was active in both small communities and in the cities in the first half of the 20th century, the focus of DKU in the post-war period has primarily been the larger metropolitan areas. This also has to do with the pattern of immigrant settlement and most of the immigrants after the Second World War being city people.

For the Danes in the metropolitan areas the church has been a community centre along with the social clubs, and it has not only helped Danish Lutheran Church life to flourish; but has become

an integral part of the Danish community in all its forms. The DKU churches have played a major role in the national umbrella organization, the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, and these churches have played a pivotal role in maintaining and nurturing ties to Denmark and to Danish culture. It is difficult to overstate the importance of this lifeline to Denmark, which DKU, now DSUK, has provided, and hopefully will continue to provide.

Sources: DKU, DSUK, Egon Christiansen, Margith Pedersen, various Danish Federation He ritage Books, various church websites and church anniversary booklets.

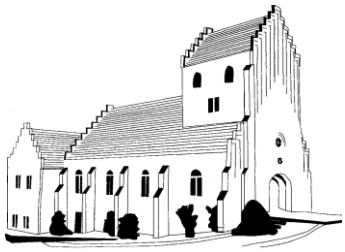
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Sunset Villa update

Lisa Olsen, President, Sunset Villa

Sunset Villa is located in Crieff, Ontario, in a pastoral country setting between Guelph, Cambridge and Hamilton. The property was purchased from the Maclean estate (of MacLean Hunter Publishing) and will soon be listed as a Heritage site. It consists of fifty acres, including an independently operated Danish Restaurant (The Danish Place), ten apartments for seniors, sixty RV trailer campsites, an Urn Cemetery (Sunset Mindepark), a seasonal event space, a pond, a communal vegetable garden and many walking trails.



Front gate with main building and The Danish Place

Sunset Villa was established by immigrant Danes in 1950. The purpose was to provide a place where Danes could meet, socialize and find support. Additionally, it was to provide a place for Danes to retire. Currently, we count 500 memberships, (approximately 800 people), most of whom have been coming to Sunset Villa for decades.

Sunset Villa is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors serving in the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Fundraising/Entertainment, Membership, Maintenance, Restaurant/Tenant Liaison, Communications and Campground. At present the Board consists of Lisa Olsen, Monica Jensen, Herman Glemser, Stella Dahlin, Kirsten Skafte, Jennifer Higgins, Pernille Jorgensen, Mary Healy and Whitney Black. Additional volunteer members are on the Fundraising, Planning and Building Committees. In the next two years, ONCA (Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act) will be revised with additional requirements impacting the Sunset Villa Association.

Sustainability

Keeping Sunset Villa going and sustainable is foremost on our mind. To make sure it is, a Planning Committee has been created. Like all Danish clubs, the membership is weighted heavily toward the generations who immigrated to Canada in the 1950s and 1960s. They started and nurtured this wonderful place, which is now rich with history. As stewards of the Sunset Villa Association, we have been relying on the first generation of Danes to help do the maintenance or fundraising work, but that is becoming less viable. The next generation must step up to assume roles necessary to ensure the longer term. And if our Board is any indication, they are. Eight of our nine-member Board are from the second generation. This is a real turning point at Sunset Villa, and we will ensure the trend continues by offering a contemporary, broad appeal

of Sunset Villa's Danish experience. To tackle the problem of how to make Sunset Villa sustainable, a lot of planning, research and spreadsheet analysis is being done!

New Restaurant



Garderstuen in the Restaurant has a Danish feel!

The big news at Sunset Villa is that our beloved Danish restaurant has new owners, Kristine, Jacob and Joanne, the children of the former owners Anna and Benny. They embarked on a renovation that has turned The Danish Place into a modern Scandinavian space, and all generations of Danes love the new look! The menu remains 100% Danish, but everything else has been improved: fresh paint, floors refinished, new scandi-lights everywhere, new chairs and beautifully handcrafted wood tables. The artwork has been reconfigured into groupings, including a fun assembly of cuckoo clocks in the library. The Guards Room walls are now paneled and the Guards themselves are more artfully presented and honoured. Everything is much brighter, more modern and inviting. You will think you are in Denmark when you are here! Notably, younger Danes are proudly coming on their own to the restaurant now – with their non-Danish friends! And more foodies seem to be interested in the Nordic diet, which might be why The Danish Place has been getting great press locally, leading to even more visits!

Gift Shop

Inside the restaurant, Sunset Villa has a gift shop which we call "Butik". This has also been renovated featuring new flooring, paint, cabinets and shelving filled with wonderful Danish donations. It's a great place to buy Danish plates, DK bumper stickers, Danish books, hand knitted baby clothes or Dannebrog hats.

Partnerships

The Board and restaurant are working together to appeal to the next generations, after all they are the future! For events, we brainstorm ideas and concepts together. They have great ideas and know what people want, because they talk to everyone! They promote the club on social media and have a reach with a different perspective than we do. It was their idea to freshen up the monthly Baker's Day experience by inviting market vendors. These vendors set up outside, and it has really livened up the event — more vendors, more people, more sales for everyone. As it takes off, it will lessen our reliance on arts and crafts and bake sales to help pay our property taxes.

Membership

Renewed interest in the restaurant has translated into renewed interest in Sunset Villa! We had over 100 new memberships in 2018, a significant year-over-year increase! The year ended in excess of 500 memberships, higher than in many years. Membership is vital and we are targeting a total of 1,000 members by the end of 2023. New and exciting plans and features in the

formative stages should make this a realistic goal. It is encouraging that new members are coming from various backgrounds to enjoy the wonderful Danish culture, history and lifestyle promoted at Sunset Villa.

Mindepark

Sunset Villa donated land to establish a beautiful one-hectare Danish urn cemetery. Since 1990 it has been operated as a Not for Profit Corporation, with its own Board of Directors. The beautiful setting with trees, bushes, a lawn, benches, a bird bath, a sundial, sculptures and 800 plots and/or wall niches are lovingly maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers. Sunset Mindepark also has a Memorial Wall, which honours many of the Danish immigrants who have now passed on.

Constitution Day



Former Guardsmen carry in the flags at Constitution Day, first Sunday in June



Vikings at Danish Constitution Day

We had a very successful Constitution Day in 2018. We tried adding some new activities and exhibits to this all-day event! Besides the Viking Show, the Folk Dancers, the Royal Danish Guards and speeches, we had face painting, a fire truck, new children's games and props so that visitors could dress up like Vikings. Danish foodies loved the open-faced sandwiches from The Danish Place, Hansen's Bakery, æbleskiver, Danish hotdogs and waffle ice cream with *guf* and *syltetøj*. We also added more contemporary Danish music, to appeal to younger generations. It was well received and will form the basis for Danish Constitution Day in 2019!

Nordic Christmas Market

Together with the restaurant, we launched the brand new outdoor Nordic Christmas Market. The event was modelled after the European tradition of cozy outdoor winter Christmas markets – just like in Denmark! Danes didn't just like it, they loved it! We had so many hyggelige things going on, pictures with Santa, a fire pit to cook "snogbrød", Tombola, buggy rides, Christmas market vendor tables (staffed by Nisser), Danish klejner, brunkager, vaniljekranse and æbleskiver. Hansen's Danish Bakery was here with all of your favourite Danish treats.



The Nordic Christmas Market was well attended

It was so festive with Danes bumping into each other and merrily mingling indoors and outside on the patio at The Danish Place, drinking Tuborg's Julebryg (Danish Christmas Beer) or wonderful Gløgg and eating open faced sandwiches or risengrød. It was a magical day, with about 900 people, and one that we are definitely going to repeat, and make even better!

Other Events



Spirits were high when the Danes played in the World Cup!

In 2018 Denmark played in the World Cup soccer finals, and we hosted two afternoons of live streaming that generated an enthusiastic crowd. At St. Hans we had fireworks, the burning of a witch and DJ dance party for all ages. There were four summer outdoor dinner parties; two with live music. In the fall, Duck Bingo was played in the restaurant with some great prizes. A 50/50 lottery event included a large selection of homemade Danish desserts for sale. And Fastelavn had a revival in 2019 when it occurred in March with the restaurant open.

Visit by the Danish Ambassador

In November, the Danish Ambassador to Canada, Thomas Winkler, spent the afternoon at Sunset Villa! He enjoyed a buggy ride around the property, a tour of the Mindepark (with an oral history provided by Soren Sondergaard) and then lunch at The Danish Place. It was a *hyggelig* afternoon, and we happily made a new friend of Sunset Villa. We appreciated the visit and remember it fondly.



In the front of the Sunset Villa buggy, Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler and Sunset Villa President Lisa Olsen, November 2018

The Bulletin and Website

Every two months we publish our "Bulletin" magazine, which contains articles, news and information, in addition to a review of past events as well as publicizing upcoming activities. People have noticed that the content and design of the Bulletin have dramatically improved. This is another change that we are very proud of.

The Bulletin is free with membership! Moreover, our website has great content, including a calendar of events; you can find us at **sunsetvilla.org**! Among other things, our website has a short video from our Nordic Christmas Market. We are also on Instagram and Facebook.

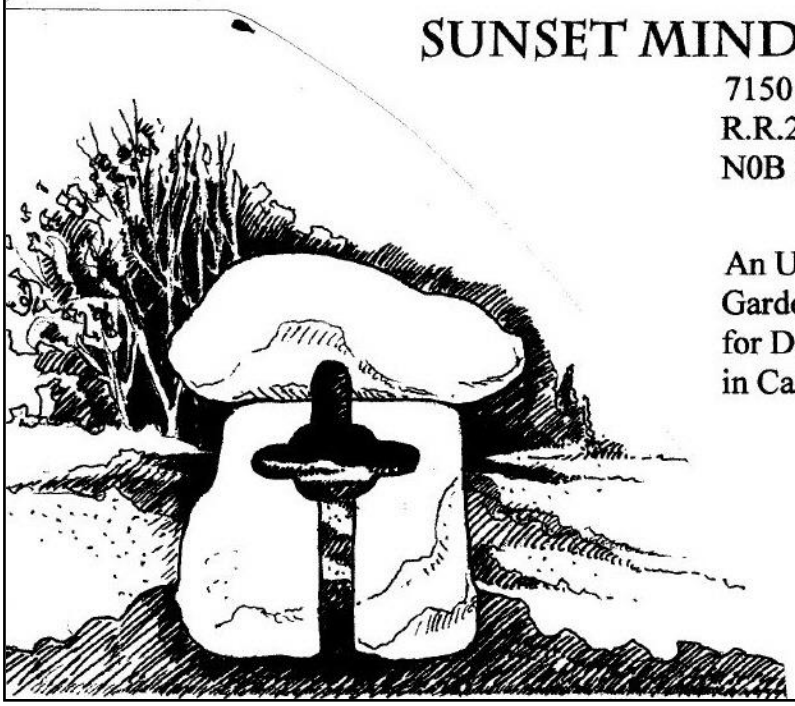
Trying New Things

We are trying new things at Sunset Villa. We must all be open to change. "Nothing happens unless something is moved" (Albert Einstein). All Danish clubs have to be relevant to the next generations to survive – especially appealing to the "Instagram" generation! We are an entirely volunteer run organization, and it's amazing, we've been able to operate like this for decades! The philosophy that 'it takes a village' is inspirational, and here we are, still working together for the common good. We have had a dynamic and satisfying year, and we hope that next year will be even better! See you at Sunset Villa!

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The Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Fred Hansen

It was mainly Fred Hansen who helped save the Danish Brotherhood Lodge in Winnipeg and made sure it survived the devastating First World War, during which many ethnic organizations folded. These trying circumstances were repeated during the Second World War, and again Fred Hansen would play his part within the Danish community. There is no doubt Fred Hansen was a gifted organizer and leader, providing able leadership of the Winnipeg Lodge from 1918 until 1932. Towards the end of his long tenure as president he wrote a short article about the Lodge. Moreover, his friend and Lodge "brother" Hans Brodahl made certain that various articles and other documents relating to the Danes in Winnipeg were saved and donated to the Archives of Manitoba. This article about the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg is therefore also a tribute to Fred Hansen and Hans Brodahl.

Fred Hansen had left Denmark in 1907. He settled in Montreal where working for the Grand Trunk Railway he was trained as a telegraph operator. He was married in Montreal in 1908 and later moved to Sioux Lookout, a CN railway town in Northwestern Ontario, where he resided until he left for Winnipeg in 1916, to work just east of Winnipeg in the Stores Department of the Transcona Workshops, owned by the Grand Trunk Railway. He later became Store Keeper for the Canadian National Railways. On his arrival in Winnipeg he quickly became active in the Danish Brotherhood, and became its President in 1918, leading it successfully for the next fifteen years.

In his short article Fred Hansen relates that a fair number of Danes arrived in Montreal in 1905-06. Already in 1907, they would meet on the Mountain on Sunday to eat, sing and play. Often they lit a bonfire. Among them were Bilman and Lohman. Some of the Danes would talk about forming a Club. Bilman and Lohman approached the Danish Brotherhood in Omaha, Nebraska, to obtain a set of Bylaws. Already in early 1908 Bilman and Lohman were able to establish the first Danish Brotherhood Lodge in Canada. The Lodge in Montreal operated without any connection to the Brotherhood in the USA.

Mr. Lohman was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Lodge in Montreal. He later moved to Vancouver, where he established a business. The first president of the Montreal Lodge was Mr. Møller. From the beginning the Lodge had a good following, but ran into difficulties during the First World War, and was dissolved already in about 1915. This was in part due to the fact that many Danes moved to where they were needed for the war effort. As well, many of the Danes enlisted, indeed Danish Canadians helped raise a battalion (the 223rd Battalion).



Hans Brodahl

Fred Hansen was not the only person who relocated to Winnipeg. The population exploded after 1900 and from then until 1913 Winnipeg was a boom town. By 1911 Winnipeg was the third largest city in Canada.

Between 1901 and 1910 there was also a significant increase in Danish immigration to Winnipeg. The Danes settled mostly in the North End District along Logan Avenue, just two blocks over from the Canadian Pacific Railway Station. Danish immigrants would arrive in Winnipeg, steered by CPR immigration agents, who met them at the station.

The CPR Station in Winnipeg is located on Higgins Avenue near the corner of Main Street. On the corner itself, was the CPR Hotel (The Alexandra Hotel, now torn down). The CPR Station was built in 1904. Two blocks over from Higgins Avenue is Logan Avenue, where the Scandinavian immigrants used to live, shop and worship from the 1880s to the 1930s. It was primarily the Swedes and the Danes who lived in this area. Marinus Olesen's Café Princess was located at 291 Logan Avenue. J. Hansen's tailor shop was at 398 Logan Avenue, and E. Frederiksen's bakery was at 413 Logan Avenue. It is now a rather run-down industrial area, with low income housing. The Logan Street blocks near Main Street are now in Chinatown. The former Swedish Scandinavian Church on the corner of Logan Avenue and Ellen Street still stands, but is no longer used as a church.

A Danish Lutheran Congregation was established in Winnipeg in 1910, but it was not until 1919 that the congregation was able to acquire its own pastor. A call was sent to Pastor Niels Damskov, who until then had served in Montana. He accepted the call and came to Winnipeg in late 1919, serving the congregation until 1925, when he resigned to work for the Department of Immigration. A call was then sent to Pastor Vilhelm Beck, who served the congregation until 1933.

In 1926, the congregation decided that the building of a church could be started, as financial assistance had been secured from the Synod in the United States, from Dansk Kirke i Udlandet in Denmark as well as from private sources. St. Ansgar Lutheran Church was completed on March 6, 1927. It was located at 133 Bannerman Avenue at the corner of Emslie. The church was built in the Danish style of architecture. The church was not, however, located near all the other Danish stores, organizations and homes on or near Logan Avenue. But the Church became a meeting place for many Danes, with many other activities, such as language classes and social activities and get-togethers.

Around New Year in 1912, so nearly three years after the Danish Lutheran congregation was formed, a group of Danes in Winnipeg would meet regularly at the Cosmopolitan Club under the leadership of Mr. Andersen. They would socialize, and they would discuss the possibility of forming a social club, not just to get together, but to assist each other in case of accident or illness.

Using the Danish Brotherhood in the United States as a model, it was decided to establish a Danish Brotherhood Lodge, which hopefully in time could form the basis for a country-wide organization. Thus in 1913 they established a Danish Brotherhood Lodge in Winnipeg, with an initial membership of ten.



Danish Brotherhood Picnic at Selkirk, Manitoba 1916

Working from standard bylaws from the Lodges in the United States, they drew up their own bylaws, and adapted them according to their needs. The Bylaws of the Winnipeg Lodge stated that the name of the society shall be Dansk Brodersamfund i Canada (Danish Brotherhood in Canada) and that it shall be the main lodge and headquarters of the Danish Brotherhood in Canada. Accordingly, the Winnipeg Lodge would be known as Lodge Number 1 Dannevirke. The Bylaws were in Danish. Indeed, the Bylaws stated that all internal Lodge business should be carried out solely in Danish.

The aims and objectives of the Danish Brotherhood were to work towards establishing a national association of Danes in Canada in order to maintain the memories of Denmark, and to strengthen solidarity by way of financial support to sick and needy members, as well as to help unemployed members to obtain work. Any Dane, or person born of Danish parents, could join, if he was between 18 and 45 years of age. At the same time, the Lodge's doctor had to examine each applicant's state of health. The applicant would then become an Active Member and would have to pay a five-dollar initiation fee as well as a monthly fee. Passive Members would only pay three dollars to join, in addition to a monthly fee.

Active Members of the Lodge were entitled to a free doctor and one-day medical assistance for up to 75 days per year. More than $150 could not be paid for medical services within a period of 2½ years, and the member would not be entitled to medical assistance the two following years, unless the Lodge agreed to deviate from this rule. For less than seven days of illness, no medical assistance was paid. In case of death, the deceased's estate would receive $75 to help defray funeral costs.

The Bylaws set out that the Annual General Meeting would be held in November (later changed to May), with half of the Board elected for two-year terms. The Board would consist of a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer and three trustees. Regular meetings of the Board and members would be held monthly. In addition to the health care insurance and funeral help, the Lodge would over the years provide financial relief to needy members and causes. The

Lodge was also a social club, which held parties, an annual Founders' Dinner, picnics, shows (*på dansk revyer*), and a Christmas party for the children. It also supported Danish folk dancing.

The first president of the Brotherhood in Winnipeg was Mr. A. Johannesen, who would later move back to Denmark. Others on the Board were E. Olsen and P. Toftgaard, as well as Knud Schioler when the Bylaws were adopted.



Danish Brotherhood Picnic 1919

The launch and growth of the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg was crippled by the war and the first years were trying for this small and economically weak organization. Although at times it seemed futile to continue, the founding members who had helped create Dannevirke Loge No. 1, stood united and it is solely due to their unremitting work and perseverance that the lodge didn't fold during the war.



Knud Scheel

As the Lodge's first years were during the war, the growth in membership was slow. But after 1919 the Lodge increased its membership, and in the 1920s and 30s it became one of the oldest and strongest Danish organizations in Canada.

The history of the Winnipeg Lodge demonstrates that the survival of a health insurance fund is not necessarily contingent on a large membership. What is needed, is good management and the right attitude, as well as the necessary solidarity among the members. The numbers clearly reveal this. In 1918, the Brotherhood had elven members. It peaked in 1929 with 59 members. By 1932, with the Depression having set in, the Winnipeg Lodge had 26 members, and a capital fund of $2,054.55.

Already in 1914, there was correspondence between the Lodges in Montreal and Winnipeg, relating to cooperation. After that Dannevirke in Winnipeg was in touch with Danes across Canada to promote Dannevirke's original aim: to gather all Danes in Canada in one organization.

In 1928, when the newspaper *Dansk Canadieren* began to be published in Winnipeg, the idea of a national umbrella organization emerged again. After a couple of Brotherhood meetings, it was decided to launch a drive to organize a national Danish Canadian organization, with headquarters in Winnipeg.

A preliminary National Board was set up with Dr. N.P. Olsen as President. An office was opened with Knud Scheel as general

manager. Others on the Board were Fred Hansen, H.P.C. Hansen, P. Sigvardsen-Bleeg, Loholt and Guldmann as well as C.C. Hansen of Edmonton.

Maybe the conditions for a national organization did not exist, or the Board did not go about the project the right way. In any case, the Board lacked the funds to properly promote the project. Only a few Danes from outside Winnipeg signed up and only one Danish organization joined.

At the end of 1929, the National Board made a difficult decision, it decided to cease working for the cause – that is, a national organization – and let their decision be known in a statement in *Dansk Canadieren*. There were no comments or protests to their decision and the Board stepped down and ceased to exist.

Yet, there was one positive result. Fred Hansen had been sent to Toronto in the spring of 1929, where he met with various prominent Danes and helped form a Danish Brotherhood Lodge with Poul Bai as president. It grew rapidly, and after a year John Madsen took over as President.

In 1930, when another newspaper *Dansk Canadisk Tidende* appeared in Toronto, it was hoped that it would emerge as the vehicle to promote the idea of a national umbrella organization. *Dansk Canadisk Tidende* had been started by Helge Borup and Edgar Adolph. Unfortunately, it only existed for a couple of years before going bankrupt, due to the Great Depression which quickly set in after the Wall Street Crash of October 1929.


Dansk Brodersamfund

Sangene
fra
Revuen

Fredag, den 17de April, 1931

"Det Nye Spil Om Enhver"

In 1931 a Danish Brotherhood in America Lodge was established in Vancouver by Carl Brink Christensen and others. Vancouver Lodge 328 is part of the Danish Brotherhood in America, and still exists today (2019), being very active in the local community, while also sending delegates to Brotherhood Conventions in the United States. The story of Lodge 328 is in this way separate from that of the Danish Brotherhood lodges in Canada's other Provinces.

Coming back to Winnipeg, it would be another Danish-language newspaper which succeeded in launching a national Danish Canadian organization. In March 1932, Odin Kuntze started the newspaper *Danske Herold* in Winnipeg. He soon moved his operation to Kentville, Nova Scotia, and Knud Scheel was appointed as the paper's correspondent in Winnipeg. Odin Kuntze was the prime mover for starting a Canada-wide Danish organization, which he called Danish Canadian Society. Kuntze was strongly supported by the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg. This effort to unite all Danes in one national association nearly succeeded in the 1930s, and at least two branches of the Danish Canadian Society still exist. The story of the Danish Canadian Society and Odin Kuntze will be dealt with separately, in another article, as it deserves to be dealt with fully and adequately.

In May 1937 Knud Scheel, a member of the Danish Brotherhood, reported in his column in the Danish-language newspaper *Danske Herold* that the Danish Brotherhood had held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 5 in the St. George Club. At the meeting Danish

Brotherhood President Bonnie Bonneland reported that the Brotherhood had had a good year, with little illness and no funerals. The treasurer, J.V. Thorsen, reported an increase in assets, now amounting to $1,085.72. It is interesting to note that Fred Hansen was nominated as President, but he declined to let his name stand. Bonnie Bonneland was therefore re-elected.

Knud Scheel reminded *Danske Herold's* readers that in the previous issue of the paper he had written that the Danish Brotherhood had decided not to celebrate King Christian X's Silver Jubilee as scant interest had been shown in marking this royal event. Moreover, both the Danish Lutheran Church and the Danish Social Club had shown negligible interest in commemorating this milestone.

So, at the May Meeting of the Brotherhood, Hans Brodahl took the floor and expressed his very strong disappointment with the Danes in Winnipeg, showing so little interest in a major national event. Moreover, he criticized both the Church and the Social Club for their slight interest in marking this royal occasion. Brodahl mentioned how the coronation of King George VI was being celebrated as they met. Brodahl was ashamed of the fact that the Danes were not present as a community in celebrating the new King's coronation. Brodahl also complained about the lack of cooperation between the Danish Brotherhood, the Church and Social Club, and their lack of wanting to gather together the Danes in Winnipeg. These were the shameful facts, Brodahl underlined.

Brodahl was well spoken and well educated. He had been born in Copenhagen in 1888, could have gone to university, but chose a business career, attending the Copenhagen School of Business. He had come to Canada in 1916. He first worked as an accountant for the CPR in Toronto, then tried his luck in British Columbia and Western Ontario, finally settling in Winnipeg in 1929. He quickly became active in the Manitoba Association for Adult Education as well as the Danish community, while eventually establishing his own accounting firm. In 1970 he received the Manitoba Centennial Medal for his contribution to the history of the Danes in Manitoba.

This outburst by Brodahl prompted Fred Hansen to jump up and to announce that he was willing to take on the task of organizing a banquet with dancing and entertainment in the Music and Arts Building, if enough participants would guarantee their attendance. He reckoned that such a banquet could be arranged for 75 cents per person. A list was circulated and when it returned to Fred Hansen, he declared that the celebration would go ahead, and that it would be open to all Danes.

The celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King Christian X's accession to the throne of Denmark and Iceland turned out to be a major and memorable event in the Danish Brotherhood's history. The formal affair was written up in the *Winnipeg Tribune*, accompanied by photographs. The celebration was held Friday evening, May 14, 1937, in the Music and Arts Building on Broadway Avenue. Admission to the celebration was indeed 75 cents.

Bonnie Bonneland, president of the Danish Brotherhood of Winnipeg, welcomed the one-hundred guests and recalled fond memories of Denmark. Bonneland also informed the guests that a telegram had been sent to the King on behalf of the Danish Consulate and the Danish Brotherhood. Hans Brodahl briefly reviewed King Christian's twenty-five-year reign and

proposed a toast to the King. Toasts were also proposed by Fred Hansen and Kai Schioler. And the various national anthems were sung.

Albert Johnson, Honorary Consul for Denmark and Iceland in Winnipeg was also present. He had been born in Iceland in 1867 and had come to Winnipeg when he was twenty years old. He was named Consul in 1924. Just prior to the Jubilee he had been awarded the Danish Order of Dannebrog for his services. In his remarks Consul Johnson dwelt on the modesty and openness of the Danish King. The King mingled with his people daily, going for a morning ride through the streets of Copenhagen on his horse without bodyguard, whereby he had gained the affection of all levels of Danish society.

Pastor A. Th. Schultz of the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church was naturally in attendance. And to represent the City of Winnipeg, Mayor Frederick Warriner sent Paul Bardal, an alderman of Icelandic heritage. The Danes were also joined by many of their fellow Scandinavians from Sweden and Norway. Pastor B.B. Jonsson, speaking for the Icelandic community, eloquently pleaded for closer cooperation between the Scandinavian organizations in Canada. In total eleven speakers took the floor, and all praised King Christian X, while at the same time expressing their utmost loyalty to their new homeland and to the newly crowned King George VI.

In October 1937 the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg could celebrate its 24th anniversary. On Friday evening, October 29th, one-hundred-and-fifty people gathered in the spacious party room on the sixth floor of the Travellers' Building, which was tastefully decorated in red and white.



Travellers Building, Room No. 4 as Lodge Room

The Travellers' Building was located at 283 Bannatyne Avenue in the Exchange District. It was built in 1906-07 for the North West Commercial Travellers' Association, founded in Winnipeg in 1882 to advance the interests of travelling salesmen. It had offices, meeting rooms, display rooms and a banquet hall. Later a Lodge Room was added, where Lodges could rent a room for their meetings. The Travellers' Building is now a national historic site.

The Danish Brotherhood's anniversary began with some popular dances and Danish songs, followed by a typical Danish spread of mouth-watering smørrebrød. Master of Ceremonies was Bonnie Bonneland, the president. In his opening remarks Bonneland declared that for the many Danes making their home in Canada, it was a pleasure to be with other Danes and to recall memories of Denmark. Bonneland said that "Although we are proud to be Canadian citizens, we cannot forget our heritage and the high standards of citizenship set for us by our motherland."



R.J.R. (Bonnie) Bonneland

Bonnie was born Rasmus Jørgen Rasmussen Bonneland on March 14, 1905, at Dyreborg near Faaborg, son of Hans and Kristine Bønneland. He was tall and had served with the Royal Danish Guards. Bonnie wrote articles for *Dansk Canadieren* and later *Danske Herold*. He married Marie from Skive. Bonnie left Winnipeg in late 1937, to live elsewhere in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, working for the Bank of Montreal. He served in the Canadian army during WWII, and after the war was sent to Germany for The Bank of Montreal. He retired to Victoria and became editor of *Skraahuen*, published by the Royal Danish Guards' Association Pacific Northwest. He died in Victoria in 1985.

At this 24th anniversary celebration in 1937, with never-ending bad news emanating from the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, as well as the Civil War in Spain, Hans Brodahl proposed a toast to King Christian X, and added, "We must be proud that Denmark is an enlightened nation striving for a higher order of society, though surrounded by fascism and communism."

Meanwhile Fred Hansen proposed a toast to King George VI, and he voiced his appreciation of the great opportunities offered by Canada. Kai Schioler proposed a toast to Canada, while Pastor A. Th. Schultz proposed a toast to Denmark, and Dr. B.J. Brandson proposed a toast to Iceland. Carl Jacobsen, who gave the toast to the ladies, paid tribute to the Danish women for their courage and moral strength during difficult times. Following dinner, the gathered sang *Der er et yndigt land* and *I alle de riger og lande*. At the head table were Mr. and Mrs. Bonneland, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mr. Hans Brodahl, and the Swedish Consul, H.P.A. Hermanson.

The following year, on Thursday evening, October 20, 1938, The Danish Brotherhood celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Embassy Club. On that occasion Hans Brodahl gave a speech where he commented on both developments in Denmark as well as on the Danish community in Canada's obligations and responsibilities to Canada.

Then on April 9, 1940, Denmark was invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany. It sent a shock wave through the Danish community in Canada, despite the fact that Canada had already been at war with Germany since September 1939. With the occupation the Danes were cut off from contact with Denmark, including personal contact with their family.

On May 1, 1940, the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg held its Annual General Meeting at the Marlborough Hotel on Smith Street. The treasurer, J. Thorsen, reported that there was a total of $1,328.10 in the Lodge's health insurance and funeral funds. Regarding elections President Christoffersen, Secretary Hansen-Damkjær and Treasurer J. Thorsen were all re-elected, and so were Board Members Armdal and Emil Christensen. The two new Board Members were Hans Brodahl and Knud Schioler. Elected Trustees were Morten Spangsberg and Kai Schioler. It was also decided to entrust Knud Schioler with representing the President when Christoffersen was prevented in carrying out his duties.

Knud Birch Schioler, who would play an important role during the war, was born at Frederiksberg on June 4, 1891. He worked his way across the Atlantic in the galley of a ship peeling potatoes, and then jumped ship in New York. He came to Winnipeg in 1909, where he teamed up with another Dane, Pierre LaCour, to form LaCour and Schioler, a construction company. He was Danish Vice-Consul in Winnipeg from 1924 to 1927. He was a businessman, and his company Schioler & Company offered financial and steamship services as well as insurance. Knud Schioler was active in the Conservative Party and served as President of the Credit Granters Association in Winnipeg.



Knud Schioler

At the Danish Brotherhood's May 1940 Annual General Meeting it was decided to start a Canada-wide fundraising campaign to help Danes in need, be they Danes stranded in Canada or Danish sailors on board Danish ships sailing for the Allies. As well, they decided to ask Danish Consul General Georg Holler in Montreal if he would head this initiative. He was Denmark's top diplomat in Canada and he had in 1937 headed the fundraising for the King Christian X Jubilee Fund.

Immediately after the Danish Brotherhood's AGM Knud Schioler wrote a letter to Georg Holler in Montreal telling him about the meeting, and how the Danes in Winnipeg felt about the terrible fate which had befallen their homeland. Knud Schioler informed him about the decision to raise money across the country and to organize a national committee or organization to spearhead such fundraising. Knud Schioler ended by asking if the Consul General would be willing to head such a national fundraising campaign.

Consul General Georg Holler responded on May 8th, informing Knud Schioler that he appreciated the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg establishing a fund to provide help to Danes in need. Holler mentioned that the Canadian authorities would not allow funds to be transferred to Nazi-occupied Danmark. In regard to organizing a national fundraising campaign Holler recalled the effort to raise funds in early 1937 to commemorate King Christian X's 25th anniversary as King. Interest from this fund was to assist financially older Danes to visit Denmark.

Holler also wrote that in early 1940 a collection was started by *Nationalindsamling 1940* to collect money for a gift to King Christian X on his birthday in September. It was an initiative by Copenhagen-based Dansk Samvirke and was thus worldwide. These fundraising efforts ceased after the occupation of Denmark in April 1940.

As well, Holler mentioned it would be difficult to collect money as many others in Canada were also collecting money for the war effort.

Holler emphasized that it would be necessary to spell out precisely the aim of raising funds. This could perhaps be difficult as it would be for unspecified projects in the future.

Holler suggested that perhaps a discussion should take place among the Danes in Canada regarding such a fund, and perhaps the Danish Canadian newspaper *Danske Herold* could provide such a forum. Holler mentioned that the Winnipeg correspondent of *Danske Herold* in Winnipeg, Knud Scheel, who writes well, would be ideally suited to lead such a discussion.

In concluding his letter to Schioler, Holler said that if the discussion demonstrated that there was support for such a national fundraising campaign, he would be pleased to lead and support it, provided the Canadian Government would permit it, and provided that the Consulate General in Montreal had the financial means to continue operating, now that it was cut off from Denmark.



Consul General Georg B. Holler

With the occupation of Denmark, it was now imperative to commemorate the King's birthday in September 1940. The King's birthday celebration was held under the auspices of the Danish Brotherhood, the Danish Lutheran Church and the Danish Social Club, in the hall of the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church on Bannerman. The event was organized by Mr. A. Rasmussen, president of the Church Council, with help from Emil Larsen of the Danish Social Club and Hans Brodahl from the Brotherhood. It was a solemn occasion. The toast to the King was given by Danish and Icelandic Consul Grettir Leo Johannson, while the toast to Denmark was proposed by Fred Hansen, the Honorary President of the Danish Brotherhood.

Christian Christoffersen was followed as President of the Danish Brotherhood by Knud Schioler, who had been active in the Brotherhood for many years, and who had helped write the Lodge's Bylaws. During Knud Schioler's tenure as President Danish Brotherhood meetings were held in the Army and Navy Hall on Young Street.

Meanwhile in Berlin, on November 25, 1941, the Anti-Comintern Pact was renewed, as Hitler had decreed. Nazi Germany had demanded that a host of countries, including Denmark, join the Pact, which was directed against the Communist International, an international organization run by the Soviet Union which advocated revolution and world Communism. Occupied Denmark did not have much of a choice but demanded four exemptions declaring that they would undertake no military or political obligations, and that the only action they would take against Communists would be police enforcement, and only on Danish territory, and that Denmark remained a neutral country. The German Foreign Minister was furious and threatened Danish Foreign Minister Erik Scavenius with arrest. In the end Germany accepted a Danish addendum, which was not made public.

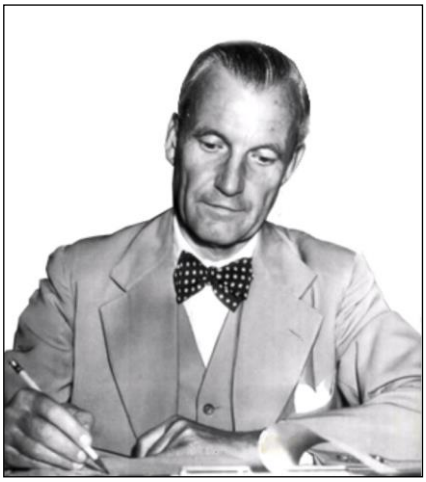
On December 3, 1941, the Danish Minister in London, Count Edward Reventlow, informed Holler that he had broken relations with the Danish Government as it had signed the Anti-Comintern Pact. On the same day Holler asked the Danish Minister in Stockholm to inform the Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen that he completely agreed with the stand taken by Count Reventlow, and he was taking the same position and severing relations with the Foreign

Ministry. Holler informed the Danish Consuls across Canada of his decision, and they all responded saying they agreed with his decision.

Referring to press reports that London and Washington had broken off relations with the Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen over the issue of the Danish Government having signed the Anti-Comintern Pact, Knud Schioler in his capacity of President of the Danish Brotherhood wrote to Holler on December 12th, asking what stand Holler had taken, as well as the position taken by the Danish Consuls across Canada.

In a later more elaborate response to Knud Schioler, Holler thanked the Danish Brotherhood for their support of the stand he had taken in regard to Denmark having signed the Anti-Comintern Pact. Holler also informed Schioler that the Canadian Government had permitted his Consulate General as well as the Danish Consulates across Canada to continue their work, despite having severed relations with their government in Copenhagen.

In August 1942, Henrik Kauffmann, the Danish Minister in Washington, D.C., visited Winnipeg. Kauffmann had become a symbol of national resistance following the Nazi occupation of Denmark on April 9, 1940. Kauffmann refused to obey orders from the Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen, declaring that instead he was acting in the name of the King. Recognized as such by the United States government he entered into an agreement whereby the Danish colony of Greenland was to be occupied and maintained by American forces for the duration of the war.



Minister Henrik Kauffmann

Henrik Kauffmann and his wife arrived in Winnipeg Friday evening to be guests of honour at a dinner at Picardy Hall, arranged jointly by the Danish Brotherhood, Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church and the Danish Social Club. Picardy Hall was decorated with Canadian, Danish and American flags. Over 200 people mostly Danes, attended the event, including Danish Brotherhood President Chris Christoffersen, Vice-President Knud Schioler as well as Pastor Niels Damskov, and the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Consuls. Alfred Klieforth, the American Consul General, had also been invited and asked to say a few words, above all since he had previously been posted to the Soviet Union, Finland, Sweden and more recently to Cologne and Berlin.

The honour of introducing Henrik Kauffmann was given to Knud Schioler, as he had been instrumental in securing the visit of Kauffmann to Winnipeg. In his speech Kauffmann said that Danes in the free world had lived up to their duty and joined the fighting forces of the United Nations. He mentioned that over 5,000 Danish seamen were serving in Allied ships. So far over one-thousand Danish seamen had given their lives in the cause of freedom. Following his speech Kauffmann received a long and hearty ovation.

On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Kauffmann had lunch with Lt.-Gov. Roland McWilliams at Government House. On the Sunday evening Kauffmann delivered a half-hour radio address on CBC's national network.

As referred to above, the Danish Brotherhood, the St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church and the Danish Social Club would often work together, such as jointly celebrating the King's birthday or hosting Kauffmann. The three organizations also supported the establishment of a branch of the Danish Relief Fund in Winnipeg. From the beginning the Danish Brotherhood took the lead, but it made certain that the Church and the Club were always part of this particular and necessary war effort.



Pastor Victor Bagger

The Winnipeg Branch of the Danish Relief Fund was formally organized at Knud Schioler's office in the ten-storey Lindsay Building on Notre Dame Avenue on November 13, 1942. His office, 607 Lindsay, became the official address of the Winnipeg Branch of the Danish Relief Fund. The Branch constituted itself with Pastor Victor Bagger as President, Knud Scheel as Secretary and Knud Schioler as Treasurer. Others on the Board included Christian Christoffersen, Kai Schioler and Hans Brodahl.

Victor Bagger was born in Aalborg in 1894. He was a member of the International Leprosy Association and had worked in a Leper Colony in India, but had come to Winnipeg in 1941, due to the war. Pastor Bagger did write letters to headquarters in Montreal, but it was usually Knud Schioler who took care of the correspondence. In the beginning Schioler's letters were written on Danish Brotherhood stationary, but later his letters were written on his own Schioler & Company letterhead. At the same time, it appears that the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg slowly petered out – and eventually ceased to exist by the end of the war.

