



2023 HERITAGE BOOK



Vikings on the Island The Danes at Cape Scott

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FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DANOISES DU CANADA

DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Nanaimo, B.C.
May 25-28, 2023

**“Vikings on the Island:
We Came, We Saw, We Stayed!”**

**“Vikinger på Øen:
De Kom, De Så, De Blev!”**

Vikings on the Island

“We Came, We Saw, We Stayed!”

The Danes at Cape Scott by Rolf Buschardt Christensen

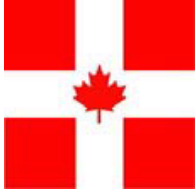
The idea of a Danish colony at Cape Scott on the northern tip of Vancouver Island came from Rasmus Hansen who on a fishing trip up the Pacific coast of Vancouver Island in 1894 discovered the lagoon which now bears his name. He thought the location was ideal for a settlement and in February 1895 he wrote an article in *Dannevirke*, proposing the establishment there of a Danish colony. Then in the spring of 1896 Hansen with Nels C. Nelson and two others visited Cape Scott. Together they contacted the Hon. James Baker in Victoria about establishing a colony. The government supported the initiative promising a road to the settlement.

In the fall of 1896 Hansen and Nels C. Nelson went to Cape Scott to plan the future colony. At the same time Rasmus Hansen wrote letters to Danish newspapers promoting Cape Scott. It was also Rasmus Hansen who came up with the idea of a dike, and he later carried the heavy load in constructing the dike. Rasmus Hansen also travelled extensively, often going to Victoria and Seattle to promote Cape Scott or to help and advise new colonists. He was elected president of the Settlers' Association and would later undertake a tour of the US Midwest to promote Cape Scott. He was the unchallenged leader of Cape Scott and in 1899 he was appointed Justice of the Peace. Rasmus Hansen built several boats, and he took the lead in building the *Cape Scott* in 1901. After its launch he moved to Seattle, from where he thought it would be easier to promote the Colony.

The pioneers at Cape Scott were nearly all born in Denmark. They had immigrated to the United States seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Over half of them had been born in Jutland. They were attracted by the maritime climate and nearby ocean, the chance to be with other Danes and to acquire their own piece of land. Most of the settlers were young families.

Promoting the colony was an uphill struggle. At one point the same number of people would arrive as well as leave when the monthly boat docked. The area was a practical rain forest. Moreover, the government never built a harbour nor a road to the settlement. Not being able to make a living and financially broke, most of the pioneers left after a time, giving up on the project, while only a handful stayed. Nearly all of those who left returned to the United States, a fair number of them settling in Enumclaw, south of Seattle. Hansen became extremely discouraged and finally gave up the project in June 1902, when he officially announced his resignation as leader of the Colony. He settled permanently in Seattle. The leadership of the colony then fell to Carl Brinck Christensen, who for the longest time, admirably, tried to sustain a Danish colony at Cape Scott, when he too had to give up.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2023 Heritage Book

Danish Canadian Conference

Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. May 25-28, 2023

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Cover photograph: Some of the early Danish pioneers at Cape Scott, ca. between 1898 and 1902. Nels C. Nelson, one of the founders of the colony, seated centre bareheaded. Photograph by Carl Brinck Christensen or Valborg Johansen, Image 7750 courtesy of the Museum at Campbell River, BC.

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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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Red Deer	2002	Erling Hansen and Kirsten Wohlgemuth	
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GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 25-28, 2023

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2023 Danish Canadian Conference and Annual General Meeting.



Since its founding in 1981, the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada has provided a national framework for cooperation between Danish Canadian community organizations and worked to preserve and promote Danish heritage and culture in Canada. This gathering offers a forum to review accomplishments over the past year, discuss issues of importance, and establish goals and priorities for the future.

I would like to commend the organizers for putting together a rewarding program for everyone involved. I am certain that the participants will make the most of this chance to return to in-person activities after a two-year hiatus and to take in some of the many attractions that Nanaimo has to offer. Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made strong and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive meeting and continued success.

Sincerely,

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

GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 25 au 28 mai 2023

Chères amies,
Chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes les personnes qui assistent à la conférence et à l'assemblée générale annuelle de 2023 de la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada.



Depuis sa création en 1981, la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada fournit un cadre national de coopération pour les organismes communautaires de Canadiennes et de Canadiens d'origine danoise et œuvre à préserver et à promouvoir le patrimoine et la culture danoise au Canada. Ce rassemblement donne l'occasion de revenir sur les réalisations de la dernière année, d'aborder des questions importantes et d'établir les objectifs et les priorités de demain.

Je félicite le comité organisateur qui a préparé un programme enrichissant pour les toutes les personnes qui prennent part à cet événement. Je suis convaincu que toutes et tous tireront le meilleur parti de cette chance de reprendre des activités en personne, après deux ans de pause, et qu'ils profiteront du grand nombre d'attractions touristiques à Nanaimo. Le Canada est sans contredit une nation multiculturelle dont la diversité est source de force et de résilience.

Je vous souhaite une rencontre des plus productives ainsi que le meilleur des succès pour l'avenir.

Cordialement,

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

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

GREETINGS



THE AMBASSADOR

Ottawa, February 2023

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

With 2021 marking the 1000th anniversary of Leif Ericsson's arrival in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, the conference theme is a testament to a long history between Canada and the Nordics. The settlement has the oldest traces of transatlantic voyage and the arrival took place centuries before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492.

Jens Munk's historic expedition a little over 400 years ago was also ahead of its time and this daring Dane came closer to finding the Northwest Passage than anyone had before. Likewise, Knud Rasmussen was the undisputed explorer of long-haul arctic expedition and we are still marking the centennial of the Fifth Thule Expedition, a three-year adventure across Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Siberia.

Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark do however share much more than a history of great expeditions. The Arctic – a shared geographical area, is a region of particular bilateral cooperation. June 14, 2022 was the day when the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Greenlandic Prime Minister and the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs signed a historic agreement on the division of Hans Ø (Tartupaluk). This small Arctic island located in the High Arctic is now an official land border between the Kingdom of Denmark and Canada. The agreement not only created a new land border, but also established a new maritime border of a total of 3,962 km, making it the world's longest. The agreement ended the friendly so-called *Whisky War*. Together we showed the world, in a time of need, that it is possible to solve differences, and move forward positively through diplomacy, good faith negotiations, and respect for the rule of law.

The daily work of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, and the Danish Canadian Clubs, continue to be important for promoting the heritage and identity of Danes in Canada as well as building important bridges between our countries and cultures.

I look forward to our continued cooperation and hope to see you in Nanaimo.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanne Fugl Eskjær'.

Hanne Fugl Eskjær

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

GREETINGS



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY

As Premier of British Columbia, I extend my warmest greetings to all readers of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's 2023 Heritage Book.

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

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

I have no doubt that the 2023 edition will be one to remember. Enjoy the book!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Eby".

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, K.C.
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

GREETINGS



Dear Members and Friends,

February 2023

Nanaimo, gateway to the *Wild West Coast* on beautiful Vancouver Island welcomes you!

I am delighted to welcome you on behalf of the **Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club** to the Federation of Danish Association's AGM and 39th Conference in Nanaimo, B.C., May 25 through May 28, 2023. As you know, we tried to serve as your host in 2020 and then again in 2021 and made plans to host again in 2022, but each time due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation, we were forced to cancel any thoughts of doing so. Now at long last we are able to put our plans into action and serve as your Vancouver Island Viking Hosts!

Vancouver Island is home to an early Danish settlement at Cape Scott on the northwest tip of the island and Nanaimo is Vancouver Island's "**Harbour City**" which has much to offer visitors to the west coast. From whale watching, fishing charters, bungee jumping and sightseeing to visiting some of Canada's largest trees, Nanaimo will not disappoint visitors. Steeped in a history of coal mining, forestry and fishing, Nanaimo is home to beautiful Newcastle Island Provincial Marine Park, museums, theatres and many natural places as well as Canada's only floating pub!

Getting to Nanaimo is as easy as can be, as we are served by Westjet, Air Canada, Air North, BC Ferries from two Vancouver terminals as well as Harbour Air float planes and Helijet helicopter service, both direct from Vancouver harbour to Nanaimo harbour.

Nanaimo is the gateway to Vancouver Island's "*Wild West Coast*" so enjoy an exciting conference and plan on spending a few extra days after the conference to explore all that Vancouver Island has to offer!

Our gardens in Nanaimo are coming into full bloom in late May, so dress in layers and bring good walking shoes for a visit you'll not soon forget!

Sincerely *og Med Venlig Hilsen,*

Tommy Anders Hedekær

Club President and Chair of the 2023 Conference & AGM Host Committee

"Vikings on the Island: We Came, We Saw, We Stayed!"
"Vikinger på Øen: De Kom, De Så, De Blev!"

O Canada

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

Canadá

“O Canada” was proclaimed Canada’s national anthem on July 1, 1980, 100 years after it was first sung on June 24, 1880. The music was composed by Calixa Lavallee, a well-known composer; French lyrics to accompany the music were written by Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The song gained steadily in popularity. Many English versions have appeared over the years. The version on which the official English lyrics are based was written in 1908 by Mr. Justice Robert Stanley Weir. The official English version includes changes recommended in 1968 by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons. The French lyrics remain unaltered. On January 31, 2018, legislation was passed to change the English lyrics from “True patriot love in all thy sons command” to “True patriot love in all of us command” to make it gender neutral.



DENMARK
DANMARK

DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

DER ER ET YNDIGTLAND

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



FEDERATION



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

Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

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

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

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

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

Inger K. W. Andersen
Kingston, 1983

FEDERATION



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

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FEDERATION



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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 Cultural 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, Alberta
18. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson, Alberta
19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
20. The Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton
21. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton

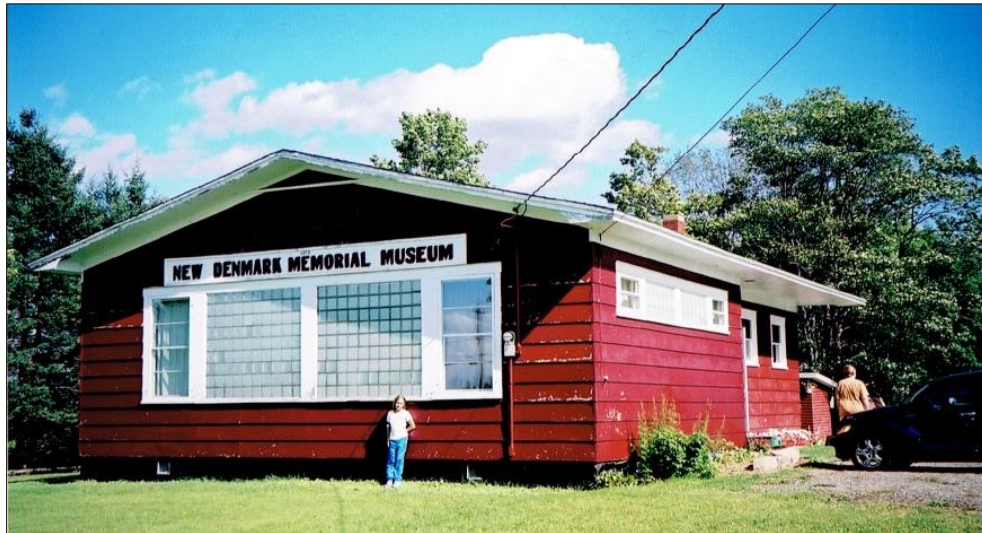
22. Scandinavian Cultural Society, Vancouver
23. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver
24. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest
25. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver
26. Dania Home Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby
27. Danish House Society, Burnaby
28. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo
29. Danish Social Club of Victoria

30. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
31. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
32. Danish Canadian American Friendship Association, Strib, Denmark
33. Danish American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa
34. 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.



New Denmark Memorial Museum, New Denmark, N.B.

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 Danish Federation. Currently the Federation consists of thirty-four member organizations.

One annual activity is the *Danish Canadian Conference*, where Danes from across Canada get together to discuss specific issues and common projects. Over the years the Conference themes have focussed on the preservation and promotion of our heritage, documenting our history, youth involvement, our identity, communications, human rights, the Arctic, fundraising, renewal and sustainability, Pier 21, honouring our traditions, the Danish Canadian National Museum etc. For each Conference, the Federation publishes a 200-page *Heritage Book* with articles, reports, biographies and histories relating to the Danes in Canada. The *Heritage Book* is not just distributed to the conference delegates but is sold to the Danish community and others through

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the various member organizations. The book is a treasure, containing a wealth of information about the Danes in Canada, as well as their various organizations.

In addition, each year, the Federation publishes a practical *Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada*, available free upon request. In 1991, the Danish Federation helped sell the book *Danish Emigration to Canada*, published by Udvandrerarkivet in Aalborg. In 2000 Udvandrerarkivet, in cooperation with the Danish Federation, published *In Denmark Born - To Canada Sworn*. In 2019 the Danish Federation republished *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620* to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Munk's voyage to find the Northwest Passage. And then in 2021 the Danish Federation published *Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled*, written by Knud Michelsen for the Danish Federation to commemorate the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-24.



Dickson Store Museum, Dickson, Alberta.

In 1983, on the 200th anniversary of the birth of N.F.S. Grundtvig, the Federation arranged lectures on Grundtvig in Toronto and Vancouver by Dr. Knud Bugge. In 1986, Danish actress Anne Jensen visited New Denmark, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver where she read from the works of Hans Christian Andersen and Benny Andersen.



Dagmar Pioneer Church, Danish Canadian Museum.

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 Lung Association for a monument in its 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.

In 1989, the Danish Federation arranged a successful one-week course on Danish culture at Geneva Park, Orillia, Ontario. The course had a typical Danish Folk School atmosphere. Similar one-week seminars have been held nearly annually right across Canada from Halifax to Parksville.



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

Annual Report
2022 – 2023

It is a pleasure to present this Annual Report in person, after not having met physically since 2019 in Winnipeg. It has been trying for both the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club and the Danish Federation to keep postponing the Conference. Many have also been eager to again attend a Heritage Seminar, which we are now able to do immediately after this Conference.

The pandemic has had an impact on all of our member organizations. Some have been dormant during the pandemic and others have had to really struggle to stay afloat. It appears we have all survived and hopefully all will soon become vibrant and prosper. At present the Danish Federation consists of 34 member organizations, down from 35 last year. Unfortunately, the Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, British Columbia, had to close. The closing was not due to the pandemic nor to their financial situation, but to an aging and dwindling congregation with no new and younger members joining. On the bright side, the Granly congregation was able to sell its property at a very favourable price, which meant that on dissolution Granly could make exceedingly generous donations to the Danish Lutheran Churches in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto, as well as to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson.

In 2022 New Denmark in New Brunswick could celebrate its 150th anniversary as a Danish settlement, the oldest in Canada. The New Denmark Historical Society, which operates the New Denmark Memorial Museum, was in 2022 going to celebrate the anniversary as close to Founders Day as possible. The celebration was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and will instead take place this year in June. Congratulations and best wishes for the future!

Our 2022 Annual General Meeting took place on ZOOM. No Club Reports were given at the AGM, but they are included in the 2023 Heritage Book. Elected president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer for the coming year were respectively Rolf Christensen, Ed Kuhlman, Lisa Olsen and Sune Overgaard. After the elections the president welcomed Lisa Olsen to the board, and he thanked Aase Christensen, who wanted to step down, after serving as Secretary for ten years.

At the AGM the president thanked Vice President Ed Kuhlman for producing a first class Heritage Book. And during the year the website was updated by Lisa Olsen and a Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada was printed, the first hard copy directory since 2019.

Concerning the ongoing centennial of Knud Rasmussen's Fifth Thule Expedition there were during the past year Knud Rasmussen exhibitions and speaking engagements in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Gimli, Calgary and Banff, all organized by local organizations and/or facilitated by the Danish Embassy. The captivating book *Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled*, published by the Danish Federation, continues to sell and fortunately copies are still available.

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Speaking of the North, in 2022 we also saw the territorial dispute between Canada and Denmark settled. The ownership of Hans Island, located in the icy waters halfway between Ellesmere Island and Greenland, had been disputed for nearly fifty years, claimed by both Canada and Denmark. To solve the ownership of the barren and uninhabited Hans Island the two sides agreed to sit down to negotiate a settlement, each side hoping to convince the other of its claim under international law. In 2022, after many years of negotiations the two sides agreed to split the island down the middle. In this way the two sides showed the rest of the world that it is possible to solve a territorial dispute peacefully. In the process they created a land border between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark.

A sign that the worst of the pandemic had passed was that Danish Federation Regional Meetings were again held in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. Similarly the Danish Canadian National Museum again held a Weekend Retreat, to discuss among other things the expansion of the museum to be able to accept, store and display more artifacts, and provide better restaurant facilities for its visitors.

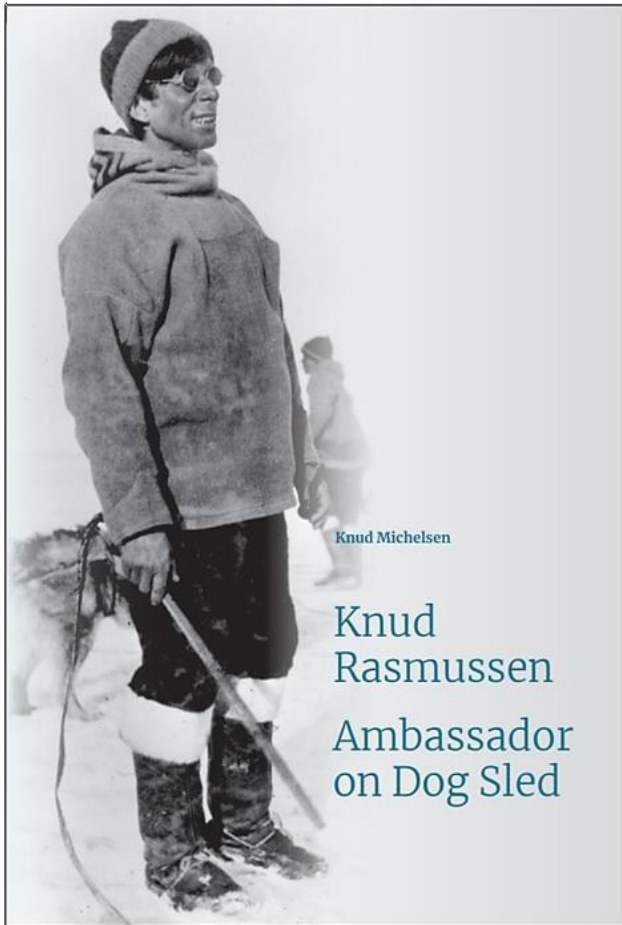
Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton is this year celebrating its 100th anniversary as it was in the fall of 1923 that Pastor M.G. Christensen of Calgary came to Edmonton to conduct a church service for a small group of Danish immigrants in Edmonton. Later a congregation was formed and a church was built. Congratulations on your anniversary and best wishes for the future!

On a sadder note I would like to pay tribute to Svend Berg of Montreal, who passed away in December. Svend Berg was a founding member of the Danish Federation. At different times he served as president of the Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, and later The Danish Club of Montreal. He served on the Danish Federation's Board of Directors and twelve times he was editor of our annual Heritage Book. He will be missed by all who knew him. Ære være hans minde!

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for your work and commitment both nationally and in the regions. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all member organizations for your 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





Book commemorating

Knud Rasmussen and the Fifth Thule Expedition

Knud Rasmussen was the greatest Danish polar explorer of the twentieth century. In contrast to other explorers his primary purpose was not the exploration of the Polar Regions' geography, but the people who lived in these distant, cold regions, as well as their way of life, culture, myths, legends, songs and religious beliefs.

The Fifth Thule Expedition (1921-1924) brought Rasmussen and his team into close contact with the Inuit in Canada, Alaska and Siberia.

This fascinating book, published on the occasion of the centennial of the Fifth Thule Expedition, was written by Knud Michelsen, a Danish expert on Knud Rasmussen and the Fifth Thule Expedition. The book's focus is on this unique and consequential expedition, but is also a book about Knud Rasmussen in general, his background, his other travels and activities, his unique personality and his place and significance in a broad historical and political context.

This captivating book with over 100 illustrations is selling for \$20 and is available from Ed Kuhlman at 604-942-8499 or Rolf Christensen at 613-747-9764.

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

**DANISH
CLUB OF
MONTREAL**
EST. 1922



Join us for smørrebrød lunch

Second Wednesday of each month

Downtown: 12 noon - 3 pm at the Blackwatch Armoury

Register by email: luncheon@danishclubmontreal.com

CONVERGE

Congratulations to the Danish Club of Montreal on its Centennial!

The Moller/Hansen Family

Peter Moller, Almonte, Ontario

This account is based on a combination of available documents, oral accounts and information in the ‘family history from Denmark’ written by our late cousin Hjørdis, also known as Bitten. I will not duplicate Bitten’s work, but at points elaborate on it. I have also used the impressive family heritage album compiled by our niece, Karen Forderer. Finally, I want to thank my sister, Helen, for reviewing the manuscript, and providing valuable additional input. However, for a meaningful perspective on the formative influences on our family we need to go back to our grandparents.

On Father’s Side

Our paternal grandfather, Christian Møller, was born in Denmark in August 1865. He came from a well-placed middle-class family, his father having been, at one point, a senior officer in the Customs Department. His paternal grandmother was a girl from Svaneke, a coastal town on the island of Bornholm, situated in the Baltic Sea. Meanwhile, his grandparents on his father’s side were Søren Juel and Frederikke Bolette Petersen. Søren Juel was an indirect descendent of Denmark’s greatest naval hero, Niels Juel, who won several naval engagements against the Swedes, and whose victory in the Bay of Køge on July 1-2, 1677 established for a time Danish supremacy of the Baltic Sea.

A significant part of my family has deep roots in Bornholm, which has some relevance to the story that follows. Upon graduation from high school, my grandfather, Christian Møller, enlisted in the army and eventually rose to the rank of lieutenant. Around 1891 he met my grandmother, Hertha Svendsen, born in Copenhagen in 1860. She was a widow with two children, Stella and Thyra. Bitten mentions that she also had an illegitimate daughter, Erna, born in 1890.

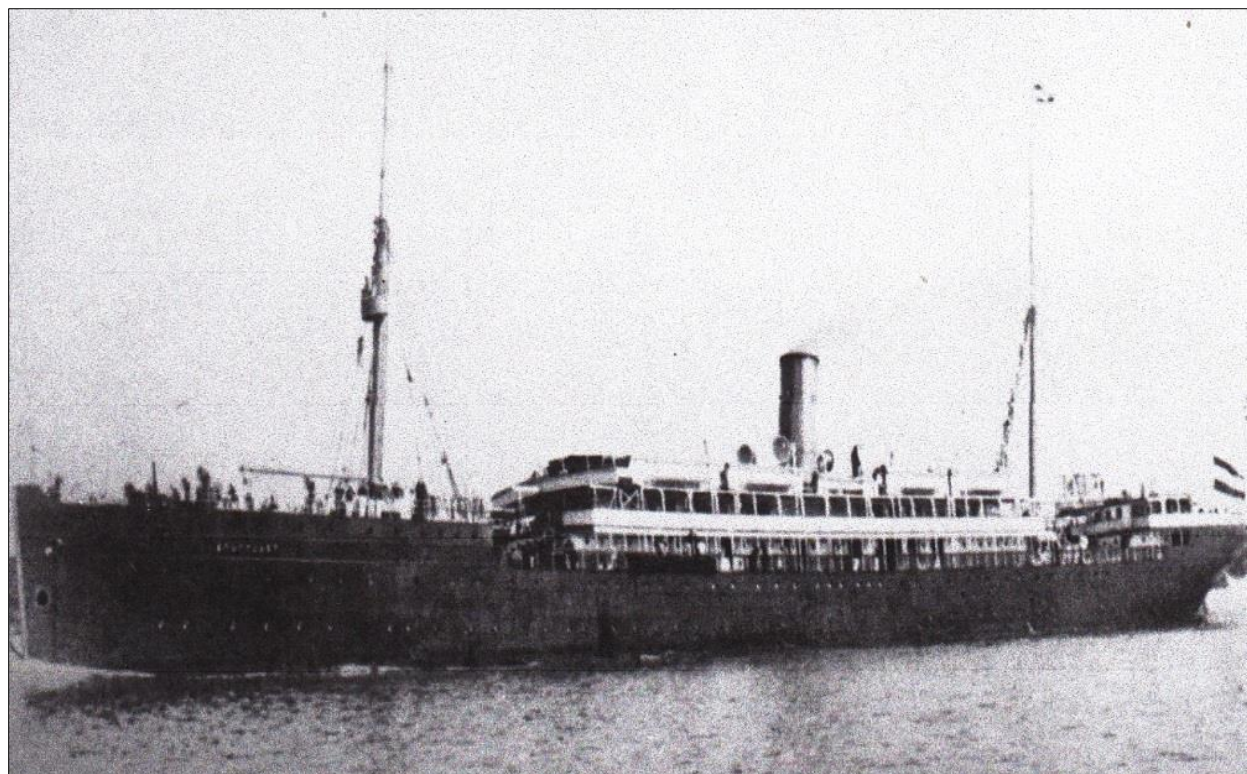
Christian and Hertha soon became romantically involved, and by 1892 she became pregnant. Due to the mores of the time, this caused a major family upheaval. One consequence was that Christian felt it was his duty to surrender his commission and resign from the military. For the two affected parents-to-be the honourable thing to do was to get married without delay. Moreover, to avoid further outrage, the custom was to move away, if possible, to another location, where their situation would not be well known.

Heading to America

However, they did not get married right away. But they did set sail for the United States, accompanied by Hertha’s two daughters. They landed at New York City on December 16, 1892 on the North German Lloyd Line’s steamship *Stuttgart*. I have the manifest. Our grandfather was listed, incorrectly, as ‘Muller, Christ’, while our grandmother was listed separately, and correctly, as ‘Svendsen, Hertha’.

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In New York Christian Møller found work as a telegraph operator. The family lived in Manhattan at 763 Third Avenue. And already on June 9, 1893, our father, Holger Peter Møller, was born in New York. By American law, this would automatically have conferred American citizenship on him. There is a photo-static copy of a Certificate and Record of Birth issued by the State of New York on June 16, 1893 in which his name is given as Holger Thorwald Müller. There is a subsequent baptism certificate for our father from St. George's Church, New York, dated May 5, 1895. And here our father's name is given as Holger Peter Moller. Furthermore, in her account Bitten states that Christian and Hertha were married on April 25, 1894.



The SS Stuttgart built in 1890 for Norddeutscher Lloyd in Bremen.