On Saturday, February 19, 1944, the Danish Relief Fund held a concert at the University of Manitoba to raise money for the Danish Sailors' Home in Halifax. After the concert a short film was shown. The Danish Brotherhood is listed as one of the sponsors of the event – and of the Danish Relief Fund.

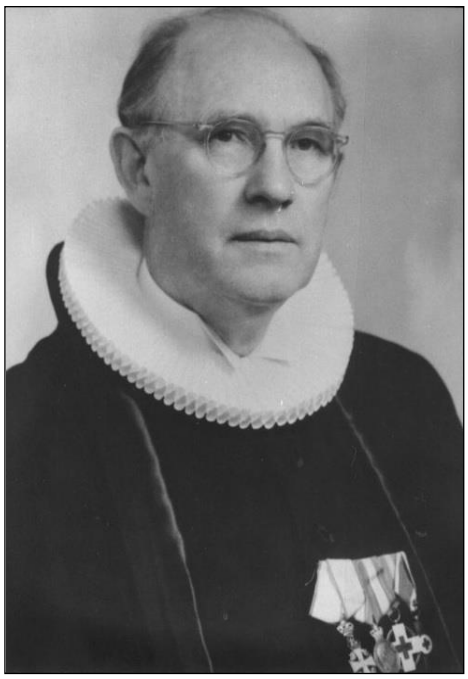
Headed by Pastor Vilhelm Beck of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Montreal, the Danish Relief Fund had been formed in May 1941, with its headquarters at 1837 Dorchester Street West. The Vice-President was Cyrus Pedersen of the Danish Canadian Society. Secretary was Per Hall, an excellent manager, businessman and engineer, while Svend Nielsen was Treasurer. In Halifax Pastor Emil Nommesen took care of the Danish sailors, who sailed for the Allies. Supporting and helping the Danish Relief Fund in many ways was Danish Consul General Georg Holler, who had connections to other Danish diplomatic missions, above all to Minister Henrik Kauffmann in Washington.

Branches of the Danish Relief Fund were eventually established in Halifax, St. John, New Denmark, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Standard, Wayne and Vancouver. The Danish Relief Fund reached right across Canada, and thus became the first functioning Danish national organization in Canada. However, with its mandate accomplished after the War, it was dissolved in 1946.

On July 23, 1945, the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Winnipeg Branch of the Danish Relief Fund stepped down. The major work had been done. Pastor Victor Bagger was going back to India to continue his missionary work. Knud Schioler, on the other hand, did not agree with the direction the Danish Relief Fund was taking after the war. He wrote in his letter of resignation, "Being entirely in disagreement with the idea of the Danish Relief Fund maintaining the Sailor's Home in Halifax at a cost of $3,800.00, I hereby resign as local Director and Treasurer." Knud Scheel resigned for the same reason.

After the war the Danish Relief Fund continued to look after Danish sailors in Halifax, St. John and Montreal. As well, the Danish Relief Fund was also busy sending parcels to Denmark, shipping packages which contained food, clothing, kitchen utensils and tobacco.

In Winnipeg a board was still needed to finalize and settle outstanding matters. Elected by acclamation to wrap up matters pertaining to the Danish Relief Fund of the Winnipeg Branch, prior to dissolution, were two stalwarts, Fred Hansen as President and Hans Brodahl as Secretary-Treasurer. Within a year they too had accomplished this mission.



Pastor Vilhelm Beck
Served in Montreal from 1938 to 1959
and as pastor in Winnipeg,
1925 to 1933

Sources:
Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Dansk Samvirke/Danes Worldwide, Library and Archives Canada, Pier 21, Udvandrerarkivet, *Danske Herold* and *Viking.*

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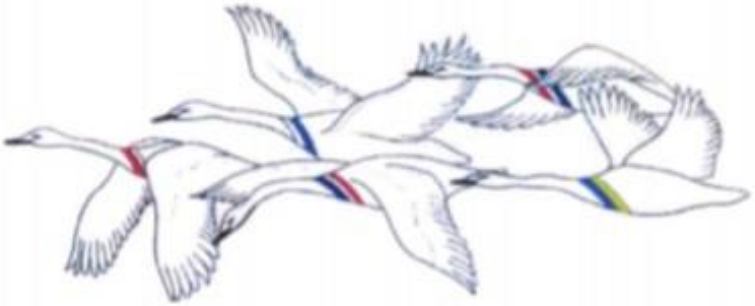
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Language classes and so much more……

Danish Emigration Archives

An emigrant story

Jesper Thomassen, Head of the Danish Emigration Archives

In 1928 a certain Dane immigrated to Canada. Although he reached 84 years of age and died in 1981, he never returned to nor visited Denmark. However, contact with his country of birth and his family was maintained in several ways: letters were exchanged between Denmark and Canada; not many, but enough to keep in touch. Over the generations, the connection to Denmark was handed over to the children, e.g. by giving them Danish names. Helbæk, who married Rose, a Canadian-born girl of non-Danish origin, gave his nine children the names: Karl, Niels, Marie, Thomas, Knud, Jens, Peter, Anne and Frederik. As Danish as they can be!



Helbæk Kristensen, with fish

Helbæk Kristensen was born in the small village of Træden in eastern Jutland on September 30, 1897. As a young man, he worked for a while building dams in Sønderjylland, and on the railway through Jutland. The trip to Canada went from Copenhagen to Liverpool in England, and then on to Quebec City on the *SS Doric*. The final destination was Prince George in British Columbia, where he first got work in the forest industry. Later, he bought land from the government, cleared it and became a farmer; he also built a saw-mill.

Helbæk was my grandmother's brother, and I'm convinced he emigrated for the sake of adventure. He traveled on the big rivers and had a great passion for nature, hunting and fishing. The remains of his self-built house and sawmill are still in the woods: uninhabited and crumbling, but with a sense of settler romance. Of course, everything was not a dance on roses. It happened one year when Helbæk and Rose had a child; Rose became ill and had to go to the hospital in the city far away. They kept her for more than a year, and because Helbæk had to take care of the company and all the other children, he neither saw his wife nor the new child in all that time.



Helbæk's first home, built ca. 1935
Photo: Per Thomassen



Jesper Thomassen, Head of Archives and Jane Sørensen, Archive Assistant

Since the death of Helbæk in 1981, there has been good contact between the family in Denmark and the cousins in Canada. E-mails are exchanged with news, and visits have been made on several occasions. The family in Canada has taken a guided tour to the places where Helbæk lived or worked in Denmark, and conversely, the Danish family has been on tour in the ruins of Helbæk's farm and sawmill in Prince George. Many questions have been asked and many have been answered. Images have been exchanged, especially black and white photos from the old days.

The Danish Emigration Archives have now received copies of much of the material that has come to light and has been revived after the two separate families have resumed contact. It is now in the archive collection and will not only be available to future generations of the family but also to researchers and others who are looking for information about how life in Canada might unfold for a Danish settler.

Emigration from Denmark

From the mid-1800s on, millions of Europeans immigrated to other continents; mostly to the United States, but also Canada, Australia and South America. For most of the emigrants, the countries overseas provided better opportunities than they had in their country of birth. This also applies to Denmark, from where between 300,000 and 400,000 emigrated in the period 1869-1930. The exact number of immigrants to Canada is unknown, but during the period 1912-1930, at least 20,000 Danes immigrated to Canada.

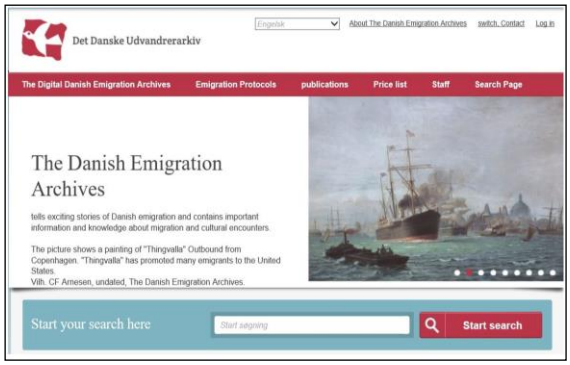


Opening of the exhibition 'Migrant', July 2018
Ph.D.-student Pernille Skovgaard Christensen talks about immigrants in the United States, Canada and Australia

The task of the Archives

The Danish Emigration Archives is the only one of its kind in Denmark. It aims to collect, preserve and access documents, images, sound and films about the Danish emigrants and the history of emigration so that the material can be used by researchers and individuals. Every year there are more than 30,000 visitors to the archive's website, and the archive answers many questions from emigrants' descendants. Most people want to know something about their Danish ancestors: Where in Denmark did they come from? Did they have siblings? Why did they emigrate? Often, visitors to the archive tell how they have come into contact with distant relatives abroad through their genealogy research. Many keep in contact and write to each other for many years. Often it leads to visits and personal friendships.

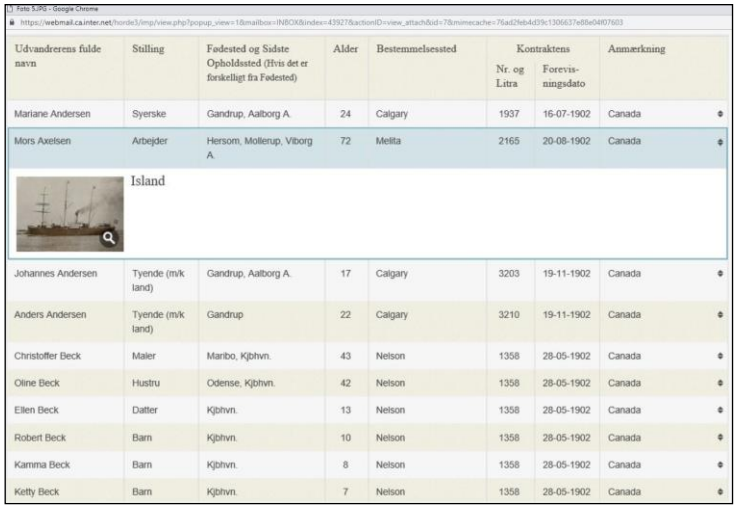
The archives also help to spread the knowledge of emigration history through exhibitions, the publishing of books and participation in television shows and films. In a recently completed research project, called Migrant, the archives, in collaboration with Aalborg University and the immigrant museum in Copenhagen, has contributed to a comparative study of how the homeland traditions accompany the emigrants and how they change or concentrate as the generations go until eventually only the most essential things have survived. The project was the basis for two Ph.D.-training programmes, and it was completed with an exhibition showing some of the results.



Archives website: **www.udvandrerarkivet.dk**

It may differ widely how much a second or third generation descendant of an emigrant knows about his or her ancestral homeland. Some have completely lost connection, while others maintain contact and are studying or vacationing in Denmark. For most people, the connection becomes weaker over the years, but something remains. Not surprisingly, it is often songs, food and festive traditions that are remembered the longest, but not always in an unchanged form. The small town of Elk Horn in Iowa, USA, was founded by Danes in 1901. Here, Danish origin still plays a very important role, and the inhabitants do much to maintain what they perceive as being Danish. However, a native Dane will hardly recognize all the traditions such as when served a dish consisting of æbleskiver and medisterpølse for the annual town festival. Two dishes, both of which are very Danish, but would never be served together in Denmark!

There is great interest in the history of emigration. In 2017, a Danish television series consisting of three episodes was made about emigration in the 1800s and early 1900s. The Danish Emigration Archives provided some of the pictures and stories of emigrants. In the archives it was clear that the series were popular. The number of requests rose and visits to the archives' website more than doubled during the month of the broadcast.



Udvandrerens fulde navn	Stilling	Fødested og Sidste Opholdssted (Hvis det er forskelligt fra Fødested)	Alder	Bestemmelsessted	Kontraktens Nr. og Litra	Kontraktens Forevis-ningsdato	Anmærkning
Mariane Andersen	Syerske	Gandrup, Aalborg A.	24	Calgary	1937	16-07-1902	Canada
Mors Axelsen	Arbejder	Hersom, Mollerup, Viborg A.	72	Melita	2165	20-08-1902	Canada
		Island					
Johannes Andersen	Tyende (m/k land)	Gandrup, Aalborg A.	17	Calgary	3203	19-11-1902	Canada
Anders Andersen	Tyende (m/k land)	Gandrup	22	Calgary	3210	19-11-1902	Canada
Christoffer Beck	Maler	Maribo, Kjbhvn.	43	Nelson	1358	28-05-1902	Canada
Oline Beck	Hustru	Odense, Kjbhvn.	42	Nelson	1358	28-05-1902	Canada
Ellen Beck	Datter	Kjbhvn.	13	Nelson	1358	28-05-1902	Canada
Robert Beck	Barn	Kjbhvn.	10	Nelson	1358	28-05-1902	Canada
Kamma Beck	Barn	Kjbhvn.	8	Nelson	1358	28-05-1902	Canada
Ketty Beck	Barn	Kjbhvn.	7	Nelson	1358	28-05-1902	Canada

Emigration Protocol, showing immigrants to Canada, 1902

The Danish Emigration Archives collaborates with other archives and museums in addition to universities and associations. In an international context, the archive is a member of The Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI), which holds an annual conference on migration. In addition to the many useful contacts that can be established and maintained, participation also helps ensure that the employees of the Danish Emigration Archives are always aware of the latest developments in the field of migration policy and research.

The collections

The archives' extensive collection consists of 1,500 personal files with more than 500,000 documents. The main part of the documents has been digitized and can be studied on the website www.udvandrerarkivet.dk. There are also 1,200 photographs, which is only a small part of the collection, consisting of almost 15,000 photos. As well, the archives have a book collection of about 20,000 volumes and various smaller collections of newspapers and clips.



Pastor Elias M. Favrholdt, reading to Danes in Hans Sorensen's garden, Burnaby, B.C., June 17, 1928

Since 2012 the archive collections have largely been digitized, and today it is not necessary to visit the archives in Aalborg to see the letter collections and documents. This has allowed many more users to see the material and use it for research purposes.

The most widely used collection in the archive is undoubtedly the so-called emigration protocols. The protocols contain information about all who bought a ticket to an overseas destination from a Danish agent between 1869 and the 1930s. As emigration really accelerated in the mid 1800s, and almost 10% of Denmark's population went to America, there also arose a market for counterfeit tickets. Some agents would cheat their customers, and as a ticket could cost up to one year's salary for a rural labourer, it was a serious matter. The authorities therefore decided that the police in Copenhagen should be in charge, where after all tickets were registered in two protocols, one for those who travelled directly to the United States, and one for those who travelled through another country, which typically was England. Today the protocols are kept at the Danish National Archives, but the Danish Emigration Archives have a copy.

For many years volunteers at the Archives have transcribed information from the protocols to make them searchable on the internet. A big job, that takes a long time. Today all information up until 1912 is searchable, and the process of entering information continues. In 2018, the archives started working with the company Special Minds. This cooperation is a government-sponsored socio-economic program that employs or educates people with autism. Uploading the emigrant protocols is performed free of charge for the emigrant archives because the work is used to test and measure competency before the students are hired or sent on a training course. Our goal is to have all protocols uploaded within a few years.

Collecting new materials

For many years, the Emigration Archives have not had the resources to systematically and actively collect archival material. The collection has therefore grown slowly. Only when descendants of Danish emigrants abroad, or Danes with connection to emigrant relatives, deliver letters, photographs, memoirs, movies and books to the archive has the collection grown.



Present home of the Emigration Archives

Fortunately, this often happens, and the archives are grateful to the many people who donate material which contributes to the history of emigration.

Perhaps you have something that could be used by others? Today, where you can copy and scan almost anything, it's easy to donate it to the archives, where it will be stored under professional conditions. If you would like to donate something to the archives, please contact the Danish Emigration Archives and make an appointment for delivery. The archives' mailing address is: udvandrerarkiv@aalborg.dk.

Archival material is most valuable when you know where it originates: Who is in the photograph? Where and when was it taken? Who wrote the letter and who is it written to?

Upon delivery, an agreement is made containing the terms for use. We would like to be able to use the material immediately, but if that is not possible, we would like to follow the Danish Archives Act's provisions regarding access to public archives. That is, information of a common nature can be used after 20 years, whereas sensitive information is only available after 75 years, but with the possibility that the archive can grant dispensation. Dispensation is typically given for research purposes, where sensitive information can be treated anonymously.

The history of the Danish Emigration Archives

The Danish Emigration Archives is probably the oldest archive of its kind in the world. It was launched on January 3, 1931 in Aalborg and was officially opened by Danish Prime Minister and Social Democrat Thorvald Stauning on July 3, the following year. The initiator was Danish-American Max Henius, whose father Isidor Henius had emigrated from Poland to Aalborg in 1843 and had created the Danish spirits company Aalborg Snaps. Max Henius had a pharmacy in Chicago, and gradually became a spokesman for the many Danish Americans who wanted to maintain contact with their home country. Most did it by working to maintain the Danish distinctive character in terms of language and traditions in America, but Henius did the opposite. He collected the immigrants' private archives, books and pictures in America, and sent it all to the Emigrant Archives in Denmark. In 1912, the Danish-American association, which Henius chaired, bought a large piece of land at Rebild south of Aalborg, and started the tradition of celebrating the American National Day, the 4th of July. It attracted more than 50,000 visitors when it was at its highest in the 1950s, but still serves as an important meeting place for emigrant descendants and their Danish relatives.



Sohnholmsgaard: Home of the Archives in Aalborg from 1932 to 1943

The Danish Emigration Archives have had a tumultuous history since its establishment in 1932. It was originally housed in a manor house or castle, Sohngaardsholm, near Aalborg. Isidor Henius owned the castle and, among other things, built the main building that exists today, but in 1932 it was the municipality of Aalborg, which owned Sohngaardsholm. The municipality had a solid interest in supporting the Emigration Archives, as Aalborg was the hub of Danish-American activities due to the Rebild Festival, which attracts many Americans every year. A number of rooms in Sohngaardsholm were placed at the disposal of the Emigration Archives, where the archives remained until 1943. That year, German troops requisitioned Sohngaardsholm, and the archives were packed and in storage until 1950.

Since 1950, the Emigration Archives have moved several times, and were in Copenhagen for a period of time. Since 1989 the Archives have been managed by Aalborg Stadsarkiv, which store the collections and make them available to visitors and researchers in the archives reading room and on its website. From the outset, it was first and foremost immigration to the United States that was documented in the archives, as most of the emigration went to the US. Since the 1950s, emigration to all other countries has been incorporated, but since these collections were started so late, they are smaller than the American holdings.

The Danish Emigration Archives are part of the Aalborg City Archives (Aalborg Stadsarkiv), and the reading room is shared. You will find it at Arkivstræde 1 in Aalborg and it is open Monday to Wednesday 10-16, Thursday 10-17 and Friday 10-15. There is free and open access. The reading room staff will be happy to help you, whether it's your family you want to look up, or if you are working on emigration history in general. You can also send an email or visit the website at www.udvandrerarkivet.dk.

Danish House Society

Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street,
Burnaby, B.C. V5B 4P9



Join the Members of Danish House the First Friday of Each Month

Club Night — "Kro Aften"

"Kro Aften" is a popular social gathering, open to anyone, where we serve famous Danish open-faced sandwiches, dessert and coffee. Wash it down with Snaps & Carlsberg on tap!

Starts at 18:30!

To be guaranteed a table, please book in advance by sending an e-mail to Ebba (ebba@shaw.ca)

The Hans Castella Family

Adele Buckley and Esther Sundgaard

Hans Castella immigrated to Canada in 1912. With his wife Bertha and three children, Carla (10), Jens (6) and Ejler (2), Hans Castella left Copenhagen, on October 4, 1912. In Liverpool, England, they boarded the Allan Line's steamship *Victorian*, which took them to Montreal. The family then took the train across Canada, finally arriving in Bowden, Alberta, where they were met by Verner and Axel, Hans' brothers. Verner and Axel, who had immigrated to Canada earlier, had sent Hans a letter which encouraged him to come to Canada with his family, as this was the right time. Canada was taking in a record number of immigrants before the First World War, and the economy was booming. Many more would come in the 1920s. Hans, like his brothers, was attracted to Canada because he could secure a160-acre homestead for just ten dollars.



Hans Castella

Hans Johannes Castella was born in the parish of Græse, Jurisdiction (Herred) of Lynge-Frederiksborg, Frederiksborg County, on November 17, 1875, to Mads Johannes Castella and his wife Bodil, née Hansen. Hans' wife Bertha was born in Copenhagen in 1882. Hans first worked as a brick mason, but later he opened a wine and beer store, and also delivered beer to construction sites.

That first winter in Canada the Castella family lived on Verner Castella's homestead in the Kevisville district, about 50 km west of Innisfail, and just west of Dickson (like Standard, another Danish settlement). During that harsh first winter Hans and Verner constructed a log building which served as both a house and a barn. There were plenty of logs available as the homestead quarter, destined for eventual farming, was covered with trees. There Esther was born, in 1915. After Hans had received the title to his homestead, he realized that he could not make a living from the homestead to support his family. Hans and Bertha therefore hired their services to work on a farm for a Danish family near Square Butte, Montana, taking Ejler and Esther with them. Carla and Jens stayed behind with a farm family in Dickson, obliged to labour for their keep, at ages 14 and 10.



Bertha Castella

In the fall of 1916 the family was reunited when Hans and Bertha returned to Canada. They settled at Standard, Alberta. First Hans worked on Jens Rasmussen's threshing rig, and during the winters he worked at the Standard Coal Mine, originally incorporated as The Standard Coal

and Development Company Limited, with Henry Larsen as Secretary. In 1921 Hans and his brother Axel bought the coal mine from Kerrison and McArthur. The next year, Hans bought Axel's share and so became the sole owner of a coal mine operation that was to last until 1952. In the meantime, Hans' brother, Mauritz Castella, had also emigrated from Denmark and now farmed near Standard.

While the market for the coal was mostly local, farmers for miles around would come for their winter supply. The coal was hauled in grain wagons or in tanks pulled by two or four horses. Hans would weigh the empty wagon before the customer took their turn at the coal chutes. Then, they were weighed again, and the cost of the coal was between $2.00 and $2.50 per ton. One of the most interesting outfits to come for coal was a wagon train consisting of three or four wagons pulled by two horses (on the tongue) plus sixteen mules. The mule skinner, who came from around Gleichen, delivered the coal to surrounding towns.



Castella's beer, wine, and liquor store, Copenhagen, ca. 1912

The dark and dirty work underground was extremely hard and difficult. Since the coal seam, which was 80 feet underground, was only about 3 feet 10 inches thick, with a layer of rock-like material on top of the coal next to the roof, there was not enough height for the miner to stand up straight. So, the work was done in a stooped position or on the miner's knees. First the coal was blasted with black "Lump-Kol Pellet Powder", and then the miner removed the rock-like material between the coal seam and the roof by hand, using a pick. Then the coal was loaded onto half ton cars and pushed by hand on the rails to the sump. Here the coal in the car was dumped into the skip. The skip was pulled to the tipple and dumped into the chute. A large one-cylinder gasoline engine was used to power the hoist.

In 1928, the old mine became uneconomical to operate because of long underground entrances, making air circulation difficult. Also, the coal seam petered out to the south so development in that direction was not possible. A new mine located half a mile north of Standard on Henry Larsen's farm was the answer to ongoing operation. There was considerable water at the coal seam, which was pumped up and made into a skating rink for the local children. The coal proved to be of a better quality at the new location, and it provided winter work for 20 to 25 men.

Hans retired from the mine at age 62; it was then operated by Jens and Melvin Castella. Jens, following the requirements of Alberta law at that time, studied for and passed the Mining Engineer Examination. By 1952 the demand for coal as a fuel diminished, with the arrival of natural gas for the district. Also, the coal seam was harder to access, making the operation uneconomical, so the mine was closed.

Life for the Castella family was not always easy, and money was scarce most of the time. There were no modern conveniences. Their house was at the north side of the old mine property. To help the family budget, cows and chickens were kept; milk was sold to customers in town and delivered on foot in large pails or syrup cans. Bertha added to her workload by having some miners as boarders, all the while raising a family of seven children. Twin girls Ella and Elsa were added to the family but succumbed to influenza at age 10 months. Edith was born in 1917, Melvin in 1920 and Stanley in 1923. Relaxing was rare, but visitors and social times were a pleasure. Christmas was a happy time, with the Christmas tree decorated, and a festive meal for about 25 persons served on Christmas Eve, according to the Danish tradition. Then the tree was placed in the middle of the room, the candles were lit and everyone 'danced' around the tree singing Christmas songs. Even after Bertha's passing, the first song was always her favorite, *Jeg er så glad hver julekveld* (I am so glad each Christmas Eve). There were always presents for everyone.



Carla, Jens, Esther, Hans, Edith, Ejler, Melvin, Stanley, Bertha, in 1925

Hans, no longer at the mine, built a chicken house on the old mine site in 1940. Three hundred laying hens were housed in the original building. This original chicken house is still in use today, but as a storage shed. In 1946, Louie Sundgaard, Esther's husband, bought the old home place and continued in the chicken business. Two more barns increased the capability to 20,000 birds, ready for the market every nine weeks. Esther and Louie's son Donald Sundgaard and his wife Valerie took over when Louie retired in 1971. The business was significantly expanded to house up to 75,000 birds per cycle.

Bertha Castella, who suffered from heart problems, died in June 1937, age 55 years. Esther and Edith carried on looking after the family. In his retirement Hans very much enjoyed gardening, growing very large patches of potatoes as well as vegetables and flowers. Hans lived with Esther and Louie until he moved to the Senior Citizens Lodge in Strathmore. In 1968, he passed away at the Bethany Hospital in Calgary at the age of 92 years.

Hans and Bertha Castella's Children and Grandchildren

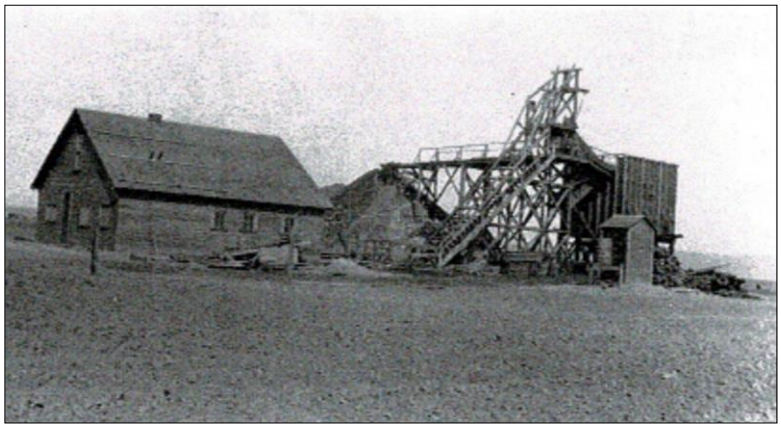
This section is a very brief tour of the history of Hans and Bertha's children and grandchildren - in the order of their birth. Carla Castella married Sigfred Sandersen, and they had four children – Harvey, Norman, Verner and Bernice. Carla, having attended school in Denmark, was the only one who could read and write Danish. All the others were able to speak Danish, as did the Sandersen children. Carla's home was the place of many family gatherings. Harvey, the oldest, apprenticed in plumbing at Davis & Castella Plumbing in Red Deer. After that, he moved to

Calgary and worked for a big plumbing firm there. Late in life he married Iris Loverin. They had no children. Norman also worked in the mine, and then had a long career as a long-distance truck driver. He never married. Verner married June Habke and they had three children, Murray, Bruce and Dale. He earned his living as a long-distance truck driver and later as school janitor and bus driver. They retired to Innisfail. Bernice married Les Cole, and lived in Calgary, and had two sons, Rodney and Todd. Bernice did office work from time to time and had a strong influence on Les' design of the home they built in Calgary.



Game of horseshoes in progress at the Castella family home in 1924

Jens Castella married Florence Stancros, from the village of Rosebud. Standard was home and he was Mayor for some time, and the designer of the community hall, which was used until 2013. After leaving the coal mine in 1949, they moved to Red Deer, where Jens worked for his brother Ejler installing propane gas systems at farmsteads and elsewhere. Then he bought a farm five miles east of Red Deer and the family moved, after renovations to the house. It was said of Jens that when he had the house renovated to his satisfaction, the family moved on. After twelve years on the farm, Jens decided that it was not economically viable, so he and Florence moved to Hinton where Jens worked for his brother Stanley in his auto-body shop. Responding to an ever-present wish to be self-employed, Jens went to Calgary for a winter term at SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology), where he achieved the required certification to be a plumber, at age 55. Then they moved to Spruce Grove, where his plumbing business thrived, until he and Florence retired to their last home in Calgary. Jens and Florence's only child, Adele, married Peter Buckley and lived in Edmonton and then in Toronto. Their children are Eric, Lauren and Howard. Adele was academically inclined, completed a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Toronto and had a varied career as an entrepreneur, engineer, physicist and environmental scientist. The University of Toronto gave her an honorary doctorate in 2006 for her role in founding Sciex, a company based on her Ph.D. thesis, and for her volunteer work on peace and security, in her retirement years.



Standard Coal Mine, 1925, in Standard, Alberta

Ejler Castella married Eva Christiansen from Dickson, Alberta. They met during his first assignment as a teacher after his training at Normal School in Calgary. Their children were Lorna, Carol and Phyllis. Ejler decided teaching was insufficient to support his family, now living in Red Deer. Together with partner Frank Davis, they opened Davis & Castella Plumbing, which was a well-known business in the community. The couple were very active in the Lutheran Church, and they were the prime movers for the project to build Trinity Lutheran Church. Eva was the organist there for many years. In later years, Ejler realized that teaching was his real calling, left the business and went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton to complete his B.Ed. degree. He taught near to home until his retirement. They built a low-rise apartment on the grounds of their original home property and lived in it as their retirement residence. Lorna married Gary Clement, an officer in the RCMP. Their only child is Bret. Gary was stationed for some years in Tuktoyuktuk, NWT, and Lorna, who for many years did volunteer work, offered various training sessions to indigenous people there. When Gary retired from the RCMP, they operated a motel in Radium Hot Springs, B.C., and their final home together was in Innisfail. Carol married (and later divorced) George Payne. Their children are John and Jason. Carol, a Registered Nurse, served in several locations in Western Canada. Phyllis married Doug Gillanders, a pilot and officer in the Canadian Air Force. Their children are Tara and Christopher. Phyllis, when the family's many moves ended in Manitoba, obtained a master's degree in History. In retirement, they live in Calgary.



Verner, Norman, Harvey, Adele, Bernice, Hans, Carol and Lorna, 1940

Esther Castella married Louie Sundgaard. Their four children are Donald, Dennis, Louise and Eric. Esther followed in the footsteps of Bertha, looking after boarders in her home and easily undertaking cooking for large crowds. In the summer she enjoyed a "break" at the Lutheran camp on Sylvan Lake, as the valued cook for the campers. Donald married Valerie Hamilton. He became a CPA and worked in various enterprises. One was Cascade Fertilizers from 1979 to 1995. As noted earlier, he operated Sundgaard Poultry Farm, a large chicken farming operation, and had a major responsibility for introducing best management practices to the industry. Their children are Kirstin, Trent and Wendy. Dennis married Jennifer Jones and Sandra is their only child. Dennis, an engineer, worked for Shell Oil in several locations in Canada and in Aberdeen, Scotland, for operations in the North Sea. Louise married (and later divorced) Bob Reis. Their children are Larissa and Daryl. In addition to her teaching career in Strathmore, she taught summer school in the Canadian North and English school in Macao, China. Eric married Linda Rehill. Their children are Candice and Tyler. He trained and worked as an engineer for Petro Canada in Canada and Libya.

Edith Castella went to work for the Royal Bank after high school. She never married, though there were said to be a number of suitors. Her career years were spent in the Royal Bank in Standard and later Red Deer, Lacombe and finally Calgary, where she rose to a senior position in the head office. Her nephews and nieces were all a joy to her, and she was glad to have all of Esther's children as her boarders at various times during their university careers. Edith, Esther and Carla's daughter Bernice were the only ones who visited Denmark and met family there. Danish relatives travelled to Standard several times.



Bertha Castella, 1936

Hans and Bertha occasionally took a break. Hans built a tent trailer for rare excursions away from home. Nevertheless, Hans valued recreational opportunities for his children. Edith and Esther were both strong tennis players; Melvin and Stanley were in Boy Scouts from an early age. In the late 1930's Esther and Edith enjoyed a week at a camp on the Red Deer River. Hans had an innovative plan for his teenaged sons. He offered to pay for a honeymoon trip for Jens and Florence if they would take Melvin and Stanley with them. They agreed and all four said it was a great trip.

Melvin Castella married Lillian Kimmett, and their children are Shelley, Marcene and Wade. Wade Castella, born prematurely, only survived a few weeks. After the mine closed, it was natural for Melvin to take up farming in his farm-oriented community. They lived on the farm, seven miles north of Standard and eventually moved into Standard when he retired. When needed, he continued to participate in farming operations of other family members. Shelley married Brian Rasmussen, from a family who operated a large farm near Standard. Their children are Blair, Joel and Keith. Melvin and Lillian became their grandchildren's most ardent hockey fans. Brian and Shelley established a specialized farming operation, growing seed grains. Their successful farm was well known, and in 2018 they received the BMO Farm Family Award for Wheatland County. Marcene, their younger daughter, went to Calgary after high school, worked in several oil company offices, and bought a house there.

Stanley Castella trained as an Air Force pilot late in the Second World War, but he did not go overseas. After the war Stanley became a long-haul owner/operator trucker. Later, after doing various jobs he established a combined auto-body repair shop, a Datsun dealership and service garage in Hinton, Alberta. In 1979 he became the co-founder of Cascade Fertilizers Ltd. in Standard, eventually expanding it to ten locations in western Canada. It is now owned by a global fertilizer company. Stanley and his brother, Melvin, were very close. Late in life, he married Betty Selgensen and retired to Strathmore.

The descendants of Hans and Bertha Castella continue to thrive and increase. Most of the families are still living in Alberta. We believe the story of the Castella family in Denmark started when Prancratius Bruno Castella, born in Switzerland in 1782, volunteered for the Danish military during the Battle of Copenhagen in April 1801, was injured and remained in Denmark on an army pension; he died in Copenhagen in 1836.

From Aabybro to Gimli

Otto Christensen, Gimli, Manitoba

My wife, Lynne Erikson, and I live in Gimli, Manitoba. Both of us are retired and enjoy a laid-back lifestyle. In 2010 we built a house on the edge of the Willow Creek Marsh overlooking Lake Winnipeg. Summer and winter, we enjoy our proximity to nature and the change of seasons. We have many friends, enjoy good health, have a loving family, and are financially secure. We are privileged people. How we got to this point is a long story. Now as a member of the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee I have been asked to tell my story.

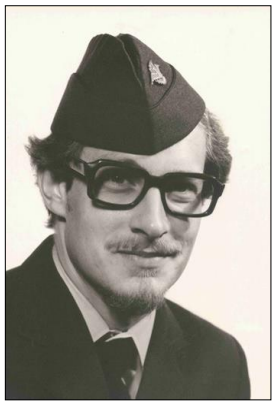


Lynne and Otto
In a water-taxi in Rotterdam, 2017

I was born in Aabybro, Denmark, on May 1, 1951 to Ester and Gunnar Christensen and big brother Bent (who now uses our mother's maiden name Tolstrup). My mother grew up in Copenhagen (Sundby, Amager) but she moved with her family to Brovst/Skovsgaard in Han Herred and apprenticed as a denturist. In 1943 she bought a house and established her own business in Aabybro. My father was a farm boy from Arentsminde and left school at age 14, worked on his parents' farm until 16, and then left to work for others till he turned 18. Then he became a delivery truck driver. The two of them met each other in 1939 in a 'Free Church Scouts' group' (Det Danske Missionsforbund) where my 'morfar' was a pastor in the congregation and had 'volunteered' his daughter to be the scout leader. Mom and dad were engaged in 1941 and married in 1944.

By the time I was born my father had a men's clothing store in Aabybro, and my mother kept on with her dentist-business. They both worked out of our house, and we all lived 'upstairs'. From early, on us two boys were expected to help out after school with chores, errands and odd jobs.

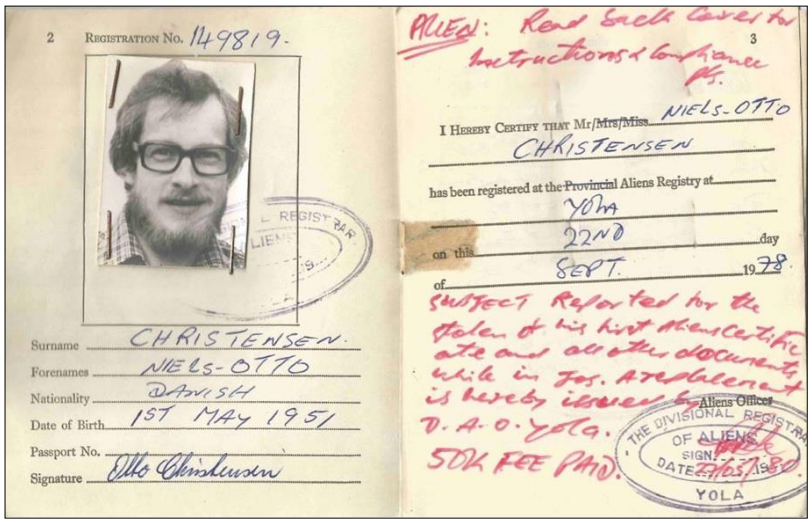
It turned out that I did rather well at school and went straight from one to the next. In 1970 I graduated from Nørresundby Gymnasium and enrolled in Aalborg Seminarium (Teachers College), from which I graduated with a B.Ed. in 1974. All along I was able to commute from Aabybro and was a Boy Scout leader, a soccer player, and substitute teacher in my hometown. My first real teaching job was in Vridsted near Skive. I was now on my own and living my chosen life-career.



1975 Royal Danish Airforce recruit, N.O. Christensen

At this point a bit of a summer romance happened to form my future quite a bit. I fell in love with a girl visiting from Canada. Her name was Ruth Betzner and she was a neighbour of Frank Engelbrecht, who had immigrated to Canada in 1960. Frank and his wife Valerie had just said goodbye to Mona and Nina, Frank's nieces. They had gone to Canada one after the other to help Frank and Valerie as au pairs and became good friends with Ruth. Now Ruth came to Denmark to visit the sisters, who happened to be in my youth group. Well, I was sold on the love idea! Over the next two years Ruth and I kept writing and visiting back and forth. After my first year of teaching I was called up for military duty, serving in the Royal Danish Airforce at the airbase in Karup. After nine months of military service I had three months 'leftover' of my leave of absence from school, so I went to Canada to be with Ruth; and Frank even got me a job on a farm nearby. We married in the summer and went as a married couple back to Vridsted, where I continued my teaching career.

After two years and a baby on the way we became interested in a teaching job in Nigeria, West Africa, under the sponsorship of The Danish Sudan Mission. Lo and behold we found ourselves in Numan, Gongola State, in the beginning of August 1978. The goods we had shipped ahead didn't arrive until Christmas, while our first child Daniel was born at the end of November. One thing I quickly learned while in Nigeria was to 'go with the flow' and make the best out of a tight situation. Shortly after we arrived in Numan I made a trip to Yola, the big city nearby. Traffic was a nightmare and I was unfamiliar with everything. There were no traffic lights; however at many busy intersections there was a "yellow fever" (traffic policeman – in an orange shirt) directing traffic. As I passed one "yellow fever" he shouted at me "Pull over!" So I did. He entered the backseat of my car, demanded to see my passport, which he kept, and then ordered me to drive away. Away we went, with him on the backseat. Soon another car passed us and then stopped in front of us. Out stepped a man, who I didn't recognize. He jumped into the back seat of my car. Now the 'yellow fever' and the 'stranger' talked back and forth in the local language and I didn't have a clue about what was going on - all the while I kept driving around. Eventually I was ordered to stop and the 'yellow fewer' got out. Then I heard from the back seat "Otto, those guys are always trying their tricks to get foreigners. I have your passport. He wanted money."