Returning to Denmark

Our aunt Mie (Marie) and uncle Skjold were born within the next few years so by the time they returned to Denmark in 1901, the family numbered seven. They returned on the Scandinavian America Line's ship *SS Hekla II*. According to Bitten the children were thoroughly spoiled by the passengers and crew. Copenhagen is listed as the port of arrival for this vessel, but I have been unable to confirm the precise date of their debarkation. Again according to Bitten, Christian and Hertha returned to Denmark, "because, they wanted their children to go to school in Denmark and become Danish citizens".

After a temporary stay with Christian's parents near Ribe, the family settled in Copenhagen, where in 1902 Christian obtained a position with the large Danish steamship line DFDS. Christian was later employed, until retirement in 1935, by the Cunard White Star Line in Copenhagen, where he rose to the position of Deputy Chief.

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*The **SS Hekla II** launched in 1884 for the Danish Thingvalla Line.*

Our grandparents came from very different backgrounds. Their marriage was certainly a marriage of convenience – not uncommon in those days. And it is said they did not get along very well. They were also faced with the loss of two of their children, Stella and Skjold, who died during the terrible Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1920. Skjold already had tuberculosis, so it is impossible to state the actual cause of his death. This exemplifies how the flu pandemic struck hardest in areas where there were greater concentrations of people. By contrast, in rural Bornholm there is no record of any family members being so afflicted.

Our father probably gained Danish citizenship around 1911 since that is the year Bitten gives for his sister Mie to have received hers; but this is unconfirmed. It is most likely that his name would at that time have been spelled the Danish way: Møller. As well, he would have lost his American citizenship at that time, since until very recently Denmark did not allow dual citizenship.

In 1923 our father graduated from Den Polytekniske Lærestalt, a university in Copenhagen, with an electrical engineering degree. We have a copy of a membership list of the Danish Engineering Institute (Dansk Ingeniørforening) from 1954-55 on which his name appears as Møller, H. P.

Our father had contacts on Bornholm, at least by family, since his grandmother was Bolette from Svaneke. It is no surprise to learn, that he frequently travelled there, considering the apparent ancestral ties he had to Bornholm. He would also visit our uncle Knud whom he had met and befriended while they were both undergoing basic training in the military.

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On Mother's Side

On mother's side, the family had deep roots as landowners, for many generations farming in the Parish of Ibsker near the village of Aarsdale about 3 km south of Svaneke. In the Saint Ib's Church cemetery, west of Aarsdale, you can find the graves of many of our ancestors. The farm in question first came into our family around 1737, when it was bought by Søren Rasmussen and his wife Karen Kirstine Jakobsdatter.

From these historical records we readily see that in those days a son received a surname incorporating the given name of his father followed by the suffix 'sen', meaning 'son', while a daughter received a surname incorporating her father's given name followed by the suffix 'datter' (daughter). This practise was changed shortly thereafter but, interestingly, is still in use in Iceland.

Our maternal grandmother was Dorthea Bolette Kaas, born in Aaker on Bornholm in 1860. Her mother descended from the Kaas/Kofoed family. Unfortunately, genealogies on the female side have not traditionally been kept, which would have proven helpful in tracing lineages.

Our mother, Bodil Sofie Kirstine Hansen, was born in Ibsker on February 24, 1900. She was baptised at Saint Ib's Church on May 11 that year. She was the youngest of four siblings. The oldest, Hans Jakob, was 12 years older, and he became a teacher. The practice was for the youngest son to take over the farm. So it fell to Knud, who was two years younger than him. We were privileged to meet Knud at his new home in Svaneke during a trip to Denmark in 1969. Having retired from the farm by that time, he had subsequently passed it on to his son, Carl-Viggo. It was later, in turn, passed on to Carl-Viggo's son Hans.

Tragically, Carl-Viggo was killed when his tractor fell over on top on him in the field. I do not know the date. It was then that his son, Hans, took over the farm. Some time after that, a January storm ravished Bornholm, causing considerable damage and killing Hans' son, our cousin Rune, when he went out to check the pigs in the barn and a wall fell on him. Again, I don't have the date. We have a copy of the newspaper article, but the date is missing.

The next older sibling to our mother was her sister, Valborg, born in Ibsker in 1894. In the early 1930s Valborg and her husband Alfred immigrated to Canada. Apparently Alfred had been a farmer in Denmark and then fell upon hard times during the Great Depression in the 1930s. For many years he worked at Sheridan Nurseries in Montreal.

Our mother attended school in Svaneke. Each day she rode to school on her Icelandic pony. I have seen a photo of her on the pony, and it must still exist among family members. Our mother also attended high school in Rønne, the county seat for Bornholm. Later she sailed to Copenhagen where she continued her studies and worked in a bank. During this time, she dated our father whom she had first met at the age of ten while he was visiting her brother Knud at the farm. Our mother often said that she fell in love with our father from the first time she saw him. Photos of him show that he was strikingly handsome and while he was a quiet, reserved type, he must, indeed, have captured her heart.

Marriage

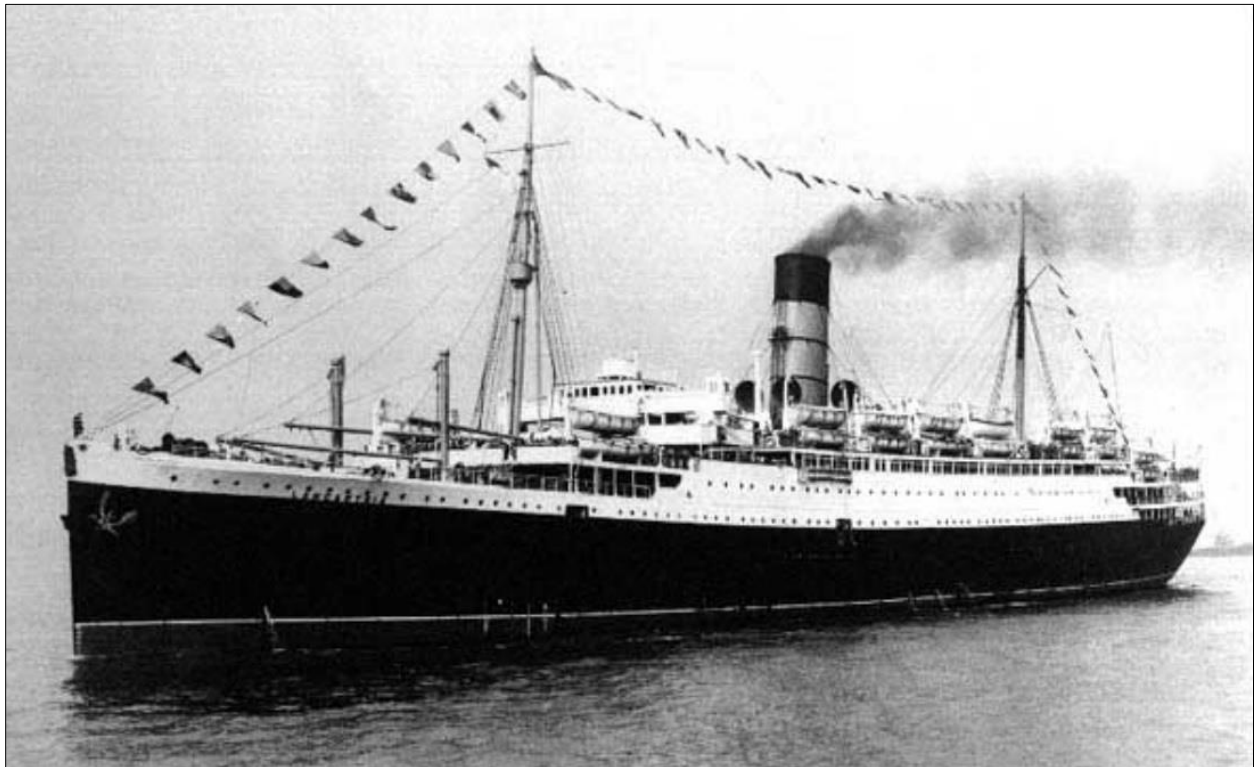
Documents in my possession show that Mom and Dad were married by the Mayor of Frederiksberg, part of greater Copenhagen, in a civil ceremony on November 24, 1924. Lo and

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behold, by February 1925 she was already three months pregnant, which must have been visible. Our understanding from mother's sister Valborg is that on a trip to Bornholm their status became the subject of some family discussion. Not only was she three months pregnant, but there was concern that the wedding ceremony had not taken place in a church. I have also heard that there was some concern that they should not have considered a union on the basis that their blood ties were too close. But it was altogether too late for that! Aunt Valborg has said that our mother's parents insisted they must have a religious ceremony and that she remembered clearly that it took place on her birthday, February 24, 1925. I have no record of this, but perhaps it is in the records of the parish at Ibsker.

Immigrating to Canada

On March 15, 1925, less than a month later our parents arrived in Halifax; a trip that certainly would have been arranged sometime during the previous months. Moreover, I suspect they were following the custom of the time, for couples in such situations, to move to a location where they were not known, if they had the means.



*The **RMS Lancastria**, built in 1920, had a crew of 300, and carried 1,300 passengers.*

They sailed on the Cunard Line's *RMS Lancastria*. During the Second World War this ship was requisitioned for war duty as a troop transport. On June 30, 1940 off the coast of France it was sunk by a German Ju-88 bomber aircraft. It sank within twenty minutes with the loss of some 4,000 lives. This was Britain's worst maritime disaster, the details of which were kept secret by the British government due to concern for morale, and only revealed 75 years later.

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From Halifax our parents took the train to Montreal where they first settled. Our father did not arrive in Canada with a pre-arranged job waiting for him. But within a couple of weeks he found temporary employment as a Bell Telephone lineman in Montreal, a job that lasted until November. Meanwhile on August 25, 1925, our eldest brother, Paul, was born in Montreal, some nine months after their wedding at Frederiksberg. His younger sister, Vera, was born in August 1927.

Shawinigan Falls and Dolbeau

In February 1926 our father found employment in his chosen field at a paper mill in Shawinigan Falls. However, this came to an end in 1927, and our parents moved back to Montreal. Upon their return, our father took a job at the consulting engineering firm, Stadler-Hurter. But it entailed moving to a rather remote location, Dolbeau, in the remote Lac-St-Jean region of Northern Quebec, where the firm was designing a new paper mill. The move took place later that year.



L-R: Vera, Holger, Allan, Peter, Paul, Bodil, Frank and Helen, 1944.

At the time, Dolbeau was at the end of the line of both the road and the railway. And the road there was a rather treacherous unpaved route through Laurentide Park. I remember, in my young years, the thrill of taking those roads. My place on those trips was firmly and comfortably on my mother's lap - a privilege of being the youngest, I suppose. It would not surprise me a bit if my sister Helen has similar memories!

When my parents arrived at Dolbeau, they were pleased to discover several other engineers of similar background to theirs. There were Swedes, Finns and Norwegians, a truly international

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community. If one wonders why the mill did not employ French-speaking engineers, one must point to the practise in those days that technical pursuits were not widely pursued by French Canadians. Their post-secondary education was directed mainly to the humanities in those days. So, while it is also true that the paper company had an anglophone ownership, that was not the reason why all the professional and executive staff were English speaking. I can vouch for the fact that even by the time I graduated from university in 1958, most engineers in Quebec were still English-speaking males. With Quebec's Quiet Revolution following soon thereafter, this changed rapidly.

Away from the paper mill that employed them, the community was entirely French. So those living in the neighbourhood around the mill, in housing owned by the mill, formed an English-speaking ghetto. There was an English language two-room elementary schoolhouse in town to serve them. But there were no English-language secondary schools in Dolbeau.



*Front: Helen, Bodil, Holger, Vera and Allan.
Back: Paul, Peter and Frank, 1975.*

two children for a few years, after her return to Dolbeau, four more of us, were born in rapid succession - Frank, Allan, Helen and Peter from 1931 to 1936. In the absence of a hospital locally, our mother had to endure home deliveries, but all survived.

Our maternal grandfather, Jens Peter Hansen, visited Canada in the summer of 1936 and stayed for over a month. Peter's birth certificate does indicate his grandfather served as a witness at his baptism at home on July 7, 1936. And our mother confirmed this. Aunt Valborg, who was visiting from Montreal at the time, served as the other witness. Pictures in Karen's album show our grandfather and our aunt together at the time at Dolbeau, but with no further mention of this additional fact. I always felt a special relationship with Aunt Valborg. I wonder if it goes back to her having been, effectively, a godmother to me. I recall visiting her frequently on Wood Avenue after our move back to Montreal, taking the streetcar on my own. And I know she spoiled me

Life did have its benefits in Dolbeau. Our parents were able to hire young French-Canadian maids living on the surrounding farms for a modest salary to assist with the housekeeping. We recall the name of only one, Blanche, who must have been there during our early years. The farming community in the area was not prosperous and the additional income that their daughters brought in must have been a great help.

Our mother paid a visit of some months home to Denmark in the winter of 1930 with our two oldest siblings, Vera and Paul. A photo of the three of them on a snowy Danish street during their visit appears in Karen's family heritage album.

Our mother complained that birth control information was in no way available in the milieu of northern Quebec in those days. So, while they managed to stick with only

BIOGRAPHIES

terribly. For instance, she would give me some change and send me off to the local toy store on Greene Avenue to buy something for myself.

Our father visited Denmark in the summer of 1939, in this way seeing relatives for the last time before the approaching war would end all such travel. He left Denmark at the beginning of August, visiting Paris on the way home. He returned to Canada on one of the last connections before the war stopped all such travel on September 1, 1939.

Settling in Montreal

In October 1942, our father had the opportunity to find employment with Defence Industries Limited, a subsidiary of Canadian Industries Limited (CIL), which was manufacturing small arms for the war effort. During the war, you were not allowed to change firms unless it be in war work. This gave the family, at last, the chance to move back to an urban environment with better educational opportunities for the children.

Until New Year we all stayed with Aunt Valborg. Most of us called her 'Auntie', except Vera, who I recall used to address her as Moster Valborg, Moster being the Danish language contraction for 'mother's sister'.

Valborg and Alfred Jacobsen and their son Per lived at 204 Wood Avenue in lower Westmount where they had settled after immigrating to Canada. The home on Wood Avenue was a quite commodious walk-up of advanced age. The ground floor was devoted to retail and the apartment



Our semi-detached home at 112 Dobie Avenue.

above comprised the second and third storeys. It was demolished some years later to make way for a large mixed development, Westmount Square. Valborg, Alfred and Per then moved to a modern home on Westhill Avenue in the Montreal neighbourhood of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Moving to Mount Royal during the war

In January 1943 we moved to a rented semi-detached house at 103 Graham Boulevard (subsequently also known as Jean-Talon) in the Town of Mount Royal. It is still there. We stayed there only until a semi-detached home (of similar style and vintage) was bought at 112 Dobie Avenue (also still there) for apparently \$4,000. We moved there in May 1943. It was likely May 1st because, at that time, it was the standard for all rentals to terminate on May 1st in the Province of Quebec. This has more recently been changed by legislation to July 1st so that young children no longer need to be torn from their schools before the end of their school year.

This community had, and still has, the great benefit of offering excellent commuter train service directly to downtown Montreal. Downtown was not very close, but with this service it was only 10 minutes through the tunnel under the mountain. On the other hand, by bus and streetcar, it took around 45 minutes to reach downtown. Whether you took the train or the bus/streetcar

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combination depended on how close your destination was to Montreal's Central Station or how soon the next train was. For commuters such as our father, the train allowed for access to work within a few short minutes of the Central Station.

As well, from 1944 to 1946, our brother Paul enlisted in the Canadian Army and served in the Netherlands. He was fortunate to return unscathed - after paying a visit to relatives in Denmark.

When the war ended our father was able to return to Stadler-Hurter. During these years, 1942 to 1946, he worked in the CIBA Building immediately next to the main railway station. The CIBA Building was later demolished to allow for completion of the towering new Place Ville Marie complex.

Around 1946, our father learned of an opening for an electrical engineer at the CBC. He applied for the job and got it. The walk was a little longer, but still relatively convenient. The CBC was in the process of converting the old Hotel Ford on Dorchester Boulevard (now Boulevard René-Lévesque) to serve as their new headquarters. One of his first tasks was to make that happen. Television arrived in Canada soon after this, and another task he looked after was the design of new TV stations across the country.

Retirement at Carlisle

Our parents lived on Dobie Avenue until 1966 when our father retired and they moved to a bungalow they bought in Carlisle, Ontario; having sold their Mount Royal home to our brother, Frank. In 1971 they visited Denmark. Besides visiting with all their family, they rented a car for an extensive tour into Sweden, then across to northern Jutland and back to Copenhagen.

They remained in Carlisle until 1981, when advancing age forced them to move to Trenton near our sister, Vera, who monitored them for several years on behalf of all the siblings. Yet, in 1983, they returned to Denmark to visit for three weeks with our father's sister Mie (who we never met) and our cousin Bitten in Vordingborg, both of whom are now deceased.

Dementia does run in our father's side of the family. It is no surprise, then, that later in life he developed the condition. He eventually died of a heart attack in 1987 at the age of 94. Our mother died of cancer in 1990 at the age of 90. She remained mentally sharp to the very end.

The children of Holger and Bodil Moller

Our parents, Holger and Bodil Moller, had six children, all born in Quebec. And all but one of the six children eventually left Quebec, three moving to Ontario and two to the United States. They all found vocations which they followed to their retirement. As well, all entered into marriage, and had children of their own, to the pleasure of our parents.

Paul, my oldest brother became a civil engineer. After graduation he moved to Chicago, then Phoenix, Denver and finally North Carolina. He was married twice and died in February 2012.

Vera, my oldest sister became an elementary school teacher. She lived mainly in Trenton, Ontario. Her husband Don died in January 1995. She later moved to Newcastle where she died in October 2014.

Frank, who remained in Montreal, became a physicist. His wife died in June 2017. He is now in a long term care home in Westmount.

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Allan became a forestry engineer. He worked in Nova Scotia and Toronto. He died in December 2016. His wife, Betty, predeceased him in July 2010.

Helen Moller, who has assisted me with this article, became a secretary. She moved to the United States and has lived in Beloit, Wisconsin; Winsted, Connecticut; and then in Denver. She has now retired to Bay City, Michigan. She was married twice. Both husbands have passed away.

I am the youngest of the six children. I am a structural engineer, having graduated from McGill University in Montreal. In 1973 I moved to Ottawa. Then in 1978 I moved to Almonte, a scenic mill town on the Mississippi River, about 45 km from Ottawa. Almonte is the home town of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball. Roz, née Johnson, and I have been married for 61 years and are both members of The Danish Club of Ottawa.

As of October 2022, three of us are still alive. Frank, as mentioned, is now in long-term care. Meanwhile, Helen and I continue to live independently in retirement.



**A Congregation
of the DSUK**



See our website for
Church Newsletter,
worship times, activities,
and special events.

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Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen

Vancouver Pastor

Ebba Grey, Secretary, Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver

In 2017 Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen answered the call from the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver to serve for a five-year period. The church board was unanimous in its decision to hire Pastor Susanne and the congregation has been served very well by Pastor Susanne, who has a warm and engaging personality. She radiates happiness and positive spirits.

The Covid period was especially difficult for churchgoers, as no services were permitted to be held for a lengthy period of time. Through Pastor Susanne and her husband Soren Sondergaard's innovative ideas, we remained in contact with Danes throughout British Columbia. In a weekly video, Pastor Susanne gave a small version of the Sunday service. This video, in addition to a weekly email, reached almost 600 Danes throughout the Province and kept us in touch with a large number of Danes and, for fundraising purposes, kept the church income intact.

As well as being a helpful husband, Soren gave us many wonderful ideas, among others, sale of Viking Hats, and new raffle prize suggestions which increased sales of raffle tickets at our two annual events, the Spring Tea and Fall Bazaar.

We are so very sad to lose Pastor Susanne and Soren after the five wonderful years we have had with them. We wish them well in Pastor Susanne's new posting on the island of Sylt.

Here, in her own words, is Pastor Susanne's story:

I was born in Godthaab (now Nuuk), the capital of Greenland as my parents had moved to Nuuk a few years earlier. They were married in a local church in Nuuk. My mom worked as an anesthetic nurse at Dronning Ingrid's Hospital and my dad worked as a plumber.

Since I was baptized in the little local church, Vor Frelser's Kirke, by the local pastor my parents decided that I should have both a Danish and a Greenlandic name. My Inuit name *Ivalo* means chewy or tough like a sinew. Back then it was a common name in the western part of Greenland. Today the name has become quite popular since the youngest Danish princess is baptized with the name Ivalo.

My family returned to Denmark when I was still a young child. Growing up in Denmark I dreamed of becoming a pastor. My family are not regular church-goers, they are laid-back Christians the 'Danish way'. Yet, I have dreamed of becoming a pastor since childhood and would dress up as a pastor for Fastelavn. For me my confirmation class was a real eye opener and since my confirmation, I was determined to study theology and become a Danish minister.

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I studied at the University of Copenhagen and in 2002 received my Master of Theology. I worked as a pastor at Christian's Church in the Copenhagen neighbourhood of Christianshavn for many years. I was associated with Sundkirken, a church on Amager, and I was a board member of Kirkens Korshær, Christianshavn, a private organization which helps the homeless, the lonely, addicts, the mentally ill etc. Then in 2017, through DSUK, I came to Vancouver.

I have been on several study tours and field trips to the Holy Land. I have always been an active and curious churchgoer and have visited local churches in as different places as the Faroe Islands in the North, Italy and France in the South, the United States in the West and Bangkok in the Far East. I completed my internship in The Danish Seamen's Church in New York and was thrilled when about fifteen years later I had the opportunity to actually work as a minister abroad and become a pastor in Vancouver.

I met Søren on a study trip to California. Søren Ulrik Søndergaard was born in Virum, baptized in Høsterkøb Kirke and grew up in Nordsjælland. One of Søren's two sisters is a pastor and she invited him on the study trip to California where we met for the first time.

Søren is a real catch, but it took months and some serious convincing to get him to go out with me on a date! Also, we were both divorcees and it took us quite a while to realize that we simply had to get married. But finally, we figured it out and got married on Søren's 50th birthday in Holmens Kirke in Copenhagen. We have a wonderful marriage, two grandkids, two dogs and a great life together.

We decided that we weren't too old to go on an adventure together. We immediately fell in love with Vancouver. The friendly, laid-back people at the Burnaby Church gave us a warm welcome and we have absolutely enjoyed being a part of this wonderful congregation.

Starting a new life in British Columbia was not just a walk in the park, but the heartfelt support of all the good people in the Vancouver area helped us to feel at home and welcome from the first day we arrived. My daughter Leonora came with us and she graduated from high school in 2021. The rest of the family was not happy with us going so far away, but now that most of our close family and friends have visited us, they understand why we love it here on the West Coast.

During the corona pandemic, we had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the history of the Danish church and I tried to capture some of all the amazing immigrant stories as video postcards. So, with help and assistance from Søren we travelled to remote and fascinating places in British Columbia to learn more about new and old Danish immigrants. This became the silver lining for me during the tough times of the pandemic. In the process I learned so much about the history of B.C. and the people who live here, hearing their interesting and amazing stories of



Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, standing before the altar with the Thorvaldsen statue.

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immigration and adaptation. I am grateful to these people, trusting me with their family history and sharing their fascinating life stories.

What I have also really enjoyed and learned from, was attending the annual Heritage Seminar, organized by the Danish Federation. In 2019 I was the headmaster in Winnipeg and brought a dear old friend of mine from Denmark, musician Charlotte Andersson. It was so much fun working together in Winnipeg, sharing Danish culture, music and traditions and Charlotte flew back with me to Vancouver and played at Dania, the Scandinavian Centre and at several church services in Burnaby together with local musicians. She is just as taken with Canada as we are!

Søren has been my support and help and designated driver for years. While I have been on my computer Søren has taken the driver's seat so we could visit Danes and celebrate Danish church services as far away as Portland and Seattle and on Vancouver Island. Søren has had his hands full helping out at the church and also being an honorary member of the local knitting group. He came up with the idea of the ladies knitting what is now our all-time bestseller: the Viking hat (in fact Søren does not knit at all and I don't know how the ladies put up with him just sitting there telling bad Danish jokes and sewing on the tiny Danish flags)! Søren is also part of the new group, ManCave, which is a group that hand-crafts pieces of wood (he actually contributes with more than jokes in this group).



Søren Søndergaard and Pastor Susanne, Minister at the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver from 2017 to 2022.

Pre-pandemic we had so much fun having many visitors staying at the parsonage, many of them contributing with music and entertainment at the church. One time we had a choir of 25 girls and chaperones from Denmark sleeping all over the house!

I have enjoyed meeting many of the old Danes. At times I was with them when we celebrated for the last time the life of a loved one. Being able to have a traditional memorial service at the Danish Church meant so much to them. Moreover, outside the church we have the Memorial Walk with plaques that tell even more stories of so many lives lived here, so far from Denmark.

Yet, I can honestly say that what I love the most is daily life. Visiting at the care homes and hospitals, baptizing babies and having the honour of marrying happy couples who feel a special connection and bond to our beloved Danish Church.

Signe McMichael

McMichael Canadian Art Collection

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

After the war when Signe Sorensen left Vancouver for Toronto, it was impossible to predict that she and her future husband would one day assemble one of the largest collections of paintings by the Group of Seven.

Signe Sorensen had moved to Toronto to work in the advertising department of CKEY, a popular AM radio station with a host of well-known on-air hosts. In Toronto in 1949 she met Robert



Signe Kirsten McMichael, née Sorensen.

McMichael, who owned a studio on Avenue Road, specializing in wedding photos. He also commuted between Toronto and New York, running a successful business called Travepak. Robert had been born in Toronto in 1921 and during the Second World War he had served in the Canadian Navy.

Robert and Signe were married in 1949 and in 1951 they bought ten acres of woodland overlooking the Humber River in Kleinburg, north of Toronto. On the property they eventually built a log house, completed in 1954. Both appreciated art and were enthralled by paintings of the Group of Seven, who for many, have come to symbolize paintings that are distinctly Canadian.

The Group of Seven were Canadian artists, primarily painters, who first came together in about 1920, and who were committed to exploring the exceptional characteristics of the Canadian landscape on canvas. Collectively they believed that a unique Canadian art could be developed through a distinct painting style.

In 1955 Robert and Signe bought their first Group of Seven painting, *Montreal River* by Lawren Harris, purchased for a mere \$250. For many decades Lawren Harris was the leading promoter of Canadian art. It was primarily Lawren Harris who was instrumental in assembling the artists who would form the Group of Seven.

The next painting Robert and Signe bought was *Pine Island* by Tom Thomson. He should of course have been a member of the Group of Seven, but drowned before the group was formed. His old shack, where he worked, has been preserved. It was moved from Toronto to Kleinburg by the McMichaels, and can today be seen on the gallery grounds.