2 REGISTRATION No. 149819.

Surname CHRISTENSEN.
Forenames NIELS-OTTO
Nationality DANISH
Date of Birth 1ST MAY 1951
Passport No.
Signature Otto Christensen

3

ALIEN: Read Each Cover for instructions & Endorsements.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT Mr/~~Mrs/Miss~~ NIELS-OTTO CHRISTENSEN has been registered at the ~~Provincial~~ Aliens Registry at YOLA on this 22ND day of SEPT. 1978

SUBJECT Reported for the stolen of his first Nationality Certificate and all other documents while in Jos. A replacement is hereby issued by Aliens Offices D.A.O. YOLA. 50K FEE PAID.

THE DIVISIONAL REGISTRAR OF ALIENS SIGN. DATE 24 OCT 1980 YOLA

My "Alien" passport from Nigeria, 1980

Turned out the stranger was no other than Anthony Bumbum, the Lutheran Church Secretary. He had seen what happened as a bystander, and he managed to chase us and to rescue me. Imagine that! That was a recurring theme. The Nigerians we worked for and with did everything they could to be helpful to us. After a couple of years at WTC Numan (Women's Teachers College) we moved to Jos, Plateau State, and I became a teacher at Hillcrest, an expatriate Mission School. We were there for seven years interspersed with visits to Denmark and Canada every two years. In the meantime, Miriam was born in 1981 and Thomas and Mark (twins) in 1985. By 1987 we decided to establish our home in Denmark. I went back to school to study theology and got my Master of Divinity from Århus University in 1988. I became a parish pastor in Lemvig-Nørlem-Heldum in a team ministry in the Lutheran Church of Denmark. The following year offered an opportunity to become a pastor in Arborg, in Manitoba's Interlake under The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. All this sounds rather straight forward. Well, there was a lot of formalities and administrative bureaucracy that had to be overcome – but in the end it worked out. By June 1989 Daniel and Miriam were in school in Arborg, we all lived in the parsonage, and I was the new 'Pastor from Denmark'. The church community was established by Icelandic immigrants and their hospitality towards our family was outstanding. Today our kids fondly speak about Arborg as their hometown, and we felt very much at home in this setting. While this played out our marriage became strained and Ruth and I separated in 1995; Ruth moved back to Ontario, while I remained in the Arborg community.



1986 in Jos, Nigeria:
Daniel, Otto, Mark, Ruth, Thomas, Miriam.

It may sound quite simple again, but by the turn of the millennium (Y2K) on New Years' Eve Lynne and I got married. Lynne had lost her husband Gestur Jakobson to cancer in 1995 and we found each other as Helga and Kristinn (twins) came to confirmation classes at the church. We are now a blended family with eight children. Lynne and Gestur also had two younger children Nikolas and Ari. The blending went amazingly well, although our two dogs didn't adjust as easily.

In 2003 I resigned from the parish and started studying spiritual care. As no job could be found in our home community I became a full-time home-dad, while Lynne continued her managerial job with Social Services. We had a busy household although by now we were down to five kids. Still we found time to volunteer and be involved in the community.



Visiting Lemvig in 2004
With Nikolas, Daniel, Miriam and Lynne



The four Jakobsons in 2017
Nikolas, Helga, Ari and Kristinn

Eventually I took on part time work, first in a dialysis unit, then in a chronic disease prevention program and teaching English as an additional language. Finally in 2008 I became the Spiritual Care Coor-dinator for the Interlake Health Re-gion. I retired from this job in 2016. Lynne retired in 2018. We now have more time for our two grandchildren, Ryder and Lily. They are now six and four, and a delight for Amma and Farfar.

A few years ago, I read Margaret Atwood's book "*Payback – the Shadow Side of Wealth*". In the book she explores how a person by virtue of being born simply is in debt to both previous and coming generations – for better and for worse. For me the book put into words what I intuitively knew. I, the privileged me, did not get to where I am today by my own accord. I have been supported in so many ways. Likewise, I owe it to anyone else to support and build up their 'world' as much as I can. As I write this account of my life I am mindful of all the people with whom I have shared the road – lately or long ago. Along the way, I have met so many great 'teachers' and mentors. Thank you all.



Lynne, with grandchildren Lily and Ryder



Christmas Eve 2018
Front row left to right:
Helga, Otto, Ryder, Shannon, Lily, Daniel, Lynne
Back row left to right:
Patrick, Ari, and Thomas, cousin Sigrid from Denmark, Kristinn, Miriam, Mark, Nikolas and Uncle Brant

Else Frost and Susan Person

Susan Person, Winnipeg

My story begins with my Mother, Else Margrethe Frost, and her journey to Canada. She was born on July 11, 1937, in Randers, Denmark, to Henry Rikard Frost and Helga Marie, née Olesen. She was the second daughter and one of four children; two girls, Anny and Else and two boys, Ole and Per. Else was baptised on October 24, 1937, at Saint Morten Church in Randers.



Else Frost 1937-2004

My family can be traced back to 1445 A.D. with the birth of Claus von Kjøller and his marriage to Margrethe, née Lepel. This linage is on my Mormor`s side of the family. In 1560 the family name was shortened to Kjøller. In 1813 my three times great-grandmother, Oline Christine Kjøller was born and later married Axel Rasmussen. They in turn had a daughter in 1852, who they named Luise Axelsen (after her father`s name). Luise married Frederik Kristensen and had a daughter (my Oldemor), Rasmine Oline Kristine Kristensen who was born June 2, 1883. She married my Oldefar Ole Peter Olesen and this union produced my Mormor, Helga Marie Olesen, who was born on June 21, 1915. She married my Morfar Henry Ricard Frost and they had my mother Else Margrethe Frost in 1937. So for at least 368 years the von Kjøller name existed in my family. If you are a Kjøller, a Rasmussen, an Axelsen or an Olesen, we might have an ancestral tie, not to mention the Kjær, Andersen, Jensen and Refer families also related to me. From 1560 until 1957 my ancestors farmed land near Uggelhuse, located fourteen kilometres east of Randers. They also relied on fishing in the Fjord. It is said when my Oldefar Ole Olesen passed away in 1957, my Oldemor Rasmine passed away very shortly after, of a broken heart. Their straw thatched home and their surrounding lands were a gathering place for their children and grandchildren. I have countless pictures of my Mom as a young girl playing with her cousins at Uggelhuse.

My grandparents were married in Randers where they started their family of four children. The Frost family lived in Randers until 1948 when it was decided the family should move to Copenhagen. At the time housing was hard to find in Copenhagen so it was through an arrangement that the family traded their home with another family in Copenhagen. They gave up their large apartment in Randers for an older 6th floor, single bedroom apartment at Hjørringgade 17. The view from the corner window of the apartment looked out over the Nordhavn railway station and the harbour's Nordhavn Basin. A walk along the streets would take you to Langelinie and the statue of the Little Mermaid. The statue was erected in 1913 and was a required stop when walking through the park by the water.

Growing up in Copenhagen and coming of age in the 1950s was an exciting time for my Mother and her family. The apartment was small and my Mormor and Morfar would sleep on a couch in the living room while all four children slept in one bed in the bedroom. They would sleep across the bed to make more room. When their cousin Bente Kjær came to live with them, it meant five in one bed. The stories told about these times were always recounted with love and lots of laughter. Else had dreams of travelling the world, she was a competitive swimmer and wanted a career in journalism. Along with her sister Anny, cousin Bente and friend Annelise they would go dancing at the popular clubs at the time. It was at a club frequented by army personnel on leave from Germany, that she met Wilbur (Bill) Harris Gillis. Bill was stationed at the Canadian Armed Forces barracks in Deilinghofen, Germany. The year was 1957, my Mother was twenty years old, and she had a burning desire for adventure. My Grandparents had divorced years earlier and my Mormor had married my Bedstefar Poul Jorgensen. The relationship between my Bedstefar and mother was severely strained as my Mother was devoted to her father. After barely knowing each other for less than a few weeks, Else and Bill decided to get married, which is incredible, as he did not speak Danish and she was not fluent in English. Understandably there were some communication issues. My Mom told me she was a wild spirit who wanted to see the world, and this seemed a way to do it. As you can imagine my Mormor was livid, she refused to attend the wedding.

Else and Bill were married on July 20, 1957, at Copenhagen City Hall by Magistrate Rita Jorgensen. The certificate shows that back in Canada Bill was a painter by trade. He was born in St. Clement, Manitoba, and raised by his grandparents. Unknowingly he had lied about his age and was a year younger than my Mother. The wedding certificate does not show his date of birth. The service was followed by a reception at my Mom`s Faster`s home. Within days they left for Germany and a short while later he received his orders to return to Canada. Their first posting would be in Victoria, British Columbia.



Helga Frost and her four children, Anny, Per, Else and Ole

Mom was issued her visa to Canada on October 30, 1957, and it states she is a housewife who is accompanying her husband, who is a Canadian citizen. Her first entry onto Canadian soil was in Quebec on November 13, 1957. They had travelled across the ocean on the Cunard Line and then took a train across Canada, finally arriving in Victoria. Within three months of being married she had left Denmark, travelled across the ocean and then across Canada to find she had married someone she did not really know. It was in Victoria where I was born on October 3, 1958.

Shortly after, Bill was discharged from the army and the three of us drove to Manitouwadge, east of Thunder Bay, where Bill had secured a job as a miner. My brother Richard was born there and the relationship between Else and Bill grew extremely strained.When my Mother left Denmark, she knew my Mormor was angry and told her ‘when you see my heel, it will be a while until you see my toe’, words that enforced her stubbornness. There were dark days where she wanted to return to Denmark, but she was too proud to have to admit she had married too hastily. She had met Bill’s family in Winnipeg in their travels back and forth, so when the marriage fell apart, she

left Manitouwadge with Richard and me to move to Winnipeg. One phone call and her family in Denmark would have paid to help us return to Denmark. Her letters home at the time hid the fact that her marriage was over, and they all spoke of how well we were doing. The last time I saw Bill, my biological father, was when I was four years old and he visited Winnipeg and took Richard and I out for ice cream, afterwards we never saw him again.

How we managed those early years was a testament to my Mothers love for her children. Standing just-under six feet tall, she weighed 118 pounds; every bit of food was given to us, her two children.

She met Peter Gooley, at a rooming house where we lived. He had a heating business in Thompson, Manitoba, and quickly fell in love with my Mom. She loved Peter but was not 'in love' with him. He convinced her he could help take care of her kids and he would rent a home for us to live in together. Most of his time was spent in Thompson. His family had a farm in the Sandy Hook area, and we spent lots of time there, chasing chickens, swaying in blankets tied to two trees and pumping the well for water. They never married as my Mom was not divorced from Bill. Soon my brother Robert (Bobby) was born in September 1963.



Else and Henry Kozubski, in Denmark

We lived on Polson Avenue in the north end of Winnipeg; it was a vibrant area, neighborhoods full of children. It was while playing bingo at the Polish Club on Main Street with a friend that my Mom met the man who would become the Dad we truly considered our father, Henry Kozubski. They fell in love, and my Mom had to break Peter`s heart. We then moved into a house on Machray Avenue. My Mom went to Red River College, then known as Manitoba Institute of Technology (MIT) and earned her accounting diploma. Life became sweet for us.

Mom married Henry on October 11, 1969, at Knox United Church in Winnipeg. They had already lived together for two years. I was nine years old when my Dad Henry came into our lives. He loved us three children as if we were his own and we were, as he legally adopted the three of us when I turned twelve in 1970, and we took his last name. In 1970, our sister Sheri-Lynne was born, and this completed our family.

In the summer of 1967 my Mormor came to Canada with her sister Signe to check out for herself how her daughter and grandchildren were thriving. It was a wonderful visit and I loved listening to them speak. I started to pick up the Danish language and I developed my skills through the years. They loved my Dad Henry and he certainly met with my Mormor's approval.

In 1970 the entire family made a six-week visit to Denmark. It was the first time I met my aunts and uncles as well as cousins. It was like a fairy tale, I had family! We had always exchanged Christmas presents and wrote many letters and cards, but this was the first time I was seeing them. So began my life-long, steadfast and loving relationship with my Danish family.

My Mother petitioned for a divorce from an absent Bill and was granted her Decree of Absolute on April 29, 1969. The next year on December 19, 1970 we received a call from my paternal Grandmother that Bill had died that day as a result of a vehicle accident in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 32.

In 1983 I met my husband Brian Sven Peter Person at a dance in Winnipeg. We were married at Knox United Church on November 15, 1986. With Brian I was given another set of parents, Edythe and Gunnar Person and another brother, John, and sister, Sharon.

Our daughter Maya, the light of our lives was born on April 12, 1995. She was a miracle baby and in her short life she was able to travel the world and visited Denmark eight times. She had strong ties with her family in Denmark. Maya passed away at the age of 21 a result of a brain tumor. The Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg has a memorial scholarship named in her honour. Maya was very active at the Centre and loved being Folklorama Ambassador and sharing her Danish and Swedish heritage with others. She is sadly missed by her family and was loved by one and all.



Maya Karin Person

My Mother`s journey was not always a smooth one, but she was a survivor and she loved her children fiercely. Unfortunately we lost her in September 2004 to a chronic illness.



Brian and Susan Person, 1990s

After her passing I wanted to ensure Maya had a connection to her Danish heritage in Canada. Maya had danced for several years in jazz and tap, but she was no longer interested in that type of dancing. I asked if she would be interested in trying Scandinavian folk dancing and she was eager to start. My Mom had passed the year prior. We were on the way to the Scandinavian Centre for Maya`s first class when we passed a flea market and I commented we should stop in as we were early to arrive. I walked into the flea market and the first item I saw was a porcelain Bing and Grøndahl doll in a cloth dress that had the name Else on her leather purse. I looked at my husband and we knew we had to purchase it. I feel it was a sign from my Mother that she was happy to have Maya take the dance lessons. It was also my start as a member of the Danish Club of Manitoba, and I have served as the President for the last ten years.

I travel to Denmark quite often, usually every two to three years. The years I am not there, I can be assured I will have Danish family staying with me here in Winnipeg.

My Mother is the first and only one in her family going back to the 1400s to leave Denmark and immigrate to a new country. When asked if she ever wanted to go back to live in Denmark, she would reply, “Canada is now my home, Denmark is not the same as when I left, I have become more Canadian than Danish.” I am thankful for all she sacrificed for us to give us good lives and a strong appreciation and love of our family and our heritage.

Ole and Hanne Hansen

Karl Sørensen, Winnipeg

The moment you walk into Hanne and Ole's house, you know that you are in a Danish home. The atmosphere is one of comfort and "hygge". Their home is located in the western part of Winnipeg in a quiet neighbourhood.

Ole was born in Tikøb close to Helsinge on Sjælland on March 18, 1945. However, when Ole was a child the family moved to Øster Hæsinge on Fyn. This is also the town where Hanne (née Jørgensen) was born, on May 18, 1945. Despite living in the same small town, they didn't meet till later in life, as they went to different schools. Ole went to a friskole (boarding school). After completing high school, he apprenticed in auto mechanics for four years and four months. Ole was then drafted into the Army for fourteen months and was stationed at Høvælte in North Sjælland.



Elsebeth, Ole, Hanne, and Anya

Hanne went to school in Øster Hæsinge for four years. She skipped fifth grade and went on to middle school in Korinth, followed by courses at the Tietgen School in Odense. Here she also took a course in business correspondence and learned to speak several languages.

Hanne and Ole met at a local theatre, where she was a suffløer (prompter), and Ole was a performer. They started dating, and three years later they were married. In August 1967, two weeks after their wedding, they immigrated to Canada. Hanne started working for a company on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg, as a stenographer in September 1967. When she became pregnant, she had to move to the back of the office. Their first daughter, Elsebeth, was born in September 1968, so Hanne stayed home. Their second daughter, Anya, was born in 1982, so Hanne was home bound till 1985.

Right after arriving in Canada Ole started to work for Paul Albrechtsen at Paul's Hauling as a mechanic fixing trucks all over Manitoba; whenever a truck needed fixing. Ole and Hanne knew the Albrechtsen family, who lived close to their town on Fyn, so it wasn't difficult for Ole to get a job right after arriving in Canada. Ole worked for many years fixing trucks, but in later years he was moved into the office as an office clerk, looking after office supplies as well as other related work. This was very different from fixing trucks, but he enjoyed it. Ole is now semi-retired, but he still enjoys going to work a couple of days a week.

In 1987 Hanne started working as a realtor, a job she really enjoyed. She worked for different companies over a period of thirty years till she decided to retire in 2017. Hanne now finds time to pursue her favourite hobby, bowling, which she has been playing every Wednesday night

since 1973. Hanne enjoys spending time with her two daughters, Elsebeth and Anya, and her five grandchildren. Elsebeth has three children and Anya has two. Both daughters live close by in the suburb of Headingly. Ole has a different hobby, curling, and he curls every Thursday night during the season. In the spring and summer he is an ardent gardener. One just has to look at his flower garden and designs to know that here is someone who enjoys gardening. Ole and Hanne are also enthusiastic golfers and they are on the golf course as often as time allows throughout the season.



From left: Stefan, Lukas, Ole, Annika, Hanne, Mathias and Anton

Ole and Hanne love traveling. They return to Denmark every year to visit family and friends. They have traveled to about fifty-five different countries around the world. In January 2019 they went back to Costa Rica, a place they really enjoy visiting. It is also a chance to get away from the cold.

I wonder what Paul's Hauling plans to do without Ole when he someday decides to stop working all together. We wish both Hanne and Ole a continued busy life for many years to come and I thank them for taking time to talk to me and welcoming me into their *hyggelige* home.

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Carl Jacobsen of Winnipeg

Brought thousands of Danes to Canada

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

In the summer of 1923 when Carl Jacobsen returned to Denmark for an extended holiday, together with his wife and two young sons, they stayed with Carl's father and mother in the small community of Ørbæk on the island of Fyn. Carl's father, Poul Gregers Jacobsen, was the local veterinarian, and as such he was well-known in the community and beyond. The visit was also an opportunity for Carl to introduce his wife and sons to his parents and his two siblings. Carl had married his Danish wife in Minnesota and his two sons were born there. Before their protracted stay in Denmark, Carl and his family had lived in Canada; and they soon discovered that they preferred Canada to the United States. Indeed, Carl was so enthusiastic about Canada that he was keen to promote immigration to Canada. Before long he was an immigration agent, at first working on his own.

On his arrival in Denmark in June 1923, Carl Jacobsen quickly discovered that the agricultural sector was in a crisis. Agricultural exports were Denmark's main source of revenue, and Great Britain and Germany were by far the two main export markets. However, Germany was afflicted by incredible hyper inflation and Great Britain was imposing various import barriers, including sanitary restrictions, which were actually another form of protectionism. Many Danish farmers were therefore seeking opportunities abroad. Various sources say that about 3,000 Danish farmers, mostly young men between 20 and 24 years of age, left Denmark every year to seek their fortune across the ocean. A major attraction was the fact that abroad they would be able to acquire their own farm.

Within a few days of arriving in Denmark Carl Jacobsen learned that many Danish farmers were thinking about immigrating to Nicaragua. Carl knew Canada was looking for farmers and that the railways (CPR and CN) had land available. He also thought that Nicaragua was the wrong choice for Danish farmers. He felt strongly about it and sat down and wrote an article entitled The Emigration Question – to *Fyns Tidende*, an Odense-based newspaper which supported Venstre, the political party of the farmers. The editor, Søren Peter Qvist, a former Member of Parliament, forwarded the article to other newspapers which supported Venstre, and in this way the article appeared in both small and large newspapers, nearly fifty newspapers in all, which were read primarily by farmers. In response to Carl Jacobsen's articles, Danish Foreign Minister Christian Cold gave an interview to the press, which generated even more coverage of Jacobsen's proposal.

According to Carl Jacobsen, Danish farmers could of course immigrate to Nicaragua, where theywere not familiar with the climatic conditions, and where they had no one to help them obtain a farm. Or they could immigrate to Canada where the farm conditions, livestock and crops were similar to Denmark, as were, somewhat, the climate and culture. Moreover, Carl Jacobsen was willing to accompany the Danish farmers who wanted to immigrate to Canada. In the newspaper article he said he was going to Canada at the end of July and would be willing to help any Danish farmer who accompanied him obtain a job or a farm. He said he could guarantee work for the first three months, helping with the harvest. In three months, a farmhand could make double what the journey had cost. After the harvest he would help them acquire winter work in the forest. Many of the Danish farmers knew Carl's father. Moreover, they apparently trusted Carl and were aware of the fact that he had the necessary contacts as well as experience, having lived in both the United States and Canada.



Photograph of the party of Danes brought to Canada by Carl Jacobsen in August 1923,
Outside the Immigration Hall, Winnipeg
Photo credit: L.B. Foote, Library and Archives Canada NAC 8142-2

By mid-July Carl Jacobsen had signed up one-hundred Danish farmers who wanted to accompany him to Canada. The large party of Danes sailed from Esbjerg to Harwich and then took the train to Liverpool, where at the end of July they boarded the CPR's *SS Montlaurier*, arriving in Quebec City in early August. They then took the train to Winnipeg, where they were met at the station by Pastor Niels Damskov and CPR immigration agent M. B. Sorensen. Subsequently the Danes were asked to line up for an official photograph. Winnipeg's well-known photographer Lewis Benjamin Foote was on hand and took the photo of about 80 of the

Danes outside the Immigration Hall at the train station. Jacobsen, Damskov and Sorensen are identified in the photograph, which is now in the Library and Archives Canada collection in Ottawa. Most of the Danish farmers were settled in and around Lloydminster, a town on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

Carl Jacobsen was the first-born child of Poul Gregers Jacobsen, the veterinarian in Ørbæk, who had been born in Ringe in 1852. In January 1880 he married Maren Andersen, who had been born in Ørbæk in 1856. Already on May 18, 1880, Carl Vilhelm Jacobsen was born in Ørbæk, a village between Nyborg and Svendborg.

In about 1911, Carl Jacobsen immigrated to the United States. As many other Danish immigrants, he settled in Minnesota. In Greaney, Minnesota, he married Ane Kirstine Madsen, who had been born in Stubberup, Vallensved, near Sorø on April 15, 1882. She was the daughter of Peter Madsen and Kirstine Marie, née Andersen, who lived in Denmark.



*They came on the CPR's **SS Montlaurier**; note the tall funnels*

In the fall of 1923, while Carl Jacobsen was helping the Danes get settled near Lloydminster, he was hired by the CN's Department of Colonisation and Development. Then in November 1923, he brought over another twenty-five Danish farmers.

In 1924, Carl Jacobsen, now an immigration agent with the CNR in Winnipeg, together with a group of Danish immigrants working for the Provincial Paper Company north of Port Arthur, approached Francis Henry Keefer, Ontario MPP for Port Arthur, asking if it would be possible to have the townships of Sibley and McTavish opened for settlement by Danish immigrants, as the timber rights of the paper company had expired in these townships.

Keefer introduced a bill to that effect in the Ontario legislature, and the first homesteaders located and filed in May 1924. The settlement, located about 50 km from Thunder Bay, was named Pass Lake, after the local lake of the same name. By the fall of 1925, most of the lots had been spoken for, some by families, but most by single men.

The legislation for Pass Lake was modeled on the Dominion Lands Act. It required that the settler build a house and barn on his 160-acre homestead. Settlers were also to clear and cultivate two acres of land during each of the first three years of occupancy. Homesteaders had to be in residence at least six months of the year to file their claim. After three years, having cleared 15 acres and obtained citizenship papers, the settler could apply for a patent and get the deed to his homestead. In addition to these requirements, each settler had to voluntarily provide three days of work per year on the roads, but he received pay for six days of roadwork. At first, the settlers' main income according to the late Pass Lake resident Fred Mikkelsen, was the sale of wood

products, such as pulpwood, saw logs, lumber, firewood, railway ties and fence posts. Later, strawberries became a Pass Lake specialty.

An article in the Toronto newspaper *The Globe* of December 29, 1924, reported that two days earlier, about seventy Danes sat down at the Waverly Hotel in Port Arthur for Christmas dinner, followed by dancing around the Christmas tree. Among the speakers were Colonization Agent Carl Jacobsen, MPP F. H. Keefer, Pastor Niels Damskov as well as Mr. August Andersen, one of the Sibley settlers (and Pass Lake's first postmaster). Keefer announced that the Township of Sibley would be taken out of the territory reserved for the Danes, so that the Danish settlers would have an area where they could hunt at will. The newspaper article concluded with the following statement, "At the time of taking last year's census there were 14 Danes in the district; now there are 1,000. More are coming this next season, as active propaganda is being carried on in Denmark."

Two weeks earlier, the *Winnipeg Free Press* of December 15, reported that the Canadian National Railway's Department of Colonisation and Development credits Carl Jacobsen with bringing more than 2,000 Scandinavian settlers to Western Canada in 1924, most of them Danes.

Carl Jacobsen settled in Winnipeg and had his office there, recruiting Danish immigrants. His company was called the Scandinavian Landseekers Co. and was located in the prestigious Huron and Erie Building. He continued to be active in the Danish community, both locally in Winnipeg and generally in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. In Winnipeg he was a member of the Danish Brotherhood. Carl Jacobsen died in his 80th year in Winnipeg on October 1, 1959. His wife passed away in Winnipeg in 1967.

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Agnes Johansen, Calgary

"Mother of the Danes"

Jens Kaack, Calgary

In Calgary on Agnes Johansen's gravestone in Queens Park Cemetery the inscription reads, "Mother of the Danes." Agnes was a woman of great courage and fortitude with a generous heart to all whom she encountered. She was one of a kind. The Danish Community in Calgary was blessed by her presence, and we can rightly be very proud of her.



Agnes Johansen, née Hjorth, was born in Skørping south of Aalborg on June 2, 1906. She went to school in Hellum, until grade seven, after which she had several jobs as a maid on farms. Later she obtained a job in a boarding house in Hillerød north of Copenhagen, and it was there, that she met her future husband, Harry Johansen. Agnes and a friend had gone for a walk in the park around Frederiksborg Castle. Harry was the gardener at the castle park. He had been born in Helsingør in 1903.

Agnes and Harry were married in Skørping in 1932. They then settled in Terndrup a little further east. There they established a nursery where they could grow vegetables, fruits and berries that were sold at the gardeners' auction as well as at their own retail outlet. In 1939 they sold the nursery and moved to Helsingør, Harry's home town. Harry began working as a landscaper looking after people's gardens. Meanwhile Agnes had a small shop where she sold stamps and coins to collectors. She also sold sheets of high gloss pictures. Business was brisk during the war, as German soldiers liked the pictures. Agnes and Harry had two sons, Niels who was born in 1934, and Leif in 1937. Shortly after the war Agnes and Harry separated, and suddenly Agnes was alone with her two boys.

Agnes had a brother and two sisters in Canada. Her brother, Marius, wrote and told her that, "the streets in Canada are paved with gold, but you have to bend over to pick it up." Agnes's sister, Dagmar, sponsored Agnes and her two boys. They arrived on August 10, 1951 and lived in Tilley, Alberta, until the end of the month. Agnes's sister, Agata, had just started a job at Old's College which had just opened. Agata got Agnes a job in the kitchen. Agnes was in Olds until November 1951. After that she got a job as a cook on Victor Watson's farm just north of Airdrie. She worked there until 1954 when a boarding house on 15th Avenue S.W. Calgary came up for sale. Her son, Niels, was living there. The landlord wanted to sell the house and so, Agnes tried to see if she could buy it. She approached her employer, Victor Watson, to see if he would finance it for her. He went down to look at it and he told her that the house was definitely not worth $15,000.00. It was a solid red brickhouse on the outskirts of downtown. The landlord ended up selling the house, and instead Agnes rented a house at 827 13th Avenue S.W., which

she operated as a boarding house until she bought the house at 1522 13th Avenue S.W. in 1959. She operated the home as a boarding house until she had a stroke in 1992.

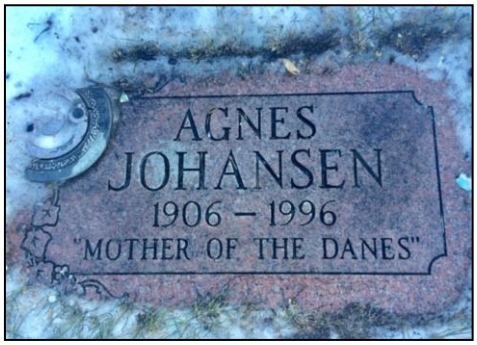
The house was not big, but she could have six boarders at a time. When someone showed up and needed a place to stay, she could always find them a place to sleep. Richard Damgaard tells of the time he came from out of town and needed a place to sleep. He had stayed with Agnes previously, on two occasions. She said, "Yes, you can sleep here, but you have to lie on top of the deep freezer until a bed is available. Karl Jensen also stayed there, and he remembers going on picnics with Agnes and the other boarders on Sundays from early morning until late at night. Agnes would pack a good lunch. He also remembers that if someone wanted to celebrate their birthday, all the boarders would give Agnes $2.00 and she would put on quite the party. Georg Nyman, who stayed there on two occasions, remembers coming home from working out of town; lo and behold his suit was missing, as one of the boarders had borrowed it and gone dancing at the German Club in Bowness. Harald Holt remembers a carpenter named Svend, who really liked frikadeller. One time Svend had piled more frikadeller on his plate then potatoes to which Agnes commented, "Vi spiser også kartofler her i dette hus." Agnes had two rules, no women in the rooms, and everybody had to go to work, if not, Agnes would make some phone calls and get them a job.



Henry, John, Agnes, Henry, and Hans

I remember a new Dane who came to Calgary by plane in 1970. He arrived from Montreal where he had been unable to find work. Here he was at Calgary Airport where the Custom Officer didn't know what to do with him, as he didn't speak a word of English. He could see on his passport that he was Danish. He knew that there was a Danish delicatessen on 11th Avenue S.W., so he phoned there and got Elo on the phone. Elo quickly replied, "I'll be right there." Elo then drove to the airport to pick up Hans, and then taking him to Agnes' boarding house. Agnes not only had a bed for him, but she also had a job for him starting the next morning.

Agnes was loved by all, and when we had events at the Naver Club there was always someone who had boarded with her, who would invite her along and pay for her dinner. In the earlier years when we had our Goose Dinner at Forest Lawn or Briar Hill, Agnes made the red cabbage.



Agnes was recognized by all three levels of Government for her outstanding achievement to the Danish Community, and also as a new immigrant. When Queen Margrethe II of Denmark visited in October 1991 to open the Dickson Store Museum, she sent Agnes a bouquet of flowers.

In 1992 Agnes spent five months in the Foothills Hospital recovering from a stroke. Later Agnes was transferred to the Bethany Care Centre (which was founded by Danes), where she was cared for until her death on March 26, 1996 at the age of 89, only one and half months short of her 90th. My wife, Patricia, cared for her on the night shift. As Patricia was familiar with the pronunciation of the Danish name Agnes, she would come to her bedside on the night shift and greet Agnes, pronouncing her name the Danish way. Agnes couldn't believe that someone actually called her Agnes in Danish. Her eyes would just light up - with a big smile!

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2019 CONFERENCE

The Editor of *Danske Herold*

Odin Kuntze starts national Danish Canadian Society

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

In hindsight it is clear to see that when Odin Kuntze launched his newspaper *Danske Herold*, he also provided Danish Canadians with a launching pad for the national umbrella organization Danish Canadian Society.



Odin Kuntze

Odin Kuntze had launched his Danish-language newspaper *Danske Herold* in Winnipeg on March 15, 1932. This was quite a daring move, as this was right in the middle of the Great Depression. Moreover, Kuntze had only been in Canada about a year-and-half. And yet, despite the devastating outlook for the immediate future Kuntze decided to start a bi-weekly newspaper for Danish Canadians. He chose Winnipeg, as that had been the destination of many of the Danish immigrants that had arrived in the 1920s. Winnipeg had a vibrant Danish community, with a Danish Brotherhood Lodge, a Danish Lutheran Church, Danish shops, and was located in the centre of the country. Last but not least, Kuntze had hired some good correspondents, had confidence in his project, had money in the bank and was a seasoned editor.

After launching *Danske Herold*, printing 3,300 copies of the first issue, Kuntze moved to his Brooklyn Farm near Kentville, Nova Scotia, where he had set up shop in modest and rather primitive surroundings. On the farm he established an editorial office, a printing shop with a linotype machine, a flat-bed press and racks of type as well as a shipping department. From there he ran his news service, through a network of correspondents in a host of cities and towns across Canada. The eight-page publication carried news about the various Danish settlements, Danish clubs, high profile Danes as well as interesting and timely articles and reports. In terms of writing and layout it was a professional newspaper. Of all the Danish newspapers started in the 1920s and 30s, Odin Kuntze's paper became the most successful. Moreover, it had a mission – to establish a Danish Canadian umbrella organization.

Odin Bertel Peter Kuntze was born in Vejle on September 14, 1883. He was the son of Henrik and Georgina Kuntze. At school he was good at writing, but his handwriting was difficult to read. He also excelled at gymnastics and was active in Vejle Gymnastik Forening. When the time came for him to choose an apprenticeship, he chose journalism. Kuntze approached Poul Hertz, the editor and owner of *Vejle Amts Avis*, an old newspaper which had started as a four - page news sheet in 1828. *Vejle Amts Avis* was a good place to start, and from there he moved

directly to *Nakskov Tidende* as deputy editor. Later he was deputy editor at *Kalundborg Folkeblad*. Then came his big break, when he was hired by the conservative high-quality Copenhagen-based *Nationaltidende*, an important political organ, which focused on foreign affairs and cultural matters. Kuntze quickly rose to deputy editor, and then during the First World War he was sent to London to be the paper's foreign correspondent, reporting on the war as seen from London. In several ways, his stay in London would change his life. For one, he met Margaret Green.

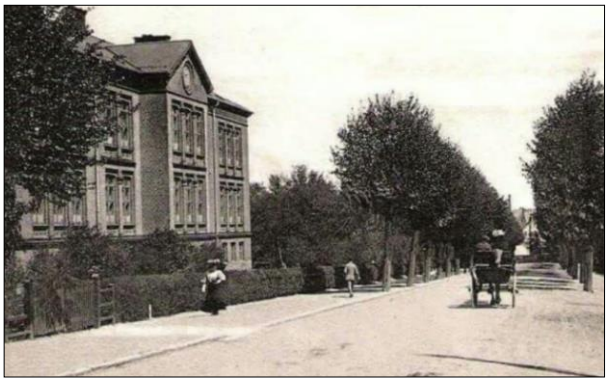


Odin Kuntze and fellow gymnasts in Vejle

Margaret Agnes Green, née Hornby, was the daughter of John Hornby of Bedford, England. Margaret had been born in Bedford on January 31, 1884. In 1908 she had married John Green and they had two boys, Edmund and Hugh.

When war broke out in August 1914, John Green signed up with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, a British infantry regiment. Unfortunately, Lieutenant Green died in Beauchamp, France, on December 6, 1917, at the age of 37. His regiment had in November and December been engaged in the Battle of Cambrai, a major British offensive that marked the first large-scale effective use of tanks in warfare. In this way Margaret became a widow with two young boys.

Margaret Green and Odin Kuntze were married in England on October 3, 1921. Then in 1922 they moved to Denmark, where they settled in Espergærde, just south of Helsingør. On September 1, 1922, Kuntze took over the Helsingør newspaper *Nordsjælland*. Kuntze bought the newspaper as well as the printing plant from Mrs. Emilie Wahl, and kept the editor, Georg Donatzky, on as the editor.



Helsingør Højere Almenskole

The two boys, Edmund and Hugh, were enrolled in the esteemed Helsingør Højere Almenskole, so they would receive a good education. In addition to managing the affairs of the newspaper, Kuntze involved himself in the affairs of the community. Kuntze is credited with the founding of Helsingør Golf Club.

Yes, Kuntze took the initiative to start Helsingør Golf Club, which was founded on January 17, 1927 in the posh meeting room of the prestigious Skydeselskab (Hunt Club). The plan was to rent the military terrain and training area which was used by the army stationed at Kronborg Castle. The Ministry of War, as the Defence Ministry was called at the time, was willing to rent the terrain to the Golf Club for 350 Danish Kroner per year. The founders quickly approved their bylaws and the agreement with the Ministry. They then proceeded to elect a Board of Directors, with Captain O. Berg from Kronborg as President and Odin Kuntze as Secretary. It was further decided that the membership fee would be 36 Danish Kroner per year. Subsequently a membership drive was held and by the end of March the Golf Club had eighteen members. As well, the Club proceeded to plan a

course, sew grass and landscape the course. Finally, on May 25, 1930, it was possible to inaugurate the nine-hole course. Today it is considered one of the best Golf Courses in Denmark.

After the Wall Street Crash in October 1929, a Great Depression quickly developed. The Kuntzes therefore decided to immigrate to Canada. However, with the Depression, Canada closed its doors to immigration, except to farmers. So, Odin Kuntze decided to immigrate to Canada as a farmer. To convince the Canadian authorities of his intensions to farm, he bought the Brooklyn Farm near Kentville. Then in the fall of 1930, Odin Kuntze, with his wife and two step-sons, left Denmark, sailing to England. In Liverpool on October 10th they sailed on third class with the *SS Duchess of Atholl* to Quebec City, arriving on October 17th, where "farmer" Kuntze was granted landed immigrant status. Unlike many other immigrants, Kuntze brought money with him. He reported to the immigration authorities that he was bringing $1,200 into the country, quite a sum for the average immigrant at the time.

The *SS Duchess of Atholl* was a fairly new vessel, built in Glasgow in 1928. She was owned by the CPR and sailed from Liverpool to Montreal, also stopping at Quebec City. From Quebec Kuntze took the train to Winnipeg to spend some time there, but then settled on the Brooklyn Farm in Kentville, from where he published *Danske Herold*.

It was published every two weeks. Kuntze had correspondents across the country. This was also one of the reasons *Danske Herold* was more successful than other Danish-Canadian newspapers. Kuntze knew the value of correspondents, as he had been one himself during the war. The paper was there to provide up to date coverage of what was happening within the Danish community in Canada.

As we will recall, the first issue of *Danske Herold* appeared in March 1932, and it was a paper with a mission. Consequently, right from the time it was launched the question of a national Danish-Canadian umbrella organization was addressed and discussed. People from across Canada were encouraged to write to the paper and have their point of view published.

Among *Danske Herold's* correspondents were Erik Schmidt (St. John), Fred Michaelsen (Wallace), Poul Hyldstrup and H.P. Hansen (Montreal), Robert Reinert (Toronto), John Jensen (Hamilton), Carl Hokanssen (London), Martin Pejstrup (Port Arthur), Hugo Otto Antoft and Knud Scheel (Winnipeg), Louis Spørring (Redvers), Soren Petersen (Tilley), H.J. Johnsen (Standard), Andreas Dyrholm (Dickson), Jacob Holst and Vagn M. Hansen (Calgary), Peter Beck (Olds), L.P. Juul and V. Poulsen (Edmonton), John B. Madsen (Edgewater) and Jens Peter Mortensen (Vancouver).

Many Danes came to Canada in the 1920s, and by the end of the 20s, between three and four thousand Danes came to Canada each year. Within a very short period of time Danish clubs were formed, congregations established, and newspapers started. Predictably, it did not take long before the idea of a national association for Danish Canadians arose.