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*The reception desk in the arrival hall, with the restaurant behind.
McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario.*

Robert and Signe continued to buy paintings by the Group of Seven and their contemporaries. Before long these artists, along with art lovers, began visiting the property to see the growing collection. Quickly the McMichael home became an unofficial art gallery, where they welcomed interested members of the public as well as groups of school children. To house the increasingly sizeable collection of paintings, the McMichael home was expanded several times, adding supplementary galleries. The present building is a major edifice designed by Toronto architect Leo Venchiarutti in a style which one executive director at the gallery has called ‘Scandi-Canadian Mid-twentieth Century Pioneer Modernism’.

In 1965, Robert and Signe McMichael donated their collection to the Province of Ontario. Under the terms of the gift, they could continue to live there and would be the resident curators of the gallery. At the time of the agreement the collection consisted of about 300 works, roughly half of which had been purchased by the McMichaels. The remainder had been donated, many by the Group of Seven. Today over half of the collection of well over 5,000 pieces of art has been donated to the gallery by members of the public or philanthropists, and includes works by Emily Carr, Alex Colville, Jean Paul Lemieux as well as works by indigenous artists. With the government taking over, the gallery it was also given an official name, it is now the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. The gallery claims it houses the largest Group of Seven collection in the world.

A.Y. Jackson became a friend of the McMichaels and in his final years he was invited to live with the couple at the gallery. At times A.Y. Jackson would act as tour guide and was referred to as an artist-in-residence. In 1968 after Jackson suffered a stroke he asked Robert to find him a burial plot on the grounds near the gallery. A suitable location was found and it has become a small cemetery, as other members of the Group of Seven were also buried there. In total six members of the Group of Seven are now buried in the small cemetery. The others are Frank Johnston, A.J. Casson, Arthur Lismer, Frederick Varley and Lawren Harris.

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The McMichaels continued to live at the gallery until 1981, when they retired and moved to nearby Belfountain. On November 18, 2003, Robert McMichael died suddenly with Signe at his side. He was 82 years old and was buried in the cemetery at the gallery.



The McMichael Canadian Art Collection has a well-stocked gift shop featuring The Group of Seven.

It had been a long, but fascinating, journey for Signe. She had been born on a small farm near Søndervig on February 10, 1921. Søndervig is located on the west coast of Jutland and is today known as a tourist town due to the wide sandy beaches, golf course and sand sculpture festival. But in the 1920s it was a rather poor area, with subsistence agriculture behind the dunes. Signe's parents, Søren and Ane, believed that the family could have a brighter future in Canada. In 1927, Søren and Ane, with their three daughters, Signe, Astrid and Helene, therefore headed for Canada in search of a better and more secure life.

According to Pier 21 in Halifax, the Sorensen family arrived in Halifax on July 22, 1927, on board the *SS Frederik VIII*, belonging to the Scandinavian America Line, and owned by DFDS. The ship had a crew of 245 and could carry 1,261 passengers. From Halifax the Sorensen family took the train to the Peace River Country in Alberta, where Søren already had family.

Unfortunately, while still young, Signe's mother died. Her father contemplated going back to Denmark, but finally decided to stay in Canada. After finishing school Signe attended Alberta College in Edmonton. She then worked in advertising and the media in Edmonton. During the Second World War Signe served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Vancouver, working in communications. After the war she pursued a career in media and communications, working for radio stations in Vancouver, until she moved to Toronto. After a long life, Signe passed away on July 4, 2007, and was laid to rest beside her husband in the small gallery cemetery. Robert and Signe did not have children, the gallery was their baby!



The entrance to the large collection. Each of the Group of Seven has his own gallery.

Poul Larsen

Poul Larsen, chartered accountant, Toronto

I was born September 10, 1927, in Borup, Sjælland, the second child of Hans Fredrik Larsen and Kristine Bodil Nielsen, becoming a brother to Sigrid, born in 1922. In 1928 my father bought the farm Lønningegaard seven km west of Ringsted. I went to school in the villages of Ørslevunderskov for grades 1 to 3, and Gyrstinge for grades 4 and 5, then Stenlille Grammar School (Real Skole) where I graduated with a Grammar School Certificate in June 1944. The school was 10 km away. I went there by school bus until 1940 when Denmark was occupied by Germany. Transportation from then on was on my bike. During the cold snowy winters I often had to stay home for several weeks at a time, as the roads were blocked, by snow.

Farming was never my favourite pastime, besides I think my father wanted me to do something else, so he convinced me that I should work in Ringsted Bank. In my childhood I tinkered with making things out of wood such as kites and model gliders, but the latter seldom flew well. I took woodworking at the grammar school, and finished my final project in woodworking with a pair of ash cross country skies, which by the way, my sister, Sigrid, used for many years after I had moved to Canada. I really had visions of becoming a cabinetmaker at the time, but as it turned out I am glad I listened to my father's advice, joining a bank.

The closest I came to farming, other than helping out after school, was growing English cucumbers in a homemade greenhouse. I sold the cucumbers to my fellow workers in the bank. I also grew tobacco on a plot, which at one time had been a fenced in yard for sows. Needless to say the tobacco was well fertilized and grew up to six feet tall. It was sold to a factory in Copenhagen. I kept some for my own consumption and experimented with making pipe tobacco. I also rolled cigars which were better. A good cigar requires years of fermentation and also a better grade of tobacco grown in a warmer climate.

During the last few years of the occupation I joined Ringsted Svæveflyveklub (Glider Flying Club). We acquired a SG-38 Schulgleiter (German for school glider, a training glider developed in Germany in 1938) in the old military hangar just outside Ringsted, at times with the help of military officers "gone underground" for the remainder of the occupation. This was a completely open training glider where one sat on a seat on a beam right out in front, with a full view of the ground between your legs. We were dragged along on the ground for a number of 'flights' with the wire attached to learn to balance the plane, and then a few feet off the ground to learn to land. After that one was pulled up to a height of 300 meters for the first solo flight without the wire attached.

We were pulled up by a one kilometre long steel wire on a drum fastened to the rear wheel of an old "converted" passenger Oldsmobile, to the "great" height of 400 m for a flight lasting 4-5 minutes. We had to drag the wire and also the plane back to the starting point by hand, and after

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a long day one ached all over. An old Danish Nimbus motorcycle, also know as "The Stovepipe" due to its design, helped us later with pulling the wire back. One of the members was also able to "borrow" a German military Volkswagen (The war had ended by then) to do the pulling for us. Another member had built a Grunau Baby, an advanced German design glider, which the club bought from him. This plane had an enclosed cockpit, a flying time of 6-8 minutes, and much longer if one was lucky to find an updraft. I managed to obtain my certificate for both planes before I joined the Army in November 1948. I was also the youngest member and treasurer of the club at the time.

My father had served in the Royal Danish Guards in 1912, and again for a period during the First World War. During that time he was also Aide de camp (Oppasser) to Princes Valdemar and Knud. I served in the Royal Danish Guards military unit for one year commencing early November 1948. We were stationed at Sandholmslejren, also known as "The Yellow Hell", during boot camp. The colour of the buildings was yellow. Only peat was available for heating at that time, and our 12 man rooms were never heated. Warm water for shaving was obtained at the Mess Hall. Our overcoats, once wet from cleaning after "A tour in the mud" took a long time to dry, as the facilities for drying were next to useless. Once



a week we had to wash the floor in our room and in the hallway with a bucket of cold water, and wipe the floor dry with an old sack. Someone before us had found a solution to getting rid of the water on the floor in our room. We found a hole in the floor under one of the beds and just had to sweep the water into it. Needless to say when we had frost the floors were not washed, because we would have had a skating rink in our room.

The last six months of my service were spent in Gothersgade Armories, next to Rosenborg Castle in Copenhagen. I was assigned a job in the "accounting office," controlling and issuing rationing stamps for the guards stationed there, and make deliveries for my superior (by supplied bicycle) to various other offices in Copenhagen. We were a group of fourteen guards, all working in offices. Every morning we participated in the drill on the grounds in front of Rosenborg Castle. It is amazing how such a group could run and run without ever going very far, or working up a sweat. The officer in charge warned us to make sure that he would not find any "liver paste" in the rifling of our rifles, which we only used for the odd shooting outing to Amager Rifle Range. Our group guarded Rosenborg Castle, with its Crown Jewels, at night, two guards at a time in regular dress. We also guarded the back yards of Amalienborg Castle at night with light automatic machineguns. We were allowed to smoke behind the palaces during guard duty. After my stint in the army I returned to my job in the bank in December 1949. I worked as a teller until I left for Canada in August 1951.

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The World Friendship Organization was created just after the war to promote and arrange travel to other countries in Europe. One could pay for transportation in one's own currency, but it was not possible to buy any foreign currency. Consequently one had to be billeted with a family in the host country.

In 1946, Hank Swaan from Holland visited me at my home on the farm and in 1947 another young man from London, England. I visited both in 1948. I had a longing to see other countries long before then. My father had a Class Lottery ticket, (similar to our 649 lottery), which had to be renewed every so often with a Mrs. Quist in Ringsted. As I worked in Ringsted and also knew her from the bank, I renewed the ticket for my father. I also knew that Mrs. Quist had a son in Vancouver. In the meantime I had inquired at the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen, and was told that I could get an immigration visa to Canada, provided that I could pay for my fare right to Vancouver. Single men were wanted on the West Coast at that time. I obtained assurance from Mrs. Quist that Svend, her son, would help me find work in Vancouver. The Embassy also



helped me find passage which was in short supply at the time. I sailed on *SS Castel Bianco* from Copenhagen late August 1951 with the allowed \$50.00 Canadian in my pocket. The *Castel Bianco* had picked up a number of immigrants and refugees in Poland before stopping in Copenhagen for passengers from all the Nordic countries for a total of about 600 passengers.

The *Castel Bianco*, approximately 10 thousand tons, was a former Liberty freighter. Its cargo hold had been converted into several separate sleeping quarters with double bunk beds, women and children in one section and men in another. One was lulled to sleep by the sound of empty bottles rolling on the metal floor and crashing into the side of the ship, in time with its movements.

We headed south to the Baltic and through the Kieler Canal out into the North Sea and the English Channel. We said good-bye to Lands End and headed across the North Atlantic for Quebec City, where we arrived eleven days later. We did not see a number of passengers from the

time we left till we arrived in Quebec City, due to sea sickness. We had a reasonably smooth crossing the first seven days. English language classes were arranged for interested passengers. I was to be one of the teachers. We never had any classes; no one seemed interested. We hit a storm a couple of days from the St. Lawrence River. The ship really rolled, as it had no heavy cargo on board. We were not allowed on deck for one and half days. Many were really sick. Fortunately, I survived without having to make any offerings to the "sea gods". The Italian food on board, although not bad, was a bit of a shock after being accustomed to good-old Danish food. We ate in a large "dining" room on the top deck, self service, on wooden tables and benches. There were no tablecloths.

There was great excitement upon entering the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. We had our first and only lifeboat drill! We could soon see the shore in the distance, and later also houses. We landed in Quebec City early in the afternoon and began disembarking immediately. My first job

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in Canada was interpreting for the Canadian Immigration Officers, as most of the passengers could not speak English. If a passenger could speak Swedish or German, I could help. Many Finns were directed to Sudbury, to the mines there and the large Finnish community. Some of the Finns had connections in other parts of Canada, and I was able to help allowing them to go where they wanted to go. We, the Officers and the Interpreters, were invited back onboard for dinner, while the remaining passengers had to wait without dinner to be processed later. I was the last one to go "through" at about eleven o'clock at night with "a good luck" from the Immigration Officer.

The train was waiting for us, and I had just enough time to run into a small grocery store to buy some bread, bananas, wieners, cheese and milk, before we left for the trek across Canada. We travelled on the CN line. The train started out with 25 cars, all immigrants to be dropped off across Canada. The opposing seats in the car could convert to bunks for four at night with a curtain for privacy. The train had a dining car, but with only \$50.00 in my pocket, it was beyond my reach. Around noon on the first day we passed through Ottawa, thereafter it was through bush and around lakes on a winding track where you often could see both ends of the train on the curves. The landscape changed from woods to open flat land, next stop Winnipeg with enough time to dash out to buy more food. On across the prairies with stops at many smaller stations to let off passengers and the odd rail car, continuing on to Edmonton and the necessary stop for food purchases. The remaining distance to Vancouver was particularly breathtaking. I had never seen real mountains before. The train switched from side to side of the river valley on bridges where we could look right down into the valley between the ties of the tracks. The landscape flattened into the Fraser Valley with its many market gardens and fruit trees and finally into Vancouver where we arrived at 11 o'clock on a Saturday night with five cars left of the train, and \$40.00 in my pocket. We were allowed to sleep on the train overnight. Got up Sunday morning, said goodbye to the passengers I had met on the five day trip across Canada, and phoned Svend Quist, who picked me up around noon.

After a good bath and some food, the rest of the day was spent getting acquainted with Svend and Audrey, and their two children Ricky 6 and Nancy 2, and planning what I could do to find work. Svend was an engineer in a consulting firm specializing in pulp and paper mills. He had many contacts in Vancouver, and sent me to see several people he knew. I thought for a moment that I might go back into banking, but found no openings with a reasonable pay. By Wednesday B.C. Bridge and Dredging Company had hired me as their assistant time keeper at a pulp mill they were retrofitting in Port Mellon on Howe Sound, just north of Vancouver, at that time only accessible by boat or sea plane. So early Thursday afternoon I headed for the dock in Vancouver where a boat would take me on the two hour trip to Port Mellon and my second job in Canada.

The boat, a small freight and passenger boat, took me under Lion's Gate Bridge, partly up Howe Sound, and then in between a number of mountainous islands to finally reach Port Mellon with its plumes of smoke and steam, and the smell from the digesters, the ovens where the woodchips were processed. The boat ride to Port Mellon was in beautiful sunshine. But at the end of September it started to rain nearly daily and the rain lasted with few let ups until February.

At the wharf I was greeted by Bill Smith. He took me to a bunkhouse and the room I was to share with him. Bill, a Scot, also worked in the office. He had retired from the British Civil Service. His wife had died some years earlier, and he and his daughter had come to Canada. They rented a house at Gibson's Landing where he spent the weekends. Bill was a good English

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teacher for me. The days in the office went with recording timesheets, calculating the pay for some 400 workers and issuing their pay cheques every two weeks. The paymaster left after a number of months, and I was in charge until I left in February 1953, when the construction was winding down. In the meantime I had tried to find a job with a stockbroker in Vancouver, but without luck, as most of the offices were branch offices of Toronto-based brokerage houses.

I spent a few days in Vancouver with Svend Quist and family before taking the train to Toronto to pursue my goal. I arrived at Union Station at seven o'clock on a Sunday morning after a



Poul and Millicent Larsen.

lengthy delay, due to snow north of Lake Superior. It was a cold morning, so a recent immigrant, a varnish maker from Czechoslovakia who I had met on the train, and I headed up Yonge Street to the YMCA on College Street, only to be told to come back later when they opened. We were allowed to leave our luggage there, and went to a nearby restaurant for breakfast. Afterwards we wandered further north on Yonge Street to Gloucester Street where rooms were for rent. I found one right away, and my friend a room on another street. We went to Little Denmark on Bay Street for dinner together a number of times. For a while we kept in touch. On Monday morning I went to the Unemployment Office to look for a job. S.R. MacKellar, a stockbroker on Melinda Street, was looking for a cage clerk. I went for an interview and was hired as assistant cage clerk. During my time there I had the opportunity to work on the desk at the Stock Exchange relaying orders to the traders on the floor. I had promised my parents that I would come home after a year to visit and maybe stay. I gave notice in

October, and was told that I would have been laid off anyway, as the market had slackened considerably. I booked a return passage on the *SS Osloffjord* embarking later in October from New York to Copenhagen.

While living in Port Mellon I had met in Vancouver Helge Mortensen on a couple of occasions. He was a former royal guard and a roommate from Sandholmslejren. He had left for Canada ahead of me. He was a forester at Kitimat, B.C. He had been home earlier and had met a Norwegian girl on *Osloffjord* on the way home. Their friendship blossomed while in Denmark. Bjørg, his fiancée, was on her way to Canada to marry Helge. She was coming on the *Osloffjord*, the boat on which I had booked my voyage to Copenhagen. I met Bjørg and some of her friends from Norway at the pier. We spent some time together touring the city, before she went on to Vancouver. My voyage to Copenhagen took eight days and was rather uneventful, other than the food was heavenly compared to the fare on the *Castel Bianco*. We had only a couple of days where the tablecloths had to be wetted down, and the rails put up on the tables, so that the dinnerware would not slide off. It was quite moving sailing down Øresund to see Kronborg Castle and Danish flags again. I spent some days with my parents, and then went back working at the bank in Ringsted, visiting my parents on weekends.

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I had not told my parents that I had booked passage on the *Oslofjord* departing in January. While in Toronto I had met a lovely girl, Millicent. I had met her through a friend at the Firemen's Ball at the Royal York Hotel. Although we had no "understanding" I wanted to go back to Toronto and Canada, as I could not see myself working in the bank for the next 30 years. I arrived back in Toronto in February 1954, and found a job downtown with a bond broker. In the meantime I had decided to pursue a career as an accountant, because unless one had lots of money, or knew



people with money, stock brokering had no future for me. After a number of months I found work in an insurance company as an accountant. Millicent and I were married in August 1954 by Millicent's father who was the minister at Highgate United Church near Chatham, Ontario. At first we lived in an apartment on Russell Hill Road. Millicent worked in The Metro Personnel Office, and I started on my five year C.P.A. correspondence accounting course in September. After the first year, my course required that I acquired practical experience in the manufacturing industry. I found a job with Smith & Stone, at its head office at 50 St. Clair Avenue West. The head office also housed Duplate Canada (automobile glass) and Plax Canada (plastic bottles), all companies owned by Col. Phillips of Argus Corporation, and Pittsburgh Plate Glass. I was an accountant for all three companies at various times until October 1964. I had graduated with a CPA degree in 1959. The CPA Association merged with the CAs in 1961. As I could not see further promotion possibilities, I found a job with Parker Brothers Games Canada Limited (the Monopoly Game Company) as a Controller in 1964.

During my nearly 25 years with this company, the last 10 years as VP Finance, I saw the company expand from twenty five employees to four hundred, to less than fifty when I retired in 1989. Parker Brothers and its U.S. parent company were bought by General Mills, Minneapolis, in 1968. GM acquired many toy companies over the years, including the Canadian subsidiaries, which were then administered by our Canadian Office. At one time GM was the largest toy company in the world. However, the cash flow from the toy business was not satisfactory, so the toy business was spun off into Kenner Parker Toys, which was very successful, until it was bought by Tonka Corporation a year before I retired. A year after my retirement Tonka (toys and games) got into financial difficulties and was purchased by Hasbro (Hassenfeld Brothers) of Rhode Island, USA. I had many exiting years with companies coming and going. It was stressful work at times, particularly when we had five year ends in one year.

We bought our brand new house in the Keele Lawrence area in 1957. Our only son, John was born in 1960. I enjoyed gardening on the weekends. Had a small green house in the backyard where in the spring I grew mostly annual flowers started from seed under artificial light in the basement until they could be planted in the flower beds. I built a new carport at the edge of the lot, a patio and a surrounding five foot brick wall. I also put two skylights in the roof, and built two double glazed pinewood French doors, as outer front and back doors for the house. Both doors were constructed in my growing workshop in the basement. We bought a plot of land on Lake Muskoka in 1974 and had a roughed in cottage built the same year. Over the next few years I finished the inside of the cottage on weekends and during my vacations, a real escape from the

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pressures in the office. For further enjoyment at the cottage, particularly for me, I acquired a 14 ft. Albacore dinghy sail boat. Millicent was not too keen on sailing, and John was more interested in his little outboard motor boat. After some years I reached the stage where unscheduled sudden swims in the lake while sailing were no longer appreciated. I exchanged the Albacore for a 24 ft. "Blue Nose" keel boat, which we all enjoyed for a number of years. I had also moved my workshop to the cottage, and made two French doors in pine, two pine dining tables for the dining room and the porch, a coffee table, and an entertainment unit in black walnut.

I retired in 1989. We sold our house in Toronto in 1991 and then moved to the cottage where we had lived during the summer. In 1991 we also bought a house in Maple Leaf Estates in Port Charlotte, Florida. Millicent had been an avid curler while we lived in Toronto. In Florida she became an avid bowler, and became very good at it. I tended the garden, and spent much time in the woodworking shop at Maple Leaf. I was the treasurer of the club for many years. To pursue my sailing interest further, I built a one meter "Soling" radio controlled sail boat from a kit. A sailing club already existed in Maple Leaf. We often had 12-15 boats at our weekly regattas, and had many hours of fun, and sometimes also frustration when the boat did not want to win. The saying goes "If you do not win, don't blame the boat, replace the skipper"! It takes 40 hours to build a soling sail boat. I built twelve of them over the years in Florida, mostly for other sailors. "Larsen Boat Works" often had boats in for repairs or refurbishing.

In the army I was known as 866-48-2, Second Company, or 866 for short. For morning roll call I was 866. After leaving the Army in December 1949, I joined the Royal Danish Guard's Association for Ringsted and Surrounding Area. These clubs were established by former Guards to further the comradeship fostered while in the service. While in B.C. I joined the Royal Danish Guards' Association Western Canada, based in Calgary, as it was the closest association at the time. On my way back to Toronto in 1953, I stopped overnight in Calgary for a visit with Victor Kastberg, who was the President of the association at the time. I joined the Royal Danish Guard's Association, Eastern Canada, in 1963. I was the Club's Treasurer for sixteen years, and the Auditor for some years after that.

Our son, John did not wish to follow in my footsteps. He liked to be outdoors, and at nineteen started his own business with a pick-up truck, a lawn mower, and a snow blade. He has prospered over the years. His company, Garden City Groundskeeping Services Ltd. provides outdoor property maintenance, and snow removal for commercial properties. He has two daughters, Danielle, who is studying hotel management at York University, and Francine who is studying landscape architecture at Fanshaw College in London, Ontario.

We have visited Denmark many times over the years. We have had trips to England, Southern Europe and Australia, and two motor trips from coast to coast in Canada. Unfortunately Millicent succumbed to cancer in August, 1999. And five years later my Florida residence was destroyed by hurricane Charlie.

We got to know Bill and Elaine Meek, from Bala United Church, where they sang in the church choir with Millicent. Bill Meek passed away in February, 1999. They had owned an apartment in Clearwater Beach, Florida, for a number of years. After Bill died, Elaine and I got to know each other better. Elaine decided to buy a house in Maple Leaf Estates in Port Charlotte in 2001. Her house was also damaged in the hurricane, but could be repaired. We shared her house for the next five winters. We both had to come back from Florida in early 2009 for medical reasons. We

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have since decided that our Florida days are over. We both still have our cottages in Muskoka, and spend time there in the summer. I still putter a bit in the workshop, and sail my "Soling" at Humber Bay in Toronto with a group of "Old Salts," when I am in the City during the summer.

We now each have an apartment in a senior's complex in Mississauga. I play bridge, and have lots of time to reflect on my life in Canada, and how well my adopted country has treated me over the 59 years I have lived here.

PS: The above was written by Poul in about 2010. He passed away quietly on October 30, 2022, after a lovely day with his family. He was the dear husband to the late Millicent Scott Larsen, née Sceviour, who died on August 27, 1999. He is survived by his son John (Yvette), and grandchildren Danielle and Francine. Poul retired at the age of 62 and moved to Bala on Lake Muskoka. In winter he moved to Florida. Attending church was important to him, while in Toronto he attended Timothy Eaton Memorial Church and later Bala United Church, where he was the treasurer and bell ringer. A service was held November 17, 2022 at Kingsway Lambton United Church. He was interred at Torrance Cemetery in the Muskokas.



Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge #328, Vancouver Board of Directors 2022

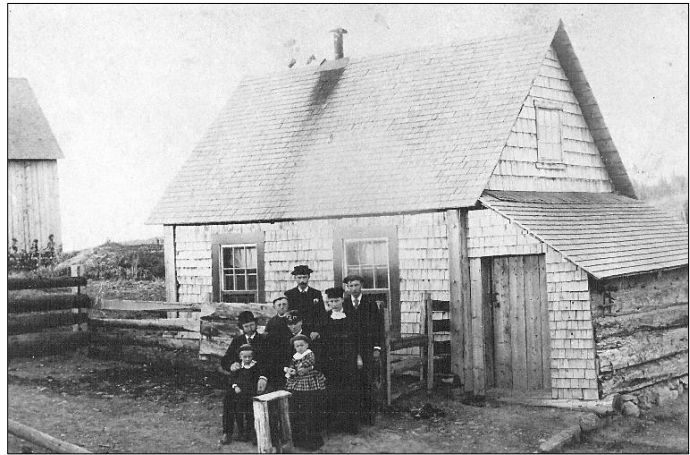
Back L to R: Bent Ostergaard, Steen Larsen, Keld Jensen, Manfred Hoff, Paul Rasmussen, Bill Dago, Arne Moller
Front L to R: Niels Jensen, Kjeld Christensen, Peter Jensen, President Lodge 328, Erik Bladt, Flemming El Nur

Lars Peter Pedersen and Amalia of New Denmark

Joyce Petersen, Fredericton

Lars Peter Pedersen was born in Dronninglund, Northern Jutland, in 1844, the fifth of ten children belonging to clogmaker Peder Christensen and his wife Maren Thomasdatter. In 1870 Lars Peter married Amalia Christine Johansdatter of Øster Hassing, a village south of Dronninglund and east of Aalborg. She was the daughter of Johan Ravn and Else Kirstine Andersdatter. Both prior, to and following his marriage, Lars Peter Pedersen worked as a farmhand.

Lars Peter Pedersen and his wife foresaw scant opportunity in Denmark for their growing family of five children. Since 1872, many of their countrymen had answered the call of the New Brunswick government to immigrate to a planned rural settlement. On offer were free land grants to males 18 years and over who were willing to clear the primeval forest and cultivate the craggy land. In 1884, Lars Peter and his wife Amalia, a weaver, made the difficult decision to leave their five children behind in Denmark and to begin their quest for a more stable existence. Although Lars Peter was christened with the name Pedersen and their children were known by the surname Larsen (son of Lars), as was the Danish tradition at the time, all members of the family used the surname Petersen following their arrival in Canada.



Lars Peter Pedersen and Amalia with family and house on Lot 53, Block 52, Drummond, N.B., ca. 1890

On November 1, 1884 Lars Peter petitioned for a land grant located on the western side of the Salmon River in Drummond Parish on what became known as Côté Mill Road. By that time all original grants in the main New Denmark settlement had been taken. Lars Peter received title to a one hundred acre grant in March 1886, but only after he paid a quit claim of \$50.00. The payment indicated the land may have been partially cleared and it was undoubtedly an unexpected expense.

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The son of Lars Peter and Amalia, Johan Christian Petersen, brought his siblings to Canada in 1886.

With little communication from their parents, Lars Peter's eldest son Johan Christian Petersen decided in 1886 that it was time to sell the family's possessions in Denmark and travel to Canada to reunite with their parents. In Johan's own words:

"My first responsibility at 19 was to travel from Denmark to Canada with two brothers and a sister in my care - Anton (16), Marie (11) and Marius 8 years. There was another brother who died early in 1886, Peder by name, 14 years old. Late in the fall the rest of us were on our way to Canada. It was a 20 day journey until we met our parents who were already settled in the wilderness of N.B. All was not so bright them days but worst of all was the death of two young brothers of diphtheria: Marius, 16 and Sigvard, 6 years. After that things were up and down."

The Petersen siblings left Denmark on October 7, 1886, on an indirect voyage to Saint John, New Brunswick. Their travel contract stated their last residence as Gandrup, a village just south of Øster Hassing, where their mother was from. According to Johan's account, they arrived in Saint John twenty days later. They then traveled by train to Grand Falls, a distance of approximately 320 km, where they spent the night in the railway station. The next morning they walked to the Danish settlement, approximately 16 km from the station in Grand Falls. They then discovered that their parents were living in a sod-roofed hut on the banks of the Salmon River, along with their new infant son Valdemar, who had been born that January. By the end of 1889, Lars Peter's sons had assisted their father in constructing a new shingled home and a large barn.



The farm on lot 60 bought by Anton Petersen in 1894 and sold to his father Lars Peter Petersen in 1902. In 1910, after his father's death, Anton returned and operated the farm until 1933.

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The rocky graveled land along the Salmon River proved to be poor for farming. For \$800 in 1889 Lars Peter acquired another 100 acre property adjacent to his farm. It was farther from the river, so the soil was more fertile. Lars Peter practiced mixed farming and sold milk to sustain his family. His children all contributed to the family income by working at various jobs across the border in Maine.

Of Lars Peter and Amalia's four surviving children, Anton was the only child to live out his life in New Brunswick. In 1894, Anton bought an existing farm on Lot 60 on Salmonhurst Corner. That same year he became the first cheese maker at the newly incorporated New Denmark Cheese and Butter Factory. The factory, constructed in 1892, was located on the same Lot 60 farm and previously operated by the Victoria County Co-op. Anton received a salary of \$12.00 per month during the first season after working a month to prove his cheese making capabilities.

The following year, he was paid \$55.00 per month. The Petersen family sold milk from four cows. In turn the family bought six pounds of cheese from the factory each month.

Cheese manufactured in New Denmark was of the cheddar variety. It was made into wheels of 12 to 80 pounds. Transported by horse and wagon to Grand Falls, the smaller cheese wheels were sold at the James T. McCluskey Store. The larger cheeses were transported by rail, for shipment to England and other European markets. The New Denmark Cheese Factory operated until 1918 when potato farming became the main industry in the settlement.



Their son, Anton Petersen, took over the family farm.



Anton Petersen's farm, before he lost it in the Depression.

L-R: Ane Marie Christensen Petersen, Christine Petersen, Søren Nielsen, Anton Petersen, Marie Petersen Nielsen, Perley Petersen, Walter Petersen, Marie's son Lawrence, William Petersen and Marie's son Seward.

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In 1902 Lars Peter and Amalia took over their son Anton's farm, which was less than a mile from their former property. Following his father's death in 1910, Anton returned to operate the farm and care for his ailing mother. Lars Peter had died from a heart attack at age 65, while working in his barn.

Unfortunately, Anton's first wife Ane Margrete Nielsen died of tuberculosis after three years of marriage. Anton and his second wife, Marie Christensen, also a Danish immigrant, became parents to five children, one of which, Walter, died at age 24. Marie Christensen was born in Hallenslev, west of Holbæk, and died in 1942 at the age of 67 after 34 years of marriage. Anton remarried at the age of 75 years. His third wife also predeceased him in 1960. Anton lived in his own home in the Petersen section of New Denmark from 1948 until his death in 1964 at the age of 94 years. A lifelong farmer, he loved gardening and growing herbs and vegetables which he shared with his family. He also raised chickens and goats for milking well into his later years.

Lars Peter and Amalia's eldest son Johan raised a family of nine and established a farm on the Salmonhurst Road with his wife Magdalene Jensen. He continued to farm even after losing one leg to the hip as the result of an axe accident while cutting wood in 1901. His family sustained a livelihood by selling farm produce, handmade woolen clothing and blankets. By 1925, both Johan and his younger sister Marie moved to Massachusetts to join their children who had migrated to the United States. Marie and her husband Søren Nielsen were blessed with four children; one son Einar, age 16, drowned in New Denmark in 1924. Valdemar and his bride Oliva Jensen left New Denmark for La Tuque, Quebec, in 1911, where he raised a family of four and became manager of the local pulp mill.



Joyce Petersen's grandfather, Anton Petersen, never drove a car. He trained his goat, Billy, to pull a wagon to transport him. This photo is from 1958, when Anton was 88 years old.

Despite the hardships and tribulations of pioneer life, Lars Peter, Amalia and their descendants succeeded and assimilated seamlessly into Canadian society. Striving for a brighter future, their hard work and determination resulted in a successful future for hundreds of Petersen descendants, now scattered throughout Canada and the United States.

Anton Christian Holnn-Møller

The neglected if not forgotten architect

Kaj Buch Jensen, MA, Kalundborg, Denmark

Anton Christian Holnn-Møller was “an exceptionally gifted architect from Denmark who worked in the tradition of the Danish builder and craftsman”. This is how he was presented in the “Bibliographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950”.



Anton Christian Holnn-Møller.

Anton Christian Holnn-Møller was born in a slum, De Classenske Boliger, in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen on May 12, 1883. His father was a blacksmith, who left his wife. Holnn-Møller thus grew up with his mother and two siblings, a brother and a sister. His mother eked out a living by sewing for the Danish military. Holnn-Møller apprenticed as a bricklayer and then attended the prestigious Technical High School (a university) in Copenhagen and also spent three summers working in construction. After four years of study, he became a draughtsman and a building inspector.

In 1922 in his application for membership in the association of architects in Manitoba, he wrote, “even as a boy I wanted to be an architect, and with that in mind I frequented the very best schools in Copenhagen until my 17th year, when I went to the Technical High School in Copenhagen for the winters and for three summers worked on construction-work, as all architects in Denmark must do.”

Holnn-Møller is a fascinating person. As an architect he designed many different buildings. Some of them will be presented below. Yet, Holnn-Møller is unknown in Denmark, not only to the public at large, but also within his field. The text from the Canadian Dictionary is the only existing biography and it is based on the few lines of a CV in his 1922 application for membership in the Manitoba Association of Architects. Besides a few letters, he has not left anything else in writing. And not his family either. His colleagues do not mention him or his work, and none of the historians who have presented dissertations on the history of Bedre Byggeskik (Better Building Practices) mention him. When he died in 1955, only a short obituary was provided at the congress of the housing association where he worked. Nevertheless, the president of the association did pay tribute to Holnn-Møller and underlined his importance.

No one in Denmark knows of his work and legacy in Canada, and no one in Canada seems to be aware of his considerable building projects in Denmark. My aim is to prevent his architectural work from sinking into oblivion and make sure he will have a proper and fitting place in the

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history of architecture. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to write this article, and I would be pleased if readers could provide me with further information about him.

I first learned about Holnn-Møller when I was part of a team writing the history of the town of Kalundborg, my home town on the western coast of Zealand. My contribution was the period 1890-1921, a period of rapid industrialization and growth in Kalundborg. During the First World War the economic activities in Kalundborg were dominated by one particular entrepreneur, Valdemar Henckel, who established a large shipyard in the town. Due to the economic downturn in connection with the end of the war the industrial empire Henckel had built went bankrupt in 1921.

Holnn-Møller had come to Kalundborg in 1916 and his work resulted in the creation of a new suburb. He was the chief architect designing the so-called '100 Houses' intended for the workers at the shipyard. In addition to designing the one-hundred houses for the workers, he also made the architectural plans for the forty houses for the white collar employees.



Townhouses for the workers, part of the so-called 100 houses. Photo by the author: November 2022.

I found this story fascinating and later wrote and published a biography of Valdemar Henckel. To finish the story I feel that it is only natural that I also write a biography of Anton Christian Holnn-Møller. So far I have uncovered that Anton Møller married Maria Jacobine Andrea Kristine Berg in a civil marriage at Copenhagen City Hall in 1904. They had three children: Gunnar, born in 1904, only three weeks after the wedding; Ingfried born in 1906; and Tage (Ted), born in 1908. His children were given the surname Holnn-Møller and from about 1906 he used that surname himself.

Holnn-Møller began working as an architect in Roskilde in 1912. He was employed by a local organization (Foreningen til opførelse af Arbejderboliger i Roskilde) whose objective was to erect apartment buildings for the working class. He eventually built eight apartment blocks there.

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Homes for the white collar employees were duplexes, Photo by the author, November 2022.

He left his job in Roskilde and in 1916 he started out on his own in Kalundborg. Like other changes he made during his lifetime or relating to his work, there is no evidence of what motives drove him. It seems he had good relations with members of the Social Democratic Party and this affiliation might have proven beneficial in getting certain building contracts for social housing.

In Kalundborg he and certain local Social Democrats were the initiators of Kalundborg Haveby (Kalundborg Garden City), another new section in town. He designed thirty houses there. The Garden City Movement was a town-planning idea that sought to marry the best of town and country in new urban developments. The Garden City idea came from England and Germany. Already in 1915, a group of architects in Denmark had created the organization Better Building Practices. Holnn-Møller was a part of this movement and today we have in Kalundborg the result of his work in a beautiful area in the centre of town.

In the autumn of 1919 Holnn-Møller left Kalundborg for a job in Copenhagen. He was employed by Arbejdernes Andelsboligforening (the labour movement's housing co-operative), but then in 1921 he immigrated to the United States. There is absolutely no indication of why he left Kalundborg and later Denmark. I believe he must have made a good deal of money through his work as an architect and the sale of his property in Kalundborg. He left for the United States with his wife and three children. I believe he went to Chicago. But then in 1922 he applied to become a member of the Association of Architects of Manitoba in order to work as an architect. I cannot verify if he did receive the authorization. In 1929 he lived temporarily in Chicago and references in a letter to architect Ewart Fitz Munn in Winnipeg reveal that he had to take care of some property he owned in Chicago. In any case, Holnn-Møller and his wife returned to Denmark in 1934. They returned alone. Their three children remained in the United States, married there and had families of their own.

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The key to Holnn-Møller's activities during his stay in Canada is his daughter's marriage to Paul Nyholm, a Lutheran pastor and later professor. Ingfried Møller attended Dana College in 1924-25 and likely met Paul Nyholm there. He was a teacher at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, between 1922 and 1925. He then studied at Northwestern University in Chicago 1925-26. Ingfried and Paul Nyholm were married in Chicago in 1927. From 1929 to 1935 Pastor Paul Nyholm was minister at Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson, Alberta.

I believe that it was through his acquaintance with Pastor Paul Nyholm that Holnn-Møller was introduced to the Danish Lutheran Church in Canada which led Holnn-Møller to design a number of Danish churches in Canada.

Holnn-Møller designed the Danish churches in Tilley, Calgary, Pass Lake, Dalum, Ostenfeld, and Winnipeg and after his return to Denmark he designed in 1938, the Danish church in Edmonton. Moreover, he designed the dormitory at Dana Højskole in Calgary. Indeed, in 1931, Holnn-Møller became a teacher at Dana. He helped the Danish craftsmen attending Dana, teaching them draughtsmanship and how to make calculations, in the process introducing them to Canadian architectural styles and building codes.



Aerial photo: ca. 1950 of the Garden City in Kalundborg, designed by architect Anton Holnn-Møller.

Holnn-Møller was both an architect and a very socially conscious person with concern for his fellow man. He took great interest in providing housing for ordinary people as well as people without means. In Denmark this concern is seen in Roskilde, Kalundborg and Holbæk, and was resumed in his projects in Canada. For instance, in 1933 in Calgary during the worst year yet of the Great Depression he proposed a city-wide housing scheme on a "barter" basis, with all sections of the building trades offering their services, the houses to be built on city-owned lots and the city providing the material as a mean of overcoming the severe slump in building activity. He believed the craftsmen could thus build their own homes at a minimum cost.

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I have absolutely no idea why Holnn-Møller and his wife returned to Denmark in 1934. It could be just another change he made in his life without leaving a clue or reason. But perhaps it was due to the Great Depression when many other Danish immigrants also returned to Denmark, as there was no work in Canada. Back in Denmark he continued his work as an architect and he also had the opportunity to give some radio talks about his time in Canada. Unfortunately the tape recordings of these talks have been erased. In 1934 he also participated in a competition to design new farm buildings arranged by Jyske Landboforeninger (an organization of Danish farmers in Jutland) and won a prize.

From the Danish 1940 census we see that he was working at Fællesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (the Danish Co-operative Wholesale Society). He is of course employed in their architectural department. We do not know his functions in the department but he must have played a leading role. Being a part of this large organization he and his work became anonymous and it is impossible to see the result of his particular architectural work. He stayed in the organization until he retired.

Before the Second World War, Holnn-Møller had planned to undertake a study of the importance of the cultural support and contributions provided by the Danish Lutheran churches and congregations to Danish immigrants in North America. The plan was to undertake this work in cooperation with Professor Paul Nyholm of Blair, Nebraska. Nyholm was to write the ecclesiastical history and Holnn-Møller was to contribute with statistics and a survey of Danish church architecture. The Second World War postponed the project, but in 1948 Holnn-Møller was awarded an honorary scholarship from Danmark Amerikafonden (later the Fulbright Scholarship) and in June of that year he travelled to the United States for half a year to collect information for his study.



Architect Anton Holnn-Møller designed Sharon Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary, now the Danish Lutheran Church, affiliated with DSUK in Denmark. Moreover, the porch (våbenhus) has since been extended forward. This building exemplifies typical Danish church architecture.

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I have no information about the result of this work. He had sent questionnaires to the Danish churches but he did not publish his results. Yet, I believe that the thesis *The Americanization of the Danish Lutheran Churches in America*, published in a 480-page book in 1963 by Paul Nyholm was the result of these endeavours. It is interesting that neither Nyholm nor Holnn-Møller mention their relationship in connection with the study. As previously mentioned Paul Nyholm was Holnn-Møller's son in law. I have no inkling of their personal relationship, but I strongly suspect exactly where the problem lies.

When Holnn-Møller married he did not belong to any religious community. He had left Folkekirken, the national church of Denmark, and due to his political convictions he might have had atheistic attitudes. Nyholm, on the other hand, belonged to Indre Mission (Inner Mission), the pietistic movement within the Danish Lutheran Church. Besides Holnn-Møller was by the 1940s divorced from his wife. That would certainly not have been well regarded by Nyholm. Neither of them has left any comments or evaluations of the other's work.

Through his children Holnn-Møller has descendants in United States. In 1953, Holnn-Møller visited his daughter and son-in-law. He naturally also saw his two sons, Gunnar and Ted.

Moreover, I find it quite characteristic that when Anton Holnn-Møller passed away on December 8, 1955, he was buried anonymously in a common unmarked grave (anonym urnefællesgrav) in a cemetery in Denmark.

Writing about Anton Christian Holnn-Møller is like trying to solve a difficult puzzle. He has left practically nothing but his architectural work. No one has written anything about him. Yet, I hope this little article will lead to more information about him. I would therefore, dear reader, be extremely grateful for any letter, email or message about Anton Holnn-Møller. Thank you.
kaj.buch.jensen@gmail.com

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St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, Winnipeg.



Ostenfeld Lutheran Church, 1938.



Bethany Lutheran Church, Tilley.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Dalum



Salem Lutheran Church, Pass Lake.



Ansgar Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Churches in Canada designed by Anton Holnn-Møller.

Hans Nielsen, Nanaimo

Diane Halliday and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Together with their daughter, Hans and Johanna Nielsen immigrated to Canada in June 1954 on board *SS Stavangerfjord*. They landed at Pier 21 in Halifax, from where they took the train to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They did not speak English and did not know anyone in Saskatoon. Then to their dismay they discovered that there were no jobs in Saskatoon. Fortunately they met some Danes, who suggested they should go to Prince Albert to find work. In Prince Albert, Hans luckily found a job in the construction industry, and he has never been without work since.

Hans had apprenticed as a blacksmith in Denmark, which meant he could easily work as a pipefitter or plumber. His first job in Prince Albert was with M&K Plumbing and Heating. Hans had the skills needed at the time whether it was building a house or a larger building. He adapted to his new environment and soon became foreman and then manager. His adaptability, determination, ambition and hard work would in time lead him to have his own business, first in Saskatchewan and later in British Columbia.

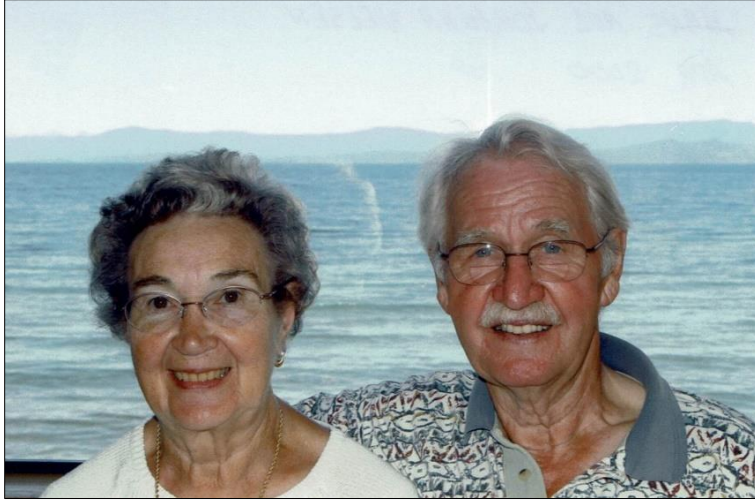
When they first arrived in Prince Albert the family lived in an attic apartment for \$25 per month. They were told that they could not stay in the attic in the winter as it would be too cold. So Hans found what he described as a sixteen foot shed, or “bunny house” on what had been a farm. It was a brick building, but it needed a foundation and a basement. So Hans dug out a basement and poured the cement himself to make it habitable. Their first son was born in this home.



*Hans and Johanna Nielsen,
the day after their wedding, 1948.*

In 1957, Hans worked in Uranium City for six weeks. Two years later he built their school. Uranium City is located in the northernmost corner of Saskatchewan. At the time it was a boom town due to the uranium needed for military purposes and nuclear reactors. Hans’s recollection of Uranium City provides an interesting view of Canada’s industrial growth at this time. Hans remembers sleeping through a major fire which set off some explosions. The town was also on the migration route for caribou, who continued to wander down the main street even after the town was built. However, demand for uranium gradually declined and in 1982, Eldorado Nuclear

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Johanna and Hans Nielsen in Nanaimo.

suddenly closed its last mine, and the town saw its population plunge from 4,000 to less than 400.

In 1961 Hans started to work for a plumber in Prince Albert. After seven years he took over the company when the owner went bankrupt. That same year Hans also took over a bankrupt lumber company. Hans bought two city blocks of land and he was involved in developing a mall. Hans also built the Hilltop Towers, a high-rise apartment block with 72 apartments, containing bachelor suites, and from one to four

bedroom apartments. Located in the heart of the city, the Hilltop Towers was close to school, shopping, restaurants and entertainment. But it was a struggle to build the Hilltop Towers, which had to be completed before winter set in. Prince Albert City Hall quickly approved the permit to build, but the foreman of the construction company had the attitude, “if we don’t get it done now, it will still get built eventually.” Hans replaced him with another foreman with a different attitude, who got the job done before winter. There was a housing shortage at this time, and Hans was able to provide what the town needed.

In his spare time Hans built the family’s first new house. Because he had sold the old house there was a rush to finish the new house within three months. He made the deadline and chuckled when he remembered the challenge of finishing on time. He had no blue prints for his new house but showed an architect a drawing of what he wanted to build. The architect said, “this is not how we usually do things, but ...” and came up with the plans. This was another example of how Hans had his own ideas and the way he wanted things done, and he persevered until it happen.

By about 1976 Hans had sold his plumbing and heating business, as well as his lumber yard and Hilltop Towers. Hans was looking to relocate to Nanaimo. Twice he drove to Nanaimo in search of properties he could buy and build on. Every time Hans bought a lot, he had to build on it. Sometimes he would just buy a house and fix it up. Hans also built the first boat he ever owned. It was a 16-foot cabin cruiser. At this time there was a slump in the housing market, so he built and owned the beautiful Best Western Hotel on Metral Drive in Nanaimo. He and Johanna managed the hotel together. This was the only time Johanna worked outside the home. She contributed to their happy home life, a true partner in his successes. Johanna, née van Baast, was born in The Netherlands, where they had met. Their daughter, Ann-Marie, was born in Tønder, while their three sons, Erik, Paul and Dennis, were born in Canada. At the time of writing Johanna is living in a seniors’ home in Nanaimo, as she is unable to live at home, and Hans is not able to give her all the care she requires.

In answer to his feelings about Denmark, Hans said, “you never forget where you come from.” How fortunate for Hans to come to Canada and how lucky for Canada to have this successful Dane, when there was a need for people like him. Hans is humble when he recounts that it was

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mostly luck which provided for his good life in Canada. But he also had good skills in many trades and an instinct for when to buy and build, as well as run a business. Hans was involved with the local Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in Nanaimo. For a number of years, when Niels Jorgensen was president, Hans served as secretary. Moreover, from 2000 to 2006 Hans sat on the Board of Directors of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. He fondly remembers attending Danish Canadian Conferences in Aalborg in 2000 and in Kitchener in 2003.

Hans Andersen Nielsen was born in the Danish town of Tønder, situated just seven kilometres north of the German border, on December 27, 1924. Tønder had been part of Germany until the referendum in 1920, and many of the town folk still spoke German as their first language. The Nielsen family was poor and the economic situation got worse during the Great Depression in the 1930s. His father, Peter Nielsen, would buy and sell antiques. His hard-working mother, Jacobine Vilhelmine Duta, was an innovative seamstress. They had two children, Hans and Grethe. When Hans was fourteen years old he left school and immediately started working. He apprenticed as a blacksmith, but his further education would be on the job.



Dennis, Paul, and Erik: with their mother, Johanna Nielsen.

As well, Hans had a hunger for knowledge, which is readily evident from the numerous bookcases in his home, filled with books on a great variety of subjects. At the same time he was a businessman and entrepreneur. He was courageous and took chances, and succeeded where others might have failed. He has been lucky in business, but it also took hard work to succeed, and he was not afraid to work and engage.



DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY INC.

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MONTREAL

**Danish Canadians in “La Belle Province” send greetings to
members and friends of the Danish Federation**

The Hedekær Family

Tom Hedekar, Nanaimo

Kaj Børge Hedekær, born on May 8, 1916 in Kerteminde, Denmark, was the son of Anders Andersen and his wife, Marie. Anders Andersen decided to change his name from Andersen to Hedekær, as Andersen was such a common name in Denmark. Anders Hedekær was a haberdasher, owning a men's hat shop.

Kaj's parents, Anders and Marie, passed away when he was just 16 years old. After the Second World War Kaj decided to travel, and ventured to Sweden and Lapland. In Sweden Kaj met Ruth Elisabeth Christiansen, a Danish girl born on December 15, 1926 in Sæby, northern Jutland. She was working as a housekeeper for a local physician in Gothenburg, Sweden. They were married in a quiet service in Sweden in 1949. After giving birth to their first child, John, they moved to Sæby, where Ruth's family lived. In Sæby, Kaj built a house for his young family and on November 11, 1950, Tommy was born.



Kaj Børge Hedekær

Kaj and Ruth dreamed of travelling and also thought about immigrating to Australia. Instead they were able to get passage to Canada in November 1951 aboard the *SS Oslofford*. It was apparently a very rough Atlantic crossing, particularly with a couple of little ones. There was a longshoreman's strike at Halifax harbour, so the ship was forced to dock in New York. Kaj then took his wife and two young sons by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where a fellow Dane had found work for Kaj as a cabinetmaker.



Ruth Hedekær

In 1951 Winnipeg experienced a long, cold winter. They did not have a fridge in their flat, so they used the windowsill for cold storage because there was a large space between the double windows. Ruth often told the story of the Tilsit cheese and a meat sausage that became frozen between the two window panes. They were not able to eat the food until spring when the ice thawed out, allowing them to open the frozen window.

To escape the cold winters, Kaj looked around and soon found work in Vancouver as a cabinetmaker for BC Millwork. Ruth found extra work in a dress shop. Soon they were able to buy a small house in North Vancouver that still stands today, about a half block from Marine Drive and Bewick Avenue. Their third child Margaret was born in North Vancouver in 1957.

In Vancouver in 1953, Kaj was one of the founding members of the Danish Benefit Association DANA. The other founding

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members were Ronald Munkeskov, Oscar Grann, Erhart Nielsen, Hilmer Solberg, Franz Nielsen and Herlev Christoffersen. A bit later, Erik Christiansen and Edvin Rude joined the group. The purpose of the association was to provide social, financial and medical assistance and insurance to Danish immigrants in the Vancouver area. At that time, there were few government services to assist Canadians who found themselves in need. A detailed account of the founding of DANA can be found on pages 95-105 of the 2021 Heritage Book.

In 1966, Kaj and Ruth moved to the interior of BC, where they bought and managed the Eagle Creek General Store, post office and gas station, located 30 kilometers northeast of 100 Mile House and just a short distance from the shores of Canim Lake. Their oldest son John opted to stay in the Vancouver area with his young family while Kaj and Ruth moved north with Tom and Margaret.

After selling the store and retiring, Kaj built a lovely house on the shore of beautiful Canim Lake, not far from the old store, where Kaj and Ruth enjoyed fishing and boating with their family for many more years. In 1988 Kaj and Ruth moved to Prince George to be closer to their son Tom and daughter Margaret. They enjoyed their many grandchildren and a quiet retired life in a condominium in Prince George.



Eagle Creek General Store: near Canim Lake, B.C.

Kaj and Ruth loved to holiday on Vancouver Island and were thrilled when their son Tom decided to move to Nanaimo in 1995. Kaj passed away in 1998 at the age of 82. In 2005 Ruth sold their condo and lived with her daughter Margaret until passing on April 28, 2011 at age 84.