For Danish clubs in Canada, the Danish Brotherhood in America was their model. It had lodges in all the states where a large number of Danes lived. The Danish Brotherhood in America, founded in 1882, gave the Danes in the United States a national organization which, in addition to social and cultural activities in the individual lodges, also offered health and life insurance to its members. In this way each lodge was both a social club and a health insurance fund administered at the national level.

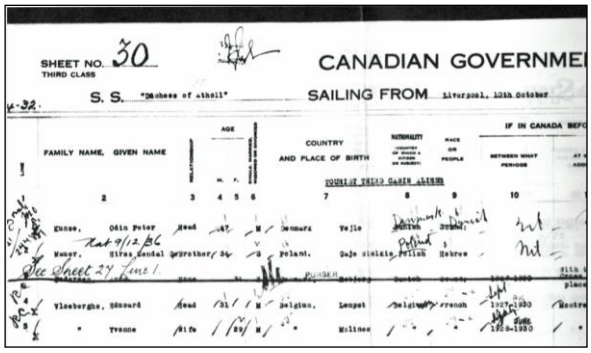
Hugo Otto Antoft, secretary of the Danish Brotherhood Lodge in Winnipeg, later wrote in *Danske Herold* that the lodge in Winnipeg had been established as a health insurance and funeral fund, but also with the specific purpose to provide the foundation upon which to build a country-wide organization. The lodge was therefore registered as the Danish Brotherhood in Canada.



Helsingør Golf Club was started by Odin Kuntze

In 1928, the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg tried to set up a lodge in Toronto. It succeeded surprisingly quickly, and the Toronto Danish Brotherhood Lodge was officially founded at a meeting on May 9, 1929, with Poul Bai as president.

The Lodge Dansk Samarbejde i Canada (Danish Cooperation in Canada), with Jacob Holst as president, was founded in Calgary in 1931. The DSC lodge sought to promote and further cooperation among the various Danish organizations in Canada. Within two years it succeeded, somewhat, in both Calgary and across Canada.


SHEET NO. 30
THIRD CLASS

CANADIAN GOVERNME

S. S. "Athenia of Athell" SAILING FROM Liverpool, 12th October

FAMILY NAME, GIVEN NAME	AGE	COUNTRY AND PLACE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY	RACE OR PEOPLE	IF IN CANADA BEFO...
1 2	3 4 5 6	7	8	9	10
Knox, Odin Peter	Head 47 M	Denmark Ville	Denmark	Danish	Int
Moser, Elias Kendal	Brother 24 S	Poland.	Dale visiting Poland	Hebrew	Int
See Sheet 24 Line 1.					
Vloeberghs, Edouard	Head 31 M	Belgium.	Belgian	French	Int
" Yvonne	Wife 29 M	"	"	"	Int

Part of Odin Kuntze's immigration records

During 1932 a fair number of Danes wrote articles in *Danske Herold*, advocating the establishment of a Danish Canadian umbrella organization. Although *Danske Herold* was published in Nova Scotia, most of these articles were written by Danes residing in Western Canada. Major supporters of establishing a Danish Canadian Society were John B. Madsen in Edgewater, British Columbia, and Peter Beck in Olds, Alberta, both of whom wrote articles in *Danske Herold*.

In 1933 Kuntze started travelling across Canada to promote the Danish Canadian Society. Kuntze visited the Danish settlement of Pass Lake, outside Port Arthur, on June 18, 1933. Kuntze had been invited to speak at the Sunday picnic held on Eddie Nielsen's property. Over one-hundred people attended, including Danish Consul O. Strange from Port Arthur. Kuntze, who was introduced by Pass Lake Postmaster August Andersen, spoke about establishing a Danish Canadian Society. It was a beautiful sunny day and the raised podium was tastefully decorated with Danish and British flags.

But it was Peter Beck's article "Start a Danish Association for the whole of Canada with a low membership fee", of June 27, 1933, which finally ignited the project and launched the Danish Canadian Society. Peter Beck held that the Danes needed a national organization to which all could belong. There should be local clubs as well as a national headquarters for the whole country, which could take on major projects such as building a senior citizen residence. Peter Beck suggested an annual membership fee of 25 cents, so all could afford to become a member. Peter Beck also warned against getting involved with the two Lutheran Synods and trying to get the congregations in Canada to break away from the mother Synods in the United States, because it would only create conflict. On the other hand, he believed that a good Danish newspaper was essential for Danes to communicate across Canada. In his article he therefore thanked Editor Odin Kuntze for his great contribution as a publisher, providing a platform to discuss the reasons for forming a national Danish organization, and for actively promoting it on his travels.


DANSKE HEROLD

DANISH HERALD OF CANADA

DE DANSKE HUSMÆND ØNSKER ENIGHED OG IKKE STATS-UNDERSTOTTELSE

"Bremen" atter paa Færde.

D.H.s Grundlægger og Redaktør død.

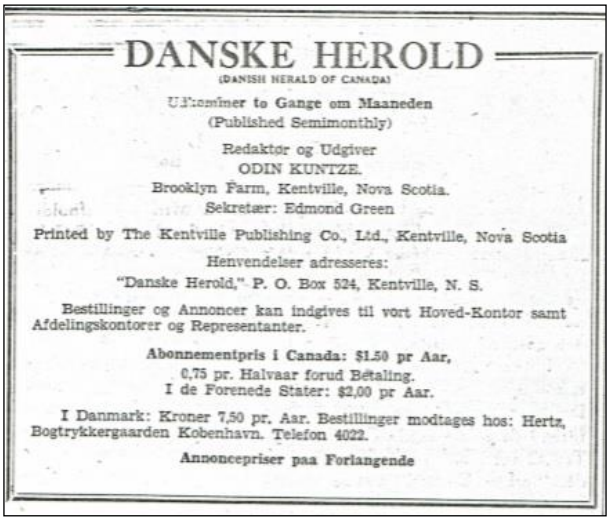
Front page of Danske Herold, December 14, 1939

Less than three weeks later, 150 Danes assembled for a summer retreat at Wallace Beach, Nova Scotia, endorsed Peter Beck's proposal. The following resolution was unanimously adopted, "Danish men and women assembled July 16, 1933, for a summer party at Wallace, Nova Scotia, express their full support for the idea of creating a Danish Canadian Society in each Canadian province, joined together under a common authority. The aim must be loyalty to the new country, obeying its laws, and to promote the welfare of the Danish community in Canada, in part by supporting and assisting the work of the Danish Churches and their organizations, and in part by establishing health and life insurance funds, old age security etc. Finally, the aim must be to exercise in a business-like manner our influence for the common good, which our numbers make possible."

To prepare the establishment of a Danish Canadian Society for Nova Scotia, the assembled elected immigration agent Ernst Mazar de la Garde from Pugwash and Fred Michaelsen from Wallace-Malagash to seek contact with other Danish communities in Nova Scotia. The meeting at Wallace Beach had been arranged by Fred Michaelsen, who was also the Wallace correspondent for *Danske Herold*.

In response to Peter Beck's proposal and the Wallace Beach Resolution, Kuntze wrote a long article entitled "The Nova Scotia Danes support cooperation for the common good" in *Danske Herold* of July 25, 1933. Kuntze emphasizes that, "The idea of a Danish Canadian Society came from the West, but the East dares the attempt." His article covers a lot of ground, but in short Kuntze believes that local branches of the Danish Canadian Society should be formed across Canada, which would then elect a national executive – much like the Brotherhood has lodges as well as a head office. Like Peter Beck, Kuntze underlined that the membership fee must be low, and he mentioned 25 øre, probably a typo, should undoubtedly be 25 cents. Kuntze also touched upon the need for an "alderdomshjem" or old folks' homes, as they were known then. A more

controversial point at the time was that Kuntze thought that the Danish Churches which belonged to the Synods in the United States should sever these ties and become Danish Canadian Synods. This was before Dansk Kirke i Udlandet sent its first pastor from Denmark to Canada.



DANSKE HEROLD

(DANISH HERALD OF CANADA)

Udkommer to Gange om Maaneden

(Published Semimonthly)

Redaktør og Udgiver

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Annoncepriser paa Forlangende

Subscriptions to Danske Herold could be made in Denmark by contacting Poul Hertz, his old boss, who now had a printing company in Copenhagen

On August 14, 1933 Kuntze was in New Denmark with his son and with Ernst Mazar de la Garde. Kuntze had been invited by St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The meeting took place in the evening in the community hall where young immigrants, as well as many of the old colonists led by Anders Jensen, had shown up. There were members of both St. Ansgar's and St. Peter's churches to hear Kuntze speak. Pastor Harald Nielsen of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, who was MC, bid everyone welcome. He then gave the floor to Kuntze who spoke about the Danish Canadian Society. His talk was well received, and he answered many questions.

Then Anders Jensen spoke. He owned the General Store and had been in Canada for over 50 years. He was in many ways the leader of New Denmark. Anders Jensen questioned the viability of a national organization. He said it had been tried before without success. He also said that several Danish language newspapers had tried to make a go of it but had folded. And yet, he felt that if the oldest Danish colony in Canada didn't understand cooperation, then the future of New Denmark looked dim.

Anders Jensen was followed by Vilhelm Larsen, the headmaster of the New Denmark Folk School, who said that if the initiators were able to establish a national organization, it would be of great benefit to the Danes in Canada. Vilhelm Larsen pointed out that the Danish congregations in Canada would be ready to join, but that it all depended on how the Synod of the United Danish Church in America, based in Blair, Nebraska, viewed the matter. Vilhelm Larsen felt that a major benefit of a Danish Canadian Society would be the possibility of establishing a health insurance fund. The establishment of such a fund would be a benefit for all. He hoped that the men, who had devoted their time and efforts to this important task, would have the strength and skills to succeed.

The next speaker was Ernst Mazar de la Garde, who felt that a Danish Canadian Society must be shaped in such a way that everybody could and would be included. He saw the inclusion of a health insurance fund as essential to creating good and secure conditions for the Danes in Canada.

Pastor Harald Nielsen then thanked the various speakers and added that he fully supported what they had said. He then asked the assembled Danes if they supported the establishment of a Danish Canadian Society. Before the vote he again asked Odin Kuntze and Mazar de la Garde to say a few words. Pastor Nielsen then called for the vote and there was a large majority in favour. No one voted against, but there were some who abstained from voting. After the vote, Pastor

Nielsen proposed that the assembled should elect two delegates to represent the New Denmark branch of the Danish Canadian Society. Elected were Folk High School headmaster Vilhelm Larsen and Mr. Henry Brinckmann. Their first task was to sign up members and the first to sign up was Anders Jensen.



Danish Canadian Society, Calgary, was founded at Dana High School

Fred Hansen, President of the Danish Brotherhood in Winnipeg, wrote in *Danske Herold* on August 8th, "I am pleased that the task is seriously being addressed in Nova Scotia: a Danish federation for Canada. This task has for many years interested us here in the West. As it might be remembered we in Winnipeg began a national association, with an annual fee of one dollar, but had to give up due to lack of interest. Now that *Danske Herold* has taken up the matter there is hope that the project will succeed. I hope the Society's parameters will be wide enough to include all existing Danish organizations, churches etc."

Poul Hyldstrup, President of Dannevirke in Montreal, and Jens Peter Mortensen, Vice-President of the Danish Brotherhood in Vancouver, among others, also wrote to *Danske Herold* to register their support for a Danish Canadian Society.

On August 13th Kuntze was in St. John and Apohaqui with his son and Ernst Mazar de la Garde. The public meeting in Apohaqui had been arranged by Otto Caspersen.

On August 22, Erik Schmidt reported in *Danske Herold* that the Danes in St. John supported the creation of a Danish Canadian Society. There were about 300 Danes living in St. John. Pastor at the Danish Lutheran Church in St. John was Pastor John M. Jensen. President of the Church Council was A.P. Ovesen, who bid Kuntze welcome. The assembled were in favour of creating such a Society and they elected as their representatives A.P. Ovesen, Johnson and Erik Schmidt.

In the September 5th issue of *Danske Herold*, Mr. L.P. Juul wrote that the Danish Canadian Society DANIA in Edmonton had held a Board meeting to discuss the Wallace Beach resolution. On behalf of DANIA he wrote that the Society fully supports the ideas put forward at the meeting at Wallace Beach, as for a long time they too had felt the need for a national organization for all Danes in Canada. Mr. L.P. Juul was secretary of DANIA and the Edmonton representative of *Danske Herold*.

In October, Odin Kuntze traveled west to promote the Danish Canadian Society. On October 24, he spoke to the Danes in Winnipeg, where he had been invited by the Danish Brotherhood.

Later in October 1933 he was in Calgary. Kuntze had been invited to Calgary by Jacob Holst, president of DSC (Danish Cooperation in Canada). Earlier, in August, Vagn M. Hansen, Secretary of the DSC Lodge, had written in *Danske Herold* that, "Our Lodge was established nearly two years ago and as its name says, our goal is precisely Danish Cooperation in Canada." In the article Vagn M. Hansen made an urgent call for all Danish organizations to join the Danish Canadian Society.

DSC President Jacob Holst had called the public meeting for October 30, 1933 in the gym at Dana High School in Calgary. About 160 people attended the meeting at Dana, including the presidents of the Danish People's Society and the Danish Canadian Sports Club. Many years later Ted Kobsted would comment on how nicely the tables in the gym had been decorated.

Jacob Holst welcomed the assembled Danes and after singing a Danish song, he introduced the main speaker, Editor, Odin Kuntze, who spoke about the need and the benefits of a Danish Canadian Society. Kuntze then boldly suggested that the three Danish organizations in Calgary should amalgamate, forming a branch of the Danish Canadian Society. After Kuntze's presentation, the Secretary of DSC Vagn M. Hansen, spoke in favour of the proposal and moved that the three Calgary organizations, the DSC Lodge, The Danish People's Society, and the Danish Canadian Sports Club, be merged into one association called Danish Canadian Society. Hopefully, other Danish associations in Canada would follow this example, Hansen said. Then there was a host of other speakers, including Pastor Jens Knudsen, Pastor Petersen, Henry L. Henriksen, Mr. Larsen, Svend Petersen, K.G. Hansen, J. Jacobsen, Jacob Holst, Martin Andersen, Henry Larsen, Gunnar Dressen, Mr. Hornum, Frode Andersen and Mr. Ostergaard from Olds.



Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Masquerade Dance, October 31, 1936

It was agreed to amalgamate the three associations into one organization called Danish Canadian Society, and 65 charter members were signed up that evening. As well, a committee made up of Pastor Petersen, Erik Petersen and Vagn M. Hansen was appointed to draw up bylaws. The committee of three met on November 8 at the home of Erik Petersen. After quite a discussion they agreed to invite the whole executive from the three Danish organizations in Calgary to a meeting at the home of Mr. A. Korsgaard on November 20th. The three executives readily agreed to dissolve their organizations when the new Society was able to take over. At a public meeting on November 30th at Elks Hall, attended by about 170 people, the bylaws of the Danish Canadian Society were presented and adopted, and Henry L. Henriksen was elected President of the new organization. The others on the new executive were Vagn M. Hansen, Pastor Petersen, Erik Petersen, Martin Clausen, Gunner Svendsen and A. Korsgaard. The Calgary branch of the Danish Canadian Society would now work to create other branches across Canada.



DANSK CANADISK SAMFUNDS BETYDNING PAA DET SOCIALE OMRAADE.

Vil Kirken ikke Samarbejde?—Hvor staar Brodersamfundet.

Fra Vancouver skrives til Danske Herold:

Maa jeg lykønske de 150 danske Mænd og Kvinder, der paa Mødet i Wallace gjorde Begyndelsen til et dansk-canadisk Samfund, og tillad mig samtidig—som gammel dansk Foreningsmand — at udtale nogle af de Erfaringer, jeg har haft, og min Mening om et saadant Samfund:

I Resolutionen siges: "Dels i Form af Støtte og Medhjælp til vor danske Kirkes Virksomhed — — —". Senere i Artiklen tales der om den politiske Indflydelse, en saadan Danskerflok vil faa her i Landet.

Er der virkelig nogen, som tror paa, at Kirken vil arbejde sammen med en saadan Forening?

"Dansk Brodersamfund" i Amerika holder sig fuldstændig uden for politiske Spørgsmaal. Selvfølgelig staar det hvert Medlem frit, til hvilket Kirkesamfund han vil høre; men "Dansk Kirke" har hverken her i Vancouver eller de fleste Steder i Staterne vist nogen Trang til Samarbejde. Jeg kan endda give flere Eksempler paa det modsatte.

Paa det sociale Omraade derimod kan et saadant Samfund være til umaadelig Gavn og Nytte for de Danske i Canada, f.Eks. for en stærk fælles Sygekasse for hele Landet, eller for Alderdomshjem i Lighed med Brodersamfundet i Staterne; det er sikkert et værdigt Arbejde, vi alle kan samles om.

Begravelsekasser bliver vel nærmest de enkelte Foreningers egen Forretning. Her i Vancouver har Logen sin egen Fond, der arbejder paa den Maade, at saa snart et Medlem dør, udbetales til hans Efterladte en Sum, der svarer til 1$ pr. Medlem. Hvert Medlem maa saa inden 3 Maaneder igen indbetale 1$ til Fonden. Paa den Maade er det fulde Beløb staaende i Banken og skal ved Dødsfald straks udbetales.

Biblioteks sagen maa sikkert ogsaa komme under de lokale Foreninger, undtagen Indkøb af nye Bøger, thi uden Tvivl kan de købes betydelig billigere, hvis Hovedforeningen en eller to Gange om Aaret besørgede Indkøbet for alle Lokalforeningerne. I Vancouver har vi to Biblioteker, nemlig Logens og Læseforeningen.

Vi ved jo alle af Erfaring, at vi meget sjælden modtager uden at yde. Tror Herr Peter Beck og Herr John B. Madsen virkelig paa, at Medlemmerne af et Samfund, der byder alle de ovennævnte Goder, kan faa alt det for 25 Cents om Aaret? I dette Spørgsmaal vil jeg slutte mig til Herr Fred Hansens Mening; men derimod kan jeg ikke dele hans Mening, at et saadant dansk-canadisk Samfund skulde kunne tælle 10,-000 Medlemmer paa et Aar; dette vil ikke ske de første 25 Aar.

I. P. Mortensen.

Jens Peter Mortensen, Vice-President of the Danish Brotherhood in Vancouver, comments on the Wallace Resolution and makes references to previous articles by Peter Beck, John B. Madsen and Fred Hansen

Kuntze thought he better strike while the iron is still hot. He therefore contacted Danish Consul General George B. Holler in Montreal, where there was a large Danish community. Holler informed him that there were three Danish organizations in Montreal, The Danish Club, Dannevirke and Kirkens Ungdomsforening (The Church Youth Group). Early feelers indicated that there was no interest in amalgamating the three Danish organizations in Montreal. So instead Kuntze and Holler decided to call a public meeting for January 25, 1934, where about 200 Danes turned up. Kuntze outlined the need and the advantages for establishing a branch of the Danish Canadian Society in Montreal. He then told them about the Wallace Beach resolution and the meeting in Calgary, citing the bylaws the Danish Canadian Society had adopted in Calgary. Kuntze's talk created much excitement and a lively discussion. Yet, the presidents of the three existing organizations were opposed. Considering that the combined membership of the three existing clubs was only about thirty, Cyrus Pedersen took the bull by the horns, as he expressed it later, and moved that a branch of the Danish Canadian Society be established in Montreal. Cyrus Pedersen's motion was enthusiastically received and passed. A committee consisting of L. Fejlberg, W. Haas, Cyrus Pedersen and Odin Kuntze was elected to draft the bylaws. At a later public meeting on March 14, 1934, the bylaws were presented and adopted with very few changes. Membership fees were set at one dollar per year. Elected to the board of directors of the Danish Canadian Society in Montreal were Cyrus Pedersen, President; K.A. Hangø, Vice-President; Falk Rasmussen (Secretary); Ove Martinsen (Treasurer), and directors at large: K. Rothmar, J. Schultz and Christian Petersen. The Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, then proceeded to incorporate provincially, which in 1934 proved to be a little more difficult than envisioned.

The Society also had to deal with serious hostility from The Danish Club and the Church. Poul Borup, the president of The Danish Club declared publicly that the Danish Canadian Society was an illegal society. And Pastor John M. Jensen banned notices of the Danish Canadian Society among members of the Youth Group.

It had been the wish of the Danish Canadian Society in Montreal to establish a health insurance fund. But this proved very difficult during the Great Depression. Yet, the Society was able to

raise money to help the needy, the sick, and the unemployed. It also helped, together with The Danish Club, St. Ansgar Lutheran Church and the Consulate General, to create a Danish Section at the Lakeside Memorial Gardens Cemetery. During the Second World War the Danish Canadian Society in Montreal played a leading role in the Danish Relief Fund, and hosted both Christmas Møller, visiting from London, and Henrik Kauffmann, visiting from Washington, two major players in the Danish Resistance Movement.

In addition to the branches of the Danish Canadian Society in Wallace, New Denmark, St. John, Calgary and Montreal, branches were also founded in Hamilton and Dickson. However, only two associations still exist, those in Montreal and Calgary. The Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, is now (2019) headed by Ole Larsen. And the Danish Canadian Society, Calgary, changed its name to the Danish Canadian Club when it was incorporated in 1947. The current president is John Steffensen, who now heads the largest Danish social club in Canada. The Calgary Club has a club house with meeting rooms, a large banquet hall and a first-class Danish restaurant.

In 1937 Odin Kuntze got involved in another Danish Canadian project. Due to the terrible economic conditions at the time, many Danish immigrants were not able to visit Denmark. They simply could not afford it. So, it was decided to establish a fund which could provide money for steamship tickets to Denmark. Danes could simply make applications to the Foundation. Danish Consul General Georg Holler was the prime mover and it was decided that the Consul General in Montreal should manage the Fund. Money for the foundation was raised through fundraising across Canada. In fact, the foundation was set up to commemorate King Christian X 25th anniversary on the throne in 1937 and it was therefore named the King Christian X Jubilee Foundation. Besides Consul General Holler, the others on the Board of Directors of the Foundation were Odin Kuntze, Danish Consul A.C. Johnson in Winnipeg, Pastor Niels Damskov in Redvers, Saskatchewan, and Danish Consul Laurids Jessen in Vancouver.

In the late 1930s it happened that *Danske Herold* was not published every two weeks. Odin Kuntze was sick and at times unable to get a newspaper out. In vain he had also sought help for his lung disease in Denmark. His illness was a major setback for the drive to establish a Danish Canadian Society. Odin Kuntze had been the driving force behind the establishment of the various local branches. With his death, the Danes in Canada lost an important communication tool, namely his newspaper, and they lost the person who had been the primary driving force in the establishment of the Danish Canadian Society.

While branches were established, and they had bylaws and elections, the Danish Canadian Society never elected a national board of directors. A national executive was never elected; a national headquarters was never established. The closest it got was the offices of *Danske Herold*.

Although the Danish Canadian Society did not succeed as a national organization, the idea did not die. In June 1981, when the founding meeting of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada was convened, Svend Berg, President of the Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, and Les Bonke, President of the Danish Canadian Club, Calgary, participated. Both Les Bonke and Svend Berg knew their clubs' background. After the initial Conference in Vancouver, the two next Danish Canadian Conferences were held in respectively Calgary and Montreal.

Odin Kuntze died of a lung illness on December 7, 1939, shortly after the Second World War broke out. He was only 56 years old. Knud Scheel his loyal and talented correspondent in

Winnipeg wrote the eulogy, which was published in *Danske Herold*. Kuntze's step-son, Edmund Green, tried to carry on and continued to publish *Danske Herold* until July 1940, when he simply had to give up, as the shipping companies stopped advertising in the paper, due to the war.

Sources:
Library and Archives Canada, Udvandrerarkivet, Dansk Samvirke/Danes Worldwide, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Helsingør Golf Club, Helsingør Lokalhistorisk Arkiv, Vejle Gymnastik Forening, *Danske Herold*, *Vejle Amts Avis* and various Danish Federation Heritage Books.

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Frants and Ingeborg Nielsen

Gyrithe (Greta) Rickenbacher, Agassiz

On April 20, 1957, the headlines in the Danish newspapers *Jyllands Posten* and *Holstebro Dagblad* shocked the entire town. People in Holstebro thought Frants Nielsen was crazy. How irresponsible of a 50-year-old man with a wife and seven children aged 3 to 18, moving to a foreign country. What has gotten into him? Is he nuts? One of the headlines solemnly stated, "Father, Mother and seven children prefer Canada. 50-year-old carpenter emigrates with family."

Frants and Ingeborg were neither nuts nor crazy. They knew what they were doing. They lived on Danmarksgade 16 in Holstebro. They were resident caretakers of Missionshuset Elim in Holstebro, the Christian Mission building and meeting hall, where Ingeborg was in charge of planning refreshments for all the events that took place there. They started thinking about immigrating to Canada just after Christmas in 1956. At that time, Frants was working as a carpenter at the Holstebro Hospital and one of his former colleagues, Svend Lindskov Hansen, had already immigrated to Campbell River on Vancouver Island a year earlier. Frants decided to write to his friend to find out more about their first year in Canada, the opportunities in British Columbia, such as housing, work, etc. His friend sent Frants and Ingeborg a lot of valuable information about British Columbia and Canada. One thing they mentioned that was very important was to make sure they brought their Danish coffee pot. In Canada they perked the coffee (boiled it) which they said did not taste very good.

Frants Henry Nielsen was born in Basnæs, south of Næstved on Sjælland. He was born on February 12, 1907 to Peter and Marie Nielsen. His dad was born August 1, 1873 and died November 20, 1976. His mother was born on April 16, 1880 and died March 7, 1964. Frants had six siblings. His father had a small farm called Housminde. Later Frants build a house for his parents on a corner of the farm where they lived, until they died. Frants married Ingeborg on October 10, 1937.

Ingeborg Nielsen was born on Mors, North Jutland. She was born on December 23, 1914 to Peder Klausen and Marie Klausen. Ingeborg's father died in 1950, when he was in his eighties. They lived in Holstebro and her mother died in 1955 as a result of the ambulance that carried her crashed on the way to the hospital. She was 84, a diabetic, and needed medical care. Unfortunately we cannot remember their birthdays. Ingeborg was the third youngest of ten brothers and sisters. She was from a very close 'Jysk' family, all of whom lived in Jutland, except her oldest sister who had married Frants' oldest brother.

In early 1957, Frants started to prepare the paperwork and submit it to the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen. The official at the Embassy, wanted Frants and the oldest daughter, Kirsten, to travel to Canada first and then send for the rest of the family later. Frants said "No, either we all go together, or we don't go at all." The Canadian Embassy gave in and agreed to let the entire family travel together. On February 12, 1957, Frants turned 50 years old and they used his

birthday as an excuse to have a huge family get-together for family and friends in the hall in Missionshuset Elim. Little did everyone know; that this would be their last celebration with the family. Frants kept it a secret until they had received the approval from the Canadian Embassy.

When it was time for the whole family to go to the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen, Frants rented a Ford Taunus and the family of nine managed to squeeze into this small car. They felt like sardines in a tin can. On the way to Copenhagen, they went to visit Frants' parents in Basnæs and after dinner, 5-year-old Knud, the second youngest, started walking back and forth with his hands behind his back, his usual routine when he had something important to share. Suddenly he said, "Ha, ha, vi skal da til Canada". Frants' dad said, "No, my dear child, you are only going to Copenhagen". Everyone remained silent and Frants pretended he had not heard it and continued a conversation with his father. However, Frants' Mom could not get those words out of her mind, as it was not normal for a 5-year-old to talk about Canada. She lay awake, all-night, thinking about what Knud had said. In the morning, they confronted Frants and he had to tell them the truth. Frants' parents were not very happy, as they felt Canada was a lot further away than Jutland, where they then lived.



The Nielsen family, in Denmark, 1957

The Canadian Embassy accepted Frants and Ingeborg's application for the family of nine to immigrate to Canada. They immediately drove back to Holstebro to prepare for the journey to start a new life in Canada. Family and friends came to help them sort their things, and sell the big items, such as furniture. Ingeborg had the big task of sorting what was coming with them to Canada and deciding what was being sold or given away. In total she packed eight wicker boxes full of bedding, dinner sets, table cloths, collectibles, books etc. She even purchased a brand-new coffee pot and coffee bag. She also had to organize seven suitcases for the family to take with them as the trip across the Atlantic would take a week and the trip by train across Canada another five days. With seven children, it demanded a lot of planning.

April 26, 1957

The day arrived, April 26, 1957. The family sailed from Aarhus, Denmark, on the *SS Stockholm* at 10:00 p.m. The send-off was a big event with a large gathering of family members attending a special Church Service held at Aarhus Cathedral for the departing immigrants. It was exciting but also very sad. The trip across the Atlantic Ocean was eventful for most of the kids, except for Peter who was sea-sick most of the time. He turned eleven while on the ship, but he was too sick to celebrate. Kirsten enjoyed being on the ship as there were parties and dancing every night. She met up with a very nice young man, Jens Madsen, who was also going to Vancouver. As she was talking to him, she introduced him to Frants, and they discovered that Jens lived with a Danish family in Vancouver, the Poul Kristensen family. Frants then realized this was a good friend of

his from his younger years while growing up in a small village near Næstved. Jens Madsen became a very good friend and is still in our lives today.

Pier 21

We arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in the evening of May 4, 1957. We were met with open arms and a church group handed out colouring books and crayons to the children. Gyrithe still has the colouring book she received. It is worn but still a real treasure from her arrival in Canada. After we went through the Immigration Procedures and received our Landing Cards, we boarded the train for Vancouver. There were many immigrants on the train and a lot of children. Ingeborg and Frants made the best of the trip by putting their suitcases between the seats so it was like beds. They spent five days on the train and to pass the time, Kirsten had brought a wind-up record player with her from Denmark. She played records like "The Green Door" by Frankie Vaughan, as well as others. Before long, their compartment became a gathering place for young people on the train. We were able to purchase milk and bread on the train and Gyrithe was always sent to the little kiosk to buy supplies. One day she came back with milk, but she still had all the money that Frants had given her. When she told Frants that a man had paid for the groceries, Frants became upset and said, "We don't need charity, we take care of ourselves." Frants was a proud man and accepting charity was not what he liked. He told Gyrithe not to let anyone pay for their groceries again. The family enjoyed the trip across Canada. Looking out the train window they could not help noticing that there were many dilapidated houses with brand-new cars parked outside. The Rocky Mountains were spectacular. The kids had never seen mountains before. Nearing Vancouver and crossing the train bridge over the Fraser River below the Pattullo Bridge made a big impression on the children. Before they knew it, they arrived at the Canadian National Train Station on Terminal Avenue and Main Street in Vancouver.



Tirsdag 19. November 1957

DANSKE EMIGRANTER I CANADA V.

De derhjemme troede, at vi var tossede

Umponeret ung Mand paa 50, der i Maj drog til Canada med Kone og syv Børn! - Konen: Vi har mere for Pengene her!

Af Erling Norlev

(Vancouver, British Columbia)

Frants og Ingeborg og Kirsten og Svend Erik og Gyrithe og Jens Peter og Yvonne og Knud og Carl Verner alle med Efternavnet Nielsen kom til Canada Torsdag den 9. Maj i Aar.

Frants er Tømrer fra Holstebro. Ingeborg er hans Kone. Resten er deres Børn. Kirsten paa 19 er den ældste. Carl Verner paa 9 den yngste, og ind imellem er de jævnt fordelt.

Frants Nielsen er 50. Han havde et godt Arbejde derhjemme og en god Løn. Hvor mange i hans Alder og med syv Børn ville vel selge deres jordiske Gode derhjemme og drage ud i det vildfremmede?

— Hvorfor? Hvorfor i Alverden? ?

FRANDS: For Børnenes Skyld. Jeg synes ikke rigtig, der er nogen Fremtid for dem derhjemme. Bevares, de kunde sikkert faa en god lille Indtægt med Pension og alt det der, men det er

Tjener 26 Dollars om Ugen plus en vis Bonus. Det er altid en Begyndelse. Man skal lage, hvad man kan faa.

KIRSTEN: Der er flere unge danske Piger paa den Restaurant, I de første Dage talte vi Dansk. Men nu maa vi kun tale Engelsk.

— Det er vel for at Kunderne ikke skal tro, at I snakker om dem?

KIRSTEN: Det kan nok være. Men hvorfor skal Kineserne i Køkkenet nødvendigvis snakke Kinesisk?

Hun siger det saa uanfægtet, som om Holstebro vrimlede med Kinesere.

— Havde De noget Arbejde, da De kom hertil?

FRANDS: Nej. Vi kendte ikke en Sjæl. Vi kom om Torsdagen. Om Søndagen gik vi i den danske Kirke, hvor Pastor Kronborg prædikede, og kom i Snak med en hel Del Mennesker. To Dage efter havde jeg Arbejde som Tømrer hos to gode Danskere, der byggede Huse.

— Hvad skulde I have for Løn?

Vi har lejet et Hus til 65 Dollars om Maaneden.

idet godt paa en eller anden Maade var Skattevæsenet der straks.

— Hvad er saa med vort: 300 Dollars Netto i Canada eller 800 Kr. Netto i Danmark?

INGEBORG NIELSEN: Det kan jo svare paa. Jeg faar 60—65 Dollars i Husholdningspenge hver 14.Dag. Hjemme tog det min Mand 2 Timer at køre til 5 kg Kaffe, herovre 1 Time. Jeg har grævet at regne flere Ting ud paa samme Maade. En Pakke Cigaretter koster kun 11 Minutters Arbejde herovre, 20 Minutter derhjemme. En Kone kan

— ... næste Dag fik vi Rouletter i gredje Dag Lever. Altsammen for daly Timeløn. Frugt er billigere ...

FRANDS: Og du har allerede faa Køleskab og Vaskemaskine.

— Paa Afbetaling?

FRANDS: Ikke hos os. Vi betaler hver Stump kontant. Vi købte Ting, der stærne brugte, men de er gode nok. De Stage havde vi ikke Raad til derhjeme, og med syv Børn er en Vaskemaskine nu en rar Indretning at have. Huset!

One of several newspaper articles
This one, by Erling Norlev, who visited them in Vancouver

Arrival in Vancouver

It was Thursday, May 9, 1957 when they arrived at the CN Station on Main Street in Vancouver. It was a warm summer-like day and the sun was shining. Pastor Peder Kronborg from the Danish Lutheran Church was there to pick them up. They were also met by Emy Kristensen, the wife of Poul Kristensen, Dad's friend from Denmark. She came to pick up Jens Madsen, so Frants and Ingeborg were greatly relieved, when they realized that they already had friends in Vancouver. The whole family then squeezed into Pastor Kronborg's small car, and another trip or two had to be made for the suitcases and the eight wicker boxes.

The Continental Hotel

Pastor Kronborg drove Ingeborg and the children to the Continental Hotel on Granville Street. After he dropped them off, he took Frants and Kirsten to the Immigration Building in Vancouver where they had to check in. He later took them back to the Continental Hotel to meet up with the rest of the family and he made sure they were all settled into their two rooms. The children were not used to staying in hotels in Denmark so their expectations were that it should be very fancy. However, they were a bit shocked as this hotel was definitely not fancy. It had the ugly grey wool-type blankets with holes in them. However, it seemed to be clean enough. There was a hot plate in one of the rooms so Ingeborg could at least prepare meals for the family. The kids would go down under the Granville Bridge to play as there was some water areas there which were away from the traffic. The weather at that time was very warm, just like summer.



Gyrithe and school friend Ray Wong graduating from Britannia High School in 1963

On a walk down the street Frants and Gyrithe found a small grocery store. Frants saw a package that had strawberries on the outside, so they decided to buy it to surprise Ingeborg and the little kids with strawberries for dessert. However, when they arrived back at the hotel and opened the box, it was a package of shortening for making strawberry pies and not actual strawberries. What a disappointment that was for everyone. Today this is still laughed at and shared with Frants and Ingeborg's grandchildren. Frants and Gyrithe walked back to the little grocery store and the Chinese owner was very kind and understanding and let them return the shortening. He also thought it was very funny and again they all had a good laugh.

On the first Sunday after the family's arrival, the family took the bus to the Danish Church on 19th Avenue in Vancouver. It happened to be Mother's Day, May 12, 1957, and therefore lunch was served in the church hall after the church service. This gave the children as well as Frants and Ingeborg and opportunity to meet other people and make new friends. The family was met with open arms and introduced to everyone. Gyrithe sat next to a girl who had come to Canada from Juelsminde a year earlier. They became good friends and are still friends today.

570 North Skeena Street, Vancouver

At the Danish Church Frants and Ingeborg met the Justensen family. They told Ingeborg and Frants that they were moving out of the house they were renting at 570 North Skeena Street in Vancouver, south of the Second Narrows. Ingeborg and Frants were eager to find a house, and this sounded like the solution. They were able to rent that same house for $50 a month which was a rent they could manage. Frants was also offered a job and started to work as a carpenter ten days after his arrival in Vancouver. He ended up working for a man with the same name, Frants Nielsen, who was in partnership with Oscar Grann. They were both carpenters, building houses in North Vancouver. Frants was paid $1.50 per hour and managed to support his family on that income. So within a month, Frants Nielsen had landed a job and had found a place for his

family to live. This all happened because the family went to the Danish Church where they were met with open arms.

Kirsten and Erik also found jobs, while Gyrithe, Peter and Yvonne started school. They were placed in the same classroom so they could help and support each other as there was only a month left before the school year ended. During the summer, the kids and Ingeborg would go for walks and bring a picnic lunch with them. Gyrithe was offered a week at summer camp, Camp Luther on Hatzic Lake in Mission. One of the parishioners from the Danish Church was nice enough to drive her there and when it was time to come home, one of the girls she had met at the camp had her parents take her home. People were generous and everyone was kind and offered to help wherever they saw the need. One Sunday after church, the family went for a walk on the old Second Narrows Bridge across Burrard Inlet and as they reached the middle of the bridge someone started yelling at them. They finally realized that they had to get off the bridge as the bridge had to be raised for a ship that was sailing under the bridge. That was a very scary incident, which they never forgot.

Fall 1957

After the summer Peter and Gyrithe attended a New Canadian Class at MacDonald Elementary School on East Hastings Street in Vancouver. Miss Stanley was the teacher and she was very good to the new immigrant children. They were from many different countries, Holland, Germany, Hungary, China, and of course Denmark. Gyrithe was sent to Templeton Secondary school after only two months in the New Canadian class and Peter stayed a few more months.

In the fall of 1957, Erling Norlev, a journalist from Denmark, arrived to photograph, film and interview the family. People in Denmark were curious to find out how Frants at age 50 with seven children had managed his first year in Canada. It was all good news as the family was thriving. Kirsten worked at The White Lunch Restaurant across from Woodwards in downtown Vancouver and Erik also ended up working there as a janitor. Erik had apprenticed as a baker in Holstebro and Kirsten was a tailor/seamstress. As long as they were working, they were expected to pay room and board and this of course, was a huge help for Frants and Ingeborg. Erling Norlev interviewed the family, took photos and film which was later aired in Denmark where the whole family gathered to watch the Nielsens in Canada appear on Danish TV.



50th Wedding Anniversary, 1987
From left standing: Knud, Yvonne, Peter, Gyrithe, Carl,
Sitting: Erik, Ingeborg, Frants and Kirsten

The owner of the house on Skeena Street was Bill Graham. He also owned the older house next door to Ingeborg and Frants. He rented that house out to a young Danish family who relied heavily on Ingeborg and Frants to help them. However, their house was not very comfortable as there were mice and rats all over the place. Mr. Graham lived on a houseboat under the Second Narrows Bridge and he showed them photos of his son who was the last prisoner to be given the

death sentence and hanged in Canada. Mr. Graham was kind to the family and at Christmas he brought them gifts of pencils and note paper. He wanted Frants to buy his house but Frants did not want to purchase the house as it was on a very hilly lot and needed a lot of repairs. Ingeborg cooked on a wooden stove which also heated the house. The fridge was kept cool by ice. During their first summer there, Frants had to order firewood for the kitchen stove so Ingeborg could continue to cook and bake. The kids had to carry the wood up from the road and this was a difficult job especially during rush hour traffic. The wood was unloaded on the median and the kids had to sneak between the cars when they were stopped so they could carry the wood up to the house. People were very friendly and stopped for them so they could cross the road without being hit by a car.

Frants and Ingeborg would walk up to Hastings Street and take the trolley bus to downtown Vancouver where they could do their grocery shopping at Woodwards. It became a big event when they took the kids with them, as Frants would always treat them at the White Lunch Café where Kirsten and Erik worked. Frants and Ingeborg worked hard and were able to save enough money so they could purchase their own house, which they bought in the spring of 1958.

1340 Gravely Street, Vancouver

In the spring of 1958 Frants was able to purchase their first home at 1340 Gravely Street in Vancouver, just off Clark Drive. He paid $8,000 for the house and soon began renovating the interior by putting in new kitchen cupboards which he could make himself. He did not have a lot of time to complete this work as Gyrithe was being confirmed on May 25, 1958 in the Danish Church in Vancouver. Frants and Ingeborg invited all their Danish friends to Gyrithe's confirmation. She was confirmed by Pastor Kronborg. Again as fate would have it, the Kronborg family had an older lady helping them out with their children and housework. Her name was Maren Hansen. Frants began talking to Maren as he thought he recognized her from somewhere. Well, he did know her from when he had a carpenter shop in Fodby just outside Næstved. He recalls Maren and her husband travelling in their horse buggy outside his carpenter shop. Frants repaired something for them and they told him that they were moving to Canada. That was many years before Frants moved to Canada and what a coincidence that he had to meet up with Maren again. Unfortunately her husband had passed away by that time.



Frants Nielsen's 50th birthday

As time went on, Frants and Ingeborg became very involved in the Danish Lutheran Church on 19th Avenue, and Frants served on the Church Council for two terms. They made many friends at the church and their home was soon filled with guests as Ingeborg was always ready to invite people home that were either new to the church or new to Canada. On many occasions, she would have young people stay with them for room and board or just come for meals. She always had room for that extra person. Kirsten met Svend Hansen, a carpenter from Vejle and they were married on December 5, 1959 in the Danish Church. The wedding was held in the basement of Ingeborg and Frants' home with a beautiful decorated room and traditional Danish food. Kirsten and Svend moved to 12th Avenue in Vancouver and rented a small suite from Svend's brother, Olaf, and his wife Lise. Erik was working as a baker and met Ole Pii who was also a Danish

baker. Ole was very artistic and created many drawings of the Granly Danish Church in Surrey, as well as drawings of old barns and buildings. He created figures in clay and wall hangings. Ole became a very special family friend.

Frants and Ingeborg celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on October 10, 1962. Their friends built a real Danish *Æresport* for them. Their neighbours and the mailman thought they were decorating early for Christmas! As is the Danish tradition, their friends came and sang for them early in the morning and, of course, Ingeborg had prepared pastries and buns the day before. In addition their basement had been decorated for a huge celebration dinner. It was a very special day for them and the sang-skjuler (song holder hiding the song sheet) was none other than a replica of the ship that took them to Canada, the *SS Stockholm*.

Gyrithe graduated from Britannia Secondary School in 1963 and went to work the day after her graduation at Boyles Bros Diamond Drilling Company in Vancouver. Peter started to work with his dad as a carpenter and "The three small ones" as they were called – Yvonne, Knud and Carl were still in school. A few years after the family arrived in Canada, Ingeborg's sister was diagnosed with breast cancer and died at the young age of 42. Ingeborg was devastated and when Gyrithe and Erik came home from work, they found their mother crying and very upset. They decided to give her, a trip to Denmark, and called their new-found friend, Jens Sondergaard, a travel agent, to get her a ticket right away so she could get to Denmark and be there for her sister's funeral. Frants came home from work a bit later in the day and he was not pleased that this decision had been made without him. However, he also felt that she should go. It was a difficult time for Frants without his Ingeborg. He lost weight and could barely wait for her to come back home to him. The day she was to arrive at Vancouver Airport, he was up early, dressed in his Sunday best and of course, wearing his Sunday hat. Once he saw his Ingeborg, he became his old self again. They had never been apart for this long and the kids realized the huge bond that their parents had, they were inseparable.



Ingeborg's 90th birthday
Standing from left: Peter, Carl, Knud
Sitting: Yvonne, Erik, Ingeborg, Kirsten, & Gyrithe

In August of 1964 Gyrithe went to Denmark. She had always had difficulty settling in Canada. The first many months, she would dream about Denmark and when she woke up, she always became very disappointed. She worked seven days a week to save enough money for the trip. Frants did not want her to go and told her it was up to her to pay for the trip herself and she did. She stayed in Denmark for six months but Frants kept begging her to come back home as he said he had not moved to Canada to have one of his children live in Denmark. Gyrithe came back to Canada. As luck would have it, she got hired again by Boyles Bros Diamond Drilling Company.

545 Ebert Street, Coquitlam

In 1966, the family moved to Coquitlam as Frants purchased an older house on a double lot. The family thrived and Frants continued to build houses and eventually partnered up with his son-in-law, Svend Hansen. The Nielsen home was thriving as the children got married and grandchildren started to arrive. However, as time went on, Frants and his son-in-law, Svend and Svend's brother, Olaf, became involved with Henry Block and Block Brothers. They worked for Block Brothers a few years building houses and also built their own spec homes. This eventually led them to 108 Mile House where Henry Block was developing a recreation ranch in 1969.

108 Mile Ranch

Frants would travel to 100 Mile House every few weeks to work on the new building projects at the new 108 Mile Recreation Ranch. At first he lived in a tent and had his meals at the 105 Mile Ranch House. As time went on and the weather got colder, they decided to build a cabin so Ingeborg would be more comfortable when she came to visit him. The rumour spread and more Danes jointed them in the Cariboo. Kirsten and Svend were also there and eventually Svend's brothers joined them. Soon there were about six or eight cabins on a field near the main entrance to 108 Mile Resort. These cabins were filled with Danish people, so the little village became known as "Viking Villa". Subsequently, Frants and Ingeborg decided to sell their home in Coquitlam and move to 108 Mile Resort and settle there permanently.



Emigrerede for 27 år siden som 50-årig med kone og syv børn til Canada...

En »magnet« havde fat i os, og så var der bedre mulighed for børnene i det fremmede

Pedel i Elim - og tømrer- Frants Nielsen og hustru Ingeborg hjemme i Holstebro på en forårsferie. De fortæller her om årene i Canada

Holstebro Posten, 1984 another article about the Nielsen family

Kirsten and Svend did the same and so did Svend's brothers. Frants moved the one room cabin over to a lot he had purchased on Donsleequa Drive at the 108 Mile Ranch. Kirsten and Svend had also purchased a lot on the same street as did Svend's two brothers. Frants worked until he was 73 years old. He had a carpenter shop in the back of the 108 Building Supply store which was a newly constructed business started by Svend's brother, Olaf. As Frants retired, he spent his time fishing and gardening. Frants and Ingeborg joined St. Timothy's Anglican Church in 100 Mile House as there was no Lutheran Church there. Frants played a big role in helping to build a new church for the Anglican Congregation which was a log church. Frants' carpentry skills came to good use building the alter table and alter inside the church, which looked just like the one in the Danish Church. His dedication to the church was never forgotten and as a result, the church members named the downstairs church hall "The Frants Nielsen Hall" as it is still known as today. Frants never forgot the Danish Church and invited a couple of the Danish Pastors to visit them at the 108 Mile Ranch. Pastor Olga Grening spent some time visiting them and she also gave a sermon in the Anglican Church. Pastor Jens Arendt and his family also went to visit Ingeborg and Frants and he also held a worship service in the Anglican Church.

Frants and Ingeborg were blessed with many visits from Denmark. Ingeborg had four of her brother's come over from Denmark plus two sisters, and Frants had one sister visit. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 100 Mile House and were surprised when a church

service was arranged for them to repeat their wedding vows. There was not a dry eye in the entire church. As we all know, 100 Mile house gets a lot of snow and one winter Frants fell and broke his wrist. He was not a man that could sit still for long, so he started to play around with acrylic paint and lo and behold, he became an artist. He painted numerous pictures of landscapes and areas he had travelled to. The living room wall became an art in itself as Frants filled every bare spot with one of his paintings.

Frants had a good and healthy life but when he was 84 years old, he was diagnosed with colon cancer and he passed away at home on October 8, 1991. Ingeborg continued to live in the family home until she was 89 years old. She managed to keep the garden and still grow her beloved asparagus, potatoes, peas and carrots. She eventually found it too difficult to take care of the house alone even though the youngest son Carl would help her, as well as her sons-in-law. She eventually decided to move into assisted living and moved to Carefree Manor where she stayed until her passing on November 9, 2007. Frants and Ingeborg Nielsen were both laid to rest at the 100 Mile House Cemetery next to each other.

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Our objectives are to:

Promote friendly social and cultural activities;

Provide suitable meeting places for various cultural functions;

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

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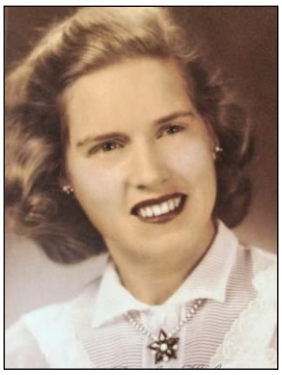


Birthe Helene Præst-Jensen

1929 – 2018

Margrethe Hiebert, Sicamous, British Columbia

My aunt (or Moster in Danish), Birthe Helene Møller, was born in Vestermarie on the island of Bornholm on September 24, 1929, as the youngest of ten children to carpenter August Kristian Møller (1882-1957) and Christine Cathrine Møller, née Jakobsen (1890-1978). After finishing school, Birthe like so many other young people on Bornholm moved to Copenhagen, where she found employment as a domestic.

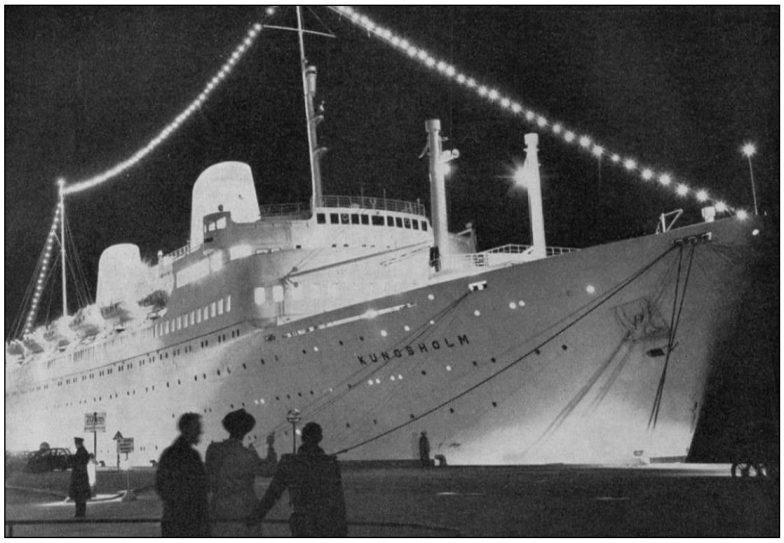


In August 1951, Birthe had an opportunity to accompany her sister, Inge Markmann (my mother), and her family to Winnipeg. In the Spring of 1951, my father, Knud Markmann, had gone ahead of us, sailing by ship and then on to Winnipeg by train. Moster Birthe, my mother and us three children flew, as it was easier to travel by plane with three small children. Our Pan Am flight was destined for New York, but was diverted to Gander, Newfoundland due to fog, where we landed on August 20, 1951. From there it was on to Winnipeg, where accommodation had been arranged.



Inge Markmann and her 3 children
Birthe on the right, 1951

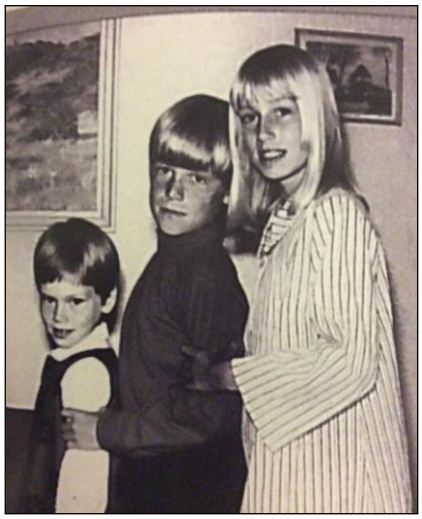
In 1951 it was easy to find employment as a housekeeper in Winnipeg. Birthe was hired by a family who encouraged and helped her to learn English. Birthe found Canada exciting and she was eager to see more of the country. Birthe found housekeeping work at the Banff Springs Hotel, being responsible each day for the cleaning of fourteen guest rooms with en suite bathrooms. Later she worked at the Empress Hotel in Victoria. The Rocky Mountains were a sight she treasured all her life. After a couple of years in the mountains, she headed to Montreal, where she worked for a family as housekeeper, at both the main residence as well as their summer cottage. In Montreal she was able to visit her two cousins, Jytte Margrethe Andersen and Kirsten Hansen, who earlier had immigrated to Canada.



*The **MS Kungsholm** brought Birthe home for Christmas, 1955*

After five years in Canada, Birthe returned to Bornholm to celebrate Christmas with her family. She left New York on December 3, 1955, sailing on the *MS Kungsholm*, the flagship of the Swedish American Line. The ship stopped in Gothenburg, which was covered in a blanket of snow. From there the *Kungsholm* continued to Copenhagen, where on December 13th the last 150 passengers disembarked. When Birthe arrived on Bornholm she was immediately interviewed by a local newspaper. She told the journalist about the hurricane-like storm which had raged for six days while crossing the Atlantic. Otherwise she had enjoyed the voyage, meeting a lot of people. She told the journalist that she had also spent much time going to the cinema, as well as dancing to a live band in the lounge every evening. In March 1956 she returned to Canada, more specifically to Winnipeg.

Birthe married Ib Præst in Winnipeg in 1956, although the marriage was to last only six years. But three wonderful children were born. Catherine was born in 1957, and Donald was born in 1958, both in Winnipeg. Ib did not like the cold winters in Canada, so they moved to California, where Deanne was born in Los Angeles in 1961. After a few years, they returned to Denmark, where the marriage ended. Ib eventually went back to California.



Deanne, Donald, & Catherine

With the three children, Birthe decided it was best to remain on Bornholm, where she could stay with her mother. After a few years, it was time for her and the children to find their own accommodation. With the children in school, she found a cleaning job at the local school in the afternoon, and a few other cleaning jobs in the morning. Over the years, she developed a passion for food preparation and serving, and would help at private birthdays, confirmations and weddings.

In 1975, Birthe married Børge Jensen and together they lived out a dream of farming in Årsballe. Besides the crops they grew, they also managed some beehives, selling honey locally. In 1999, Børge passed away. Birthe then moved into the town of Rønne, finding smaller accommodation.

Birthe spent much time socializing with family and friends. Every second week from 1964 to 2014, she met regularly with a group of ladies who had formed a knitting club. The women were very creative, and they made beautiful cross stitch embroideries, knitting, crocheting as well as porcelain painting. Besides gossip they also discussed family matters and current affairs.

Catherine, Donald, and Deanne had arrived in Denmark in 1962 as preschoolers and therefore had time to adjust to their new environment before attending the local school. New friendships were easily developed. After finishing school, Catherine trained as "Smørrebrødsjomfru" (making Danish Smørrebrød), working in restaurants and canteens, moving to Sjælland in 1982. In 1985 she married Poul-Erik. They have one child from Poul-Erik's previous marriage and live in Melby, near Frederiksværk.

Donald trained as a kleinsmed (blacksmith/millwright), and moved to Winnipeg in 1983, settling down with Eileen and two children. He is still there. Deanne, trained as an occupational therapist, and lived on Greenland from 1988 to 2009. Later Deanne trained as an accountant. She married Anthon in 1988. They have one child plus three children from Anthon's previous marriage. They currently live in the Copenhagen area.

Birthe loved traveling, and over the years she would visit Winnipeg to see her sister, her son and their families. There was always an opportunity to visit the Rocky Mountains. She made sure of that. Greenland was also breathtaking to see, which she did when her daughter and family lived there. If other family members did not visit her on Bornholm, she had no hesitation in jumping in the car and visiting them on Sjælland or elsewhere to keep in contact.

I enjoyed my stays with Moster Birthe, visiting her in 1970, 1996, 2014, 2015, and 2016. She would go to great lengths to gather family and friends. She loved to entertain. She enjoyed showing me what Bornholm has to offer. She always felt that Bornholm was Canada squeezed together, with mountains, prairie, beaches and marshland!



Birthe and her family, 2002

In September 2014, at the age of 85, the time had come for Birthe to leave Bornholm to be closer to her daughters. She found a self-contained suite in Frederiksværk, where Catherine could drop by after work on a daily basis. Deanne visited on the weekends, when possible. Birthe enjoyed the fact that she could walk to the local store to pick up a few groceries.

As the years went by life became more difficult and help was not always available. But her spirits were high, and she enjoyed the company of her daughters and sons-in-law. After a short stay in the hospital, Birthe passed away on February 4, 2018. She was buried in the local Melby Cemetery near Frederiksværk.

Helmer Welen

Louise Welen, Standard

The story of Helmer Welen's immigration to Canada is not unlike that of many young Danes who left Denmark after the First World War in search of employment, adventure and a new life when times were hard. In Helmer's case, his situation was this: his mother had died when he was only nine; his grandparents who were so close to him, had all passed away; he had completed his compulsory military service; his brother had left home; and his dear father had remarried and started a new family. He couldn't afford to continue his education, and by the age of 21 he was feeling that "there was no place for him" in Denmark. It could be said that Helmer's story is unremarkable; he himself, being a humble man would probably agree, and it is likely that he would not even approve of having his story written for this publication. His is not a story of fame and fortune, but of strength of character, of resilience and of tenaciously holding on to the important and precious values instilled in him by his family in his childhood.



Helmer Welen

Childhood in Denmark

Helmer Welen was born in 1907 in Odense to Jacob Valdemar Nielsen and Ida Brøndum-Nielsen. At some point Jacob changed his name from Nielsen to Welen (Valen), apparently because there were so many Teacher Nielsens at the school where he taught. Helmer didn't know why this name was chosen—perhaps it was taken from a place-name where his father had been to take an art course. Ida died in an accident in Copenhagen when Helmer was only nine years old. After her death, Dagmar, one of his aunts, moved in to take care of him and his brother, bringing her piano with her.

Helmer's father was both a schoolteacher and an artist, teaching for most of his years at Jernbanegade Skole ("Railroad Street School), a little north of the centre of Odense. Helmer also went to that school and remembered how the school children would wait for Teacher Nielsen (Welen) and how they would run alongside him. His father loved teaching and turned down offers of inspectorships in order to continue teaching. Helmer's father was not his own classroom teacher, but his teacher by example at home – he remembered listening to his father tell the stories of Hans Christian Andersen, who had grown up in Odense as well. Jacob studied art and had painted H.C. Andersen-themed murals in several schools in Odense and Kerteminde. Jacob also wrote and illustrated many little songs, using the names of Helmer's friends and cousins, and played them on the violin for Helmer and his brother while they sat on the bench, cuddled beside him. Helmer's father was known in Odense not only as an artist and teacher, but as a

contributor of amusing stories and poems for the local paper to liven things up. Helmer greatly loved and respected his father.

Grandparents were likewise loved and held in high esteem. The grandfathers, Hans Anton Nielsen and Niels Christian Brøndum-Nielsen were both teachers and church deacons—one in Kerteminde and the other in Brudager. 'Farfar' was a great example of prudent economics. Helmer told his daughters this story: "Farfar had a long black coat which he wore to church. One time he burned a hole in it--he probably got too close to one of the altar candles. Farmor knew that he would be able to get a new coat from his insurance. She made the claim to the insurance company and waited for the new coat. Meanwhile she mended the old one and did such a good job that you could hardly see where the hole had been. When the insurance man came with the new coat, Farfar didn't want it. He said, "What do I need a new coat for? The old one is still good for a long time". The insurance man didn't know what to do with the coat so 'Farfar' said he didn't care--"Give it to the Salvation Army!"--which is what happened! That story tells something about what kind of a man Farfar was."



In Jacob and Ida Welen's home in Odense, ca. 1914
The boy in front reading is Helmer

Helmer's childhood days were filled with varied adventures with grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins—climbing the water-washed clay cliffs near Kerteminde, picking brambleberries and hazelnuts, taking the ferry to Samsø Island, renting a rowboat at the river near St. Knut's Cathedral, going to the theatre and music concerts in Odense, listening to grandparents telling stories, sampling Mormor's marrow pickles, waiting on Christmas Eve for the living-room doors to open revealing the candle-lit tree, cycling around Odense, Funen and once to Jutland with his father. Of course, with all those teachers in the family, schooling was of utmost importance. Helmer completed High School at the top of his class in Mulerne's Legat Skole. The quality of education must have been top notch, as he could remember some French from his school day lessons, could still speak German in his later years, and remained fluent in Danish.

Early working years in Denmark

His father had just remarried, and Helmer left home to find work, mostly on farms in Funen. Part of his experience was with the large farm in Lerchenborg where he worked with 36 other farm hands. He learned a lot at that farm and got into mischief from time to time with his colleagues.

When he was 19 Helmer was enlisted for military service, choosing the Cavalry. He was good with the horses and was known to handle the 'willful' horses that no one else could manage. He talked of having a few things going for him—he was the leader of the Signal Corps, and the Captain's chauffeur and horseman.

After 14 months of military service, it was time to do something else. He had an offer from his Captain to work at a rubber plantation owned by a Danish company in Burma, but he met a Danish couple his father knew, and they invited him to work at their farm in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. He accepted the offer, got his papers in order and prepared to set out on the ship *SS United States*. After saying goodbye to his father and brother he left for Canada arriving finally in Halifax, after days of stormy weather at sea. The train took him to Shaunavon but it arrived in a blizzard so no one could come to meet him, and he didn't have warm clothes to fit the occasion. No doubt he was wondering if he would ever see his family again.

Immigrating to Canada

And so, in April 1929, with family and all things familiar left behind, he began working for Martin Hansen in Instow, Saskatchewan. He was 22 years of age.

Martin Hansen farmed 2 1⁄2 sections of land. He had a little Wallis Tractor, but after a couple of years, when everything dried up and gas became too expensive they went back to using the horses. He had 8 beautiful black Percherons, and Helmer thought it was a joy to handle them. When they used the seeder they hitched up 7 horses abreast; to pull the plough they hooked up all 8 horses, 4 in front and 4 behind.

Helmer was getting $50.00 per month, but pretty soon his employer could not continue to pay him. In the spring of 1931 he told Helmer that he could not pay him, but that he could stay on, hoping times would get better. They did not, but he made enough money for cigarettes by trapping gophers. There was a bounty of 1¢ per tail, so when he worked in the field, he would stop at each end of the field to rest the horses, while he reset his 2 gopher traps.



Helmer driving tractor in Saskatchewan, ca. 1930

Finally in harvest time there was nothing to harvest at Instow, so along with three other young fellows from that locality went together to Olds, Alberta, where they had heard there were good crops and workers were needed. Martin had given him $10.00 for a year's work (all he could spare). One of the four had an old car and the other three of paid for the gas. They landed in Olds, had supper in the restaurant, and slept in the stooks in the field. In the morning after breakfast they stood on the street looking for work. Helmer was the first one to get work, so he handed his last 35¢ to the others as they had previously agreed upon, but before evening they all had work. Helmer then worked for Martin Nielsen, a man who had made money on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Later, he and two other young men decided to go west together. Instead of working for $15.00 a month they decided to go out west and work for themselves at James River Bridge where they bought a quarter-section from the municipality for $160.00 ($1 per acre). Together with a bachelor neighbor they built a little home and cut timber all winter. In the spring they had a sawmiller pull in and they sawed all the logs into lumber; then the tough luck hit them. First their house burnt down, so they lived in a little shed that the sawmiller had

been kind enough to leave for them. Then they cut enough burnt timber so they could build a log house; that done, they contracted to cut the trees on a neighbour's quarter on shares.

By then the Depression of the dirty 30's had set in and they got a very low price for the lumber. They did get an old tractor and some machinery, and could seed their fields, but at harvest time the frost hit and got the crop. They had a few cows and four horses, so they hauled straw from near Olds all the way to their place, crossing the Red Deer River on the ice. The horses broke through the ice on one occasion, but the water came just up to the horses' chests. They had to cut the ice with an axe all the way to shore (the horses survived without any harm.)



Marie and Helmer
With their three girls, 1947

The next year they made a little money breaking land for neighbors with their old tractor and got an old threshing machine so they could thresh for many of their neighbors. Eventually the partnership broke up and they sold their land.

In 1938 Helmer married the neighbour's daughter, Marie Youngman, to whom he was devoted his entire life. They first lived in a log house that Helmer built across the road from Marie's parents. They barely eked out an existence—it was said that there wasn't even a baby blanket for their firstborn in 1939—a daughter. Their second child, a boy, was born prematurely and died within hours of delivery. One can only imagine how difficult it was to hold on to hope and keep moving forward.

Helmer found work wherever he could. One of his former partners got a second truck and Helmer drove for him, besides doing carpentry work in the district. In the winter of 1941 he got a job on a farm at Chancellor for a Danish couple, the Stroms. He was to get $25.00 per month plus 3¢ for every bushel of grain sold. But the war had come, and the farmers could not sell the wheat. It just piled up on the farms and along the Railroad. Then, after working a couple of years for another farmer south of Chancellor, Helmer and his family (wife and now with three daughters, Joyce, Joan and Louise) came back to the Stroms again, until the farm was sold in 1948.

Once again the Welen family had to move…they came to the Standard area, which had been settled by Danish families, some having moved there from the United States. It was still common to hear Danish spoken in the village at that time. Helmer began working in the coal mine near Standard in the winter and he was hired to work on the farm that the mine owners had rented, in the summer. That meant moving twice a year, (from a farmhouse with no furnace, electricity or running water, to a little three-room house in Standard with electricity but no running water or furnace.). Tragedy hit once again in the summer of 1950 as Helmer and Marie lost their nine-year old daughter, Joan, in a bicycle accident at the farm.

Further challenges presented themselves--after several years the coal market dried up, as coal was being replaced by oil. So Helmer had to change jobs again. Although there was barely a penny to spare, Helmer purchased an old piano from a rural door-to-door piano salesman so the

girls could learn to play. He also bought a set of encyclopedias and dictionaries—he was known to read them as leisure reading.

Getting Settled

A new opportunity came along in the village. Helmer was offered a position as a clerk in the General Store of Nielsen and Madsen. In order to accept the job the family needed a place to live, so he borrowed $2500.00 with Nielsen's backing, so they could buy the little house (he called it a shack) they had been living in for $1500.00. The other $1000.00 was used for improvements. After his days' work in the store, he dug out the basement using his mine pick, a shovel and a wheelbarrow. Eventually in the mid fifties he built an addition to the house, making it a more comfortable place for his family. Although the income was low, his job at the store was stable. He soon became the "go-to" man at Nielsen and Madsen, especially in the hardware department. People would ask him when he was going to start walking, because it seemed he was running most of the time. Marie also worked part time in the store and later in the Post Office. Things gradually started to get better for them. They were both active in the Lutheran Church in Standard, where Helmer served as Treasurer for many years. Helmer was a member and president of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. Occasionally Helmer and Marie would take short holidays in their camper truck. The two daughters both attended University to become teachers. In the 1960's, they both married, and Helmer and Marie acquired five grandchildren.



Marie and Helmer celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary

At the age of 64, Helmer had to quit his job at the store because of his health. However, he was used to working hard and keeping busy. In his retirement, he kept the yard in beautiful shape, and worked with Marie to grow a garden and flowers so lovely they are still talked about many years later.



Alberta 75th Anniversary Quilt, now at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary

In the winters, he did weaving. He had remembered watching one of his aunts in Denmark using a 4-harness loom, so he decided to build one for himself. Using odds and ends, as was his habit, he created a loom, using old hockey sticks, bicycle spokes, and fishing lure swivels. He wove hundreds of pieces on this loom—place mats, runners, wall hangings, and with the help of Marie, some versatile tote bags and cushion covers. Meanwhile, Marie also sewed piece quilts, and working together, their creative venture lasted for a number of years. In 1980 Helmer designed a quilt for Marie and her friend Wilhelmina. Marie sewed the pieces, and her friend did the hand quilting. They entered the piece in a quilt contest to commemorate Alberta's 75th year as a province and won 3rd prize. The quilt is now in the Glenbow Museum in Calgary.

Eventually, arthritis set in and Helmer gave up the weaving, but many pieces he crafted can still be found all around the community and beyond.

Communication with relatives in Denmark had been limited in those days, consisting only of occasional letters. In 1993 at the age of 86, Helmer made his first and only trip back to Denmark. Marie and his two daughters went with him and were able to see the home and city of his childhood and to meet Helmer's niece Ket. Helmer could still readily find his way around the old part of Odense, and apparently he started speaking Danish to Marie in his sleep. Over the years he had said he didn't really want to go back because his father and brother had died, and everything would be changed. However, after this trip to Denmark he was ready to go again. When asked why he had not wanted to go before, he said "Maybe it was because I knew I couldn't." Helmer passed away in February 2000, just before his 93rd birthday.

In spite of having left behind forever a wonderful father who lived in his memories and in spite of disappointments, loss and hardships which he faced in Canada, Helmer had a rare ability to find inner contentment, with no bitterness in his heart. He had a big heart and took little for himself. He had found a place to settle and had made a home for his family. He often told his wife and daughters that he was rich though he had little money. Helmer had brought with him many assets. They were the strength of his background--the love of learning, the ability to make do with resources at hand, the value of good story-telling (and a good joke), the importance of perseverance and hard work with a rest afterwards, the appreciation of the beauty of nature around him, as well as the unending devotion to family, and to God.



“May the work I’ve done speak for me” - remembering Bendt Husted

Tina Husted

Canada is a land of immigrants, who have adopted this nation as their own and added their background and culture to its fabric, weaving their stories into the larger Canadian story. Like so many before him, Bendt Husted, a volunteer at the Danish Canadian Museum from 1999 to 2018, was one of the many attracted by Canada and the promise of something new and exciting. He was born in Vemb on March 8, 1932 and grew up near the beautiful west coast of Denmark.

Building was in his blood, and like his father and grandfather before him, he became a bricklayer while still a teenager. He dreamt of travelling to North America, and when documents quickly became available to travel to Canada, he bought a plane ticket bound for a new adventure. He arrived in 1958 and joined his brother and family in Olds, Alberta, who earlier had immigrated to Canada. He found work doing various jobs, but eventually was hired for his building and brick-laying skills. He began what was to be a long career of working on and being part of creating many building projects throughout Alberta.

Not long after arriving in Alberta, Bendt met his wife-to-be, Jutta Nielsen, who had also recently emigrated from Denmark to Canada with her family. They married in May 1960, moving to Red Deer where they built the first of three homes they would have there. In the following decade they welcomed three children, Cindy, Tina and Kim.

Like so many immigrant households in Canada, where homeland traditions and culture are kept alive and blended into the new ones of an adopted country, Danish traditions were a part of everyday life and celebrations in the Husted household. It was a typical Canadian home, but with a feeling of pride in Danish heritage – always flying the Canadian flag high, and on special occasions a Danish flag flying below it, a reminder of family roots.

Part of celebrating Danish heritage in the Husted household was being part of the Red Deer Danish Canadian club, volunteering for and being part of different activities and spending time having fun with other families. It was through this involvement that both Bendt and Jutta discovered the Dickson Store Museum and The Danish Canadian Museum in the late 1990s. Both museums were in need of volunteers and with Bendt and Jutta entering their retirement years, they happily joined on to help keep Danish heritage alive by supporting as volunteers.

Over his almost twenty years of volunteering at The Danish Canadian Museum, Bendt worked on countless small and many large projects, using his building skills to help do everything from completing needed upgrades and restoration to the buildings, to landscaping, to the creation of new attractions at the Museum. He loved new projects, so planning and working with others at the Museum allowed him to do the things he loved to do; dream, plan, build, create and do it with like-minded friends, all while creating a legacy for Danish culture and his family roots.

As Bendt spent more time volunteering at The Danish Canadian Museum, the builder in him saw the possibility for some additions to the museum that could strengthen ties to Danish heritage in a tangible way and give people of all backgrounds more reasons to visit and spend time learning about Danish culture and traditions. One of the bigger projects was the Dagmar Pioneer Church, which Bendt saw as a small-scale version of the older typical churches that can be found across Denmark – white, austere and beautiful in their simplicity; a building that could speak not only to religious roots, but also to Danish building traditions. After many hours of careful planning, and a generous private donation, Bendt was able to build and make the church a reality in 2002, bringing to life a small, traditional Danish church, ready to welcome museum visitors.



Next to the church a 'Mindelund' or memorial wall was added, donated and built by Bendt and Jutta in 2007, a way for those interested in permanently remember their loved ones in a special way. On the Museum grounds there is a small lake which led to Bendt's next large project which started in 2007 and was finished in 2008, a bridge connecting the hillside to the pathway leading to the church. The bridge was a labour of love for Bendt, as it was a replica of the 19th century Slyk Bridge that his father Hagbard had helped restore in their hometown of Vemb in Denmark.

A bridge beautiful in its simplicity, with elegant details that highlight the brick-laying skills and care put into building both versions by both Bendt and his father. The original Slyk Bridge in Denmark is now a protected heritage structure, and this replica at the museum speaks to the history of building with brick which you see in countless areas of Denmark.

From 2012 to 2014, another project took up much of Bendt's spare time - the 'Naust' or boathouse for the beautiful *Freydis Joanna* Viking ship, built in Denmark and donated to The Danish Canadian Museum by a generous donor in 2009. Working with other volunteers, Bendt spent two years planning and building the lovely wooden structure that today is a permanent home for this top attraction at the Museum. The building structure was made of logs, and built by hand in all kinds of weather, with much time spent making sure that the quality of the structure and its details would make it a fitting home for the lovely *Freydis Joanna*. The hardware on the doors and windows of the Naust were the finishing touches that Bendt tracked down to ensure a feeling of authenticity to the structure.

In 2018 Bendt drew up a proposal for a new fence, his last project for the Museum. It's another project I'm sure he would have liked to work on and to have completed, as he was happiest when he was building or creating something, or just helping others to do the same. He was never one to

rest for too long, even at 86 years old. If he had had it his way, he probably would have been starting another project at the Museum this spring. Instead, his family and friends will follow in his footsteps at the Museum and continue to create something celebrating not only our Danish heritage, but remembering him and his legacy to us. He died in Calgary on February 23, 2019.

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Jens Munk's search for the Northwest Passage

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

In 1619, nine years after Henry Hudson discovered Hudson Bay, a Danish expedition under the command of Jens Munk with two ships and sixty-four men, entered Hudson Bay in search of the Northwest Passage to the Orient. Despite commanding two nimble ships, the frigate *Enhjørningen* and the cutter *Lamprenen*, Jens Munk had trouble finding Hudson Strait, the entrance to the Bay. He wasted valuable time sailing into Frobisher Bay and Ungava Bay, on either side of the Strait. But he eventually found the Strait and sailed into Hudson Bay. The expedition ultimately reached the west coast of Hudson Bay, but without finding a passage.

Winter came sooner than Jens Munk and his crew had anticipated, and it proved impossible to get out of the Bay again, because of the thick ice. And it was only September! Jens Munk therefore decided to stay for the winter. He had no other choice. *Enhjørningen* and *Lamprenen* were pulled ashore near the mouth of the Churchill River. They abandoned *Lamprenen* and everybody moved into *Enhjørningen*, which was insulated and made ready for winter. They took turns going ashore hunting, so they could have a change of food from the salted pork, salted fish, salted everything. Munk himself with a small party ventured up the Churchill River until they had to turn back due to the many rocks in the river-bed. Munk did find human tracks in the snow and traces of camp sites, but he did not encounter anyone. At the same time, due to the tracks in the snow, Munk felt that he was being observed. Munk had earlier in the Hudson Straight met some of the local inhabitants. It was a friendly encounter and Munk was able to offer to them knives, iron implements, and a mirror in exchange for some birds and seal meat.

It was an extremely long and cold winter. But worse, the crew was attacked by scurvy. One by one they started dying. The dead were buried ashore on a nearby hill. Indeed, all the men died, mostly of scurvy, with the exception of Munk and two men, who managed to survive and sail home in the smaller ship.

It is a wonder that Munk was able to overcome this ordeal. He likely survived only because of his previous experience in the Arctic.

He was practically born a sailor. He went to sea at the tender age of twelve, when he ran away from home. He got a job on a ship, working as a deckhand, and made it to Oporto in Portugal, where he took a job working for one of Oporto's well-to-do merchants. He stayed for less than a year. Next time he was off to Bahia in Brazil. He nearly didn't make it to the New World, as on the way he was taken prisoner by some French pirates. However, they were after treasure, so

they dropped the boy off along the Brazilian coast, and by foot Munk made it to Bahia, where he stayed for four years, working for a Portuguese merchant.

Munk could probably have become a rich man, had he stayed in Bahia. He was born on the Barbo Estate near Arendal in the south of Norway in 1579. Both parents were Danish, but he was born out of wedlock. When his father was thrown in jail in Denmark, quite unusual for a nobleman, Jens was sent to school in Aalborg, Denmark. When he returned to visit his mother in Frederikstad in Norway at the age of twelve, he learned the truth about his father and himself and therefore decided to run away.

But he did return to Denmark, after five years in Portugal and Brazil, and his home came to be on Pilestræde in the centre of Copenhagen. He became a captain in the Royal Danish Navy, fighting with distinction at the Battle of Elfsborg during the Kalmar War, where he successfully blocked off the Swedish city of Gothenburg, and took *Lamprenen* from the Swedes. This was during the reign of King Christian IV, who ruled over Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Greenland.

In time of peace, Munk, among other things, chased pirates to keep the sea lanes between Iceland, Norway and Denmark open and safe for merchant ships. For example, he was able to catch both the Englishman Thomas Tucker and the Spaniard Mandoza alive. Tucker was hanged on the spot after a trial, while Mandoza was taken to Copenhagen and hanged in public.

Like Henry Hudson, Munk had made a couple of voyages to the Barents Sea in search of the Northeast Passage, north of Russia to the Orient. But he had to turn back because of the solid ice and turbulent weather. At the same time, he kept an eye on what the Russians, Dutch and English were doing in this part of the world. It was on these voyages that be became interested in whaling and he did on some occasions make a considerable amount of money on the whales.