Kaj and Ruth's son Tom has been a dedicated supporter of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club and has most recently served as the club's President and the host committee chair for the 2023 Danish Canadian Conference in Nanaimo. Tom is a Registered Professional Forester and a Registered Forest Technologist (RPF, ret. & RFT ret.) and holds a Post-Secondary Instructor's Diploma. He worked as a University-College Professor teaching in the Forest Resources Technology Programs at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George and then at Malaspina University College (now Vancouver Island University) in Nanaimo. Tom began his work in Nanaimo as Manager of the Forestry Extension Programs and then later finished his working career back in the classroom, teaching a variety of courses in the Forestry Program.

Tom was elected treasurer of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in 2012, when the president was Niels John Nielsen. Unfortunately, Niels John Nielsen died in November 2017, and John A. Jensen took over. Tom continued as treasurer, but increasingly Tom took over many

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of the tasks associated with running the Club. At the Club's AGM in March 2020 Tom was officially elected president and Rebecca Taylor took over as the new treasurer.



Hedekær Family: visiting Canim Lake August 2016. Tom on the far right with wife Lynn and son Dan, son Eric with his daughter Lily third from left and Margaret to the right of Eric. Far left is Margaret's husband Bob, with daughter Leanne. Right of Margaret is John's children, Mark and Sheri with their families.

Vancouver Island



Danish - Canadian - Club
Member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2023 Conference and AGM re-scheduled (again!) for May 25 – 28, 2023 in beautiful Nanaimo, BC.

"VIKINGS ON THE ISLAND: WE CAME, WE SAW, WE STAYED"

"VIKINGER PÅ ØEN: VI KOM, VI SÅ, VI BLEV"

My Danish Journey

Lisa Olsen, National Secretary, Federation of Danish Associations

My Danish journey began when my parents, Paul Olsen (born Poul Erland Olsen in Slagelse on August 29, 1939) and Else Andersen (born in Aalborg on January 5, 1944) met in Slagelse in 1962 at a dinner hosted by my Mom's sister, Birte Langager, and her husband Bent. They hit it off and then in 1963 flew to Canada, landing at Toronto Airport. With no idea where to live, the immigration officer said, "Kitchener would be good for you", because of the culturally similar German community there. And thus began their adaptation into life in Canada. They were married soon after at St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in London, Ontario. And then it was time to make blond babies!

I was born in Kitchener on April 26, 1964, and my sister, Marion, on December 26, 1965. She was a colicky baby, which prompted my father to send me to Denmark with my Farmor (Meta Olsen) who was visiting us in Kitchener in 1966. He thought it would be easier for Mom if she only had one baby to handle, not two. So at the age of 2½ years I got to be Danish for two months, and met my four aunts (Dagny, Marianne, Ruth and Herdis) as well as my many cousins. Upon returning to Canada, I could speak some Danish! That was quickly lost because there was a "no Danish at home" rule in our home, except for "Tak for mad" after dinner! My parents were determined to be fluent in English, which was the key to success here!

We lived in austerity for many years, but within ten years my father became a well-known personality in the business community, and climbed his way up the real estate ladder from building superintendent to owning his own company: Olsen Realty Ltd. It became the largest independent broker in the Kitchener-Waterloo region throughout the 1970's, with the tagline "We're not #1, You are!" Mom was a homemaker and seamstress, and she later worked in retail at the Fairweather clothing store. She did a great job of taking care of the house and raising us, while Dad was the provider and fulfilled his Donald Trump-style dream of being an entrepreneur and property developer.

We got to know the Danish community via Sunset Villa in nearby Puslinch, which we frequently visited as a family. For a brief time in the 1970s my father was actively involved as a member when the senior's apartments were being built. He also joined the Royal Danish Guards' Association Eastern Canada in 1984. He had served in the Royal Danish Guards Regiment in 1959-60, there being conscription in Denmark at the time. There was a Danish Guard tourist postcard of him standing guard at Amalienborg Palace, which for decades was sold at a gift shop on strøget in Copenhagen.

In 1966, my mother's sister and husband were inspired to immigrate here too, bringing along their twin girls Helle and Hanne, and brother, Finn. So now we had cousins here! There was a lot of socializing with Danes during the 1960's to 80's, and as a family we celebrated all Danish traditions as if we were in Denmark. Christmas was always celebrated on December 24, and we

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had pork, not turkey! Our home also looked Danish, very neat and cozy with teak furniture, blue plates, figurines and embroidery. Mom served all the Danish foods, which I still love to this day.

Throughout our childhood, we were either going to Denmark every five years or having Danish visitors come here. On a trip there, I remember being so impressed by how progressive the schools were – with ping pong tables and minimalist modern furniture!



*Garder 414-817 Poul Olsen, 1960,
Dad outside Amalienborg Palace.*

In 1983, when I was 19, my father inspired me to go to Grundtvigs Højskole in Hillerød for my ‘year off’. It is a boarding school for Danes, but also offered language classes to a handful of international students. I had the time of my life there, taking classes, singing folk songs accompanied by piano and making lifelong friends. Before school started, Dad and I attended the 325th anniversary of Den Kongelige Livgarde (Royal Danish Guards), with a parade, dinner and dance in Copenhagen attended by the Queen. The Queen enjoyed her dinner literally a few tables from us, which made quite an impression!

Living in Denmark in the 1980s was an unexpected and wonderful change of culture. Women’s rights exhibited itself in a topless culture everywhere (beaches, ads, family picnics), and people could drink beer anywhere! The clothes were so European and way ahead of the times compared to Canada. The cobblestone streets and old buildings appealed to my artistic sensibilities. And the very left wing government covered nearly everyone’s needs from cradle to grave. They even paid for my room and board at the Højskole! Things have sure changed since then. But my time there embedded my passion for Denmark, and I would go back there every four years for the rest of my life.

Upon my return to Canada a year later, I began my four year Fine Arts Degree at York University in Toronto and my parents divorced. In 1989, my mother and I moved to downtown Vancouver, which was so beautiful, like a mini-Miami. Mom would work at The Bay, and I became the manager of a dessert restaurant called True Confections, perfect for

my Danish sweet tooth! Later I would get a Digital Media certificate from UBC and do administrative work at a tech company during the dot.com era. I then worked as a Facilities Manager at UBC’s Housing Department. Meanwhile, my sister Marion met Hani Dakkak and they too moved to B.C.! Their two girls, Annika and Ally, have now been to Denmark and love it.

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My father would marry three more times – twice to Danes. First to Helia Larsen (now Olsen) with young son Peter Maansen, who immigrated for the marriage; then to Lise-Lotte Mikkelsen (now Henriksen) and last to Ewa Tutka (now Olsen), who lives with him in Tillsonburg, Ontario. My mother re-married a Canadian, Don Grimes, and took his name. They have lived together in Victoria for 25 years.

In 2005, my father convinced me to move back to Ontario. I worked for him for two years, but then in 2007 got a job at Rockstar Games working in Human Resources. Over the next decade my Dad and I would go to The Danish Place at Sunset Villa for a lunch of open faced sandwiches, either alone, with his wife, ex-wives or others. We all loved the country atmosphere and of course the comfort food!

At age 43, I met David Harding, now my husband. Finally I would get married at age 50! Dave brought along two grown children to the relationship, Kathleen and Greg. I really enjoy being a “Step-Mom” after years of role modelling from my own stepparents! Dave was spending a lot of time in Timmins as an orthopedic surgeon, and I needed a hobby, so I joined Sunset Villa Association and began volunteering.



Lisa and her father: at the Royal Danish Guards' 325th anniversary celebration in Copenhagen, 1983.

Quickly I was a Board member and, on a mission, to save the restaurant, as Anna and Benny were retiring, and after all, we MUST have a Danish restaurant in Ontario! I worked as a ‘pseudo real estate agent’ (inspired by Dad), advertising and meeting aspiring chefs to sell the opportunity to. I did research to restructure the lease to resemble a more typical commercial separation of landlord and tenant expenses, and worked on increasing the rent. I was so happy when months later Kristine Mathers came forward with her brother Jake, and spouse Joanne. They were a joy to work with and Kristine was so inspiring. They modernized the place and helped Sunset Villa finally get to 500 memberships, after years of languishing around 425.

Later we would all work together to launch Kristine’s vision of The Nordic Market. I got to use my artistic skills when I made large-format plywood copies of Bramming’s Kravlenisser, which we installed everywhere for the kids (and adults!) to enjoy. Santa came and the kids made snobrød! The event was a hit beyond expectations, with at least 900 attending. What a thrill that was!

In 2018, I decided to try being the President. This was not a difficult goal to achieve – nobody wanted the job! I took the role (way too) seriously, spending at least 30 hours a week at it. Sunset Villa was old and needed repairs, and like every president that ever was, I worried that we were

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running out of money and volunteers! So as a Board, we renovated and nearly doubled the apartment rent which was way too low at \$500. Then we updated the Bulletin and improved the content. Next, we created a Code of Conduct for the organization. And last, a Planning Committee was formed with some sharp business minded members, resulting in a plan of options for Sunset Villa, which future Boards could reference (or ignore!).



My father Paul Olsen, me, my sister Marion and my mother Else Olsen, née Andersen, 1980.

Over the two years as President, I became a polarizing figurehead. You either loved the changes, or you hated it. The workload and complaints were wearing me down. I was also on my condo Board and working full time. I was scheduled to end my two year term when Covid hit, postponing the annual meeting indefinitely. With no end in sight, and unable to continue at that pace, I would need to resign. My best friend there, Vice President Monica Jensen, took over the seat as President, and has been doing a great job ever since!

In 2020, I found out that I might qualify for (dual) Danish citizenship. There was a deadline to apply for those born to Danes with proof of Danish residency. And so I got my citizenship in 2021 for “bragging rights”. Now I can say “Yes, I am Danish” when people in this community ask me, which happens a lot!

In 2022, I was elected National Secretary of the Danish Federation – replacing the talented Aase Christensen. The workload is much lighter, and Rolf Christensen has been very welcoming and easy to work with. And I continue to volunteer as Past President at Sunset Villa, as well as managing the Butik (gift shop) with some great friends there.

I have become a good Danish baker – making my own rye bread, kransekager, brunkager, klejner, vaniljekranse, pebbernødder and of course æbleskiver! For meals, I can make tarteletter,

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klar suppe, frikadeller, flæskestej, brunede kartofler, and boller i curry. I collect Danish cookbooks – I must have 30 of them now! I can read and understand conversational Danish, but my grammar and accent are laughable when I try to speak. At Sunset Villa, I really enjoy seeing the collectible donations get sold to next-gen Danes who are sentimental about their heritage, like me. I love the Danish needlepoint, homemade Nisser, figurines, Guard memorabilia and old paintings. Sometimes I make Danish Xmas hearts! We all like to have our little reminders of where we came from.

On my last trip to Denmark, to Jutland, I indulged in all of the classic experiences of someone who was imprinted in the 1980s. I was on the hunt for Danish hotdogs, large waffle ice cream cones, licorice, marcipan, wienerbrød, Cacao milk, rundstykker with butter, and smørrebrød. I went to thrift stores where I had flashbacks to so much from the 1980s. The Danes there called it ‘my nostalgia tour’ because I am stuck in that era, and they have moved on to new things! Thus my Danish journey continues!



Lisa Olsen surrounded by Bramming's Nisser, 2018 Nordic Market, Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario.



Vikings on the Island

Eva Manly, née Jacobsen, Nanaimo, “We Stayed”

Let me begin with my parents, Mor and Far, who left Denmark for Canada in 1928. My father, Peter Boesen Jacobsen, was from Sønderjylland, and my mother, Asta Plesner Jensen, was from Udby on Sjælland. They were married on September 1, 1922, after a three year engagement during which time they saved to buy a small farm in Smidstrup, where they lived until April 1, 1927 with their young daughters Gerda and Ester.

The Depression led them to sell their farm in order to emigrate. Canada and Argentina were both looking for immigrants. When the Smidstrup farm was sold and Dad was ready to travel, it was spring in Canada and fall in Argentina, so they chose Canada. I have always thought of myself as “an accidental Canadian” and recently discovered that my brother Frank feels the same way. In 1928 when Mor and Far realized that she was pregnant they decided that he should go ahead, get settled and prepare for her arrival after the birth of their third child. My mother’s sister Valborg accompanied her on the voyage to help with the children. Valborg was a great support as Ester had whooping cough during her Atlantic crossing and on the train from Halifax to Calgary.

Until Asta’s arrival Peter worked in Calgary driving a bread truck. They then moved to a small farm in Edgewater, British Columbia, which had a small Danish community, where they lived until 1937. Peter worked on the construction of the Big Bend highway through the Rockies. When he was absent Asta managed the farm and her roadside stand with vegetables and eggs. During their ten years in Edgewater they added four more children to the family.

My father, born and raised on the flat land of Sønderjylland, felt hemmed in by the mountains of the Windermere Valley. Hearing about a new Danish community in Tilley, in the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) of southern Alberta, he went to check it out. He returned with the news that it was “just like Denmark” and that there was a Danish Church! In the spring of 1937 they sold the Edgewater farm and with seven children moved to Tilley. I, Eva, was the first of five children born in Tilley. I arrived in February 1938 when the family was under Quarantine due to Scarlet Fever. The mid-wife, who planned to assist Mor with the birth, was also pregnant and could not risk exposure to Scarlet Fever. Alternate arrangements were made with a doctor in Brooks, twenty miles away. Ester, age thirteen and a half, was awakened very early to walk the four and a half miles, in heavy snow, to the closest telephone at the Tilley Hotel to call the doctor. The snow was so deep that she had to use the fence posts on both sides of the road as visual guides to stay on the road. She was not even invited into the Hotel to warm up while the phone call to the doctor was being made and had to turn around and retrace her steps all the way home. An arduous experience!

In the absence of the doctor, dad assisted Mor with the birth of their eighth child and Gerda, age fourteen and a half, looked after the newborn. The doctor, too late for the birth, did arrive in time to stem Asta’s hemorrhaging. The doctor sent a bill for “the birth”, but dad refused to pay as in

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fact he had “delivered the baby”! Needless to say, this was the last home birth; the next four babies were born in hospitals in Medicine Hat and Brooks.



Back row, right to left: Asta with Fred, Peter, Gerda and Ester holding Eva. Middle row, right to left: Frank, Larry and Inger. Front Julie and Gerard. Tilley, Alberta, 1939.

Dad liked to tell people that they had three children in Denmark, Gerda (June 27, 1923); Ester (September 17, 1924); Uffe/Larry (December 9, 1928); then they moved to Edgewater and had four more, Inger (April 25, 1930); Frank (September 29, 1931); Gunner/Gerard, (April 21, 1933); and Julie (March 8, 1936); then they moved to Tilley and had five more, Eva (February 15, 1938); Fred (March 22, 1939); Eunice (September 17, 1941); Linda (May 16, 1943); and Ray (October 29, 1945). Then, dad added, “*We decided that we had better stop moving!*”

As adults, the Jacobsen children scattered in all directions: Gerda to Montreal and Vankleek Hill, Ontario; Ester to Dickson and Calgary; Larry to various locations in BC; Inger to Calgary, Edmonton, Blairmore, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver; Frank to Trenton, Centralia, Aylmer, Montreal, Ottawa, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Remac, Red Deer, Edmonton, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Auckland, New Zealand, and Victoria, BC; Gunner/ Gerard to Sooke, BC; Julie to Olds, Vancouver, Granum and Olds; Eva to Banff, Regina, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Toronto, Kitamaat Village, Port Alice, Port McNeill, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Ladysmith, Ottawa, East Vancouver, and finally to Nanaimo; Fred to various points in BC and the lower mainland; Eunice, Tucson, Arizona; Linda to Victoria; and Ray to Kamloops and Ottawa.

We have clearly had the restless blood of the Vikings! But, Gunner/Gerard, Linda, Eva and Frank all became Vancouver Islanders - and stayed on the island. Gerard was a fisherman and Frank became an avid sailor. I have always loved the ocean and apart from our ten years in Ottawa, I have lived within easy reach of the sea, salt water and beaches!

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I first came to the University of British Columbia on the west coast. Although I was born and raised on a farm in Tilley, I felt that the coast was “home”. With a friend I visited Galiano Island and fell in love with the beautiful coastline. I first visited Vancouver Island en route to Salt Spring Island with a friend and stopped to visit Doug Manly at “Roads End Farm” in Nanaimo. This was the first of many years of visits before moving to Nanaimo to stay in 1997. As a sixteen year old I had resolved that I would never marry, but if I changed my mind I would definitely never marry a minister or a farmer! I surprised myself and others when I agreed/decided that I would marry Jim Manly. Why? Jim did not fit anybody’s stereotype of a minister! Inspired by the Worker-Priest Movement in France, Jim’s first action after ordination as a United Church Minister was to apply for a leave of absence to work as a logger and to do church work on a volunteer basis! He became secretary of the IWA local and unpopular with management. So he did not qualify for married housing!

Jim and I were married at Bethany Lutheran Church in Tilley on May 9, 1959. Jim’s family had moved from Saskatoon to Nanaimo in 1943 when his father, Doug, was in the army. After Jim and I were married, most of our holidays were spent at either “Roads End Farm” with Jim’s Dad, or with my parents in Bassano, to where they had moved in 1959 after selling the farm in Tilley. Over the years Jim and I lived in a variety of places. For the first four months after our wedding we directed an SCM Student in Industry Work Camp, living communally in St. Ann’s Anglican Church Hall with eighteen university students aged 18 to 24 from across Canada. Jim was 26 and I was 21! We were given the dire warning; “give your marriage a one year trial period before getting a divorce!” On May 9, 2023, our marriage will have lasted 64 years.

From downtown Toronto we moved to Kitamaat Village, ancestral home of the Haisla People on the Douglas Channel of the North Pacific Coast of British Columbia. This was one of the best and most important experiences of our lives with an impact on everything we have been involved



Douglas Channel, northern British Columbia.

in since. From the Haisla we began to learn about another world view and about a People’s experiences of racism and discrimination and of their strengths, humour and perseverance. Of all the communities in which we have lived this is the one to which we have stayed most connected over the ensuing years. One of the features of Kitamaat Village was its relative isolation; all travel was by boat. We went across the Douglas Channel on fishing boats or the school boat to the Northland dock where our car was parked. On one occasion we went with a friend by dugout canoe. When a sudden storm caught us by surprise, it became the most exhilarating boat ride of my life! Our first child, Seamas was born a month later! While in Kitamaat; we were much involved with the children, young people, and with the Elders, forming lifelong friendships. When we moved to Port Alice on the west coast of Vancouver Island I was very homesick for the village.

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Port Alice was a socially stratified company town where it was difficult to make friends, but we had a very active youth group; we welcomed a young friend, who was on a six month parole and who helped to change some of the racist attitudes in the community. Our second son, Paul, was born in 1964 and when he was one year old we adopted our daughter, Heather-Anne. With a new born, a one year old and a four year old I still had enough energy to look after an “extra” four year old while his mother filled a gap at the school, while Jim was a



The kæmpehøj in our garden.

shift worker at the Pulp Mill, served as secretary of the union and volunteered at the church. After three years in Port Alice we spent a year Port McNeill on the east coast of the Vancouver Island. Again, we lived close to salt water, had a youth group, this time for young people from outlying areas who lived in a dorm while going to high school and appreciated a weekly break. Our next home was in Prince Rupert where I was recruited to be Director of the Chatham House Day Care Centre and took the qualifying courses from Dr. Dorothy Rizer, who flew up from UBC on weekends! Meanwhile, Jim was a “detached worker” engaged primarily with First Nations people from the surrounding area and filling in on the Thomas Crosby Mission boat once a month. In 1969 Jim ran in the provincial election and lost by 250 votes.

Our youngest son Mark was born in April 1970 and in 1971 we moved to Vancouver where I became a full time student at Langara College to complete my studies in Early Childhood Education. I then worked at the UBC Preschool for Special Needs Children. Jim worked on an MA in English at UBC. Just after Jim accepted a job in Ladysmith, I was offered a teaching position at Langara. As they say, “Timing is Every Thing”!

During our seven years in Ladysmith I was a founding member and teacher in the Parent Co-op Nursery School for six years, before going to Malaspina College to study Fine Arts. In 1979 Jim ran and lost in the federal election. He ran again in 1980 and won. Jim served as a Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands from 1980 to 1988. As the NDPs critic for Indian Affairs he fought for economic and social justice. I continued my studies at the University of Ottawa, and graduated with a BFA in 1985. Quite “by accident” in 1987 I became an independent documentary film maker. As Manly Media I continued making documentaries until 1997, including our seven years in Vancouver. I had screenings across Canada, as well as in Berlin, Havana and at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 1997 we returned to our part of “Roads End Farm” in Nanaimo. We call our place “Breathing Space”. We came “to stay.” It soon became clear that retirement was just a euphemism for social justice and environmental activism, for refugee sponsorships, and for continuing to work in elections – as Greens since 2014 – because we are deeply concerned about the world we will be leaving for future generations.

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Jim and Eva Manly, Photo by Aaron Hinks.

During our seven years sojourn in Ladysmith (1973 to 1980) Jim and I spent our spare time and much of our holiday time building a small cabin – using a “how to” guide book on Alaskan Palisade cabin building. This was a long slow process. Our un-winterized cabin was meant for summer camping only, but we lived in it from June 1997 to December 2000. We enjoyed “Camping in our Cabin” for three and a half years because we knew that carrying water from the creek and using a composting toilet was not a life sentence. We always intended to build a house with running water and indoor plumbing! In the cabin we took up the old family tradition of reading aloud in the winter evenings as my parents had done during my childhood. They read aloud many of the Danish and Scandinavian classics and passed on a love of reading, while our hands were busy darning socks! They also introduced us to a lifelong habit of reusing and re-cycling! So I have

always darned socks! While living in Nanaimo I have reconnected with my Danish roots in a variety of ways; when hiking to Cape Scott we visited the remains of the very remote community of Danish Settlers who were promised that their new home would be a good place for “Market Gardening to supply food to Vancouver”!

In the summer of 1947 when I was nine years old and was “the oldest child who could travel at half fare”, I accompanied my mother to Denmark. This was when I first saw a *kæmpehøj* (Dolmen), an important part of my mother’s childhood: the farm in Udby where Mor grew up had a large *kæmpehøj* in the field. When we returned to Canada my father helped my mother create a small *kæmpehøj* in the corner of the Tilley garden, the height of a bench and a beautiful rock garden with rocks from a variety of places including Radium Hot Springs and the Badlands.

Since moving to the Island to live, Jim and I have followed this tradition and have created mini versions of a *kæmpehøj* and a rock ovoid reminiscent of the Viking grave sites we saw and photographed in Denmark in 1985. During all our moves on Canada’s West Coast and the years in Ottawa, “Breathing Space” on the outskirts of Nanaimo was my “psychological home base”; it kept me from feeling like a transient wanderer!

On trips to Alberta to reconnect with family we have with my sister Ester enjoyed visits to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. On one such visit we were surprised by a display in one room of our Jacobsen family history! In Nanaimo, I have enjoyed singing in the Danish Choir; partly an attempt to recover my childhood “mother tongue”, spoken daily until I was a shy 16 year old, but given up due to ridicule by a newcomer from København who found my Danish hilarious! In 1985 I spent time relearning Danish before a trip to Denmark, as “if you don’t use it you lose it”. I wasn’t fluent, but I was back to my 16 year old level. In Nanaimo Jim and I joined the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club and enjoy the gatherings. Partners with Irish and Scots heritage are not barred from membership, perhaps in recognition that they may well be part Viking!

The Nissen Family

- Coming to Canada

Clint Nissen, Dickson, son of Johannes Nissen

In 1927 the Nissen family, Mother and Father and ten children, decided to emigrate from Denmark to Canada. This must have been a very difficult decision since at 48 and 52 years of age the parents could certainly be considered too old to contemplate starting a new life in another country. Moreover, the oldest children must already have begun establishing their own lives in Denmark. The decision to emigrate also meant selling the family farm.

Many possessions were packed, yet much must have been left behind. According to Lydia, they were allowed quite a bit of weight on the ship, as they were such a large family. Helen remembers being sent with the two other youngest children to stay with relatives while the packing was done. It seems Mother was mainly in charge of choosing what was to be taken and Father was in charge of the packing. Furniture was disassembled and along with other possessions packed in boxes and suitcases. George, the youngest of the family, remembers waiting on the train platform in Halifax with the things they had brought. He recalls there were, “boxes and boxes and boxes.” The packing must have been done efficiently as only one bowl was found broken after the trip to Dickson, Alberta.

The Nissen Family arrived in Canada by ship and were granted Landed Immigrant Status at Pier 21 in Halifax on February 27, 1928. The family included the father Georg, aged 48, and his wife, Dorothea Sofie, aged 52, and their eight children: Christine aged 22, Johannes 20, Hans 19, Margaretha 16, Sophia 15, Lydia 12, Helene 11, and George 8.

The family travelled from Aabenraa to Copenhagen where on February 15, 1928, they boarded the Scandinavian-American Line (Danish) ship the *SS United States*. The ship stopped in Sweden, and also in Oslo, where more passengers boarded. It then set out across the Atlantic.

Coming from a farming background, the family members were not seasoned sea travellers. The trip on board the ship appears to have been a difficult one, during very cold weather and through stormy seas. The family had two small cabins with portholes, in second class. Helen remembers seeing icebergs, and that the deck was dangerously slippery so it was often difficult to even go out for some fresh air. She also remembers the sound of the propeller as it often came out of the water when the ship rolled in the large waves.

George recalls that most of the family lost weight while on board the *United States*. They could hardly eat because they were so seasick. The family members would walk towards the dining area but as soon as they smelled food their stomachs turned and they would turn around and go back to their cabin. “Everything was liquid inside us. You wished that you could get something

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dry like oatmeal inside you.” Lydia remembers that the only thing they seemed able to keep down was some dark rye bread the family had brought from home.

So on February 27, they were most happy to arrive in Halifax. Their processing was then done at Pier 21. Their first language was Danish and at best their English probably consisted only of a few single basic words. This likely was the reason several spelling errors were made in recording their names and responses while questions were asked and their information was being processed. Margaretha had an eye infection that threatened her entry to the country. Lydia remembers the family praying that the authorities would let her sister into the country. The prayers were answered as Margaretha was eventually allowed to enter Canada with the rest of the family. Helen said she had the chickenpox on her arrival in Halifax but the authorities seemed unconcerned and only laughed at her spots. The Nissen family must have been among the first few thousand people to enter Canada through Pier 21, as they entered in the first two months of 1928. Pier 21, the new immigration pier, officially opened in March 1928.



Arrival at Pier 21; Left to right back: Margaretha, Christine and Sophia. Middle left to right: Johannes, Georg (father), Dorothea Sofie (mother), and Hans. Front left to right: Lydia, George and Helene.