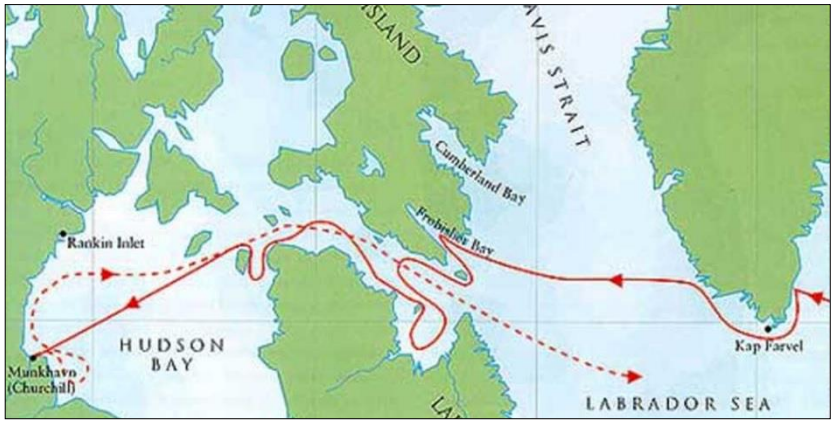
In 1618, a Dutchman persuaded King Christian IV to liberate Ceylon from its Portuguese oppressors and assume control of Ceylon himself. The right man to lead such a fleet and take over Ceylon was Jens Munk, as he had demonstrated his naval skills at the Battle of Elfsborg and he spoke Portuguese fluently.

It was the longest journey a Danish fleet had ever been sent on, when Denmark's "Indian Fleet" left Copenhagen in November 1618, to go south around the Cape of Good Hope to Ceylon. However, Jens Munk was not on board when the fleet sailed; he had been replaced by a nobleman, who would better be able to represent the King. Being replaced by an inexperienced 24-year-old landlubber was a devastating blow to Munk.

It then occurred to Munk, "why not sail west and get to Ceylon first?" Henry Hudson had found a passage into the North American continent some eight years earlier. Various Englishmen, Thomas Button, Robert Bylot and William Baffin, had since tried to find the Northwest Passage, but in vain. Maybe he could find the Passage, where the English had failed.

It was not difficult convincing the King, and Munk was given the frigate *Enhjørningen* and the cutter *Lamprenen* to search for the Northwest Passage. Most of the crew were Danes, but included Norwegians, Swedes and Icelanders. Both first mates were English. John Watson had accompanied Thomas Button on his 1612 voyage to Hudson Bay, and William Gordon had been to Greenland and Svalbard.

Jens Munk set out to find the Northwest Passage in May 1619. Not readily finding the passage and wintering at the mouth of the Churchill River, as it is known as today, was not part of the plan. When Christmas came, Pastor Rasmus Jensen conducted the first Lutheran Christmas Service in North America – on board *Enhjørningen*. The Christmas dinner was hare and grouse, wine and beer.



Only three people survived that harsh winter, Munk and two others, whose names are not known. They too had been attacked by scurvy, but in June they managed to transfer all necessities to the smaller *Lamprenen*, making it ready for the voyage home. They set off, but soon ran into some terrible weather. Yet, they succeeded in finding their way out of Hudson Bay, and subsequently home, despite being undermanned, sick and up against terrifying storms.

Four years later, in 1624, Jens Munk published his journal and maps from the voyage as *Navigatio Septentrionalis*. He called the land Nova Dania and up until the 18th century, the Churchill River was known as either the Danish River or the Munk River. An island in the Foxe Basin, north of Hudson Bay, was at the beginning of the twentieth century named Jens Munk Island, thanks to the Arctic explorer Knud Rasmussen.

In 1631, two expeditions led by Thomas James and Luke Foxe finally proved that Hudson Bay was not the entrance to the Northwest Passage. In fact, it was not until 1906 that the Northwest Passage was traversed, by Roald Amundsen in the schooner *Gjøa*, taking him three years to sail from Norway to San Francisco. Finally in 1942, the RCMP schooner *St. Roch*, under command of Sergeant Henry Larsen cleared the Passage from west to east. The *St. Roch*, which surprisingly is not large, can be seen in the Maritime Museum in Vancouver.

Lamprenen sank in a storm in Skagerrak in 1627, an event witnessed by Munk himself, as he and a small fleet, which included *Lamprenen*, were returning from a blockade of the Weser River during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648).

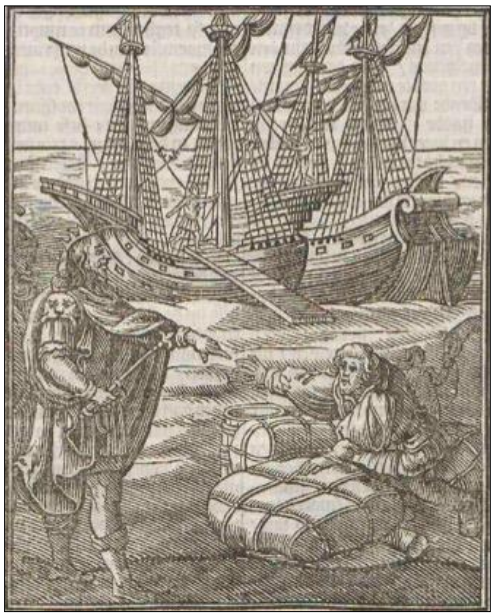
In January 1628 Albrecht von Wallenstein invaded and occupied Jutland. King Christian IV with his fleet rushed to the German island of Fehmarn and the port of Kiel to cut off the invaders at the base of the Jutland Peninsula. During these fierce sea battles Jens Munk was seriously wounded, and in April Jens Munk was taken back to Copenhagen. He died in June 1628 and was buried in Saint Nicholas Church in Copenhagen.

Little came out of Munk's voyage to try to find the Northwest Passage, whereas the Indian Fleet did establish a colony in India. Worse still, Munk's voyage was never followed up by another expedition. It was impossible to gather a crew, as all the able-bodied seamen had heard of the terrible fate that had befallen the crew of *Enhjørningen* and *Lamprenen* in Hudson Bay.

Hello, Jens Munk!

Otto Christensen, Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

Had I lived 400 years ago I would really have liked to meet this fellow. The word on the street was that he was a person to get to know if you were looking for adventure. And if you got to know him well enough then you would have a friend for life. Oh well; too bad I didn't get to meet him. He was not much of a socializer, anyway. He loved his 'time alone' and he seldom sought other peoples' company just for the fun of it, still the kind of person who filled you with a sober sense of reality on the one hand, and with optimism and hope for the future on the other. So, they said.

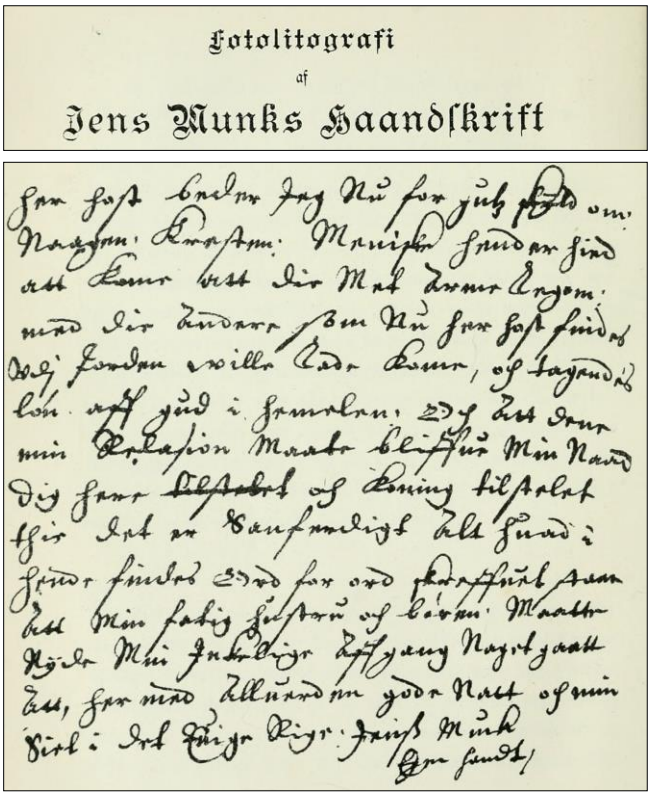


I would have loved to be in his company. Listen to his stories. Learn from his experience. And somehow to engage in a conversation with him about how he and we as human beings can be the best for each other and create a society of equality and mutual understanding.

Now 400 years later this is not possible. Yet, when you get to know his story, read his writings, and imagine yourself in his situation you get a feeling for an amazing life lived – with passion and integrity.

Here at the beginning of a Jens Munk biography I have to disclose my own self-interest in his story. Let it be known to the world that he has been one of my heroes since I was fourteen years old. I was given Thorkild Hansen's book about Jens Munk as a Christmas present in 1965. As I read it, I was outraged about the injustices he suffered. At the same time, I was fascinated with how he was able to keep his spirit intact through it all – get over it and start afresh. It has remained that kind of story for me, the universal story about our resilience as human beings and our ability to find the silver lining – in spite of dismal, horrible circumstances. Okay? That ought to be enough of an introduction.

Now, I assume you, the reader, will be asking for a picture of Jens Munk. It's like, if we can see his eyes, then we will know for ourselves who this person is. Well, sorry to say that won't be possible. There are no pictures of him. Not one. The closest we can get is two drawings from 1647 in a book written by a person who never met Munk – only heard about him and his story. Isaac La Peyrere was in Denmark in 1644 as a secretary to the French emissary and became interested in Greenland and the Arctic. He heard about Jens Munk's voyages in The North and wrote about Munk's life – being intrigued himself. La Peyrere's book has two drawings depicting Munk – but they can in no way serve as true-to-life pictures. Above is one of them.


Fotolitografi
af
Jens Munks Haandskrift

The closest we can get to a 'picture' of Jens Munk is his own hand writing. This assumes that our penmanship reflects who we are and some of us may be a bit skeptical about this.

On the other hand, graphology has been around forever as a doorway to personality. And we are in luck here, because we have lots of Jens Munk's hand writing. He was a meticulous journal keeper on his travels, and many are preserved – most famously his journal of the Northwest Expedition of 1619-20. It is archived at the Copenhagen Royal Library as Additamenta # 184, and you can actually go there and have a look at it yourself – under supervision.

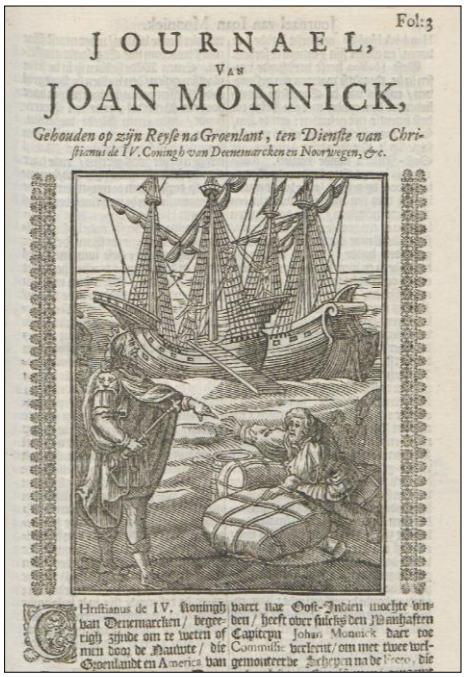
To the left is a sample, namely Munk's famous last will and testament written on June 4, 1620. Below is the English translation by Christian C.A Gosch in his book '*Danish Arctic Expeditions 1605-20 II*' of 1897.

Perhaps you get the picture? And if not, then at least you would now have an idea if you would like to know more about this person.

INASMUCH as I have now no more hope of life in this world, I request, for the sake of God, if any Christian men should happen to come here, that they will bury in the earth my poor body, together with the others which are found here, expecting their reward from God in Heaven: and, furthermore, that this my journal may be forwarded to my most gracious Lord and King (for every word that is 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, good-night to all the world; and my soul into the hand of God, etc.

JENS MUNCK.

Before I go into a more traditional biography I want to add, that writing about another person's life is not a simple task. Yes, you can list all the events, projects and such, but you know how little that actually says about who the person is. As an illustration you know that reading an obituary in the news-paper does not give justice to the person. For this very reason the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee saw it as a top priority to get Munk's own writing out to the public. We are proud to have accomplished this. "*Jens Munk's Journal 1619-1620*" has been re-printed and will be given as part of the Federation of Danish Association's 2019 Conference registration package, courtesy of the Royal Danish Embassy in Ottawa. Thank-you, Denmark! You can also buy it at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta.


Fol:3

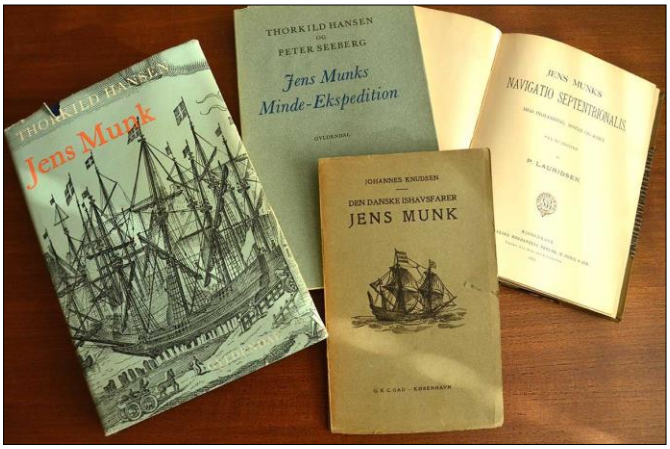
JOURNAEL,
VAN
JOAN MONNICK,

Gehouden op zijn Reyse na Groenlant, ten Dienste van Christianus de IV. Coningh van Denemarcken en Noorwegen, &c.

Christianus de IV, Koningh vaert nae Oost-Indien mochte winnen van Denemarcken / begeerden / heeft over sulcks den Manhaftigh zijnde om te weten of Capiteyn Johan Monnick daer toe mocht doen de Maniere / die Commissie verleent / om met twee welGroenlandt en America van gemonteerde

Speaking of "*Jens Munk's Journal 1619-1620*"; its original title is *Navigatio Septentrionalis* (Latin for Navigating Northern Waters; here referred to as N.S.). It was authored by Munk himself in 1624, four years after he came back from the ill-fated journey. It can be argued, it is Munk's 'therapeutic writing' in which he got to tell the story the way he experienced it. Today we talk about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following an incident in which a person has been exposed to excessive suffering and torture. I believe Munk's Northwest Expedition falls into this category. Seen in this light it is a brave and courageous publication – one that addresses any concern both critics or adherents might have had about what happened on that trip. You can read it in three to four hours, and I hope you will enjoy doing it. Another way of reading it may be to follow on the Facebook page: 'Jens Munk 400th Anniversary'. It features the journal with entries on the very dates 400 years after. This being the case I am not going to write about the 1619-20 expedition in this article.[1]

There are several biographies written about Jens Munk. I already mentioned Isaac La Peyrere's '*Journael von Joan Monnick*' published in 1647. Although this being the oldest it also contains a story about Munk's death, that is widely regarded as Peyrere's own dramatic fabrication. Still the book in Dutch/French brought attention to Munk's voyage outside Denmark.



In Denmark the first biography appeared alongside a re-publishing of N.S. in 1723. There is no author of this biography. It simply states: "Captain Jens Munk's life and times. For the most part sourced from his-own writings and supplemented from official documents".[2] The next biography appeared in 1883 (Peter Lauridsen) and in 1897 in English (C.C.A. Gosch). In 1965 Thorkild Hansen took Munk's life and times to a new level in publishing "*Jens Munk I & II*". It has been translated into many languages and known in English as "*Northwest to Hudson Bay*". There is in my opinion no better way to get to know Jens Munk, than through this book. With all this said, I still want to give you a short timeline for his life. Not that it in any way can substitute for the above-mentioned books, but simply to state a few of his life experiences that can serve to illustrate how special a person Jens Munk was – worthy of our recognition and respect.

[1] See Federation of Danish Associations in Canada Yearbook 2018, page 161-163.
[2] Can be seen on Royal Library, Copenhagen - http://www.kb.dk/e-mat/dod/11390802854C.pdf

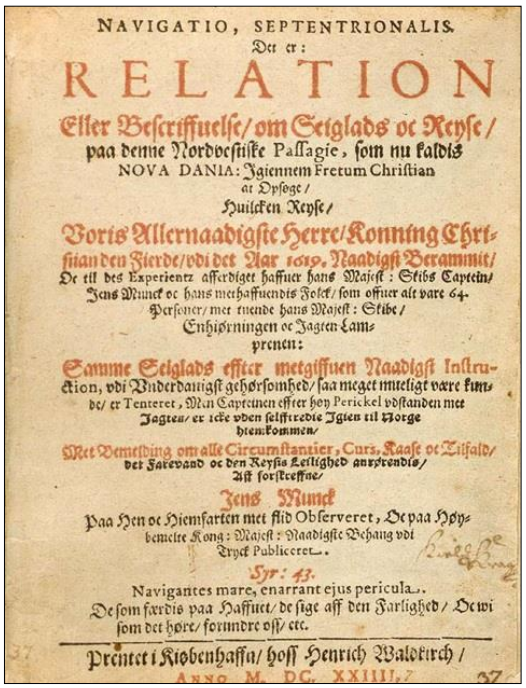
Jens Eriksen Munk – Timeline

Born June 3, 1579, second son of Erik Munk and Anna Bartolomæidatter

0 – grew up on his father's estate in Bardo, Norway	1579
7 – father arrested; mother, Niels and Jens moved to Frederikstad	1586
8 – came to Aalborg to go to school and live with his father's sister	1587
12 – went to sea and hired in Oporto, Portugal, by Duart Duez	1591
13 – shipwrecked going to Brazil, South America	1592
14 – in Bahia, Brazil, apprenticed as a shoe maker and portrait painter	1593
15 – worked for Miguel Duaz as a book keeper	1594
19 – had a dramatic escape from Bahia to the Netherlands	1598
20 – arrived in Copenhagen; hired by Chancellor Henrik Ramel	1599
21 – sailed commercially for Chancellor Henrik Ramel	1601
26 – became an independent merchant; in partnership with Børge Trolle	1605
28 – took many trips to northern harbours, e.g. Husavik, Iceland	1607
30 – on whaling expedition to Nova Zemblya with Jens Hvid. Shipwrecked	1609
31 – looking for Northeast Passage, commissioned by King Christian IV	1610
32 – deployed as Royal Navy Captain to Elfsborg in the Kalmar War	1611
33 – captured Elfsborg and *Lamprenen* with Jørgen Daa	1612
34 – envoy and naval captain to Öland, Madrid and Archangel	1613
36 – captured the pirates Tucker and Mendoza in the North Atlantic	1615
37 – became wealthy and established Arctic whaling with Mikkel Vibe	1616
38 – East India Company tries to hire Jens Munk. Home life	1617
39 – chosen to lead expedition east to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)	1618
40 – outfitting ships for the Northwest Expedition to reach China and India	1619
41 – trapped by ice and wintered at Churchill, Canada; sailed back	1620
42 – preparing a second expedition; ill health; marriage break-down	1621
43 – recruiting sailors in the Netherlands and Bergen. To Cape Verde Islands	1622
44 – to Bergen with Christian IV; divorce proceedings; to Norwegian Sea	1623
45 – *Navigatio Septentrionalis*; marine surveys; recruiting sailors	1624
46 – ordered to effect a blockade at Bremen on the Weser River (30 Year War)	1625
47 – returned from the Weser River; married Margrethe Tagesdatter	1626
48 – back and forth to the Weser River under Admiral Henrik Vind	1627
49 – with King Christian IV to Fehmern, Eckernförde and Kiel; fatally wounded.	1628

On board *Hummeren,* along with King Christian IV, Jens Munk was brought back to Copenhagen on April 16, 1628. He died at home in Pilestræde around his 49th birthday. He was buried in the Sankt Nikolaj Church, Copenhagen, on July 3, 1628.

You may notice how each year is described by his actions. He was constantly on the move and most often with his feet on the deck of a ship navigating, piloting and directing his crew. While mutiny was a common occurrence at sea, none such ever befell Munk. On the contrary he was known as a captain with wisdom and compassion, under whom you were honored to serve.



NAVIGATIO, SEPTENTRIONALIS.
Det er:
RELATION
Eller Beskriffuelse/ om Seiglads oc Reyse/
paa denne Nordoestiske Passagie, som nu kaldis
NOVA DANIA: Igiennem Fretum Christian
at Opsøge/
Huilcken Reyse/
Vores Allernaadigste Herre/ Konning Chri-
stian den Fierde/ vdi det Aar 1619. Naadigst Berammit/
Oc til des Experientz afferdiget haffuer hans Majest: Stibs Capitein/
Jens Munck oc hans medhaffuendis Folck/ som offuer alt vare 64.
Personer/ met meende hans Majest: Skibe/
Enhiørningen oc Jagten Lam-
prenen:
Samme Seiglads effter medgiffuen Naadigst Instru-
ction, vdi Vnderdanigst gehørsomhed/ saa meget muteligt være kun-
de/ er Tenteret, Met Capitainen effter hoy Perickel vdstanden met
Jagten/ er icke vden selfferdig Igien til Norge
hiemkommen/
Met Beretning om alle Circumstantier, Curs, Kaast oc Tilfald/
der Farevand oc den Reysis Leilighed anstrendis/
Alt forskreffne/
Jens Munck
Paa Hen oc Hiemfarten met flid Obserueret, Oc paa Høy-
bemelte Kong: Majest: Naadigste Behag vdi
Tryck Publiceret.
Syr: 43.
Navigantes mare, enarrant ejus pericula.
De som færdis paa Hauffuet/ de sige aff den Farlighed/ Oc vi
som det høre/ formindre oss/ etc.
Prentet i Kiøbenhaffn/ hoss Henrich Waldkirch/
ANNO M. DC. XXIIII.

A life story about Jens Munk would be amiss not to mention his home life. In this case however, there are but a few facts to be known. He kept his journals at sea but not while off duty, and seldom do they touch on his private life.

Still a few facts remain. He fell in love with and married 'the girl next door', Katherine Adriansdatter. She grew up in Pilestræde, Copenhagen, and was the daughter of Adrian Kornelisen a.k.a. 'Swarte Adrian'. From where he got his nickname is not certain; perhaps he was of Dutch lineage, or perhaps he had come from a southern country and his name alluded to his skin colour. Jens and Katherine had several children. Jens, who became a Lutheran pastor in Munke Bjergby, died in 1641; Knud who died before age 20; Erik, who became a brewer and a merchant – married Maren Hagensen; Katherine who married Hans Madsen and lived to be sixty; and a fifth child Adrian, who was born 1619 while Jens Munk was away. Their marriage ended in an unfriendly divorce. When Jens Munk came back from Churchill and Bergen almost two years after his departure, he found out that Katherine had given up on him and taken a new partner, Rasmus Skult. Rasmus was a weaver – and more likely to stick around. Jens Munk had in 1619 paid for Admiral Jørgen Daa's funeral and in Munk's absence Katherine sued to recover the cost so she could buy their rented house in Pilestræde. Munk claimed it was his money and the house therefore belonged to him. The divorce stretched out over several years and it is apparent that Munk had trouble with his payments for alimony and support during the proceedings. Over the next years Munk also had several complaints and charges against him as he allegedly levied unfair charges and taxes while performing his duties at sea. It seems like Munk didn't quite re-gain his strength and vitality after his return from the Northwest expedition. Although he continued serving in the Royal Danish Navy until his death, his aspirations and zest for adventure had been seriously wounded.

Munk did re-marry. In 1626 on his voyage back from the naval blockade of the Weser River he encountered a severe storm in the Skagerrak. *The Lamprey* sank "lock, stock, and barrel" and the rest of the fleet pulled in for repair in Norway. Here he met Margrethe Tagesdatter of a well-to-do lawyer-family and much younger than Munk. She went with Munk to Copenhagen and they were formally married in Holmens Kirke, the naval church, in October 1626. After Munk's death in 1628 she re-married to Christoffer Hansen and they had a daughter Else who married Thomas Bartholin. Most likely Isaac La Peyrere, who wrote the first Munk-biography, met Else and Thomas and from them became acquainted with Munk's life story.

The circumstances around Munk's death have been subject to conflicting versions. It seems clear that King Christian IV and a wounded Jens Munk both came to Copenhagen on the same ship, *Hummeren - The Lobster*, after the defeat at Kiel. Munk went back home and was cared for by Margrethe over the next months. How the King and Munk interacted on the way back is uncertain. Some sources say the King insulted/assaulted Jens Munk while others state that Jens Munk "died in the favour of his king and sovereign". He was buried in St. Nicholas Church – Munk's parish church – very close to Pilestræde. There was no tombstone dedicated to his memory and no eulogy has been preserved from the funeral. It was likely attended only by the priest and Margrethe. A final note about Munk's spiritual and religious outlook: from his writings it can be inferred that he paid close attention to celebrations and observances of the Christian church year. He always started a new voyage on a Sunday. He was adamant that proper burial should be had for crew members and even for himself after his own demise. On his expedition to find the Northwest Passage he had the Chaplain Rasmus Jensen reading sermons and providing counselling to the sick and suffering. After the chaplain's death Munk took the task upon himself. Other interesting details can be found on the cover of the handwritten journal. Munk wrote: "The 14th Mr. Rasmus has said … the world has been standing less than six thousand years and …. Master Gordon says that the world has been standing more than six thousand years, and …." Further down is a prayer in Danish, (apparently a daily Thanksgiving) and then he added in Portuguese: "To whom the glory. From the commencement of life, one ought always to enter upon the New Life (translated)". Next follows a prayer by Munk's own composition ending with" be with me, O God, in all my ways, and be always my companion and true guide, for the sake of Thy holy name. Amen." Together these 'intimate' notes suggest that Munk had a rich inner life that gave him comfort and strength.



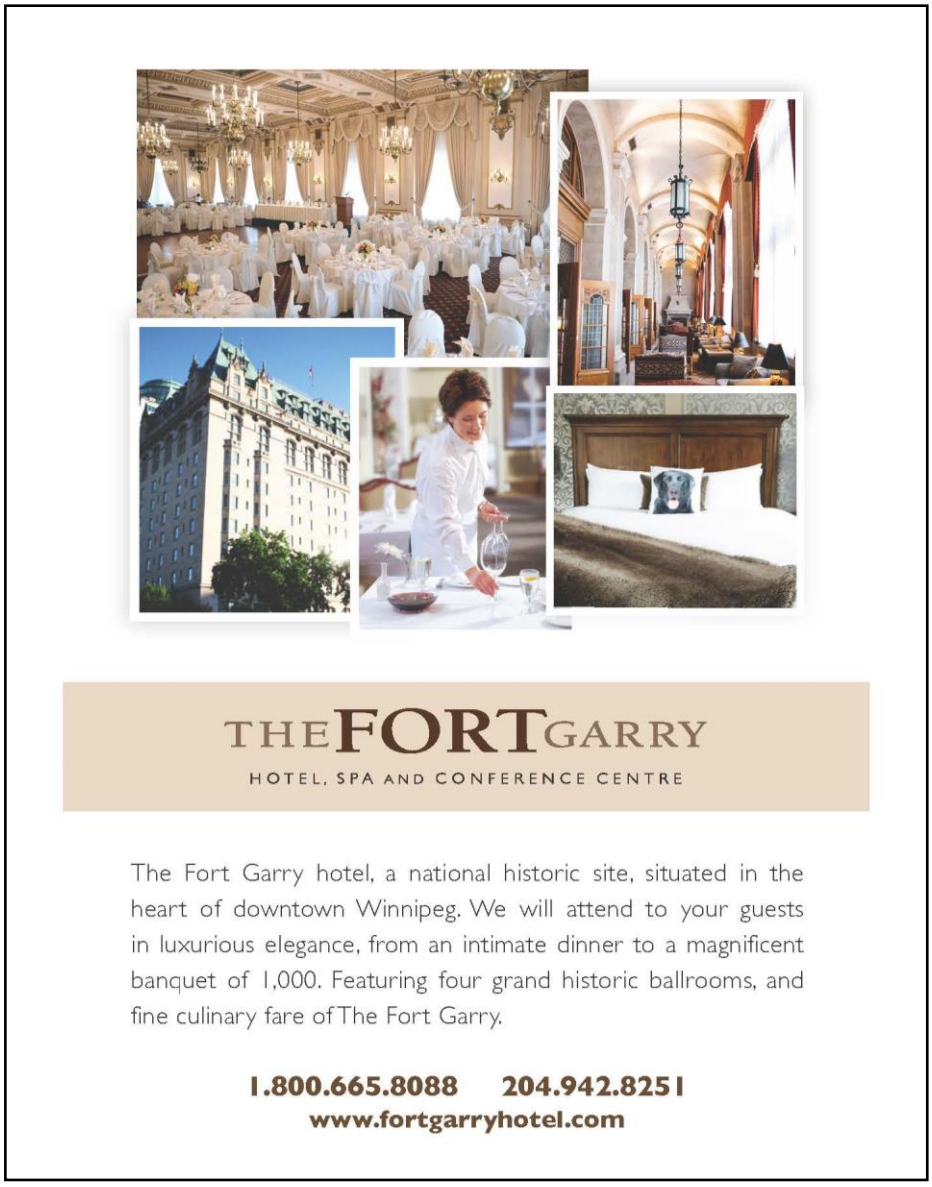
Enhjørningen and Lamprenen by Axel Nelson. Enhjørningen was a war ship with three masts and 18 cannons, built in 1605, and refitted in 1614. Lamprenen had been built in Sweden in 1607 and was conquered by the Danes in the naval battle near Älvsborg in 1612, in which Jens Munk participated. Lamprenen had a square sail, fork sails, jibs and splits, and would bring Jens Munk back from Hudson Bay.

It was customery at Munk's time to include pietistic praise and godly accolades in any printed material. Munk's N.S. also has this. What is interesting though is the choice of such. On the title page he chose: Ecclesiastes 43:24, "They that sail on the sea tell of the dangers thereof; and, when we hear it with our ears, we marvel thereat, etc." On the last page you find this quote: "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, that the rivers shall not drown thee." (Isaiah Chap. 43).

Back to the here and now: we have a delightful and surprising amendment to the Jens Munk story. In 1926 Erik, a possible descendant of Jens Munk, with the original 'Munck' spelling,

immigrated to Canada. You will be able to read his story in this volume, courtesy of Kari Munck Purvis.

In short, the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee is pleased to bring awareness to Jens Munk's story through its various activities.



Two Captains - Different Centuries

Helle Wilson, Winnipeg

Reading Jens Munk's journal of his expedition to find the Northwest Passage has made a major personal impression on me. I found a connection to my father, and a greater understanding of him.

Growing up in Denmark, I didn't see much of my father. He was always travelling abroad. He had a great sense of humour and liked to tell stories – a real extrovert. But, he also had a more quiet side. He loved to write poetry and stories from his trips.

My father Frank Zeidler (Heidemann) was born in 1927 in northern Jutland and he went to sea at a young age. I remember him saying that after the Second World War a job at sea was dangerous as unexploded mines could still be in the ocean.

A couple of years ago, I found some letters, he had written to his mother, describing how cold he was onboard the ship, and asking her to send warmer clothes. Then he added: "Maybe this cold will harden me for colder climates", as though he could predict his own future.

Most of his career he worked for the Danish shipping company J. Lauritzen A/S of Copenhagen. He worked his way up the corporate ladder becoming a captain sailing in Antarctica, Greenland and Arctic Canada. Sailing in these uncharted and dangerous waters with icebergs floating around, must have taken a lot of courage. Just one mistake in judgment and the ship would take you to your death.

In one of my father's journals from a trip to Angmagssalik in Greenland in the 1950s, he described a problem with the ship's propeller. He decided to don his diving suit to check out what was wrong. The problem was bigger than expected and his hands were getting numb and his oxygen was running out. But he solved the problem, in the process showing leadership and getting a lot of respect from the other crew members.

Reading Munk's journal, I immediately got the impression that he was a talented man with great leadership qualities and a sincere compassion for his crew. He duly tried to find solutions to their dire circumstances in Hudson Bay.

Munk must also have had excellent skills dealing with conflicts, because working and living in tight quarters onboard a ship, and a crew with a host of different personalities, can easily cause conflicts, even in good times. It's amazing that no mutiny, or even an attempt, ever took place during their terrible ordeal in Hudson Bay.

How did Munk get his men to co-operate under these unbearable circumstances? Was it his spiritual values, or the crew's trust in his skills?

Maybe the reason was that Munk, himself being an outsider, his family originally belonging to the nobility, treated the men, even the lower ranks, with respect. In his journal Munk described how he took care of his crew as they perished one by one from scurvy and the cold. He showed all of them respect, no matter their rank, by giving them a proper burial, as long as he had the strength to do so.

Thinking he is the only person alive, Jens Munk writes his last testament:

"Inasmuch as I have no more hope of life in this world, I request (for the sake of God) that if any Christians should happen to come this way, they bury my poor body in the earth, together with the others that are lying here. Their reward they may expect from God. I request further that this, my journal, may be sent to my most gracious Lord and King (for every word that is found herein is true) in order that my poor wife and children may obtain some benefit from my great distress and miserable death. Herewith, goodnight to all the world; and my soul into the hands of God, etc., Jens Munk."

My take on this is that when you are close to death you don't think about fame, honour and wealth. You think about those closest to you – your family.

I have come to terms with my father being away so much. Now I see him as a provider for his family, making sure we had a comfortable life. When he was sitting alone abroad, he was probably thinking about us and feeling homesick for his family in Denmark.

My father passed away from lung cancer at the age of 67. A sailor to the bone, he decided to be buried close to water in a beautiful spot by Birkerød Lake. But just like Jens Munk, he is buried in an unknown grave.

What a legacy Jens Munk and my father left behind in their writings, describing places on earth few of us will ever see. Here is a poem my father wrote:

Antarctica

A vast and cold enormous space,
A solitary – stormy place,
We found behind the southern sea,
A world so strange as it can be.

This land of savage rocks and ice,
Of blizzards which can all surprise,
Shall ever call and tempt its man,
Who never can his fate withstand.

The Stampe Munck Family

Kari (Stampe Munck) Purvis, Kelowna

In January 2019, I received a message from Otto Christensen of Gimli, Manitoba, asking if I was related to the explorer Jens Munk - and a fascinating journey into my family history began. As my Dad and Farfar had been invited by the Lutheran Church to unveil a plaque in Churchill, Manitoba, related to the Jens Munk Expedition, I responded that I thought that our families were related. Otto and I kept corresponding, and he sent a photo and asked if I could identify the man in the picture. It was my grandfather. We then shared some family photographs, news articles, and the story of how my grandfather, Erik Stampe Munck, came to Canada and was involved in the Lutheran Church Ceremony in Churchill in 1967.

My mother, Lona, our family historian and keeper of records, provided much of the information. Mom and I met with Otto in Kelowna in early February 2019. More stories were shared along with information about the Danish Canadian Conference in May. We decided to look further into our family history so see if we could track our lineage back to Jens Munk. Mom brought me the news stories from the 1967 trip to Churchill. In an article in the *Nelson Daily News* in 1967, my grandfather had stated that the Munck family can readily trace its ancestors back to the year 1720 through old Bibles, church records, and headstones. There is a broken link in the story due to the burning-down of a church at Fredericia, Denmark, that contained many historical documents. He felt that the old headstones would prove his lineage. It has been very interesting reading the news articles, his letter to my aunt about their trip, and seeing the pictures from Churchill.

My Farfar, Erik Stampe Munck, was born in Lyngby, near Ebeltoft, on January 22, 1894. He attended agricultural school and served with the Royal Danish Guards. He wanted to farm, but the family farm was given to the eldest son, Ejnar. Between 1920 and 1925, with two friends, Count Christian Lerche-Lerchenborg and Count Adolf Arenfeldt, he worked his way through Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Washington and California. Then in 1926 he immigrated to Canada, crossing the Atlantic on the *SS Montcalm*.

This is where it gets interesting. My grandparents corresponded for five years before he asked her if she would consider coming to Canada to marry him. My Farmor, Maria (Rita) Krusoe (family name was formerly Pedersen), was born on May 5, 1900 in Odby. She had more schooling than most and worked as a governess in Copenhagen before immigrating. My understanding is that due to an issue with her back, she did not have a lot of marriage prospects in Denmark and she wanted to have children of her own. She came by ship to Halifax in December 1931, and then spent a week on the train to Saskatoon. They married the day they met. Wow, moving to Saskatchewan to marry a stranger in December! I wish I had known all of this in time to ask her more about it! My Farfar had to post a $250 bond to assure that Farmor could return to Denmark if she wished to do so. We have the letter stating the bond was returned. They celebrated their 46th anniversary before passing within four months of each other in 1978.

They first settled in Clouston, Saskatchewan, and later moved to Salmo, British Columbia, with their two children. Due to the war, correspondence with the family in Denmark was limited and they only went back twice in 46 years of marriage. The only other family members in North America were my grandfather's two nephews who settled in the eastern United States. Fast forward, to 2003 when my father, Jorgen Stampe Munck, became interested in his Danish roots. Unsure where to begin his search he looked up the Danish Department of Vital Statistics on the internet. The Director of Vital Statistics was named Henrik Stampe Munck. Given the last name, Dad felt this was a great place to start and sent off an email. He was quite surprised to receive an email back saying, "we might be cousins".



Erik and Jørgen Stampe Munck on either side of the cairn at Churchill in 1967 To the left Dr. Earl Treusch, General Secretary, Lutheran Council in Canada

It turns out that in Denmark, the name "Stampe" is protected, so all people with that name are related. Henrik was delighted to find a connection to the 'lost" branch of the family and informed Dad that they were both descendants of Gerhard Munck and Henrietta Stampe Fabricius. Dad was invited to the Munck Family gathering in Denmark in 2003. They meet every odd numbered year and he attended in both 2003 and again with my Mom in 2011. He was thrilled with the chance to meet 75 of 125 "new" relatives and with the official recognition that he and his family are members of the Munck Family Association.

I knew of these trips, of course, but the connection to the Danish Muncks was lost when Dad passed away in 2015. After we met with Otto, Mom spent hours locating all of the genealogy charts and we went to work trying to see if we could find a link to Jens Munk, the explorer. Many hours were spent searching on line to no avail. Mom was able to locate an email address for the Muncks in Denmark. Henrik's daughter is now on the Board of the Family Association and she and I are both thrilled to have that connection re-established. My question about the familial relationship with Jens Munk was answered by Henrik himself. In bright red type, he states "but I have to tell you, that our Munck family is not related to Jens Munk (without a C)." At the same time, Otto tells me that Jens Munk did sometimes use the spelling Munck.

Although it appears we cannot prove we are biologically related to Jens Munk, given the 'affairs" of the Danish court back then, we did not dis-prove it either. As Otto said, with the connection to the 1967 plaque unveiling in Churchill, we can claim a relationship to the Jens Munk expedition! And so, as one past family connection ends, another, perhaps more important one is resurrected for the future. As a result of this search, I have connected with both my American cousins with a reunion planned for 2020, and also with the Danish family members. I do hope to attend one of the gatherings some odd numbered year. My sincere thanks go to Otto and The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for giving me the impetus to look into my family history. It has been a joy to investigate! For much more information about our family, see the 2014 Heritage Book which also contains numerous photographs.



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Report for the 2019 Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Carl Sorensen,
Chair, The Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

Background:

Subsequent to a presentation to the 2017 Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada (Red Deer and Dickson, Alberta), and the enthusiastic discussions at and following that Conference, at its meeting on September 12, 207 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 Steering Committee submitted an initial report to the 2018 Federation Conference (Halifax) also published in that year's *Heritage Book.* Since that 2018 report the Committee has proceeded with a number of further and continuing initiatives. The purpose of this current report is to provide an update on the Committee's work and its results since that report a year ago.

The Steering Committee has been very active, seized by the unique objective as stated in the Board's motion: *to initiate and carry out the commemoration of the arctic expedition to find the Northwest Passage by Danish explorer Jens Munk in 1619-1620*, and by the enthusiasm for the project both among members of the Committee and among others. It has been extremely

exciting. As Chair of the Steering Committee I am pleased to be a part of that – and to provide this report to the Federation.

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

Continuing Initiatives:

- Winnipeg area Committee members (H Wilson, K Sorensen, O Christensen) together with S Person of the Winnipeg Danish Canadian Club, augmented as useful by phone communication and emails including C Sorensen, E Kuhlman and R Christensen, have continued in an important rôle in initiating and coordinating ideas and making connections.
- Numerous meetings (face-to-face and electronically) of various members of the Steering Committee
- Ongoing writing and contribution of various "Jens Munk" articles for newsletters, bulletins, etc., including articles for *Church and Life*, the publication of the Danish Interest Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- G Kristensen (Denmark) has gathered together and is coordinating a group of people in Denmark who have an interest in publicizing and promoting the "jubilæum" in Denmark.
- Sven Erik Jensen (Denmark) and a group, separate from Kristensen's group, are working on possibilities.
- Ongoing liaison and connection with organizations in the USA: the Danish Interest Conference of the ELCA, the Museum of Danish America, the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL), etc. respecting articles, displays, etc.
- Ongoing connection with Parks Canada, Manitoba Historical Resources, etc.

Initiatives Completed and Results Produced:

- Production of posters, banners and other display material for use at Federation conferences and made available to local organizations across Canada.
- Submission of a formal application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for the designation of Jens Munk as a National Historic Person.
- Submission of a formal application to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for the addition of the Jens Munk Expedition's "overwintering site" to the existing Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site.
- Submission of a formal application to Canada Post for Canada Post to issue a stamp commemorating the 1619-1620 Jens Munk Expedition.
- Re-publication of the Royal Ontario Museum's 1980 publication *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*.
- Negotiated and received a substantial money grant from the Royal Danish Embassy to Canada, in support of the publication of *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*, and support of materials for registrants for the 2019 Federation Conference.
- Solicited and received a private donation in support of the publication of *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620.*

- Creation of a Jens Munk 400th Anniversary FaceBook site, created by the Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg.
- Creation of a Jens Munk Expedition page on the Danish Canadian Museum's website: https://thedanishcanadianmuseum.com/jens-munk-expedition/
- Connected with 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 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".
- Connected with officials of the Government of Manitoba to explore and develop their interest in the Jens Munk Expedition 400th Anniversary Commemoration.

Initiatives Underway:

- Researching Jens Munk descendants in Canada.
- Supporting the Winnipeg Danish Canadian Club to highlight the Jens Munk Expedition and Commemoration at the 2019 Federation conference (Winnipeg):
    - an article about the Jens Munk commemoration in the Winnipeg Historical Society's magazine *Manitoba History*
    - Travel Manitoba Jens Munk exhibit at the Forks, Winnipeg (grand opening May 25th)
    - Jens Munk display at the Millennium Library, Winnipeg, including power point presentation at the Library
    - creation of Jens Munk t-shirts and tote bags for all Conference registrants
    - purchase of Jens Munk Rose (garden flower) for planting in various prominent spots in Winnipeg; publicizing the rose's availability and encouraging others across Canada to purchase and plant it
    - an article by a garden specialist about the Jens Munk Rose and about the Jens Munk commemoration in the *Winnipeg Free Press*
- Connected with a freelance journalist and a film-maker in Denmark; both having a strong personal interest in the Jens Munk story; the film-maker had recently created an action movie based on the Expedition (*NordvestXpeditionen*). (Committee members are producing English-language "dubbing" to insert in the movie.)
- Screening of *NordvestXpeditionen* at the Gimli Film Festival.
- Co-operating with Parks Canada and the Churchill community to re-install the provincial commemorative plaque erected as a Centennial project in 1967.
- Working with Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage to erect a new plaque to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Expedition.
- Encourage, support and participation in of a variety of important activities across Canada, such as:
    - presentation on Jens Munk at the Federation's Danish Heritage Seminar in Winnipeg following the Conference
    - local Federation member organizations developing their own commemoration-related activities;
    - supporting the Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, Alberta, in developing appropriate displays and activities related to the Jens Munk Expedition;
    - etc.

- Connecting with interested officials, persons and museum at Churchill, Manitoba.
- Connected with the digital editor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's publication *Canadian Geographic* and website for the inclusion of material respecting the Expedition. This is committed and will happen.

Initiatives in Denmark:

- Working with the council of Holmen's Kirke, Copenhagen, for the installation of a memorial plaque on the church. It is the church from which the Jens Munk Expedition set out after a worship service, on May 9, 1619. (This is a well-known and historic Copenhagen church, across the canal from Christiansborg Palace which is the home of the Danish parliament. The church itself is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year.)
- Discussion with a theatre director of staging drama productions in the Copenhagen area.
- Events in some schools and by various lecturers to highlight the anniversary of the 1619-1620 Expedition.
- Danish TV and radio will feature various broadcasts during the coming year.
- Possibly a new book about Jens Munk authored by an associate of the Danish National Museum.
- Working towards restoration and greater prominence of the Jens Munk Memorial Cairn in the Strandegård's Dyrehave, south of Fakse Ladeplads, south of Copenhagen. Improved highway signage, possibly production of brochures and articles drawing attention to the Cairn.

Further Initiatives being Discussed or Contemplated:

- Presentation on Jens Munk to the Winnipeg Historical Society.
- Presentation on Jens Munk to the annual Speaker's Event of the Scandinavian Studies Association, Edmonton (associated with the University of Alberta).
- Organizing, in partnership with the Manitoba Historical Society, a "group tour" ("field trip") to Churchill, Manitoba in the summer of 2020
- Negotiating with a Winnipeg micro-brewery for a "Jens Munk beer".
- Connected with the publication *Canada's History*for publication of articles.
- Connecting with various individuals who have previously been involved in researching the "overwintering site", with the view towards pursuing further archaeological excavation and research of the site.
- Connected with a University of British Columbia emeritus professor of history and archaeology who has done research on the Jens Munk Expedition "site" at Churchill, Manitoba, and is supportive of further archaeological research at Churchill.
- Connected with the co-director of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's explorations program, for the Society's interest in and possible support of further archaeological research.
- 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.

- Corresponding with Ebeltoft Marineforening (Denmark) about the possible availability of their model replicating the Expedition ship "Enhjørningen".
- Consideration of how to include First Nations people in Canada in celebrating, and commemorating, based in part on references in Jens Munk's diary to the Expedition's contacts with indigenous people in the Churchill area, and in recognizing the Expedition as an early example of European "colonization" attempts.

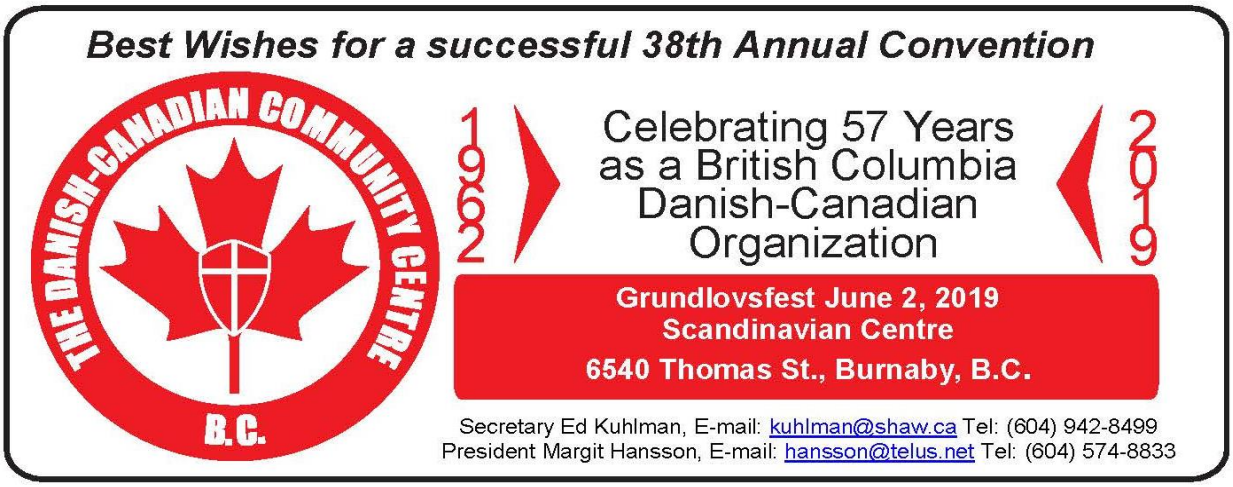
The foregoing list is lengthy, but members of the Danish-background community in Canada will be interested to read about, and be inspired by all these activities. It is also likely that some activities and items which could have been included have been inadvertently overlooked or omitted!

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

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

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

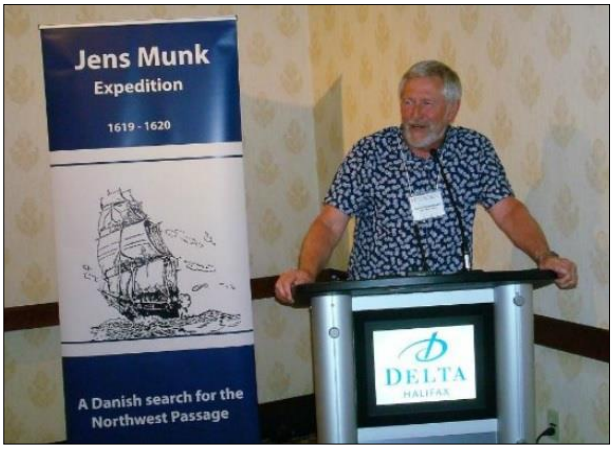
Respectfully submitted:
Carl Sorensen
Chair, Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada
March, 2019



Photographs with the Jens Munk Banner



Federation Board of Directors



Larry Kjearsgaard – 2018 Conference



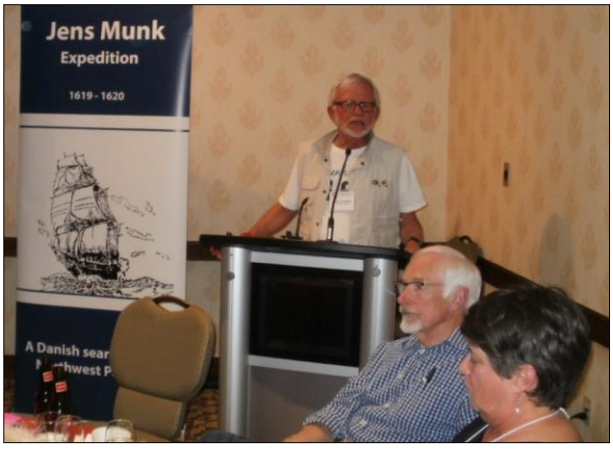


Presenting Ambassador Abrahamsen & Hon. Danish Consul Melissa Mathers with Heritage Books

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Honorary Danish Consul Melissa Mathers & Family



Steering Committee Chair, Carl Sorensen





Larry Kjearsgaard with Karl Sorensen (left photo) and with Birgit Ballantyne (right photo)

2018 Conference: Sunday Luncheon at Austenville Owls' Club in Dartmouth





Rolf Christensen, Larry Kjearsgaard, & Karl Sorensen handing over of Federation Flag and Mailbox

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Liselotte Ostergaard with Edith Wulff
Erik and Eva Terp at Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto





Jens Munk Banner at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta
Anne Lise Pedersen presenting cheque to Svend E. Nielsen, Museum President

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Svend E. Nielsen & Rolf B. Christensen



Pastor Jørgen Flensted-Jensen at Christmas Service, Ottawa



Diane Nolan,
With Santa Claus (Jon Nielsen)



Vibeke Reid, President of The Danish Club of Ottawa and volunteer Helen Marjos, former Board Member at 2018 Bazaar



His Excellency, Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler & Federation President Rolf B. Christensen



Henry Storgaard, Canadian Nordic Society, Ottawa



Gary & Kornelia Lacey, Gary was born in Churchill, Manitoba



Otto Christensen



Karin Birnbaum, President of the Canadian Nordic Society, Ottawa, & Hanne Sjøborg

---



Board of Directors of Danish House Society, Vancouver

800th anniversary of Dannebrog, the Danish flag

Søren Søndergaard, Guelph



According to popular legend the Danish flag fell from heaven during the Battle of Lyndanise on June 15, 1219, during a Danish crusade to Estonia to convert the pagan Estonians. The flag fell from the sky just as it looked like the Danes were about to lose the battle. Miraculously the flag gave them renewed hope and courage, bringing them victory.

That was eight hundred years ago, which means that the Danish flag is the oldest national flag in the world. The Danish flag is called Dannebrog which means the Red Cloth of the Danes.

Did Dannebrog really fall from heaven? Is this a fact or a myth? Historians and scholars agree that Dannebrog, a white cross on a square red cloth, began as a Christian banner during the Crusades. This red and white banner was used extensively in the 13th century by the Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire, carried into battle in the Crusades and in the various campaigns to spread Christianity. At the same time, it is interesting to note that the Vikings also carried a red banner when they raided Normandy and the British Isles.



Battle of Lyndanise, Painting by C.A. Lorentzen, 1809

Generally Scandinavians know that the Viking Age lasted from just before 800 AD to about 1066 AD. As well, we know that Christianity began with the birth of Jesus Christ and for the first 300 years its practises were observed in various forms. In or about 300 AD the Church of Rome standardized rules and worship practices; in 375 AD mass was ordained to be said daily. In 600 AD prayers to Saint Mary and fallen Saints were begun. In 786 AD the use of the cross, images and relics were adopted and were widely used during the Crusades. Through the Roman Catholic Church such symbols and imagery were spread throughout the area of Christianity. In 1090 AD the Rosary was added to the various church practices.



The red banner with a white cross was used as an image to represent the Christian church, the white symbolizing purity, while red represented the blood of Christ. Historians tell us that the banner was used by the Danish, Swedish and German Wenders as well as by the military forces of the Holy Roman Empire when they went on Crusades to defend or spread Christianity.

The Estonian Crusade of 1219 was initiated by the Pope who encouraged King Valdemar II of Denmark, Archbishop Peder Jacobsen of Roskilde, Archbishop Anders Sunesen of Lund, as well as Bishop Nikolaus of Schleswig to attack and take Lyndanise, now Tallinn, on June 15, 1219. The aim was to spread Christianity within the pagan country and to enlarge the area controlled by the Roman Catholic Church and the Danish King. Many, many years after his reign, King Valdemar II came to be known as Valdemar the Victorious.

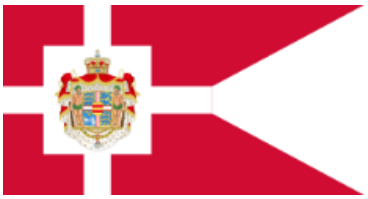
History tells us that at the beginning of the thirteenth century there had already been a German Crusade led by the "Order of the Sword Brothers" in the Baltic area, but the Pope was not happy with them, because of their alleged cruelty to the local population and the Pope therefore encouraged King Valdemar II to launch a crusade to convert the Estonians.

The Danes attacked from the shallow Baltic coast at Lyndanise, marching across the meadow lying between the sea and Toompea Hill. The battle went back and forth; the Estonians, while finally defeated, defended their land bravely.

One version of the story says, that in order to encourage the Danish attackers Archbishop Anders Sunesen of Lund held up a red banner with a white cross. After some time, his arms tired and he lowered the banner, which caused the Danes to retreat, but when two soldiers held up the banner once again, the Danes surged ahead and won the battle.

The other version is that there was a wooden Estonian building up on Toompea Hill above the battlefield. Here a local person, with sympathy for the Danes, got hold of the red and white banner and let it float down over the battlefield. The Danish warriors thought it fell from heaven and were so inspired that it helped them win the battle.

Later a stone church, the Dome Church, was built on the hill by the Danes. When the author of this article visited Tallinn in 1993, he also visited the meadow below the Toompea Hill Castle. When standing in the meadow near the ocean looking across the meadow up towards the historic buildings on the hill, it is quite easy to imagine a very visible red and white banner drifting down over the meadow. It seems possible that this could very well be the place where Danneborg fell from heaven.



In 1370, Dannebrog was adopted as the coat of arms of the King. Then in 1748 Dannebrog was adopted as a merchant ensign. This was at a time when the Danes were busy trading with countries in southern Europe, plying the Mediterranean Sea. From time to time the Danish ships were ambushed and raided by local pirates. To try to prevent these raids, the Danish split (or swallow tail) flag with the King's Royal Emblem was flown. This was done in order to send a clear message to the pirates that these ships were protected by the Danish King, and to differentiate the Danish flag from the flag of Malta, which at the time was identical to the Danish flag.

In 1842 Dannebrog was adopted as the Danish military flag and in 1848 it was used by Denmark to celebrate a victory over German Insurgents from Schleswig-Holstein. The following year, in 1849, the Danish Constitution was adopted by a constituent assembly, sanctioned by the King. The Constitution changed Denmark from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy. Overnight Denmark became a parliamentary democracy, with an elected parliament, while the King became the non-political figure head; that is head of state. The Constitution was signed by King Frederik VII on June 5, 1849.



Dannebrog
Holy Ghost Church, Tallinn

After the Three-Year-War (1848-50) with Schleswig-Holsten and the adoption of the Constitution there was an upsurge of Danish nationalism. Danes wanted to show their pride and wave the Danish flag. The government was forced to give in. So in 1854 the government allowed Dannebrog to be used by private citizens. Dannebrog has since been used extensively for public as well as private purposes, such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, funerals (at half mast), parades, victories, public holidays, on the Christmas tree etc. The bright red colour with the white cross is very visible, not least seen against a blue sky. For Danes Dannebrog enhances any festive occasion.

The official dimensions of Dannebrog were established as 6/4 and the official red colour is Pantino 186C. Originally the red colour was made from Madder Root, which develops a very rich, visible and recognizable red.

For Danes Dannebrog has become a symbol of peace and democracy. The white cross represents peace and fairness and the very noticeable red represents life and the heart. It is a simple and powerful symbol. In a way it might be said that the Danish flag represents humanity.

This article was written as a tribute to the Danish flag. It is also a good occasion to point out that Canada and Denmark share many common traits with regard to flags and common democratic values. While Canada's red and white flag, the Maple Leaf, adopted on February 15, 1965, is much younger than Dannebrog, it also stands for peace, democracy and human rights. Like Dannebrog, the Maple Leaf is respected with honour and admiration around the world.

Nota Bene: Canadians of Danish background will celebrate the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog at a flag raising ceremony at Winnipeg City Hall on Saturday, May 25, 2019, hosted by the Mayor of Winnipeg, His Worship Brian Bowman. The Danish Ambassador to Canada, H.E. Thomas Winkler, will also be present.

The Stanley Cup's Danish Connections

Larry Kjearsgaard

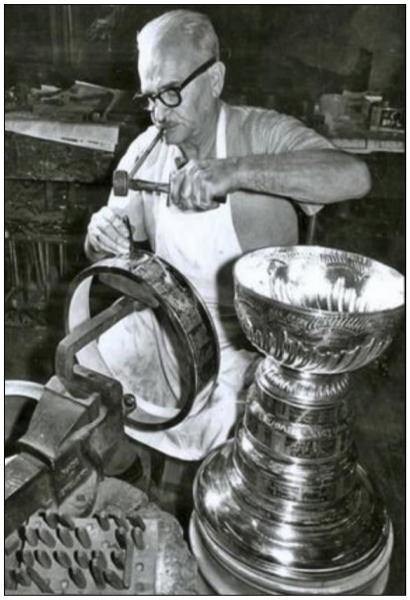
When the Washington Capitals won the Stanley Cup in June, 2018, Lars Eller became the first Danish born player to have his name engraved on the Cup. Eller was born in Rodovre, Denmark in 1989 and has played over 600 games in the NHL throughout his career.



Lars Eller

Eller's father, Olaf, is also a Danish ice hockey dignitary, having played for the Rodovre Mighty Bulls in the Danish professional league. He is currently the coach of the Danish National Junior Ice Hockey team.

While Lars Eller has a unique Danish connection to the Stanley Cup, there is an even more important Danish connection to the iconic trophy.



Carl Poul Petersen

Carl Poul Petersen was born in Copenhagen in 1895 and as a teen he apprenticed as a silversmith under the renowned Georg Jensen. In 1929, he immigrated to Montreal to continue his career. He started out working as a goldsmith for Henry Birks & Sons. By 1944, together with his sons, Arno, Ole, and John Paul and working from the basement of his home, he launched C.P. Petersen & Sons. They soon gained a reputation for crafting fine jewellery and also for repairing damaged pieces.

His work came to the attention of Saidye Bronfman, wife of Seagrams magnate, Samuel. She commissioned Carl to create original pieces such as cufflinks, stemwware and other decorative objects which she used in her home or gave as gifts.

In 1948, the National Hockey League offices were in Montreal and Petersen was hired to do repairs to the Stanley Cup. By this time, the original silver bowl was looking s bit haggard. Each year the winners of the Cup had their names engraved on one of the rings beneath the bowl. In those early years, a new ring of the same size was added as needed and the trophy began to take on an elongated, even ugly shape. It was actually nicknamed the "Stovepipe Cup" and the original bowl at the top became obscured by the long 'pipe'.

Carl kept the orignal bowl at the top and then created seven much wider rings down below. The shape looked great, but the actual trophy was still a bit rough since he had re-used many parts

from the original design. So, in 1957, the NHL asked Petersen to once again redesign the Cup. He used his basic ’48 concept but used fresh silver and created the Cup that is still used today — the one that Lars Eller proudly hosited above his head last June!

Carl, and later Arno, engraved the Cup-winning names every summer until his death in 1977. The engraving duties then passed to Doug Boffey, son of Eric Boffey who was the first person to do the job. (Carl was the second). Doug was the engraver until he handed off to one of his employees, Louise St. Jacques, who still does the work today.

Lars Eller may be the first Danish player to have his name on the Stanley Cup, but he's not the first Dane. At the bottom of the Cup, on the black base, is the name Carl Poul Petersen.

Photo credits: NHL, Hockey Hall of Fame

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328, Vancouver



The Board of Directors

Front Row Left: Niels Jensen, Lodge 328 President Peter Jensen, Erik Bladt, Kjeld Christensen
Back Row Left: Bent Østergaard, Bill Dagoe, Flemming El Nur, Paul S. Rasmussen,
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Poul Andersen, McMunn

1944 – 2015

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Paul, our beloved husband, dad, papa, brother and friend on July 21, 2015. Without warning or notice, Paul passed away on a sunny summer morning in a most fitting place, the bush, amongst piles of fresh cut poplar while loading his truck for another trip to the mill.



Paul was not only the cornerstone of his family; he was part of the fabric of the community in which he lived for nearly sixty years. Paul was loved by all. He leaves a big hole in the lives of those he loved the most, but at the same time Paul armed them with very fond memories and the values that make them the successes they are today. Paul was predeceased by his parents, Kai and Nanna Andersen; father and mother-in-law Arthur and Rose Krampetz; and his sister Lis Darechuk. Of those he joins, it is his fifth son Braden's passing in 2009 which carries the most significance. Paul regretted little and rarely talked of stress the way it is commonly thrown around in this day and age, only losing Braden had this impact. Dad knew what mattered, he had perspective and he ensured we kept that same focus. Paul is survived by his wife of 45 years, Judy, and his four sons, Shannon (Cheryl), Jeremy (Amy), Hans (Karen) and Brett. In the last 13 years, Dad had taken on what became one of his most important roles, that of "Papa". Papa leaves behind grandsons, Branden, Cole, Kai and Carsten, and granddaughters, Emma and Gracie to carry on his memory. Papa was a larger than life figure to these kids; he loved them dearly and will be greatly missed by them. He will also be fondly remembered by siblings, Finn (Donna), Leo (Linda), John (Shirley), Jette, Lars (Dawn) and Lene (Ghislain); nieces and nephews; as well as numerous friends and business associates.

Born in Glenstrup, Denmark, on September 8, 1944, Paul was one of eight children to Kai and Nanna who immigrated to Canada from Denmark in May of 1957. With the exception of brief stints in farming communities in southern Manitoba, and some time spent working in Red Lake, Paul called the McMunn area home for nearly 60 years. He met the love of his life, Judy, in 1969 and after buying a piece of land from Bill Nakka, Mom and Dad made McMunn home, and a lively home it was. From sandboxes and hockey rinks to dirt bikes and snowmobiles, Paul provided a home that had everything his five boys ever wanted and needed. How he kept the grey out of his hair for so long is tough to tell. It was likely because there was nothing that they would do that would surprise him, as Paul had likely done something similar himself. Dad was everything to his boys - father, mentor and as we moved away from home, we all came to call

him one of our best friends. Paul worked in the logging industry his whole life, from working for Haakon Feilberg in the early days, to eventually acquiring various parcels of timber quota; he realized that success was a simple equation, hard work and a positive attitude. Paul spent many years working with family and friends in that same business, most notably time spent with both Shannon and Jeremy, the Feilberg family, as well as his business partner/neighbour/brother-in-law and most importantly friend, Norman Nakka, or "Buster" who predeceased him in 2013. McMunn isn't going to be the same without these two. Paul loved gardening and watching sports, being outdoors, and he did all of these things with family. The camping and fishing trips we took as a family are memories that none of us will ever forget. He enjoyed travels back to the Old Country three times after immigrating to Canada, numerous weekend trips across the border, Portugal, Paris, London and many others, including a recent family trip to Phoenix. With Judy by his side, Paul took pleasure in the simplest things. He was a selfless man attending the boys' countless hockey, volleyball and softball games and various other sporting endeavors, scouting activities and school functions. He never complained, as he truly enjoyed the time he spent with us. Dad was the world to us all, and now he is gone. Through all the measures that matter, Paul was a rich man, he had no shortage of good friends, all the opportunity he needed to provide for his family and most importantly, a wife who was always by his side and a family that loved him dearly. Papa had a positive aura about him, and this rubbed off on the people he spent his time with. We cannot express how sad we are, but it is hard to think of Paul/Dad/Papa without a smile on our face. His support, positive nature, love and grounded approach to every angle of life will not be lost. Most importantly, it has left cherished memories that none of us will forget. Paul's Funeral Service was held on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the Reynolds Community Hall in Prawda, Manitoba. A brief Interment was held immediately after the service in the nearby St. Mary's Riverside Cemetery, followed by lunch in the Reynolds Community Hall. "Paul, Jeg elsker dig," Always, Judy.

Svend Aage Andersen

1917 – 2008

Svend Aage “Slim” Andersen passed away in the Lloydminster Hospital, Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, on March 29, 2008, at age 90. Slim is survived by his wife Effie of Marwayne; Ed Andersen and his wife Kathy of Marwayne, Lyle Andersen and his wife Gaye of Carnwood, Alberta; Cecil Andersen and his wife Colleen of Drayton Valley; Neil Andersen and his wife Wendy of Marwayne; Alva Andersen of Vermilion; 10 grandchildren and 10 great grand-children. He was predeceased by his dad Niels, his mom Maren and two brothers Hans and Knud.



Svend Aage "Slim" Andersen was born on March 31, 1917 at Hejnsvig, Denmark, southwest of Billund. In June 1927 the family immigrated to Canada and settled in Redcliff, Alberta. There were several Danish families there. After high school he went to Olds College and took a two-year Agriculture Course. While there he worked on the College farm and he continued to work there after graduation. When the College dairy cows were moved to Brooks, he went with them. Next the cows were moved to Vermilion College, by train with Slim in charge. In was in Vermilion where he met Effie. Slim stayed in Vermilion until he volunteered to join the Army in 1942. Slim & Effie were married in Red Deer on March 16, 1943 before he went overseas. In 1943 he was sent to England and then on to serve in the Central Mediterranean Area and Northwest Europe. After discharge in 1946, he managed a dairy at Lethbridge. By the spring of 1947 he was in Edmonton delivering bulls by train to farmers through the Government Bull loaning program.

In September 1947 through the Veterans Land Act he bought a half section of land and this has been his home. The cattle and horses were the part of farming he liked best. It was great that combines were made, as he didn't like stooking. With hard work and perseverance, the farm expanded. The farm continued with his sons Ed and Neil. Now his grandsons are involved.

Slim and Effie had four sons and a daughter. He was proud of their accomplishments. The ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren were a joy and he was always interested in what they were doing. The great grandkids were special and so interesting. Family meant so much to him.

Slim supported many community events and activities. The Legion was his main interest. He was a Life Member. He liked to know what was taking place even though he couldn't participate because of his health. The funeral service for Slim was conducted from the Marwayne Community Hall, Marwayne, Alberta on April 3, 2008. His grandsons were pallbearers.

Dyveke Christensen

1919 – 2018

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

My mother, Dyveke Christensen, celebrated her 99th birthday at the retirement home Harmony Court on Canada Way in Burnaby, British Columbia, on February 17, 2018. She was joined by long-time friend Ingelise Nielsen, by her sons Rolf and Jarl, as well as their respective spouses, Vita and Tarja. At the time Jarl and I wondered if she would live until she was a 100. She certainly had health issues and her quality of life was nearly non-existent, yet she was not what you would call sick, and she was not on medication.



At 99 she could hardly walk, she was in a wheelchair. She could recognize us, and we could talk, but her memory, which previously had been amazing, was going. For instance, she kept asking the same questions. Moreover, she was blind. In other words, there was no quality of life.

Looking back, it's possible to say that she had lived a long and happy life – as well as a busy and active life, blessed with good health until the end. On March 27th, she just passed away quietly in her sleep.

Her life journey took her from Sakskøbing on Lolland to Greenland, South Africa, and back to Denmark, before immigrating to Canada, and settling in Vancouver. Already as a young teenager she wanted to leave Sakskøbing when she finished school. And that is what she did, sailing to Greenland with her older cousin and his family, to be their nanny. Her desire to see the world was also influenced by the fact that four of her uncles had immigrated to the United States, and as a teenager she corresponded with her cousin Francis in San Francisco.

Dyveke Gudrun Christensen, née Buschardt, was born in Korsør, the daughter of Johannes Ewald Buschardt and Axeline Buschardt, née Claussen. Johannes had been born in Sakskøbing in 1888, the son of Andreas Georg Buschardt, a mason, cabinet-maker, violin maker and musician. Dyveke's mother, on the other hand, was born in Copenhagen, the twelfth child of Axel Claussen, a shoemaker and dealer in second hand goods and antiques.

In 1920, when Dyveke was just a year old, the family moved from Korsør to Sakskøbing, her father's home town. The family bought a new two-storey red brick house, with a tile roof, at Rådhusgade 23. Johannes established his law office in the house. Later, Dyveke got two siblings, Jørgen and Helene.

Dyveke's middle-class upbringing and attending a private school, from which she graduated with Realeksamen (High School) not only gave her self-confidence, but a good and solid education, focussing on math, German and English as well as the Arts. After obtaining Realeksamen she was able to get away from Sakskøbing, as she had hoped, as her cousin, Arne Kaldahl, needed a nanny. Arne Kaldahl was a telegraph manager and was being sent to Scoresby Sund on the East Coast of Greenland, well above the Arctic Circle, with his wife and children, to manage the seismic station and radio station. They would be the only Danish family in Scoresby Sund. In the summer of 1936 Dyveke with the Kaldahl family sailed from Copenhagen to Scoresby Sund on the steamship *Gertrud Rask*, which also brought supplies for the coming winter. For the next year Dyveke would have no contact with the outside world. Of course, it was cold and desolate, but what impressed Dyveke the most, was the silence and the fact that there were no trees. They lived in a house built of wood, which had been brought in from Denmark. Space in the house was tight, but Dyveke had her own small bedroom. The next summer a ship came with a new telegraphist and supplies, and the ship took Dyveke and the Kaldahl family back to Denmark. Dyveke then spent the year 1937-38 working for her father in his law office.



On a walk with her friend Gudrun Danielsen along Sakskøbing Fjord in the Fall of 1937, Dyveke was introduced to Poul B. Christensen, the new apprentice at C.A. Qvade, the town's largest merchant company which operated a general store and grain silos by the harbour. Gudrun's father was Poul's boss. What impressed Dyveke was that Poul did not swear, did not smoke and carried a newspaper under his arm.



But in the summer of 1938, Dyveke was off to Greenland, again with her cousin Arne and his family. This time they were stationed in Godhavn on Disko Island on the West Coast of Greenland. Godhavn was bigger and served as the capital of Northern Greenland. On her return to Denmark in the summer of 1939, she again met Poul and they soon became a couple.

On his lunch hour on April 9, 1940, Poul came running to Dyveke's house and said, as she opened the door, "Have you heard, we have been occupied by Germany?" "Yes, we heard it on the radio," she said. The invasion was a shock, completely unexpected.

By the Fall of 1940, Dyveke and Poul were both living in Copenhagen. Poul was working for his father and uncle at Christensen & Jensen Bagerartikler engros, selling bakery supplies to bakers. Dyveke had started nursing school at Amtssygehuset (the hospital) in Gentofte.

Dyveke and Poul were engaged to each other on November 6, 1941. The engagement was announced in the newspaper. This also meant that instead of saying "De" to each other, they

would now say "du". They also started thinking about their wedding, but with the war they postponed it. Yet, in the Spring of 1944, after Dyveke had graduated from Nursing School, they bought a new townhouse in Hvidovre and set their wedding date for April 1st. They were married in Frederiksberg Church and the following dinner was held in Domus Medica, where everyone wore tuxedos and long formal dresses. About two months later Domus Medica was blown up by saboteurs. It was never rebuilt.



Poul and Dyveke married April 1, 1944

Their new townhouse on Dæmningen 19 in Hvidovre was built along the railway line. From their windows they could easily see the trains – and hear them as the tracks were only metres away from their small garden. As well, Dyveke and Poul would watch the German soldiers walk along the tracks, one by one; making sure no saboteurs approached the tracks. On Friday evening, May 4, 1945, Dyveke and Poul were listening to the Danish broadcast from BBC London on their radio, announcing that the Germans had surrendered, and Denmark was now free. As they heard the news they looked up at the soldier on the railway tracks. Apparently, he too had heard the news, as he threw his rifle high up into the air.

With the Liberation life could start anew. In June 1946, their first son, Rolf, was born. But perhaps a much better life, with a brighter future, could be had in America or Canada. Dyveke and Poul applied to immigrate to the U.S. or Canada. But both countries were busy looking after the returning soldiers and then the many refugees and displaced persons, so Danish immigrants were denied entry – until 1948. Australia and South Africa were willing to take in Danes. South Africa was closer to Denmark, so in 1947 Dyveke and Poul decided to emigrate and settle in South Africa. Poul took the train to Marseilles, from where he sailed to Cape Town on the *Klipfortein*, a cargo/passenger ship, belonging to the Holland Africa Line. Dyveke and Rolf followed later by airplane, flying via Cairo with Danish Air Lines. The stop in Cairo was an overnight affair, with a stay in a hotel. In the evening, Dyveke left the hotel to take an excursion to see the pyramids. She left her son in the hotel room all alone. Kind of risky! But he was still sound-asleep when she returned.

Dyveke and Poul lived in Johannesburg and then in Magaliesburg, about forty miles from Johannesburg, where they operated the Danish Inn at Stone Hill, a property that contained a small river, typical South African Rondavel bungalows, and a main building where there was dancing every Saturday night to music by a live band.

On June 23, 1949, their second son, Jarl, was born in the hospital in Krugersdorp. Poul's parents, Christian and Ingeborg Christensen, came to South Africa for Jarl's baptism, which took place in the Swedish Church in Johannesburg.

Apparently, South Africa was not the ideal country, so in June 1950 the family of four returned to Denmark, flying to London on South African Airways, and then on to Copenhagen.

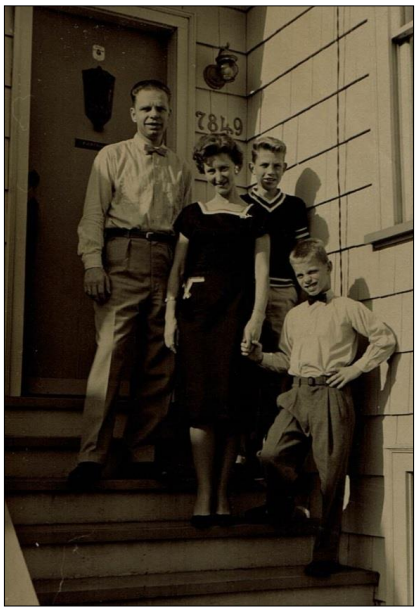


Jarl on the left, held by Farmor, baptised in South Africa

In 1953, Dyveke and Poul moved from Gammel Kongevej (Frederiksberg) to Julius Blomsgade (Nørrebro), where they started a wholesale business, specializing in canned goods, cookies, candy, chocolate and wine. The following year they opened two chocolate/candy stores on Strandboulevarden and Hellerupvej. Dyveke worked full time in their company, which was called I.C. Kofoeds Eftf.

By 1956, Dyveke and Poul were again thinking of emigrating. The Danish economy had not taken off, it was still in the doldrums after the Second World War, and there was a housing shortage, import restrictions, a trade deficit with other countries as well as restrictions on currency transactions. At the same time there was labour unrest and the Social Democratic government was focussed on building a welfare state and a more just society. The decision to immigrate to Canada was made in late 1956, with the Hungarian Uprising and the Suez Crisis. The Hungarian Uprising brought the Soviets further into Europe. Danes could watch the Soviets brutally put down the uprising on their TVs, the newest technological wonder at the time.

The Suez Crisis crippled my parents' business. Oil and gas were rationed, and they could not get gas for their delivery truck. Europe was paralyzed. Like thousands of other Danes, they opted for immigrating to Canada, a decision they never regretted.



Poul B., Dyveke, Rolf and Jarl, outside own Birch Street house

My parents, my brother and I came across the Atlantic on a freighter, the *MS Bolivia*, a cargo ship belonging to DFDS, sailing from Copenhagen to New York. We then took a Greyhound Bus across the United States; and stayed some days in the San Francisco area, visiting my mother's relatives, the Claussens. It was then up along the West Coast to Canada. We arrived in Vancouver late evening and it was raining.

After checking in and staying at the Continental Hotel on Granville Street for a short time, we rented a house on 13th Avenue in Kitsilano. My mother went to work right away selling Tupperware door to door. I attended New Canadian Classes downtown at Dawson School on Burrard Street; while Jarl started grade one at Trafalgar Elementary School on 16th Avenue.

A year later Dyveke and Poul bought a house on Birch Street in Marpole. Dyveke got a job at Spotless Cleaners on Granville Street. Going through her papers I discovered that she was the manager of the store, and she was at one point named the Employee of the Week.

In 1962 Dyveke and Poul bought a lovely house on Laburnum Street in Kerrisdale. At first Dyveke worked for Spotless Cleaners on 41st Avenue in Kerrisdale. Later she worked in a shoe repair shop in the new Oakridge Shopping Centre, which had opened in 1959.

In 1968 Poul and Dyveke sold their house on Laburnum and moved into an apartment on Beach Avenue in the West End in order to start C. Stockforms Ltd., selling business forms. Stockforms was first located in Marpole, later on Howe Street downtown and lastly on 8th Avenue, across from Jonathan Rogers Park in the Mount Pleasant area. C. Stockforms Ltd. existed until 1991, when it was sold, and they retired, moving into a two-storey townhouse on Richmond Street in New Westminster, situated on the old Penitentiary grounds, with a view of Mount Baker.