The family had decided to leave Denmark primarily because it was becoming increasingly difficult to make a living on their farm. They were not wealthy, but records show that they entered Canada with \$1,250, less money than some, but it appears more than most.

Their intended destination in Canada was Dickson, Alberta. According to Sophia, her father knew some people of German descent who had settled in South America, so that was one destination the family considered. The decision to go to Canada, and particularly Dickson, was made after meeting with a man from Alberta named Jens Dixen. (Name similarity is a coincidence) Missionary Jens Dixen had lived in Dickson and worked in the church there but was not a pastor. It appears that one of the reasons he was back in Denmark was to encourage immigration to Canada. He told the Nissens, “The place for you is Dickson in Alberta. There are Danes who have settled there, they speak English and Danish and they have a Lutheran Church there.”

The Nissens personally knew Hans Hansen, who had recently emigrated, so they gave his name as a reference at their Dickson destination. They also knew of several other Danes who had settled in the Dickson area. Dickson is one of a few farming settlements that initially was settled by people of Danish descent via the United States or directly from Denmark. Dickson is

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currently the site of the Danish Canadian National Museum, dedicated to telling the story of Danes in Canada and also the site of the Dickson Store Museum, dedicated to preserving the history of the area, which in large part was developed by immigrants and settlers of Danish descent.



Dickson farm, ca. 1930, left to right: George, Helene, Lydia, Christine, Sophia, Margaretha, Hans and Johannes.

Before embarking on the journey across Canada the family stocked up on food. George particularly remembers three things that would have been staples for the family in Denmark. They bought lots of brown bread, butter and honey. He remembers this as the main food for the rail trip across Canada. Perhaps this was because he was only eight years old. He could not get enough of that “brown bread and honey” and he gained at least some of the weight back that he had lost on board the ship. The family

bought some other food, as well, because he recalls them cooking on a stove that stood in a corner of the train car. At each train stop, Father Georg, John and Hans got off to buy other groceries for the family. As well, each family member had a pillow with a handle sewn on it which had been made by Mother Sofie before they left Denmark. The train seats, although wooden, could be folded down to lie on, so the pillows added some comfort.

When they arrived in Calgary, they changed trains and travelled north to Innisfail. Two men they had met along the way were going further north, perhaps to Ponoka. The entry data indicates that at least one traveller on the *United States* was destined for Ponoka. Sophia recalls that the two men were a support for her family along the journey since the two had travelled from Denmark to Alberta before.

At the train station in Innisfail the Nissen family was met by five men from Dickson; John Petersen, Fred Pedersen, Hans Hansen and Art Kur; who had brought their horse drawn vehicles to take the family the 20 miles to Dickson. Homo Christiansen was also there with his truck. Several family members recall how poorly they were prepared, clothing wise, for the March prairie weather. It was a cold journey to Dickson even though the drivers had brought extra clothing and footwear for the new immigrants. That evening the family members stayed with various families in the community. The next day was Sunday, so at the Bethany Church, the Nissens were introduced to the members of their new community.

Hans Hansen had arranged for the Nissens to rent land from a community member who was then working in Calgary. Some years later they bought land near by. Although several of the siblings worked in other parts of Alberta over the first few years, they returned to settle in the Dickson area again. Christine and Helen, with their Dickson husbands, took over the Christiansen General Store and contributed to the community’s development in that way until the store closed around

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1980. John and Hans raised families and were long time farmers of the area until their passing in the 1980's and 90's respectively. Sophia and Lydia farmed with their husbands in the Dickson area well into the 1980's, after which they retired. Margaretha became a teacher in Dickson and then spent about 30 years as a missionary in Nigeria before returning to Dickson for her retirement. George served in the Canadian armed forces during the Second World War. He settled in Campbell River on Vancouver Island, where he and his wife owned several businesses and helped Campbell River grow from a small town of the early 1950's to a busy city in the 1990's.

Sofie, as Grandma Nissen was called, found life in the new country difficult and died a few years after the family's arrival in Dickson. Grandpa Georg farmed in the Dickson area for the next 40 years. He was known in the community as a great help to newly arrived immigrants, particularly from Denmark and Germany. He was often there to help them get established, visiting, lending them money and giving encouragement. He seemed very adept at identifying needs.

The descendants of the original Nissen family that came to Canada through Pier 21 are many. All have contributed to our country of Canada, whether through business, teaching, farming, church ministry, health care, trades, the environment or technology. The legacy of the Nissen family is the thread of generosity and helpfulness. The Nissen family has given and shared with those in their new country. Others first and self second, are how they have lived their lives. We, the second, third and fourth generations, have a proud heritage and tradition to live up to.

An earlier version of this article was written for and given to the archives at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



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Søren Christian Jensen and Else Jensen

Else Jensen, White Rock

My late husband, Søren Christian Grønbech Jensen, was born in Copenhagen on November 26, 1934, the second child of Valdemar and Agnes Jensen. Søren's father, Valdemar, one of seven children, was a blacksmith and the family lived on a farm near the village of Sønder Bork at the southern end of Ringkøbing Fjord in Jutland. Already when Valdemar was eight years old he was sent out to work on a neighbouring farm. Valdemar had to herd sheep. He stayed in a small hut out in the field and one of the farm girls would bring him food once a day, usually porridge. Once in a while there would be a piece of boiled bacon. Sometimes his mother would walk out to see how her son was doing. One time she found him quite sick and had she not found him he probably would have died.



Valdemar's next job was a little more humane. Then when he was older he acquired a job on a ship. His dream was to become captain. For a few years he sailed all over the world. When he was old enough he tried to get into one of the Danish navigation schools. But here he discovered that he was colour blind, so he had to find another vocation. So he moved to Copenhagen where he started a grocery store in Istedgade. It went well and he was joined by one of his

brothers. But the store was too small to support two families. Valdemar had married a girl from Torsø. They were expecting a child. Unfortunately both his wife and the baby died in childbirth.

About a year later Valdemar met Agnes. She had come to Copenhagen to visit her best friend, who happened to be married to Valdemar's brother. Agnes was the daughter of a grocer in Fjølstervang, southwest of Herning. Valdemar and Agnes married and started a corner grocery store on Næsbyholmvej in Brønshøj, Copenhagen. They lived in an apartment above the store. As the business thrived they expanded. And so did the family. They now had three children, and three employees, who they provided food for. To help with the cooking, cleaning and looking after the children Agnes employed a maid.

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Søren Jensen” in his army uniform.

In 1939 war came and in 1940 Denmark was occupied, yet Valdemar managed to stay afloat. But it was very stressful and Valdemar started to lose weight. He had to take time off from the store. It did not worry him too much and he trusted his employees to take care of the store. Valdemar was a man of faith and knew the Lord would help. As time went on, the family realized that Valdemar was not just stressed, but seriously ill.

By this time Søren was ten years old. Søren would often go through the store and would keep an eye on what was going on. The store was busy, but there was no money coming in. Søren told his dad, and he talked to the employees, who assured him that everything was OK. But by the time Valdemar recognized he wasn't going to live long, he also realized that the employees had swindled away the store. So the store had to be sold, yet the creditors had to be paid, and thus there was nothing left for the family to live on.

Both of his parents were born in Jutland, so during the summer holidays Søren, together with his mother and siblings would travel by train to stay with their grandparents, and get to know the rest of the family. On one of these holidays Søren lost one of his younger brothers in an accident with a horse and wagon. It was a great loss and a trauma for the ones who witnessed it.

Søren grew up in a loving family with one older sister and three younger brothers. During the war it was hard times for everyone. The family had a community garden with a house big enough so they could live there during the summer and grow their own vegetables. They had chickens and rabbits as well, which helped feed their family. In the fall they had to move back into the city where they lived in a townhouse for families with four or more children. Søren often spoke about the air raid sirens. When they sounded the whole family would huddle in the little dug out in the basement which could last for hours. Here Valdemar would tell the children stories about when he was a young man, sailing on big freighters all over the world. At one time he brought a monkey back to Denmark as a present for his parents. The monkey would climb up light poles and they had a hard time getting the monkey back down.

After the war Valdemar was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He passed away in 1946, only 45 years old, leaving a wife and four children, aged two to fourteen years of age. It was a difficult time for the family. Søren's mother had to find a job. But without an education it was limited what she could do. One job was at a drug laboratory cleaning mice cages. The mice were used for testing. It was a stressful job with long hours. She then came home to four children, and had to take care of shopping, laundry, cleaning and cooking. At the same time the older children learned to do chores, peel potatoes, clean their rooms, and do their homework.

One day a friend who had some connections at the central bank (Nationalbanken) in downtown Copenhagen, urged her to go and put in an application. As luck would have it, she got the job, and worked there for forty years.

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As the children finished school they needed work. Agnes was adamant; they had to learn a trade so they wouldn't land in the same situation as she herself did. Søren wanted to become a furniture maker, but he could not get an apprenticeship, so he became an electrician. Both his brothers became plumbers, while his sister became a key punch operator. After his apprenticeship, Søren stayed with the company for a year, after which he served his eighteen months in the army as required.

Søren had a friend in Australia, and in 1956 he thought about emigrating there. When his sister heard about it, she urged him to come to Canada instead. She had immigrated to Canada in 1952, and married her sweetheart, who had immigrated the year before. Søren then decided to come for a visit, and perhaps get a job for a year or two. He left Denmark in September 1956, travelling by the ship *Bergenfjord* from Copenhagen to New York via Oslo. From New York he travelled by Greyhound bus to Edmonton, where his sister lived. He managed the trip by speaking German, the language most people in Denmark learned in school at the time.

After a few weeks he needed to find a job. Another Dane who worked as a mason offered him a job. It was hard work, carrying heavy bricks up a ladder. So he searched for a job in his field. After searching the newspapers for days, he discovered that they were looking for electricians in a mine in northern Saskatchewan. Hanna, his sister, took him down to apply for the job, as he knew little English at the time. He was told he could start in a few days, but needed some gear, such as a sleeping bag and warm clothing. After all it was up north and winter.



The mine shaft at Uranium City, Saskatchewan, 1957.

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The town was Uranium City and the mine was Eldorado. A few days later he was on a plane to a new adventure. The mine was about 7 km from Uranium City. There was a bus going to the mine. They lived in bunkhouses with two per room. The mine was about 600 metres deep, and 4 to 5 km long. They had a train running underground to transport workers to their stations. There were about 500 people working there, 300 in the mine and 200 in the mill up above. There were many different nationalities, including about twenty Scandinavians. At that time it was the biggest mine in Canada. After four or five months in the mine he took a trip to Denmark, got restless, and came back to Canada. This time he found work in Edmonton, wiring houses. This was when we met. Some friends we had both met were getting married. Søren had been asked to take photographs, as he was always carrying his camera. The friends who were married were Lars and Ida Rasmussen, who still live in Devon, Alberta.



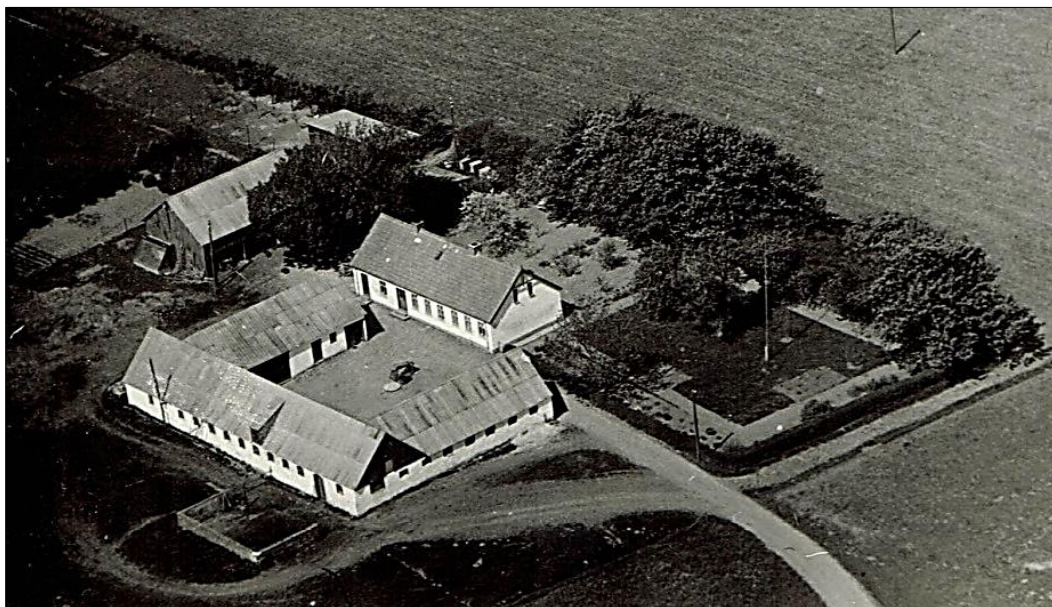
Søren in Uranium City, Saskatchewan in 1957, in Canada he was known as Chris, his middle name.

Else Jensen

I was born in Balle on June 24, 1939, 2 km outside Silkeborg, and baptized Else Andersen. When I was a few months old we moved to a farm between Nisset and Grauballe, where we lived during the war. When I was six, we moved to Balle. I started school in Balle Kirkeby. It was a little country school, with one classroom with kids from six to ten years of age. I had a girlfriend who attended school in Silkeborg, and of course I wanted to go there too. But we lived outside the city limits. It was a private school, which meant paying a fee. I eventually talked my father into letting me attend that school when I was eight. After my confirmation, at age 14, I got a job only 500 metres from home. I had to look after three children, clean the house and cook. The Mrs. was a cleaning freak. The floors had to be washed every day, and on Fridays they had

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to be scrubbed, the carpets had to go out on the clothing line and be beaten, the furniture waxed and polished. I lived at home and started work at 7 am and sometimes I did not get home until 9 in the evening, after the children were in bed and the dishes washed. After four months my father said enough, and went and quit on my behalf. He said it was child labour. My next job was in Silkeborg, where I worked for a surgeon and his wife, a nurse, who had a one-year old boy. That was a dream job. I still had to clean and cook and look after the boy. But I did not start until 8 and got home at 7 in the evening. I worked there for a year, until they moved to Aarhus.



The farm between Nisset and Grauballe, where Else lived until she was six years old.

In the spring of 1955, while I worked there, my brother immigrated to Canada. My next two jobs were also working for doctors. Meanwhile, in every letter my brother wrote home he urged me to come to Canada, the opportunities were endless. I spoke to my parents about it. By this time I had decided to go into nursing, which was a four year program. However, now my parents were considering emigrating as well. We had little family, so they said they would go too, but could not wait four years, as they were 48 and 45 years old. We started making plans, and then on June 20, 1957, we sailed from Aarhus to Halifax on the *SS Stockholm*. I celebrated my 18th birthday as we rounded Scotland in a big storm. We landed at Pier 21 in Halifax on June 29, 1957. From Halifax we travelled to Montreal with Canadian National. In Montreal we needed something to eat and drink. We went to a restaurant but had problems reading the menu. We understood “liver and onions”, and it was good. The next day we took a CPR train from Montreal to Calgary, and then on to Edmonton. Our trip from Montreal was quite pleasant as we had a sleeping cabin. My brother had warned us that in economy class we would be sitting on wooden benches. We were sure glad that we paid that extra money. When walking through economy class, to the dining car, we had to walk through families sitting on wooden benches with children on their laps. There was not much room and no place to sleep. I think the trip across Canada took three days, and we were happy when we arrived in Edmonton late in the evening.

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We expected Poul to be at the train station to greet us. But there was no Poul. What to do next? We had his address, so we hailed a taxi to take us there. It was around midnight when we rang the doorbell in the house and asked for Poul. His landlady was a working lady, she knew we were coming. Poul rented a room in her garage, and dad was going to share his room, while mom and I would share a room upstairs in the house. Poul was not home. He had been to the train station several times during the day. He had been told that the next train from Montreal would arrive the next day. The nice lady, Grace, made us sandwiches and coffee. We were hungry. We did not see Poul until the next day, as he had to go to work. So we spent the next day walking up and down the streets in the neighbourhood. It was early July and the weather was pleasant.

Poul had room and board, and had arranged the same for us. But since Grace was working, mom was glad to do the cooking. During the day we explored Edmonton and came across the Danish Lutheran Church, which was close to where we were staying. We also met the pastor, Poul Overgaard-Thomsen, and were glad to be able to speak Danish. The pastor's wife was expecting another child and needed a homemaker, so mom was just glad to take that job. Dad soon got a job at a window factory. I remember one day he came home and was so proud he was learning some English. But what they taught him was German and a lot of swear words.

I got a job as a housekeeper/babysitter, looking after four children from 6 months to 5 years, with room and board. I had one free afternoon each week and received \$50 per month. I had to share the room with the 6 month old child. It was a doctor's family and the Mrs. had Danish parents, and wanted me to teach the children Danish. But I wanted to learn English! That fall I enrolled in English classes at night school. I stayed there for four months. My next job was also housekeeper/babysitter with room and board for \$65 per month, and only two children. The parents were teachers and very nice. I enjoyed working for them. The children loved me, and as long as the food was on the table when they got home, everything was good. I could go out after the children were in bed, and I had the weekends off. My mom had a cousin in Ponoka. Sometimes I would go there on the weekend. Christmas was approaching and they let me go home for Christmas. Home was Chetwynd, or Little Prairie as it was called at that time. My first visit was to see how my parents were doing in that far away place, which had no running water and an outhouse! It was minus 40 to 50 degrees below outside. From Edmonton to Dawson Creek it took from midnight to 11 am by bus. My brother picked me up there, as there were no buses to Little Prairie. Now there were only 65 miles left, and I was excited. Two days prior I had come down with Mumps, the doctor said as long as I stayed warm I would be OK to travel. We had a nice simple Christmas. Mom had managed to get a goose, but no red cabbage!

I went to the hospital to enquire about nursing, as that was still my dream. They told me that I had to have some university courses in order to be accepted into nursing school. That pretty well killed my dream. Here I was, didn't want to look after children for the rest of my life, so what kind of job would be suitable next to nursing? One of my friends knew of a German hairdresser who was looking for help. So that became my next step, go and introduce myself to her, talk about the possibilities of me becoming a hairdresser. In Canada you could train on the job or go to school for nine months. I needed to earn some money to live on, so I chose to start as an apprentice. My boss's name was Ruth. She made me wash hair and clean. Those were the basics to learn, then observe what she was doing and hand her all the tools and ingredients for what she was doing. She got me a book from the hairdressing school which I had to learn and basically memorize. As the weeks went on I realized that I actually liked working with ladies to make them look good. After about six months Ruth became ill and had to sell her business. I was

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fortunate, just down the road there was an Italian hairdresser by the name of Johnny who was looking for an apprentice. He hired me. Johnny was a very good hairdresser. He taught at special seminars and shows. I learned a lot from him. After another four months I had to take an examination. I got my diploma and was now a qualified hairdresser.

My parents wanted me to move to Chetwynd. There were no hairdressers or barbers there. Like everything else the closest was Dawson Creek, over 100 km away. They proposed to build me a



Else's shop, in Chetwynd, British Columbia, 1959.

shop so I could start my own business. At that time I had no ties to Edmonton, I was young and adventurous, so I said I would come. However, little did I know that I would now meet the man of my life! And just before leaving Edmonton. The shop in Chetwynd was almost finished. I couldn't say: "No, I can't go". I moved to Chetwynd in November 1959. My parents had borrowed a truck and came down to pick me and my stuff up. Naturally, Søren came along to see where I was moving to. Soon I had a full appointment book for Christmas.

The town had been working on getting a watermain dug along our road, but as usual everything takes time. The opening day of my salon was fast approaching, and it still had no running water. The ground was frozen, so now what can we do? My brother arranged to get a big tank installed for the time being so I could have running water. The water truck came around to fill it twice a week until finally the watermain was installed. That seems like how things work for the pioneers of the north. Just like the gold rush, where everything was primitive.

We had a long distance relationship for the next year. Søren would come to visit as often as he could, but 587 km was far. As work slowed in Edmonton and with no work in Chetwynd for him, he took a job at the Cassiar asbestos mine in northern British Columbia. We were engaged in September and married in Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton in December 1960.

We lived in Chetwynd for a while; then moved to Dawson Creek, B.C. Søren got a job for a big electrical contractor. They mainly did jobs along the Alaska Highway, building, installing and maintaining work sites for the oil and gas companies, as well as forestry camps and sawmills.

Our daughter, Karin, arrived in 1961, in Pouce Coupe, as that was the main hospital in the Peace Country at that time. In 1963 the large W.A.C. Bennett hydroelectric dam on the Peace River was started. Søren obtained work there. After our daughter Linda was born in 1964, we moved to Hudson Hope with our house trailer. Søren got the job to keep the conveyor belt running for miles. Not always easy in minus 50 degrees to move the dirt to the job site. Kirsten was born in 1966. By this time they had built a big new hospital in Dawson Creek, where she was born. At that time it was 120 km to Dawson Creek from Hudson Hope.

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Søren and Else, going camping, Thanksgiving weekend, 1982.

In the summer of 1969 the dam was finished and everything worked well. In the fall of 1969 we moved to Houston, B.C. where a new state-of-the-art saw-mill was to be constructed. Søren worked there until it was finished. Then we moved to Prince George. Søren had to commute to McKenzie, 120 km away, also a saw-mill. After that it was on to Williams Lake. Here he worked on setting up a mine, Gibraltar, out at McLeese Lake. Living in a house trailer made it easy to move. We stuffed pillows in the cupboards and tied the doors so the dishes wouldn't fall out.

Then in 1972 we moved to White Rock near the United States border. I had some medical problems that required a specialist in Vancouver. The girls were just so happy to finally move to a more civilized part of the country. Here on the Lower Mainland, Søren worked on several big projects, such as a transmission line, the Hydro Building, the Hyatt Hotel, the Vancouver SeaBus terminal and the first phase of the Vancouver SkyTrain, where he did all the control work.

After moving to White Rock we joined Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey. My parents were already active members, and it became a meeting place, not just spiritual, but also social. Both Søren and I became involved in the different functions and running of the church. Søren served in different positions on the board, such as Vice



Else and Søren: enjoying a lunch break, 1990.

President, Board Member and alternate. He helped enlarge the church, remove the old house and garage and afterwards with building the parsonage. He was also a member of the church choir.

BIOGRAPHIES

I was one of the founders of the Wednesday Club, became a member of the Auxiliary, and served as secretary on the church council for many years and until Granly was closed and sold. The Wednesday Club would meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall. We would start with a song and a cup of coffee and then watch a Danish movie or listen to a presentation. It was a very sad day when Granly closed in the summer of 2022.



Søren and Else: with their children and grandchildren, August 2019.

We have been fortunate in that we have been able to travel and see a lot of the world. We have been to such places as Nepal, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand and India. Unfortunately, the second time coming home from Nepal, Søren suffered a stroke on the plane before landing in Thailand. We had planned to spend some time there before returning home. I didn't know it was a stroke, but he couldn't use his legs. As it was, I got talking to a vacationing doctor from Denmark who was working in Bhutan. He said, "Just try to get home as soon as possible", instead of waiting to see a doctor in Thailand. Luckily we were able to get on the next flight to Vancouver. His own doctor didn't seem too worried. He said it was probably a parasite. I didn't like that answer. I was able to get him in to see my doctor who sent him for a scan, which indicated he had had several small strokes. That meant rehab, but he was never very steady on his legs after that. He couldn't resume his job, and was considered disabled. For a long time Søren would also struggle with dementia. After a lengthy battle with dementia he passed away on December 24, 2020. He left behind his wife, children Karin, Linda and Kirsten as well as six grandchildren, who all adored their Morfar, in addition to his siblings Hanna (Calgary), Poul (Denmark) and Gunnar (Sweden).

Søren and I always liked camping, particularly when the girls were small. We started out with a tent, then it was a camper on the pickup truck and finally we bought a small motorhome, that took us to many places in Canada and the United States.

Our three daughters are all grown up now, and all are married with two children each. Karin and Bill live in Langley, Linda and Ryan live in Cloverdale, while Kirsten and Flemming live in Spentrup, 10 km north of Randers, Denmark.

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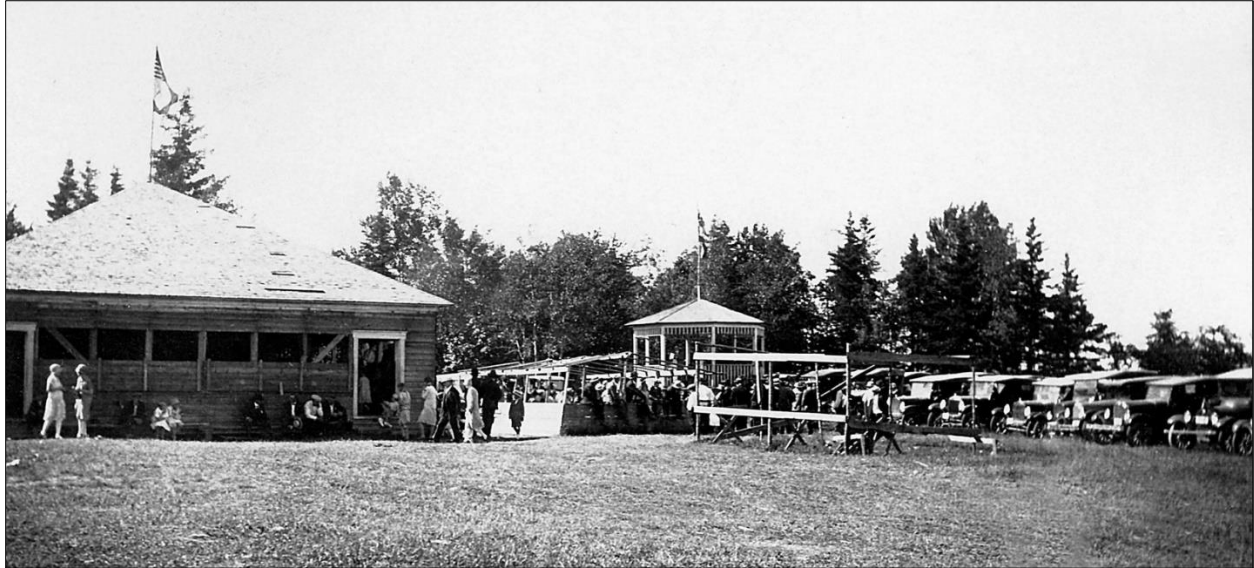
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New Denmark Recreation Centre

Mary Beth Butler, New Denmark Recreation Centre

The founding of the community known as New Denmark goes back 150 years to when the first Danish families immigrated to Canada, arriving in New Denmark on June 19, 1872. For these Canadian pioneers the early years were filled with hardships, but they persevered and developed the community and nurtured their families. In the first years, the men in the community were charged with organizing and managing the annual commemorative celebrations, now known as Founders' Day. Their first organization was called Patrons and they celebrated at the site of the government Immigrant House. Later, they celebrated where they could find a suitable plot of land to erect a temporary dance floor covered with green boughs as protection from the sun.