Poul B., Dyveke and Jarl, at Dyttely in Sudden Valley

Sometime in the early 1970s they bought a cottage, which they named Dyttely. It was situated in Sudden Valley in Whatcom County in the State of Washington. It became a weekend retreat, driving there every Friday evening. It was sold in the year 2000. Over the years they also travelled widely to Denmark, Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, China, and the Caribbean, and across Canada. Dyveke was a member of the Danish Community Centre, the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver and active in the Study Group at Granly Lutheran Church as well as a volunteer at Century House in New Westminster, being very active in several groups. She was a Senior Peer Counsellor, and for thirteen years she was treasurer of Monday Night Bridge. Moreover, she enjoyed going for lunch at various New Westminster restaurants with a group of women known as the Elegant Eighties. Often these ladies in their eighties, or nineties, wore large elegant hats, many of them very colourful.

Dyveke worked all her life. She was never a Hausfrau or stay-at-home Mom. She was my father's business partner. They worked well together - and established businesses in Denmark and Canada.



Dyveke, at Stockforms Ltd

As a mother she sent Jarl and I to kindergarten, to music lessons and to dance school. And both Jarl and I attended Confirmation Classes at the Danish Lutheran Church on 19th Avenue. We were then confirmed in Denmark, I in Sakskøbing and Jarl in Frederiksberg, services which were followed by elaborate formal dinners with speeches, and lots of gifts. We always spoke Danish at home. Both Jarl and I learned to read and write Danish, and we still communicate mostly in Danish. And at the end of Grade 12, both Jarl and I went to Denmark, staying there for many years, before returning to Canada. Growing up in Vancouver we not only appreciated our Danish heritage, we lived it. Both of our parents were heavily involved in the Danish Community, and nearly all their friends were Danish. That says a lot about our parents, and how strongly they felt about preserving our heritage. Moreover, they had good genes. Our father lived until he was 90. One of my mother's uncles in San Francisco lived until he was a 101.

How did our mother make it to 99? Well, she lived a clean life. She did not drink or smoke. Well, a glass of wine when the occasion called for it. But she was always cautious of what she ate – I have been known to call her a Health Food Nut. Moreover, she made sure she got a good night's sleep. And she exercised, she did sit-ups and she went for long walks. It was only later in life that I could keep up with her when we went for a walk. After she got a walker, she raced ahead of me. She would go, go, until she was exhausted, which for her was a good workout.



At age 90 Dyveke steps down as treasurer of Monday Night Bridge at Century House

Dyveke was also a very private person. It could be difficult to get to know her, to find out what she was thinking or what she was going to do. Only at the last moment would she tell Jarl or me what she was going to do – or what she had already done. Our father was the same way.

She was also very modest and unpretentious. She never mentioned her achievements; she never boasted. She never spoke out in public. She stayed in the background. But she didn't just sit still, she was energetic, always busy and always doing something. At home she managed the cooking, cleaning and laundry.

She was conscientious and thoughtful, remembering birthdays and anniversaries. And she always decorated the house for Christmas – and on other occasions. On birthdays she placed a Danish flag on the dining table, usually with a birthday card, and generally also with a present.

Our mother was also thrifty. She would re-use, re-cycle or store for later use. Her house was full of bags, boxes, containers, bottles and all kinds of things like elastic bands, corks, pots, screws and nails. Having lived through the Dirty Thirties and the War, it was difficult for her to discard things – they just might come in handy.

At the same time, she was generous, supporting over a dozen charities on a regular basis. Who she supported and with how much was all recorded in a book.

One of the most beautiful things about her was that she was always happy. She was balanced, and she never complained. A couple of months before she passed away, while blind and sitting in a wheelchair, I asked her if she was OK under the circumstances. She quickly fired back, "There are no circumstances".

Due to the fact that Vita and I live in Ottawa, the task of taking care of Mom fell to Jarl and Tarja, who lived nearby in New Westminster. They took her to the eye doctor, for Sunday drives or home for dinner. They helped her move and they made sure that the care she needed was there for her.

Dyveke was happy, modest, energetic, always conscious of what she ate, and loved going for long walks. One of her impressive traits was keeping in touch with people, and well into her 90s she wrote letters to family, former schoolmates, friends and colleagues. She left photo albums, boxes of photos and boxes of letters. Dyveke saved many of the letters she received. I haven't had the chance to read all of them yet, but her correspondence is a testament to a long life well lived. Ære være hendes minde!

Lars Christensen, Ladysmith

1929 – 2018

Paul Christensen, Qualicum Beach

Lars Erik Christensen passed away in Ladysmith on May 16, 2018. He was predeceased by his daughter Anne, and son Carl. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Rosa, daughters Rosa Mette and Inge (Dan), son Paul (Kris), daughter-in-law Karen and son-in-law Martin. He served in the Royal Danish Guards. He was president of the Royal Danish Guards' Association Western Canada from 1961 to 1966, and in 1968 he was a founding member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association Pacific Northwest. He worked as a carpenter and construction superintendent on many civic projects in Ladysmith and Nanaimo. Lars liked reading and painting, using his CB radio and enjoyed his bird aviary. A biography of Lars, written by Ulf Jessen, appeared in the 1993 Heritage Book; below is an abridged version of the eulogy given by his son Paul at the funeral service.

Lars Erik Christensen was born on August 10, 1929 in the town of Allingåbro, east of Randers, the fifth of six children. He was ten years old when the Second World War broke out, and he can remember when Germany occupied Denmark the following year. He could tell stories about playing pranks on the German soldiers. Putting bricks in shoeboxes and leaving them on the sidewalk for the patrols to kick. They would climb over fences of restricted areas, only to be chased out by the dogs. "We were stupid kids, not knowing any better. We could have been shot. This was just what we did, getting into mischief."

At the age of 14 he started an apprenticeship in a Co-op store for a shopkeeper in Ramten. He missed being away from home, so when he returned home the first weekend, he was crying to his Mom about how much he missed being away from home. His father promptly took him outside and gave him a spanking, telling him that he better not come home crying to Mom about how tough things were. "It only upsets your mother to see you this way. Now toughen up." Later in life Dad thanked his father for the spanking as he viewed it as a real turning point for him in becoming a young man.

Dad loved working in the grocery store, talking to and meeting all the people in the community. He would say it was some of the best memories of his childhood and he always liked the grocery business. At the Co-op he would sell cigarettes to the German soldiers who were not much older than he was. On several occasions he joined and had a cigarette with them. Dad would build a rapport with the soldiers, and he told me stories that "it wasn't long before I was able to crack them open" and they would tell me all about themselves" he would say. I think it's amazing that at such a young age Dad had the ability to build the trust of these young soldiers only to have them reveal how scared they really were as they were just young boys too. On one visit Dad recalled how the young soldiers seemed different to him. "On edge" he said. The soldiers soon

revealed to Dad that they were being sent to the Russian Front. He never saw that group of soldiers again, and he always wondered what had happened to them.



After four years of apprenticeship Dad took a job as a manager of a Co-op in Vantinge on the island of Fyn for Jens and Helga Christiansen. Dad remained lifelong friends with that family and I remember visiting them in Denmark in 1975 as well as their visit to Canada soon after.

In 1949 at the age of 20 Dad had to serve two years in the army. Dad would say, "I went in as boy, and came out a man." He was selected for the Royal Danish Guards. It was an honour to be selected, and others only knew him as #251. He became part of a brotherhood of fellow Guards who remained close friends for life. A very special friend would be the guardsman to his left #250 Paul Erik, my namesake. They shared a very special bond and Dad always spoke very highly of him as a dear and close friend.

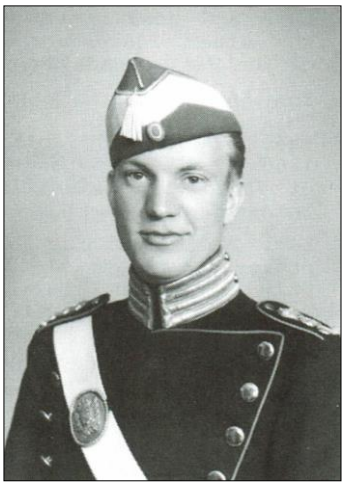
In June 1951 Dad immigrated to Canada with $20 in his pocket. After the war there was little opportunity for young people in Denmark and Dad said, "He was up for an adventure". I can't imagine how difficult it was for him to leave all his brothers and sisters, his Mom and Dad and everyone he knew. He told me he would cry himself to sleep for the first while until he settled in. It was very hard on his mother, as she never knew if she would ever see him again.

He had planned to go to Australia but only had enough money to get to Canada. He sailed on the *SS Gripsholm* and landed in Halifax with a group of Danes, who were sent by train to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The immigration department put them up at the YMCA in Moose Jaw, where our Mom (Rosa) worked as a secretary. They soon started dating even though they couldn't understand each other. All they had was a Danish-English dictionary, but they soon learned each other's language.

Dad started to hang out with some of the Danish immigrants who were carpenters. Canada's immigration department had work lined up for the carpenters with a construction company and hired them all to start work in and around the Moose Jaw area. The foreman soon clued in and confronted Dad about his skills. "You're not a carpenter." Dad simply replied, "You never asked if I was a carpenter" They must have liked him, because they put him through an apprenticeship and after a few years he was a certified carpenter.

Mom and Dad were married in 1952 and travelled to Denmark in the fall of 1953 to meet Dad's family. Mom recalled that she knew enough Danish to get by at the time and overheard Dad telling his mother to teach Mom how to cook some Danish meals, which she continued to do for the next 65 years.

They moved to Calgary in 1956 and had four children, before moving to Ladysmith in 1967 and their fifth child (me) in 1968. The unplanned one, so I've been told. Growing up as kids at 324 King Road, we were very much given the impression from Dad that Denmark was the centre of the universe, and all else revolved around it. I wouldn't go as far as to say we were brain washed, but looking back, it could be construed as such. Upon entering the property "The Great Dane" sign that hung on a tree was kind of perceived as a warning sign, as to who lived here.



We have a lot of memories supporting this as well. For example, Dad loved his Danish wooden shoes that he wore daily. He even got our neighbour, Alec Brown, wearing them daily too. "They are no good unless they're stamped Made in Denmark," he would say.

At every opportunity, he would explain how great Denmark was. Dad loved and missed his homeland deeply. He was a true patriot of both Denmark and Canada. Dad was involved with starting the Royal Danish Guards' Association Pacific Northwest. He ran a couple ads in the Victoria and Vancouver newspapers and over time was able to find old Guardsmen, who would join the Association. We would host BBQs every couple of years for the Guards and it was always a great time for him, with all his old friends and a reason to fly the Danish Flag.

In our house on some Saturday mornings it wasn't at all about watching cartoons. No, he had Danish military marches turned up loud on the record player and had us marching around the living room single file. It was great fun! Similarly, when the national anthem played at the start of Hockey Night in Canada, he always had us stand up for it. He was proud to honor this country and taught us to do the same.

Everyday lunch at our house was a Smorgasbord. Every Christmas was full of Danish traditions and for every birthday Dad would lead in singing *Han skal leve*. Our lives were rich with Danish traditions and culture. We are blessed to have had this as part of our childhood and those traditions carry on in our families.

In Ladysmith Dad worked in the construction industry, on both private and municipal projects. He helped build St. Mary's church next door, and the first addition to the Ladysmith high school. His first foreman job was on a wing of the Nanaimo hospital and then he went to work on the gymnasium at Malaspina College. He eventually became site superintendent for Carlson Construction at the pulp mills at both Crofton and Duke Point for the boilers and steam plants.

He was always busy at home with numerous hobbies and was always working at keeping the household and property in repair and loved listening to and talking on the CB Radio. He had an aviary where he raised birds. He loved to paint landscape oil paintings. I think Bob Ross on PBS must have been an influence for him, as whenever he showed a new painting he would say, "aren't they happy colors?" and we would laugh.

Dad was a real people person. He loved to meet and talk to people whenever he went out. He could walk into the bank where everyone was standing quietly waiting in line for their turn at the teller and within minutes everyone was engaged in conversation with one another and he did this everywhere he went. My sister, Inge, was mentioning, they would walk into town and he would smile and say hi to everyone on the street he passed. "Who was that dad"? "I don't know it's just nice to be friendly". This was dad's true essence at work. He loved engaging with people.

He did not really appreciate "how's the weather" type of conversation. He would launch right into current events and the latest political news story. In a short time, he could have a room or dinner table in a fiery debate of right and wrong with whoever was willing to bite. He loved doing this, and it was a regular discussion at the kitchen table with whoever was visiting. I

always knew when Dad was ready to pounce as he always took an extra-long drag on his cigarette and then paused before leaning in over the table to try to stare down whoever he was talking to before letting them have it. It was quite something to watch.



I learned that after watching this for years on end that it wasn't so much what was being debated, but that Dad was trying to draw your thoughts and beliefs out in the open. Whether he agreed with you or not he wanted you to fight for what you believe in and express your views. Whether they were right or wrong wasn't necessarily important as he wanted you to find your voice. "We all have a voice and you should never be afraid to use it", he would say.

He was an admirer of Tommy Douglas as well as IWA leader Jack Munro who was always fighting for the rights of workers. This cause was close to Dad's heart his entire working life. He always had the backing of the workers when he was both foreman and superintendent. He was a staunch union member for the Carpenters Union and fought many a battle over the years on behalf of its membership. He always spoke up for others if they couldn't.

Dad's values were unwavering. He was constantly giving advice to us even up to a couple of months ago. It all turned on the common theme of being your best and accepting what life has to throw at you. For the serious health challenges, he experienced later in life, it was difficult for him to accept what life had to throw at him. Nevertheless, he did accept them.

I asked Dad before he passed how he wished to be remembered. He paused, and simply said, "That I was a kind person and I liked people". I know for a fact that Dad's legacy lives on in all of us kids and he enriched the lives of those that knew him. How could his influence not shape us, considering his strong character and proud family values?

He was proud of his family and all their achievements and was proud of his own personal achievements. Sitting at the head of the table with all his kids, their spouses and grandkids he would look down it with pride and say "All of this from one Danish immigrant and a beautiful wife" I could go on for hours talking about my Dad and I'm hoping that I was able to help you see some of the things that made our Dad, Lars Christensen, tick.

Peter Christoffersen, Toronto

1967 – 2018

Dr. Peter F. Christoffersen, Professor of Finance and TMX Chair in Capital Markets at the University of Toronto, passed away on June 22, 2018. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Economics in 1996. At Toronto, and earlier at McGill, he emerged as a leader in empirical asset pricing, financial econometrics, and financial risk management. His many well-known contributions include "Evaluating Interval Forecasts" (*International Economic Review*, 1998), "Backtesting Value-at-Risk: A Duration-Based Approach" (*Journal of Financial Econometrics*, 2004), and "Illiquidity Premia in the Equity Options Market" (*Review of Financial Studies*, 2018). Professor Christoffersen received many honors and awards. His classic 1998 paper is one of the ten most cited in the *International Economic Review* since its founding in 1960.



Professor Kris Jacobs, who co-wrote many papers with Christoffersen over the past 20 years, said his colleague had a valuable combination of talents. He had very strong mathematical and statistical skills "but at the same time he thought like an economist. [He understood] how people behaved, and their incentives. He had intuition for that." That approach was reflected in Christoffersen's seminal book, *Elements of Financial Risk Management*, a textbook that is internationally recognized as a crucial contribution to the field. "It is a lot harder than people think to write a good textbook in finance," Jacobs said, but Christoffersen managed to do it by deftly combining state-of-the-art research with practical relevance.

His impact on the lives of others was enormous. A beloved husband, son, brother, father, friend and colleague, Peter was a world-renowned scholar, insightful teacher, trusted mentor, respected leader, attentive listener, and voracious reader. Even as his physical health failed him, his enthusiasm for new endeavors never wavered; he continued to love intellectual debate and conversation. His amazing sense of humor, one-liners, and recollection of stories always kept the conversation interesting, lively, and fun, leaving others with so many vivid memories of good times, laughter and his contagious, ear-to-ear smile.

Peter F. Christoffersen was born in 1967 in the small town of Menstrup, Denmark, where his parents owned and ran an inn (kro). He and his brother were put to work on the many tasks that needed to be done to keep the enterprise running. "Peter often said that school work was the one excuse that he could use to get out of the various duties at the kro, and maybe this was part of the reason he became such a diligent student," his wife Susan said.

Growing up in a tight-knit community, and working in a business that emphasized hospitality had a lasting impact. “Even after moving away he carried with him a love of hosting friends and family,” Susan said. “In grad school he was renowned for his margaritas on our back deck.”

Christoffersen went to the University of Copenhagen for a degree in economics, and then headed to the United States where he got a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania – he had perfected his English while spending a year in Michigan on an exchange program at the age of 16. It was at U Penn that he met Susan, a Canadian from British Columbia who was working on a finance PhD at the university’s Wharton School. The two were married in 1996. Christoffersen worked as an economist at the International Monetary Fund in Washington for two years before he and Susan moved to McGill University in 1998, where they both took up assistant professorships. In 2010, the couple moved to Toronto, joining U of T’s Rotman School of Management. “The university was growing and Rotman was climbing in the ranks,” Susan said, making the move attractive.

Christoffersen retained his deep connection to Denmark, returning every year to visit family and friends. He and his immediate family spent a sabbatical year there in 2007-2008. “He was very proud of his Danish heritage and had many qualities of a good Dane,” Susan said. “He was incredibly humble, he was really smart, and he had a quick wit,” she said. “I remember constantly laughing through our 22 years of marriage.”

Christoffersen loved sports, both European soccer and North American football. He was also a voracious reader, with an endless curiosity and a depth of knowledge on a vast range of topics, Susan said, and was involved in every aspect of their two sons’ lives.

Growing up as an innkeeper's son in Denmark; attending high school in Michigan, completing his doctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania, marrying a Canadian in Denmark, and raising a family in Canada while teaching as a professor at McGill and then the University of Toronto, Peter travelled the world with a willingness to explore. With a strong connection to his Danish family, Peter learned early in life the importance of family, hard work, and strong personal values. These qualities served as the foundation of a fulfilling and productive life rewarded with countless academic accolades, awards, and personal achievements including appointments with the International Monetary Fund, Model Validation Council of the Federal Reserve System, and numerous editorial boards. As the TMX Chair in Capital Markets at Rotman, a Fellow at the Bank of Canada, Visiting Scholar at Copenhagen Business School, author of well over 50 articles, books, and book chapters, and advisor to 25 doctoral students, Peter was an outstanding academic. His unassuming nature belied his contributions to the academic community. A scholarship will be established in Peter's name at the Rotman School.

Peter's kindness, loyalty, and loving nature will be missed by his wife, Susan; sons, Nicholas and Phillip; parents, Jenna and Johannes; and brother, Jacob. Always the optimist and source of strength, inspiration, and wise counsel, Peter touched the lives of so many, not least his extended family in Michigan and British Columbia.

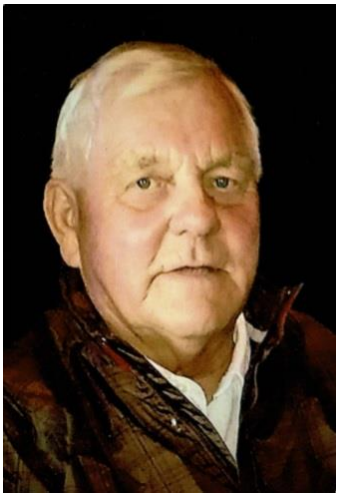
Peter Christoffersen’s stellar career was cut short in June, when he died of cancer at the age of 51. He was diagnosed with kidney cancer in 2014 and two years later it had spread to his lungs. A funeral service was held on July 7, 2018, at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto.

Kurt Hansen

1939 – 2018

Margith Hansen, Edmonton

Kurt Hansen passed away peacefully with his loving wife, Margith, at his side, on June 26, 2018. He was 78 years old. Kurt was predeceased by his parents, Gunnar and Laura Hansen, and also by his sister, Karen Margrethe, in 1967, all residing in Denmark. Kurt leaves his two brothers (Konrad in Edmonton and Svend Aage in Denmark) who mourn Kurt's passing, alongside Kurt's many nieces and nephews and their families.



Kurt was born in the small town of Maare per Herrested, Fyn, Denmark, on September 1, 1939, the day the Second World War broke out. Kurt was baptized and confirmed in Herrested Church. He apprenticed with Jens Peter Hansen (no relation) of Maare. Only nineteen years old Kurt immigrated to Canada in January 1959, settling in Edmonton, where he met a Danish girl, Margith, in April 1959. Margith Kamp Madsen, who was born in Ørnhøj, West Jutland, had immigrated to Canada separately in March 1956. Kurt and Margith were engaged in May 1960 and married on September 30, 1961. Kurt and Margith Hansen were blessed with two children, Stephen and Peter, three grandchildren (Leanne, Kyle, and Jessica), and two great-grandchildren (Gavin and Eric).

Kurt deeply loved his family and friends. Family time and celebrations with family were an important part of Kurt's life. He cherished hosting family events and preparing food and drinks with his wife Margith as much as he enjoyed invitations to functions prepared by others.

Kurt loved Canada and was a proud Canadian citizen. He and Margith shared their time as avid Edmonton Oilers fans, RV enthusiasts, and golfers. At the same time, he remained deeply rooted in his love for Denmark. Kurt and Margith were members of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

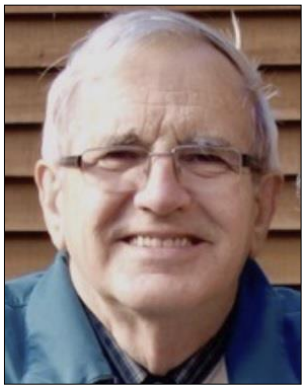
Kurt lived a full life. To his last days, Kurt continued to enjoy his role as manager and mentor within his vocation of bricklaying. Kurt's legacy includes involvement in many of the great masonry fixtures seen in Alberta, including countless schools, college and university buildings, malls, office towers, and so forth.

A celebration of Kurt’s life was held at Calvary Lutheran Church on July 4, 2018, with Pastor Lasse Hultberg officiating. At the Service the last hymn sung was “Altid frejdig når du går”. The pallbearers were Kurt Andersen, Dennis Hansen, Kyle Hansen, Arnie Jensen, Dylan Jensen and Curtis Lyons. After the Service food and refreshments were served.

Leif Elmkvist Jacobsen

1938 – 2018

Leif Elmkvist Jacobsen passed away suddenly at home on Friday, December 28, 2018. Leif was born in Silkeborg, Denmark, on May 28, 1938, and grew up on a small farm in neighbouring Voel.



He emigrated from Denmark to Canada in early 1957 as a young man with five years of horticultural schooling and an apprenticeship. He arrived in Canada with $50 in his pocket with a sense of adventure and the pursuit of new opportunities. On arrival, Leif began working for the Egesborg family at Longue Pointe Greenhouses in East Montreal before saving enough money to pursue his dream of starting his own business, Little Denmark Flower Shop and Greenhouses, in partnership with his Canadian wife and partner, of close to 58 years, Norma Louise Wallace. Their life journey together began in 1961 on Roxham Road just outside of Hemmingford, Quebec, where Norma grew up, and has been a true labour of love for their business, their family, their friends and their customers. Over the years, Little Denmark became a well-recognized and important part of the community in the Chateauguay Valley south of Montreal and in the North Country in upstate New York and Vermont.

Leif loved the flower industry but also shared a particular love for collecting antiques. His favourite pastimes were scouring antique shops and attending country auctions throughout the Valley and North Country, and as far away as New Brunswick. He was particularly proud of his Danish heritage, but equally proud to be Canadian, and also shared a tremendous love and respect for his American friends and neighbours south of the border. Leif absolutely treasured his time at Sitting Duck Camp on Lower Chateaugay Lake in the Adirondacks, and his time with family and friends.

Leif had an incredible work ethic, but also believed in giving back to his various communities. He was actively involved in the Hemmingford Chamber of Commerce and served on the organizing committees for the Hemmingford Apple Festival and Old Home Week. He served as President and Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-Provincial Flower Market, a cooperative of Québec and Ontario flower growers, wholesalers and retailers located in Montreal. He also served as President and Secretary Treasurer of the Montreal Gardeners and Florists Club, the oldest social club of its kind in North America, and he has served with Norma as a Montreal area Director and Member of The Danish Canadian Society. He was also a very active Member of The Danish Club of Montreal - Den Danske Klub.

Leif is survived by his treasured life partner and spouse, Norma, his two sons, Neil (Christine) and Erik (Tammy), three grandchildren, Adam, Sara and Bridget, his sister Gurli in Vejle,

Denmark, her extended family in Vejle and Arhus, and members of the Wallace and Ross families in Québec and Ontario. Leif is predeceased by his parents Helga and Ove Jacobsen.

Leif was particularly proud of the accomplishments of his two sons, and he had the opportunity to spend the Holiday Season with his family in both Québec and New Brunswick. Leif will be sadly missed by his family and friends, but he leaves a truly remarkable personal legacy as someone who chose to call Roxham Road, Québec, and Canada home. Skål og tusind tak! A thousand thank yous for a life well lived!

A reception for family, friends and the community he loved so much was held on Saturday, January 5th from 1 to 4 pm at St. Andrew's United Church Hall, 476 Rue Frontière Street, in Hemmingford. A brief celebration of life took place at 3 pm.

On his passing, Kren Clausen, President of The Danish Club of Montreal said, "Leif was a long time, loyal, member, of both The Danish Club of Montreal and The Danish Canadian Society. He would bring and sponsor beautiful flowers for each monthly lunch of The Danish Club over many, many, years. It was a special treat to see Leif and his wife Norma at annual dinners and events. Leif regularly attended the Club lunches with his dear friend, Klaus -- both having had long careers in the flower business in Montreal. Leif was never short on words in a conversation. Leif had many meaningful accounts of personal experiences in life and gladly told a humorous story to share in conversation with friends or importantly when at the right moment someone could benefit from a good laugh. He will be missed."

Vagn and Ruth Nyby

Joanne Packham, Fenwick

On a warm summer day back on August 24, 1923, our father Frederik Harald Vagn Nyby was born to Julius and Magdalene Nyby at Kjærskovgaard in Daugaard, Denmark. He learned at an early age to work hard, both on their farm and on neighbouring farms. He got a position as a lead cattle foreman at a large farm named Røn. After that Vagn was a day laborer who would go out and work where ever help was needed, which included shovelling peat, filling rail cars with coal, and other labour-intensive jobs. From 1946 to 1948 Vagn served with the Danish Royal Guards. This was while King Christian X was King.



Karen Ruth was born to Martin and Johanne Sørensen on May 25, 1924, in Horsens, Denmark. She helped her mother with sewing, learning skills she would use throughout her life. At the young age of 14 she was a maid. She had many jobs such as managing a delicatessen, making smørrebrød and other delicacies. For a time she also worked as a seamstress in Copenhagen and Sweden.

Vagn and Ruth had known each other over the years, sometimes meeting at local dances. They were married in Horsens on March 20, 1948. They had Palle (Paul) on March 31, 1951, followed by Linda on October 25, 1952. During that time Ruth worked at a telephone factory and Vagn was a general contractor and mason building three houses with hand dug basements! After the war jobs were scarce so they decided to immigrate to Canada and start anew. On June 16, 1956, they arrived in Halifax on the Norwegian ship *Stavangerfjord*.

The first farm in Uxbridge was unbearable with no electricity or water so within two months they found a dairy farm with the Binkley's who became their life long friends. They moved to a farm in Acton with a couple for a few years. Their family grew again when Joanne was born January 3, 1960. In 1961 the entire family went back to Denmark to see if they wanted to return, but decided that they would go back to Canada. They moved to Rockwood to a 300-acre farm of land and bush. Vagn worked at the Milton spring factory plus tended to the cattle and land. Ruth worked for a baroness as a house keeper plus picking cucumbers on the farm. Vagn had a near death accident with a tractor on his 40th birthday, but thankfully had just taught Paul how to milk the cows. In 1967 they decided to buy a 100-acre dairy farm in Caistor Centre where they partnered with son Paul. Vagn always said that he was the muscle and Ruth was the brains (caring for the finances) in their relationship. He had a wonderful sense of humour and always the life of the party or family event. In April 1973, Vagn, Ruth, Paul and Linda became Canadian citizens. Ruth wanted the right to vote for Pierre Trudeau. They farmed that property for 10 years

then decided to sell out to Paul and move to a house in the Dunnville area. Vagn continued to work for Paul, and then milked for various farmers in the neighbourhood until he retired. Through the years the family enjoyed numerous Danish dinner parties prepared by Ruth with beautiful tables and delicious food. Keeping the Danish traditions and culture alive was very important to her. They enjoyed going to the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby where they made several good friendships through the years. Fishing became Vagn's new hobby of choice along with having garage sales. Ruth loved her large vegetable and flower gardens along with crocheting and knitting for craft sales. With declining health and poor mobility, they decided to sell their beloved home in 2005 and move to a one level townhouse in Beamsville. Ruth was always a very strong and determined lady, she looked after everything. Vagn passed away October 4, 2008, which left an enormous void in our family. Ruth continued to enjoy her gardens, knitting for the bazaar, the Friendship Club where she could enjoy all the old favorite Danish songs, and good conversation. She had a very strong faith which helped her through the tough times. She never complained about anything, she loved her family and was fair to a fault. She was loved for her sense of humour and quick wit. Ruth passed away February 3, 2018 at home in her 94th year. She left three children, eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren and is deeply missed by us all Æret være deres minde!



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Vern Simonsen, Winnipeg

1931 – 2018

Vagn (Vern) Simonsen passed away at Grace Hospice, Winnipeg, on April 8, 2018. He is survived by his wife Ann, children Karen (Michael Dow), Paul, Lise and Christine (David Rochette), grandchildren David Christiansen (Elizabeth), Scott Christiansen, Michael Christiansen, Cleo Syverson, Jack Syverson (and their father Dean Syverson), Michèle Rochette and Marc Rochette, step grandchildren Gillian Romeo (Anthony), Katherine Dow and Elizabeth Dow (Will Coombs), and great-grandchildren Henry Christiansen and Joseph Romeo.



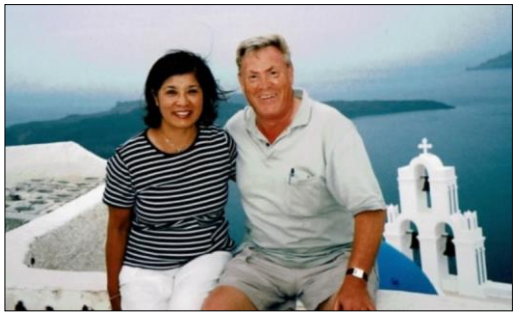
Vagn was born in January 1931 to Simon K. Simonsen and Anna Simonsen, who had immigrated from Stenum, Vendsyssel, to Canada in August 1927 with four children. They settled on a farm in the Alida District in Saskatchewan, farming there for four years. Later in 1931 they moved to a farm ten miles northwest of Redvers, Saskatchewan, like Alida, another Danish settlement. In Redvers the family joined the Dannevirke Lutheran Church. Vern was the fifth of their eight children and the first to be born in Canada. Vern was raised on the family farm near Redvers, as he would enjoy telling anyone who would care to listen. Growing up on a farm during the Great Depression was a defining experience for him. After attending a one-room schoolhouse in his early years, Vern attended Luther College in Regina and Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. He then worked as a high school teacher in rural Saskatchewan and The Pas, Manitoba. It was during this period that he decided to enter law school. He won the University of Manitoba Gold Medal in Law and was called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1959. From 1959 to 1982, he practiced civil litigation, first with Scarth, Honeyman, Scarth and continuing with the firm until it eventually became Scarth, Simonsen, Dooley, Olson and Weins. He was President of the Law Society of Manitoba from 1973 to 1974. In 1982, he was appointed a judge of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench. He continued to work as a judge until his retirement in 1997. Vern loved the law. He believed in the profession, the role it played, and the good it could do. He was a Bencher (1968-2018) and President (1973-1974) of the Law Society of Manitoba. Appointed as a Puisne Judge on the Court of Queen’s Bench in September 1982, he served until retirement in October 1997. He was a trustee for the Tuxedo School District, a member of the Winnipeg Police Commission, and co-founder of Tennis Seventies. Vern was very proud of his Danish heritage. He served as the Honorary Danish Consul in Manitoba for many years.

He also contributed to his community as a supporter of youth sports teams. He loved the family cottage at West Hawk Lake, the clear skies of Palm Springs, and cooking great food in his kitchen. He was a dedicated family man, always supportive, never judgmental, and an inspiring role model. His spirit was indomitable and his joy for life endless. Quite simply, Vern was a unique individual. In accordance with Vern's wishes, there was no funeral service. A reception in his honour was held at Winnipeg’s Niakwa Country Club.

Knud Westergaard

1937 – 2018

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



Knud Westergaard passed away unexpectedly on October 25, 2018, while on vacation in Ecuador with some of his dearest friends, enjoying one of his favourite pastimes. He leaves behind his wife of 46 years, Yoneko (Shinozaki), and their sons Peter (Heather) and Paul (Emilie).

Knud Westergaard was born in Haderslev on January 18, 1937. His parents owned and operated a grocery store. In 1954 he graduated with Realeksamen and started as an apprentice with the then largest cheese company in Denmark, DOFO. After military service in Tønder he started studying at the Copenhagen Business School. Knud's career led him to Hong Kong, and later Japan, where he courted and married Yoneko. They came to Canada in 1975, settling in Toronto. Knud became Managing Director of the Danish Dairy Board's activities in Canada, importing Danish cheese, and in charge of the Danish Food Centre and the popular Copenhagen Room Restaurant, on Bloor Street. Knud was a founding member of the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto, and served as executive director and chairman. He also served as president of the Scandinavian Canadian Business Association and had since 1978 been an active member of the Rotary Club of Toronto. For over twenty years he was a Copenhagen Goodwill Ambassador. In the early 1990s Knud worked with Teddy Pedersen, importing products from Denmark. Later Knud started his own cheese importing company Dancheese Ltd. In 1999 he was knighted by the Queen of Denmark, receiving the Order of Dannebrog, for his work promoting trade and cultural relations between Denmark and Canada.

Keenly interested in music, he learned to play the piano at an early age, later playing the tuba and trombone in bands in Denmark. He had a vast collection of LPs and CDs and arranged tours for Friends of the Canadian Opera Company. In 1980 he became the founding chairman of the Toronto branch of the Danish expatriate organization IBF, serving as chairman for twenty years. Balut was one of his preferred past times and he seldom missed the annual International Balut Championship. Knud was a member of Danes Worldwide, and he entertained on the piano at the Danish Canadian Conference in Toronto in 2012.

The eulogy at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto on November 5th was given by one of Knud's sons and after some of his close Balut friends spoke in the downstairs hall. There were about 200 people at the Service and about 160 for open face sandwiches in the hall. Tributes poured in from friends all over the world, saying he was a loyal friend and a true inspiration, as well as a gentleman with a great sense of humour and a zest for life. Ære være hans minde!



Danish - Canadian - Club

Member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Dear Members and Friends, March 19, 2019

Nanaimo, on beautiful Vancouver Island, British Columbia, is calling you!

I am delighted to inform you that the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club will be hosting the Federation of Danish Associations' 39th AGM and Conference in Nanaimo, British Columbia, on May 21-24, 2020.

Nanaimo is Vancouver Island's *"Harbour City"* and has much to offer visitors to the west coast. From whale watching, fishing charters and sightseeing to visiting some of Canada's largest trees, Nanaimo will not disappoint visitors. Steeped in history of coal mining days, forestry and fishing, Nanaimo is home to beautiful Newcastle Island Marine Park, museums, theatres and many natural places to explore!

Getting to Nanaimo is as easy as can be. We are served by both of Canada's major airlines, BC Ferries from two Vancouver terminals as well as float plane and heli-jet service direct from Vancouver harbour to Nanaimo harbour.

Mark your calendar now for May 21 - 24, 2020. Nanaimo is the gateway to Vancouver Island's *"Wild West Coast"* so join us for an exciting conference and plan on spending a few extra days before or after the conference to explore all that Vancouver Island has to offer!

On behalf of the Members and Board of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, we invite you to join us for a visit you'll not soon forget.

Tommy Anders Hedekær

Treasurer and Chair of the 2020 AGM Host Committee

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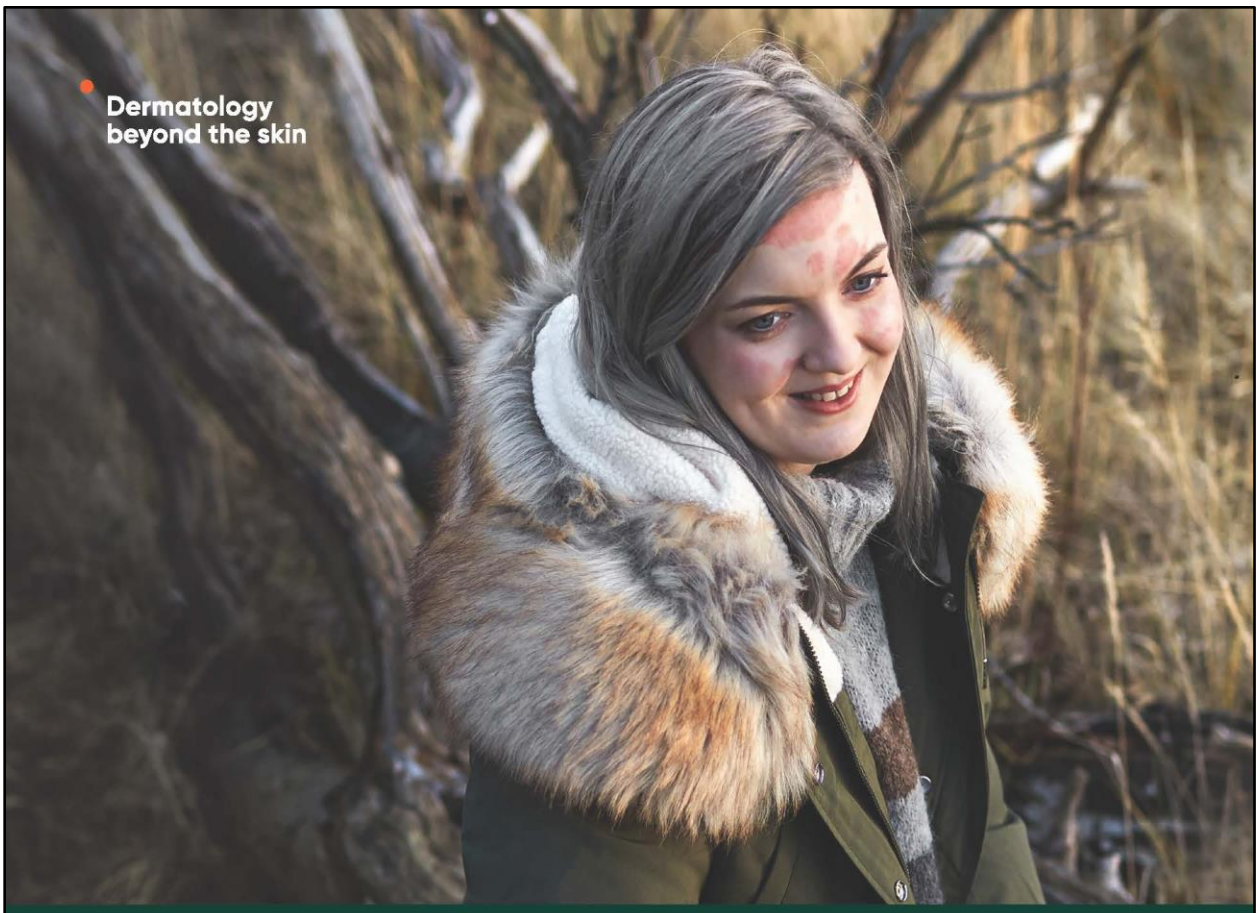
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