The Community Hall and Bandstand: Founders Day, 1927.

Seeing the need for an organization to manage the celebration, a volunteer group known as the New Denmark Celebration Association was formed on May 2, 1913. It was charged with purchasing a lot for the June 19th celebrations. On June 12, 1914, they purchased a 3 acre parcel of land and started to build the first hall. The building was completed in April 1916 and was followed closely by the building of a bandstand. They were accustomed to celebrate their

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heritage and community spirit by way of picnics, socials, fairs, dances and other gatherings. On June 11, 1915, they had purchased a 20 acre woodlot adjacent to the original lot. Part of this was used for parking and the tethering of the horses used for their carriages.



The original New Denmark Recreation Centre.

Unfortunately, the first building burnt down in 1931, but the construction of a new one was started immediately. Then in the early 1950s the roof collapsed, but was soon rebuilt by men from the local community. As of this writing, this roof is still in place. However, it is starting to show its age and has begun to sag in several places. The roof is constructed of log rafters and 2" by 8" lumber, referred to as "stick framing" and covered with aluminum and steel sheeting. The interior ceiling is finished in the style of a "coffered truss" and covered with 12 inch square ceiling tiles.

On June 9, 1976, the New Denmark Celebration Association transferred these properties to a new organization formed in 1975 and known as the New Denmark Recreation Council. This group continued the work of its predecessor and was legally incorporated on March 9, 1981 as the New Denmark Recreation Council Inc.

Meanwhile, on June 19, 1963, another local volunteer group, the trustees of the New Denmark Athletic Association, purchased a 4 acre lot and developed a ballfield for use by the community. This property was transferred/granted by fee simple to the New Denmark Recreation Council Inc. on January 23, 1991.

Historically, since their inception, all these organizations have relied on the community for their support and assistance in the maintenance of the facilities, i.e. ballfield fencing, bleachers, canteens, skating rinks and lighting, just to name a few.

New Denmark continues to celebrate its ancestral roots with a Founders' Day celebration and a dedication ceremony each year on June 19. In 2022, on the colony's 150th anniversary, the celebration was postponed due to Covid-19 and related restrictions. The community now plans to celebrate its 150th anniversary in June 2023.



The New Denmark Recreation Centre today.

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The Board of Directors of the New Denmark Recreation Council has approached government agencies and departments for financial assistance whenever it felt the need to enhance or expand the mandate of the organization or make improvements to the Community Hall. This assistance has allowed for the original dance hall structure to be insulated and windows installed. Later, this



Serving food at the October 2017 Community Luncheon at the New Denmark Recreation Centre.

was followed by the addition of a kitchen and warming room (for ice skaters) to the front of the building. Years later a raised stage and storage rooms were added to the back of the building with a furnace room in the basement. This has created a year-round facility which benefits all of the community.

In the last ten years, new lighting, additional insulation, new windows, new siding, toilet upgrades, new tables and chairs were among the many improvements made to the facility. The building is utilized for family and community functions. These include

wedding and anniversary receptions, birthday parties, dances, card games, monthly community luncheons, Canada Day celebrations, community and charity fundraisers, election polling station, craft fairs and community information meetings. The recent addition of an emergency electrical generator has enabled the improvement of the facility to serve as an emergency warming center in the event of a weather-related calamity in the community.

The Board of Directors consists of ten members elected from and by the community at large. Four of these directors serve as the executive, consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Directors oversee the financial affairs and maintenance of the properties as well as supervise the use of the hall for various functions as detailed above. The Board of Directors serve as unpaid volunteers, as there are no full-time staff employed. Although with the help of government employment programs, we have employed summer students for the past five years. The Board of Directors hold regular monthly meetings and ad hoc meetings as required.

The Mission Statement and Objective of the New Denmark Recreation Council Inc. is to provide a safe and comfortable meeting place for our community members, of which, most are seniors. We strive to include members of the community, develop community spirit, promote and foster goodwill and awareness of the needs of others.

The financial affairs are reviewed and approved by the Directors at their monthly meetings. The chequing account and term deposit savings account both require the signatures of two signing officers designated by the Directors. There is no lending or loan facility with the bank as there is no share capital for use as collateral. The annual revenues of the New Denmark Recreation Council Inc., has traditionally been below the threshold requirement to register for the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Therefore, we neither collect nor apply for a rebate of the HST.

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Presently the Board of Directors of the New Denmark Recreation Council Inc. has concerns regarding the integrity and safety of the roof due to its age, it now being nearly seventy years old. One major concern is the amount of snow accumulated on the roof during winter. The board is therefore proposing the complete replacement of the existing roof structure on the community hall. The approval of this project would extend the lifespan of the building. The community would in this way be able to continue social and historical celebrations for the foreseeable future, just as it has over the past one hundred years.



Participants: enjoying the October, 2017 Luncheon.

The board believes this project will benefit our community and economy as a whole in that the residents of New Denmark and surrounding areas will continue to have access to an improved community hall for public and social activities. Moreover, the financial investment in the local labour force and suppliers will stimulate the local economy.

**Best wishes
from**



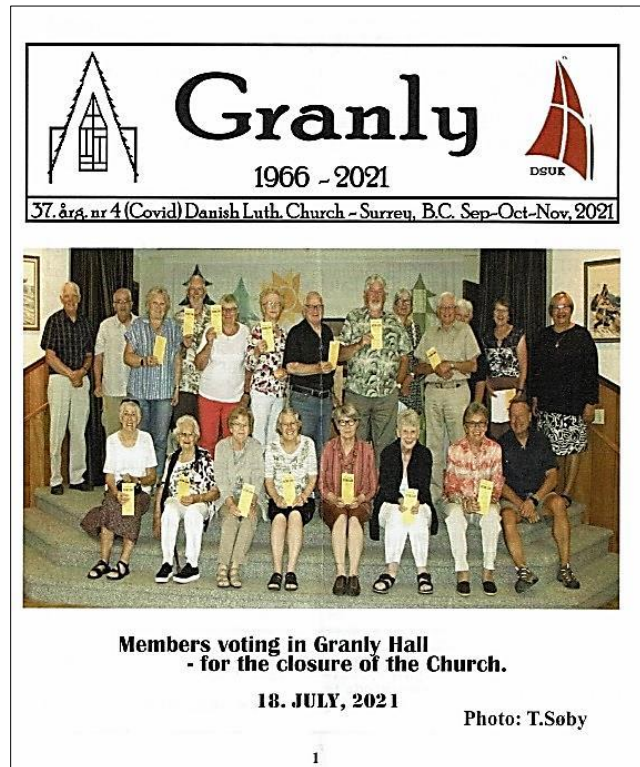
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The Closing of Granly

Manfred Hoff, President of the Granly Congregation

Granly Danish Lutheran Church, located at 9243 - 152nd Street in Surrey, British Columbia, closed in 2022, after sixty years of service to the Danish community. Granly gave Danish immigrants a place to worship, to meet other Danes and to nurture their culture and traditions in the Fraser Valley. To pay tribute to Granly's life over sixty years, the Church Board decided to properly celebrate the closing of the Church. The Board was informed by its lawyer that a reasonable amount could be spent on a closing celebration. Bente Pastro, the president of the ladies auxiliary, offered to make the arrangements for a Gala Dinner at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel on May 28, 2022. The plan was to commemorate the many years of commitment by the dedicated parishioners.

All the retired pastors who had served Granly were invited to join the festivities and the official closing service that followed on May 29. The pastors and the presidents of the four other DSUK congregations in Canada, that is, in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto, were also invited to the celebrations. We had asked them to let us know if they had plans and needed funds for the maintenance of their facilities. All expressed needs for necessary renovations and alterations.



The Gala Dinner started with a meet-and-greet reception where the guests were able to socialize and introduce themselves, many actually staying in the hotel. All together sixty guests attended the Gala Dinner, namely members of the Granly congregation, friends, all the present and past Granly retired pastors, as well as the current pastors and presidents of the four DSUK congregations in Canada. Once seated, the president of the Granly Church Board, Manfred Hoff, bid everyone welcome. He then gave a short overview of the history of Granly, focussing on the good times, and sadly ending with this final celebration. Yet, on a positive note, he mentioned that the proceeds from the sale of Granly would benefit many worthy charities. After singing grace, the dinner commenced with soup and salad. During the breaks between courses, the visiting presidents and ministers spoke about their needs and wishes for pending projects, such as

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upgrading buildings, generating convenient parking spaces and developing new programs. A couple of these churches are close to 100 years old and require regular upkeep.

Following a good-old Danish tradition, a few Occasional Songs about Granly had been written and were sung. The main course consisted of roast beef and salmon with all the trimmings. After dinner the former Granly ministers spoke about the good times they had spent at Granly. There were also greetings from Pastor Morten Larsen who was unable to attend due to health issues. Else Johansen had everyone up doing exercises, to keep us awake. Knud Nielsen, president of the Vancouver Church, and Pastor Susanne Rasmussen, brought songs and invited us to join them when the time comes and Granly is closed. After the coffee and dessert were served Bente Pastro gave roses to Linda for providing music and a bottle to Tom Søby for taking photographs and doing a lot of extra work.

The Granly Closing Service was held the next day, May 29. The following dinner was held in the adjacent Church Hall with eighty members, friends and guests. Attending the closing service were all the invited Danish pastors from across Canada, and the three retired pastors who had served Granly after 2008, as well as Villy Olesen, a retired Canadian ordained Lutheran pastor, who had often helped Granly out. They all read passages during the service.



*Left to right: Pastors R. Wegeberg, V. Olesen, L. Hultberg, S. K. Larsen, S. I. Rasmussen, C. Berg, M. Mye and C. Franck.
Granly, May 2022.*

The Service was held in the small Granly Church where all the chairs had been removed to make room for the standing attendees. After the opening prayer the congregation sang and almost raised the roof! Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen had chosen twenty-two passages from the Bible that were read by the eight pastors between hymns. Then a procession headed by Manfred Hoff, carrying the Danish flag, and Henry Hansen, the Canadian flag, led the parishioners out of the small church, past the Church Hall, to a large tent erected for the occasion. Church board members carried a number of sacred items from the Altar; next came the pastors and the congregation. Outside in the tent there was seating for everyone. A table served as Altar. Loudspeakers had been installed by Tom Søby Jensen, as sound must be amplified to be heard in a tent. Also there was proper distancing between people, considering the Covid-19 regulations. The service continued with all clergy taking part and helping at the usual communion with the serving of bread and wine. When we sang the Irish Blessing our excellent organist Jeon Mok, did not have the proper notes, but by the second verse he played along with the congregation as if he had practised the music. Following the service everyone had time to socialize and relax, and tour the beautiful grounds. Then at five-thirty all eighty participants were invited to a scrumptious dinner in the Church Hall, catered by Porters Bistro, our reliable caterer for many years. Between each course more speeches and anecdotes were told, in memory of the little church, which is beautifully surrounded by huge evergreens.

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Luckily for the Danes on the Lower Mainland there is still a Danish Church in Burnaby, and Granly has been able to grant Burnaby a generous donation from its sale, to help sustain and develop it for many years. It is with sadness, that the congregation had to close Granly, but it was consoled by being able to hold church services all summer until August 29, 2022. All services during that time were always well attended and at maximum at the last service. The little church was vibrating from resounding hymns expressing sadness, but also pride, in the fact that we kept it going for sixty years. Even during the long Covid pandemic Pastor Ruth and Tom came up with solutions to hold services, in the Hall or on the Parking lot, more often than other churches. After the last service, board members carried important items from the Altar to the church office. Many items, pictures, furniture, records and documents will find a new place in the Vancouver Church in Burnaby or at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, which has already received the Church Ship and other items. Treasurer Ann Larsen is still sorting through many boxes of documents that will soon find a new home elsewhere, including the Museum in Dickson. A heartfelt thank you to: Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen. She did most of the planning for the final celebration and acted as MC at the celebration, while her partner Tom Søby Jensen took photos to document the last days of the Granly Church.

Major recipients were:	The four Danish Lutheran Churches in Canada, affiliated with DSUK in Denmark, located in: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto.
Medium recipients:	Scholarship Fund (administered by the Church in Vancouver) Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson, Alberta. Dania Home Society Residents Foundation, Burnaby Surrey Food Bank Camp Luther
Minor recipients:	Surrey Hospice Society Surrey Women's Centre Danish House Society, Burnaby Children's Hospital Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society, Surrey

Granly consisted of a small church, an assembly hall with a kitchen and stage, a fair-sized parsonage, a parking lot, and a wooded area with tall trees, which sheltered the Granly property from the noise and traffic on busy 152nd Street. Granly was sold for eleven million dollars to a developer, who took possession in November 2022. After paying its debts to DSUK, the funds from the sale had to be distributed to Registered Canadian Charities. Following the Granly Bylaws it fell to the members of the Granly congregation to decide how to distribute the proceeds from the sale of the Granly assets. After several meetings with adjustments to the distribution of the proceeds a final distribution list of recipients was confirmed at a meeting after the Church Service on July 10, 2022. The accompanying table shows who Granly has supported with a donation. As we close we are pleased to be able to help these other organizations in the vital work they carry out in their communities.

Candice Vikse

Meet the new manager of the Dickson Store Museum



Greetings: from Dickson, Alberta, and the Dickson Store Museum. Allow us to introduce our new manager, Candice Vikse. Candice grew up in the Dickson/Spruce View area and was even part of the group that danced for Queen Margrethe II during the grand opening of the Dickson Store Museum in 1991. She



worked at the museum as a summer student in 2002 and it was then that her interest in local history and museums gained traction. After completing a Diploma in Christian Leadership from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, Alberta, and getting married, she worked at the Reynold's Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin for four years, cementing her passion for seeing history preserved and shared with future generations. After a move to Calgary, Candice continued

working in a non-profit environment, with frequent visits back to the family farm and community that she always considered home. After moving back to the Dickson area with her husband and three children, she very enthusiastically accepted the Museum Manager position. She has a vested interest in seeing the museum succeed, as her grandma (through her stepfather), Thora (Morck) Kemtrup was a sister to Esther (Morck) Thesberg, who was instrumental in seeing the Dickson Store become a museum and also the development of the Danish Canadian National Museum and Gardens. Recognizing that she has big shoes to fill, Candice is humbled and proud to be a part of the preservation and sharing of Dickson's unique cultural heritage.



The Dickson Store Museum, November 12, 2022, when it featured the mini exhibit Heroes at Home and Abroad.

The Dickson General store was built and opened by Carl Christiansen in 1909. The family lived upstairs.

Dickson Store Museum
1928 2nd Avenue
Dickson, Alberta T4G 0K8
www.dicksonstoremuseum.com

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Connie Swarbrick was appointed President



...of the Danish Canadian National Museum in August 2022 following the museum's Annual General Meeting and has been a board member since 2019. Connie is well acquainted with the museum as she grew up in the area. Her maternal grandparents and great-grandparents all homesteaded within three miles of the museum. She learned Danish recipes from her Mormor and keeps those traditions alive in her home. She and her husband John live in Sylvan Lake and have two adult daughters, who both volunteer at the museum.

Connie began volunteering at the museum after her retirement from teaching high school English, Social Studies and Foods. She previously served on the Board of Directors at the Dickson Store Museum. Connie worked in the museum sector while completing her university education and worked for Alberta Culture and Multi-Culturalism at Stephansson House and was the site supervisor at Victoria Settlement. She also worked for the City of Red Deer as the Children's Cultural Heritage Programmer and at Fort Normandeau. She has worked replicating historic clothing as costumes and has an extensive background in historic crafts.



Enhancing her connection with her Danish heritage and serving the Danish community in her role at the museum is a very rewarding experience for Connie and she looks forward to meeting members of the Danish Federation at the Annual Conference.

The Danish Canadian National Museum

Introducing Doreen Soderberg, the new manager



I am thrilled to be part of the Danish Canadian National Museum team. It has been a whirlwind first year for me, and I am looking forward to discovering more about my fascinating Danish heritage and the history of Danish immigration to Canada.

I am of Danish descent, my mother and her family immigrated to Southern Alberta in the early part of the 1900's. I have worked with and was heavily involved in the Not-For-Profit Children's charity sector in Canada for over twelve years. And I was a board member for Kiwanis International as the Governor for Western Canada for four years. Prior to that, I worked in various professional medical offices throughout southern Alberta.

I look forward to 2023 and meeting many of the visitors to the museum. It has been a very busy 2022 during my first year at the Museum. We are currently preparing for the next season, and I have had the opportunity to become more familiar with some of what makes the Danish Canadian National Museum so special to the local and national community. There is a great sense of *hygge* at our museum. There exists a sense of comfort from our Danish culture that is presented at the museum as well as a feeling of coming home for many of the guests that I have spoken with. The staff are currently baking up a storm in the kitchen in anticipation of the many guests we hope to see during the Christmas season. I have fond memories of making many of the Danish cookies and pastries with my grandmother in her kitchen, special memories I treasure! I look forward to taste testing the various traditional Danish dishes that we are planning for our new 2023 menu.

I personally invite you to join us during our 2023 season to come and enjoy some *hygge* at the museum and participate in some of our special events. We look forward to welcoming you.



What's new at the Museum?

Connie Swarbrick, President, Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson

2022 was a busy year at the Danish Canadian National Museum. We were excited to welcome a new manager, Doreen Soderberg, to our organization in April. She brings 12 years of non-profit experience to the museum. Doreen threw herself into getting the museum ready for the visitor season by hiring summer staff and preparing the grounds, kitchen and café dining areas.

After being closed for much of the past two years due to Covid, the café dining area, kitchen and giftshop were in need of a refresh. The café was given a fresh coat of paint and tastefully redecorated by volunteers. A new menu was prepared that returned the focus to authentic Danish cuisine with *smørrebrød* and desserts taking centre stage along with specialty coffees and brunch specials. The gift shop benefited from a partnership with the two Danish



The redecorated Café at the Museum.

Churches in Alberta to import authentic Danish food and gift items. The museum had an incredible response to all the changes. The café was busy and diner feedback was positive. The gift shop did a brisk business and demand for shipping led to the creation of an online store from which we can ship products across Canada.

The summer season included four special events. The first was hosting the County of Red Deer Mayor's Garden Party for Seniors' Week. It was an honour to be chosen to host this event which welcomed seniors from the west part of the County for a luncheon with entertainment. The next event was Æbleskiver and Jam Day on July 1. This was the first year holding the event on July 1, which is traditionally a very busy day in the Spruce View area. Offering æbleskiver was a great way to serve more visitors than we could otherwise accommodate in the café.

The museum celebrated its 30th anniversary with our Annual General meeting in July. Directors from across the country joined us as we celebrated the successes of past years and excitedly unveiled plans for a museum expansion. Faye Kjeersgaard and Anne-Lise Pedersen were recognized for their enormous contributions to the Museum with the presentation of life memberships. During the luncheon, the museum received news of an incredibly generous donation from the Granly Church in Surrey, British Columbia, which has since closed due to declining membership. This money will be used for the future museum expansion.

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Jannet Tricarico donated items from the Danish Sisterhood.

Vikings Days made a triumphant return in August. We are very proud to have hosted the largest gathering of Viking re-enactors in North America in 2022 with Vikings travelling from as far away as Denver, Colorado. We offered a new event on the Friday evening—Stew and Brew—which was an opportunity to enjoy a meal with the Vikings. Saturday evening was the Viking Feast. Saturday and Sunday included Viking battles, demonstrations and the immersive Viking Village. The event was sponsored by the County of Red Deer and Field and Forge Brewery.

The Haunted Forest was held at the end of October with unseasonable warm weather and was enjoyed by many families. Julestue (Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar) was held in conjunction with the Dickson Store Museum. Sadly, the weather did not smile upon the event and a wicked blizzard forced the early closure of the event to ensure the safety of all who travelled to attend. In November the museum hosted a Board of Directors Retreat. It was a busy weekend of meetings and planning for the future of the museum. Jannet Tricarico presented the museum

with artifacts from the Danish Sisterhood, and Rolf Christensen presented artifacts from Sygekassen DANA, which had been dissolved in 1990. Our volunteer appreciation night was held in conjunction with the retreat. In December we opened for a Build-a-Nisse workshop, sleigh rides and shopping.

The museum has received a grant from the Alberta Museums Association to upgrade our archival storage which will enable us to continue to receive artifacts that tell the story of Danish immigration to Canada. Much work has already taken place to move items in preparation for the installation of this new storage system. More work will follow as each item is re-catalogued.



Connie Swarbrick and Rolf Christensen with items from Sygekassen DANA, Vancouver.

Work is underway to update the permanent displays rooms on the second floor of the Dormitory building. A new display chronicling the Danish Lutheran Churches in Canada and the important role they played in the immigration and settlement of Danes across the country is planned and will be opened for the tourist season of 2023.

ORGANIZATIONS



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www.dania.bc.ca info@danai.bc.ca

Dania's Highlights: 2022 – 2023

Paul Christensen, President of Dania Home Society, Burnaby, BC

The purpose of Dania Home Society and Dania Society is to provide quality housing and residential healthcare for seniors in our community, reflecting our Danish history. Dania's Leadership Team, Staff and Board members have worked hard over the last year to meet these objectives with great success. Here are the highlights which demonstrate Dania's commitment to improving the quality of life for our seniors.

Dania's 'Campus of Care' has continued to meet the clinical standards of Accreditation Canada, a not-for-profit organization that assesses organizations like Dania against standards developed by Health Standards Organization (HSO), International Standards Organization (ISO), and others. These world-class standards enable organizations to provide the highest achievable quality for its patients. In November 2022, Accreditation Canada surveyed again the quality of care at our long term care site, Dania Home, as well as our assisted living site, Dania Manor. In February 2023, they announced that Dania would reclaim its status of "Accredited with Exemplary Standing" until 2026. Our Board and entire campus were extremely excited and proud about this great achievement. Celebrations are being planned this Spring.



Our seniors have remained safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. The number of cases at Dania Home and Dania Manor continued to decline on a monthly basis until recently when we have not seen any cases. Our residents, staff, and families as well as Board members and the visiting public have been vigilant in following the best practices of our Fraser Health Authority and the BC Government. Again, the remarkable result can be attributed to Dania's excellent leadership in providing quality residential healthcare services to seniors.



More than five years ago, Dania Society prepared a successful proposal for the development of the 'Dania Seniors Affordable Housing Project'. It is a six-storey, wood-framed complex containing 155 units for seniors located on the Dania Campus and scheduled to open January 2025. The Society will own and operate the building, while the City of Burnaby and The Province of British Columbia through BC Housing will provide the necessary development and operational funding. In December 2022, the Project achieved a significant milestone with issuance of a building permit from the City of Burnaby. The Society's hired developer, VanMar Constructors immediately started preparation of the site with a major groundbreaking ceremony planned on February 10, 2023. The event had over 100 people in attendance, which included: Dania Society

ORGANIZATIONS

Members, Board, Leadership Team, Staff, and the following political representatives: Hon. Ravi Kahlon, BC Minister of Housing; Hon. Janet Routledge, BC MLA for Burnaby North; Hon. Raj Chouhan, BC MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds; Hon. Katrina Chen, BC MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed; City of Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley and his Councillors Pietro Calendino, Richard Lee, Maita Santiago, and Daniel Tetrault. We had a post-ceremony reception at the front entrance and lobby area of Dania Society's other affordable housing complex, Carl Mortensen Manor. Tables of food and an atmosphere of Danish music and heritage made for an afternoon of memories for all those who attended the event. As this project progresses to completion, the traditional roof-top and grand opening celebrations are also being planned.

Dania remains a centre of excellence for providing housing and residential care. The dedication and hard work of our Board Members, Leadership Team and staff have made these great achievements possible this last year.



WELCOME to

The Danish Church Lutheran Vancouver, BC,
6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 4N3

e-mail: office@danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

The newsletter "Kirkebladet" is published semimonthly with information about the many activities taking place in the Church: Sunday services, different programs and fundraising events.

My First Summer in Canada - on a Danish Farm

Finn Sander, Victoria

If you read my previous account of my immigration experience, in the 2003 Heritage Book, you will recall that my parents and I, a thirteen-year-old boy, landed in Montreal in late March 1953. Here, my father happily obtained a job as a mechanic, and we eventually settled in a middle class suburb of the city. I attended a nearby school for the last few months before summer holidays released me from this trying experience. Wearing out-of-fashion knickerbockers (plus-fours), being deficient in English, and being a sensitive, young teenager all combined, to make school life challenging.

The good news was that, by and by, I was accepted by most of my male peers as I excelled in sports. The bad news was that the girls, who interested me more than a little, unfortunately showed very little interest in me; none, actually. To overcome that problem, I convinced my mother to purchase a large cow's tongue from a European butcher store nearby and boil it for me. Next day, I brought it to school, and when lunch time arrived (we ate in the class room as the cafeteria had shut down for repairs), I pulled out this ugly beast and began to chew on it in front of everyone. This little bit of drama was meant to convey to the girls in the class what a macho guy I really was. Instead, it elicited a massive groan of disgust and no doubt convinced them, if they needed any convincing, that this weirdo from Europe was just that.

But more cow incidents awaited me when I was released from school at the end of June. My hope had been that I would then spend the summer on the local sand lots hitting home runs over the fences, visiting the nearby Belmont Amusement Park, and frolicking in the water of a back river, a fifteen minutes bike ride away. Instead, my father announced that, inasmuch as my uncle Erik, who lived with us for \$10/week, had absconded in the middle of the night to Washington D.C. for greener pastures, I needed a summer job to cover the unexpected shortfall in our \$85 monthly rent – at least until the end of the summer when he expected a promotion. To that end, he had procured a job for me on a dairy farm owned by a Danish farmer who was prepared to pay me \$10/week as a live-in farm hand during the busy summer season.

In the event, we hit the road the next day in my dad's old 1940 Pontiac and were pleasantly surprised when we arrived to discover said farm was idyllically located on the west shore of the scenic Richelieu River just a mile or two south of McMasterville, a small anglophone town opposite the imposing Mount Saint Hilaire on the opposite shore. The property included a handsome, historic two-storey farm house surrounded by a stately garden with majestic, high-canopy elm trees and an adjoining, extensive vegetable garden. Next to these were two barns, a small stable, and a chicken coupe all accommodating 20 Holstein cows and a bull, three strong

work horses, a number of pigs, and circa 25 chickens and one rooster. Beyond those, were extensive fertile crop and hay fields. Best of all, on the river bank opposite the house was a small wharf and a row boat for swimming and fishing in deeper water.

I won't bore you with detailed descriptions of all the many duties that befell me. Suffice to say that I soon learned how to drive a tractor, to plow the fields, cut the hay and other crops, pull wagons of hay and other crops, and, not least, of manure from the dung heap at the end of the



Finn Sander in his 1953 School Yearbook

summer. Actually, I didn't do the last-named task; rather, as the most junior farm hand, I was chosen to stand on top of the manure laden wagon in rubber boots and spread the nasty, but nutrient-rich, stuff with a pitch fork around the fields – easily the most odious, odoriferous, and odorous task on the farm along with cleaning the chicken coupe. As well, I learned to handle the horses to rake the hay and also pull the loaded wagons back to the barns. However, transporting hay was a walk in the park compared to pitchforking it from the fields onto the hay wagons, especially when you had to pitch it ten or twelve feet from the ground onto the top of the stack at the end. Incidentally, the secret to stacking hay that high without it all sliding off the wagon is to keep the corners stacked the highest until the very end when you even out the top. Bet you didn't know that! And when all the hay was brought back to the barn, we had to unload it for storage for winter fodder for the horses and cows. Finally, if you think pitching hay is a piece of cake, try doing it in the hot, humid summers in eastern

Canada – under the blazing sun or in an oven-hot barn. Admittedly that was all in the Stone Age it seems, in hindsight, when most farmers didn't have machines to press the hay into bales. Did I promise not to bore you with details? I lied.

At the end of the day, I shall always have eternal respect for farmers – and their farm hands. We got up every morning at five o'clock to milk the cows with bare hands (milking machines were purchased the following year), hauled the milk jugs up to the roadside (where they were picked up by the local dairy company), had a hearty breakfast, worked in the fields all morning and after lunch till supper time. Sometimes, we brought lunches along to the more distant fields and crawled under the wagons for shade. Then we milked the cows again after supper, hauled the jugs up to the road, and often hit the sack at 9 pm – but not before I took a refreshing dip in the river. However, I should mention that the farmer always gave me Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday off. I returned home at the end of the summer lean and mean and sun-tanned, but determined to study hard to use brain rather than brawn to get ahead in life.

Now for the interesting part: the Danish farmer, Kresten Kloeve, better known as Pop, graciously allowed the Danish Canadian Society of Montreal to hold its annual summer picnic on his property every year in early August. It was the perfect place for it, not least because the kids had the time of their lives exploring the farm and swimming and fishing in the river. Well over a hundred good looking Danes showed up for the occasion that summer, and the kids were soon proving to be a pain in the butt running around out of control. Pop had anticipated this ahead of time and had asked me to try to keep them entertained and out of their parents' hair at least for a little while. Accordingly, I gathered up a dozen or more of these little monsters, mostly in their bathing suits, and brought them up to the farm yard. Here, I asked them to wait a minute while I entered the chicken coupe, grabbed the one meanspirited chicken that always furiously picked at my arm when I tried to retrieve her eggs under her belly, and brought it outside. I then placed the chicken's neck on a log and promptly cut off its head with one swing of an axe. Quickly, I put the chicken on the ground hoping it would perform. It didn't disappoint and promptly scooted around the barnyard without its head for a few seconds. This manoeuvre elicited screeches of delight/horror from all these city kids who had clearly never experienced anything like it. Later, I handed over the chicken to Mrs. Kloeve as per request. Roast chicken was on the menu that night.

Next, I brought them all into the barn where Pop's best milch cow stood tethered in her stall. For the occasion, I had previously fetched it in a nearby field. Then, I gave each kid a chance to try their hand at milking it. They all failed miserably, to their collective chagrin, after considerable yanking of the cow's udders. The secret, of course, is to squeeze the udder from top to bottom, finger by finger. As you empty the udder, it simultaneously fills up again, top to bottom. Got that? I then lined them up in a row, shoulder to shoulder, ten feet away from the cow, asked them all to open their mouths wide open, bent down on my knees, and started to milk the cow while aiming at each kiddie mouth, one after the other. It took a while to satisfy their collective thirst as it was mostly hit and miss, and, in the end, they were all drenched in milk. They all thought it was a real blast. Lastly, I hosed them all down with water and had them all swear that they wouldn't divulge to their parents how I had squandered Pop's precious milk.

And then I brought them all up to the nearest field where the three work horses were grazing. Here, I mounted the largest of them, a huge, muscle-bound, but placid, white work horse that I had on previous occasions ridden without saddle and bridle by yanking the long hair of his mane on one side or the other, depending on which side I wanted to go. Half an hour later, they had all had a turn, sometimes two at a time, riding the horse with me a few hundred yards at a brisk pace. They all screeched and hollered, yelling "yippee", "hip, hip", and such. Predictably, at the end, the old horse (it was over 20 years old) was showing signs of fatigue, but it was for a good cause, as it got all the kids out of their parents' hair, so they could enjoy their Molsons and coffees in peace.

I also conducted rowing, swimming, and bull frog hunting activities, and later took a group of my peers out to the mid-channel buoy to dive in the deepest part of the river. A handful of mud was proof of having reached the bottom.

A good time was had by all, but Pop was quite puzzled and visibly annoyed that evening, when his many Danish guests had returned to the big city, for his best milch cow mysteriously failed to produce milk at her usual high volume. I never said a word. But worse was to come, for the next day he was equally perplexed and much more upset when he found his strongest work horse

stone dead in the field. I never said a word then either, for I was quite certain that I probably had taxed the old horse's endurance to the limit with all those kiddie rides, and the poor beast had had a heart attack.

In the event, the farmer did what he always did when one of his creatures died before they reached the slaughter house – he disposed of it in a most ignominious way. He tied a noose around the horse's neck, tied the rope to the tractor, and had it dragged to the remotest end of his property – this time by me. I did as I was told and dispatched it to a small choke cherry oasis in a far corner. Here, the maggots promptly went to work. But I wasn't going to let it all go to waste, and two weeks later I overcame the stench, severed the horse's head with an axe, and brought it down to the river where I left it in shallow water among the reeds to give the fish, plankton, assorted bottom dwellers, and bacteria a chance to finish the job – and they did. So by the time I was ready to return to Montreal in September, it was reasonably easy picking, and the skull accompanied me home. Here, a bucket of Chlorox bleach finished the job. After that, my father wired two red light bulbs inside the eye sockets of the skull which I then installed in a corner right beneath the ceiling in my room.

All my male class mates who saw it over the next few years were unanimous in feeling that the red glow in my room bestowed the atmosphere of a cheap bordello – not that they'd ever been to one, I'm sure. More importantly, when a year and a half later I got the courage to invite the cute little eight grader in the apartment immediately below us to see my room one evening, she suggested that the red glow was quite romantic, actually, and then supported her opinion by giving me my first kiss in high school. “Horsing” around sometimes pays dividends!!

But back to the farm, where happy times constantly eluded me when working alone with the two other hired helpers in the field while Pop tended to other duties. These two boys, Brian and Mack were 16 or 17 and naturally bigger and stronger than I. They were also rather sadistic, especially the former, and never ceased to taunt me as they were confident that they could subdue me if I lost my cool. They were right about that, for I did so on several occasions - with result that they would wrestle me to the ground and push my face down into a freshly deposited cow patty. The first time it happened, I kept my mouth and eyes open as I cursed to the bitter end. As a consequence, I got my mouth, ears, and eyes full of cow dung. After that, I learned to keep my most sensitive orifices shut at the critical time of impact. However, the first time it happened, I also freaked out and ran all the way down to the river and jumped in head first. On subsequent occasions, logic prevailed, and I stuck my head in the nearest cow drinking trough – which must have left a bad taste in the mouth of these poor creatures.

I also ran into trouble with the indigenous fauna. It happened one day when I managed to do what Pop had attempted, but had failed to do for the past two summers. I permanently terminated the perennial scourge of the chicken coupe. This menace was a large skunk, which I managed to dispatch with a well-aimed slug of pellets from Pop's shotgun. Unfortunately, it was also my first skunk encounter (there are no skunks in Denmark), and, in an effort to get sufficiently close to the beast to ensure a certain hit, I got too close to my prey and became the unlucky recipient of a generous dose of its glandular secretions. I was totally surprised - and overwhelmed - by the pungent spray, but my trigger finger kept its cool, and the skunk was history – and I was in the Richelieu River before you could count to three.

The next mishap was a total disaster although not really my fault, I suppose. One of Pop's milch cows was quite pregnant with calf towards the end of the summer, and luck would have it that on

a day when Pop was in Montreal on business and my two mean colleagues had stayed home as it was raining all day, thus precluding all fieldwork, the old cow decided to deliver. This was quite apparent from the cow's distressed behaviour, but it soon became equally apparent that it was not going to be an ordinary delivery. Simply put, the calf was very large, and I was unable to expedite the process with my helping hands. The reason I would even attempt that was because I had early on leaned on Pop to allow me on several occasions to insert my hand and lower forearm into the birth canals of pregnant cows to ensure the right position of the emerging calf. I was especially keen to do that to foster legitimate bragging rights back in school that fall.

In the event, I was able to reach in to properly arrange the legs, but no matter how hard I pulled and how much Mrs. Klove prompted me on, I could not manage to extract the calf from the womb. After considerable time had elapsed, and the poor cow had become increasingly loud and agitated, I reached the conclusion that the solution was beyond the capabilities of man and beast alone. Accordingly, I procured a piece of rope, tied a small noose, reached inside the birth canal, and inserted the noose around the front legs of the calf immediately above the hoofs. I then pulled the rest of the rope through the barn window and attached the other end to Pop's tractor.

Mrs. Klove, who was on hand, was beside herself, but agreed that the intended procedure was probably the only means by which the calf would see daylight. As such, she agreed to mount the tractor and ever so slowly drive and thus pull the calf into this world. I was



Finn Sander eating grapes on the front fender of his father's 1941 Pontiac.

positioned next to the cow to be able to catch the poor calf and scream "Stop!" at the appropriate moment. All proceeded according to plan, as the legs made a quick appearance, but just as quickly the noose slipped off – but it was not alone. To my horror, I realized why the rope had disengaged, for with it came off both the calf's hoofs. Ugh!

I'll be frank, I almost vomited right there and then, and Mrs. Klove's reaction – crying – added little to assuage emotions. When we had gained our collective composure and reasoned that the calf was partly decomposed, had clearly been dead for some time, and would have been stillborn regardless, we wasted little time reattaching the rope behind the dead calf's knees, restarting the tractor, and relieving the poor cow of its ugly burden by firmly pulling the calf free. As expected, the cow was exhausted and had collapsed on the floor, and it was not until the next day that it managed to stand up, as I recall. Prior to this, it had been one of Pop's most productive cows, but, regrettably, it never regained its former productivity and gave very little milk thereafter. Consequently, it was eventually sold to the slaughter house. Survival of the fittest in the wild had


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its operative counterpart in the domestic animal world. In hindsight, I've often wondered why a veterinarian was not immediately called on, but perhaps that was not the custom in those days. There was certainly never any mention of this possibility.

Finally, I experienced one more, nasty piece of work, before the summer was over, and I escaped back to school. Did I really say that? Anyhow, when I first arrived on the farm, I was given a bed in Pop's youngest son's former bedroom. His name was Alfred, and he resided in Montreal where he worked for the same company as my father. However, during the summer, he would often drive down to the farm Friday night and lend a hand in the fields Saturday morning. He would also party Saturday nights with his old school friends in the area and return back to the farm after midnight, mostly after having a few beers too many, and crash into a fold-out bed next to his old, more comfortable bed, which I had occupied all summer. To his credit, he never complained about this new arrangement and was considerate enough not to turn on the light when he hit the sack, albeit after much noise and belching.

On my last night at the farm, a Saturday night and the day before my parents would come to take me back home again, Alfred arrived home long after midnight – after consuming even more than his usual number of Molson beers, I would guess. It was also a night when I was peacefully lying in bed probably dreaming of Doris Day or Esther Williams, when my dream turned nightmarish, for I suddenly felt that I was being crushed and couldn't breathe. This was more than a dream, I realized, for I was now fully awake struggling in the dark with a heavy weight on top of me and gagging on a putrid, vile liquid. I finally managed to extricate myself from underneath and roll onto the floor and make it to the light switch – to discover a drunken Alfred still retching in my bed. I, in turn, was covered with his vomit in my face and all, which prompted my own involuntary bout of retching and evacuation of my own innards. Apparently, in his advanced state of inebriation, Alfred had by force of habit this time chosen to crash in his old bed. Ach! It was definitely time for me to return to the city.....for good!

Yeah, right! I returned to work for Pop for two more summers. However, he had since fired meanspirited Brian, and I persuaded him to hire Rein, my best school friend back in Montreal. Now, Mack was the pariah, being outnumbered two to one, and peace reigned on the farm.



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Fra Næstved to Edmonton, 1957

Kurt F. Jensen, Ottawa

My family immigrated to Edmonton, Alberta, in March-April 1957, when I was ten years old. Prior to that, we had lived in Næstved. The details of the following recollections are based in part on stories which my mother wrote for her grandchildren and their spouses, that they may remember the traditions of their family. And the rest are my own recollections of our early days in Edmonton.

Leaving one's homeland and moving to a new country is fraught with emotion and worry. It was particularly poignant for my family since my maternal grandmother had left Poland for the sugar beet fields of Denmark early in the twentieth century when she was a young teenager, and she had very little contact with her family thereafter. She, and probably the rest of our family, had few illusions of ever seeing each other again (we did).

Leaving Denmark took tremendous courage. No employment awaited my father, we had relatively little money, we left my older sister behind to finish her education, and my father was not genuinely anxious to leave. My mother, a strong and determined woman, was the driving force behind the move. The Danish economy was in the doldrums at the time and my father's business was doing poorly. Once my mother had convinced my father of the benefits of immigration, we arranged for an interview with Canadian Immigration at the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen. Later, my parents joked about their poor English at the time, having heard the immigration officer speak of thousands of jobs for every man when the reality in Canada clearly showed that he must have said thousands of men for every job.

We sailed to Canada aboard the *S.S. Stavangerfjord*, landing at Pier 21 in Halifax on March 28. Crossing the North Sea at that time of year was a challenge. The waves were often higher than the ship and there was a lot of rolling from side to side in the stormy sea. My mother and I suffered horrifying seasickness. We saw no icebergs but had been required to alter our route. After finding and collecting our baggage and crates we boarded an 'immigrant' train, comprised of rail stocks long past its prime, and headed to Toronto, where my father's sister lived and with whom we stayed for about a



My mother and father in Denmark.

week. Another uncomfortable ‘immigrant’ train took us from Toronto to Edmonton, stopping often to allow important freight trains to pass. Often, when we stopped, I was sent in search of ‘Canadian’ food to buy. Invariably I returned with salty French fries. The train ride provided a view of Canada which we had not expected. We traveled through Indian (the word used then) reservations and other economically depressed parts of the country. Homes were simple shacks with uncovered, unpainted, and weathered wooden sidings. Many had old cars outside and almost all sported the ubiquitous TV antennas.

After several days we reached Edmonton. We were directed to the Kensington Hotel on 109 Street (now long gone), a stop for many immigrants, where we stayed for five or six days at our own expense. In spite of government stories of settlement assistance (then and now), there was little assistance (mostly none) provided, or interest expressed in newcomers. The salvation for many newly arrived Danes was the Danish Lutheran minister in Edmonton, Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen, who gathered new arrivals every Sunday evening in the basement of Ansgar Kirke for coffee and cookies and true social assistance. He helped us find an apartment in an older house on 126th Street. At the Danish church my mother also learned of a job as a cleaning lady from another Dane who was moving on. For the new arrivals, the Danish church was a lifeline providing social contact and much genuine help in navigating life in Canada. Jobs were found, friends were made, and assurances were given that the hard early days would end. My father, an introvert with limited English and employment skills, took about six weeks to find employment, and he was quite depressed in the interval. The first job was not very rewarding, but he soon moved into the construction industry with which he was familiar. Eventually, he started his own small business which he ran until he retired.

The early years were difficult. My mother worked every day as a house cleaner for a Canadian family, about 8-10 blocks from where we lived. She took my four-year-old brother with her. They walked to save the bus fare, although my brother had a small two-wheeled bicycle to ease the way. Over time, we became quite close to the family, who showed us many kindnesses.



The author with younger brother and mother, 126th Street.

We had brought very little with us from Denmark because of the shipping costs: only clothes, a few family treasures, photo albums and other items which were important to us. The first few years we spent acquiring all the ordinary things normally accumulated during a lifetime. Furniture was cast offs or hand-me-downs. Sturdy orange crates stood in for end tables. One of my nephews found one in my parents’ garage, and he still treasures it. We bought an inexpensive bed; my parents used the box spring, and I slept on the mattress on the floor. An old crib had been left behind in our first apartment, and it became my brother’s bed for the first year. It was too small for him, but he stuck out his feet between the bars of the crib. My mom was always afraid it would stunt his growth, but he managed to reach 6’1”.

Life was hard at the beginning. But we slowly managed to create a home. My mother, working from within days of our arrival, earned about \$15 per week, but food was inexpensive. A loaf of bread was 10¢, milk was 25¢, 3 lbs. of ground beef was \$1, and eggs from a farmer were \$1 for seven and a half dozen. My parents like most other immigrants, acquired weekend jobs, to add a bit of money. I remember my parents cleaning offices while my brother and I emptied the waste-paper baskets. There were no luxuries, but neither were there terrible hardships.

At School I was put into the 2nd grade where the teacher could provide more assistance to me for learning English, and after about three months I was quite proficient. Being the first to learn English led to me assuming more responsibility than any child should have to deal with at that age. I was not unique; this was the norm in immigrant families, but it happened at a cost.

There were plenty of moments of amusement. My maternal grandparents, possibly trying to ease our culture shock, sent us a wheel of Danish cheese (good, smelly *ost*). The package came by ship, in those days a journey of several weeks, allowing the cheese to further mature. We received notification of a package awaiting us at customs clearance at the main post office in Edmonton (the old post office with the clock tower near Jasper Avenue). By this time, I spoke reasonable English and had a bike, so I was assigned to fetch the package. I cycled from 126th Street to downtown Edmonton through heavy traffic (my mom later told my wife that she would never have allowed me to do it had she realized how dangerous it was). At the post office I showed the notification which we had received and was greeted with a sigh of relief. There was a quick trip to a back room and an official returned holding a largish package as far from himself as possible. No customs formalities proved necessary, only a request to remove the rather smelly cheese as quickly as possible.

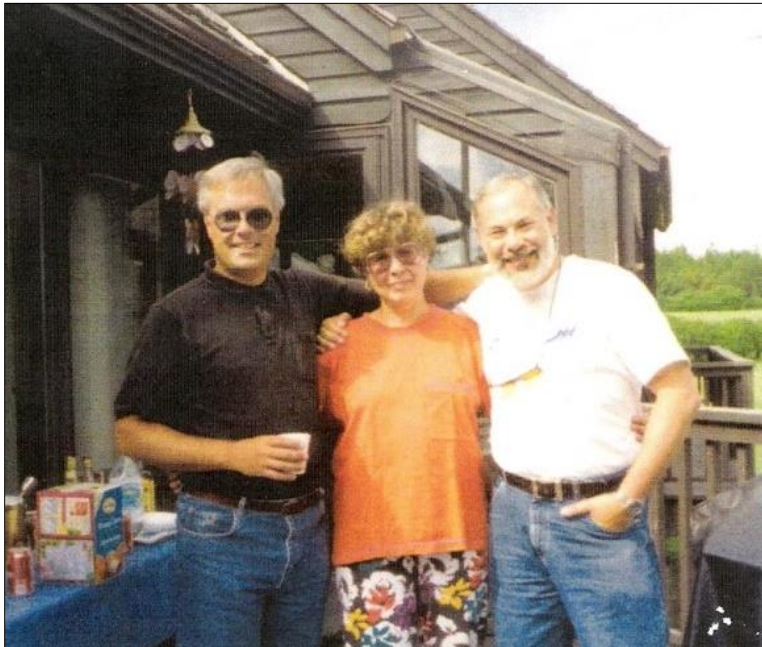
Although I'm certain my parents found the first year difficult and worrisome, my brother and I were young enough to accept things as they were. We had little money but when out walking with our mom we collected empty pop bottles which could be redeemed for 2¢ each. Five bottles were enough to buy a soft ice cream cone – and people threw away a lot of bottles.

One of the most disconcerting things we encountered was the Edmonton climate. We had arrived in April, and it was still cold. By October it was cold again. The first summer was a blur of trying to settle and acquiring the necessities of existence. One of these was warm winter clothing. I recall lined blue jeans, heavy woolen coats and rubber boots which fitted over our shoes. The winters were always cold and harsh, and in those days there was more snow than today, and the days were shorter than we were used to in Denmark though the days were not as gray in winter as in Denmark. Later when we had bought a car I recall driving slowly in the morning and bumping on the frozen part of the tire which had rested on the ground and took time to even out – doesn't happen with modern tires.

One of the early purchases that first winter was a sled for my brother. One day he and I went to the store to pick up some things for our mom and used his sled to carry the grocery bags home. Crossing one of the streets on our return journey, the bags fell off the sled when coming down over the curb. We picked up the groceries and took them to the other side of the street and turned to retrieve the sled. At that moment a car turned the corner and ran over it. My brother was devastated and in tears. The man stopped and said that he was sorry and asked for our address, saying he would come by that evening with a new sled. Our parents, after we returned home, explained that we really should not expect the man to come. Just before supper time there was a ring at the door and the man stood there with a new sled for my brother.

We did not experience a great deal of overt hostility to us as immigrants. We appeared the same as Anglo-Canadians (as long as we did not say anything). It was more difficult for others. During probably my second year in Canada I had a good friend at school who was Hungarian and had arrived at roughly the same time as us. He was slightly darker and swarthier. He told me that I was lucky, since as a Dane I could ‘pass’ as English. He encountered hostility. But neither of us was Ukrainian or German, both of which nationalities up until the early 1960s were often looked down upon, even though the Ukrainians had often been in Canada for several generations. Interestingly, for the first year or so, I believed that the term ‘DP’ (Displaced Persons) was the English word for immigrants since it was often directed at us and usually in a negative manner.

The first winter seemed especially long. Although we had few material things (a TV was an early investment) we were happy. Our home was *hyggeligt*, a word which cannot really be translated but sort of means ‘cozy on steroids.’ Our apartment was warm and there were things on TV which looked nice but which we did not always understand. To relieve the mild depression which accompanied the cold and dark winter we went to parties at the Scandinavian Centre, a



The author on the right, with his two siblings.

community hall built by the immigrants from the Scandinavian countries. There we enjoyed *smørrebrød* (Danish sandwiches) and *snaps* (Danish Aquavit) for the adults. Dinner was generally followed by a dance.

Over the course of only a couple of years our family adapted to the easy, quick, and inexpensive Canadian cuisine. We embraced canned chili and pork and beans, wieners, soup, and grilled cheese sandwiches; roast and steak were still beyond our daily fare. *Frikadeller* (Danish meat balls) and other traditional Danish dishes were still favourites but we ate bi-culturally.

Our adaptation to Canada was relatively fast. Within a year we bought a used 1952 Buick, two-tone green and white. After two years my sister came with her fiancé. They were young and had employment almost immediately. They married the following year, had three sons, and eventually started a very successful business. After about five years in Canada my parents built their own house in Ottewell, which they owned until my mother moved into a retirement home. My brother and I completed high school and went on to attend the University of Alberta. My brother became a schoolteacher in Edmonton, and I became a Canadian diplomat and served for many years around the world as well as in Ottawa. Interestingly, during my early years I worked in the Immigration Foreign Service and met the man who probably interviewed our family for immigration to Canada.

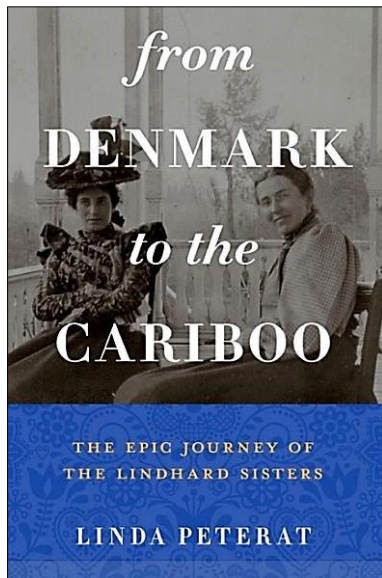
From Denmark to the Cariboo

Book Review by Pia Christensen

Librarian, Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby, BC

Linda Peterat has written a fascinating account of the lives of three Danish sisters, Laura, Caroline and Christine Lindhard, who left their tranquil home in Stege, venturing to the BC frontier. Laura and Caroline both left in 1870, and Christine in 1874. At the time of their emigration Laura was 24, Caroline 18 and Christine 24.

They left a town established in 1175, with many picturesque buildings, and not far from Copenhagen, for a frontier - the Cariboo in British Columbia, at the time of the gold rush. The contrast between these two worlds must have been overwhelming. The Cariboo Wagon Road alone, parts of it cantilevered off the cliffside and hanging dozens, if not hundreds, of feet above the Fraser River, would have been a challenge to the courage of many. Indeed, there is an example in the book of a woman who took one look at it and refused to go any further. Despite the challenges of travel at this time, people nonetheless travelled extensively, from the Cariboo to Victoria, and from there by steamship to San Francisco and beyond. Many Cariboo settlers left Barkerville, Van Winkle and Stanley before the harsh winter set in, only to return in the spring.



The reasons for the three young women to embark on such an adventure were somewhat varied. Laura, unmarried at age 24 and aware that educational and employment opportunities were limited for women, read her older cousin Joachim's letters, first from California, later the Cariboo, with great interest. When he visited the family in Denmark, his enthusiastically-told stories of the many opportunities for both men and women held great appeal for both Laura and Caroline. The recent completion of the

transcontinental railway across the United States was undoubtedly very encouraging news for prospective immigrants. First Caroline, then Laura, who was asked by their parents to take care of Caroline, committed to making the journey to the Cariboo with Joachim.

Caroline, only 18 years old, was impulsive and outgoing, longed to travel, and was eager to take up Joachim's offer to work in his store, saloon and hotel in Lightning Creek, between Van Winkle and Barkerville. Christine, also still unmarried at age 24 and wondering what to do, was later encouraged by her sisters to join them. Laura needed help with young children, while Caroline was in Victoria trying to recover from the death of her husband Joachim (yes, the cousin who brought her to the Cariboo). The sisters had been very close, and missed each other.

The sisters' lives unfolded in quite different ways. Laura was the only one who stayed in the Cariboo for an extended period, 29 years, with an interlude in Oakland, California. She married, had five children, was widowed, and remarried. Throughout this time she was involved in a variety of entrepreneurial activities, including operating a 'stopping house' along the route to the gold mining area, a store, and a post office, supporting her large family as needed. In 1899, Laura retired to California, as most of her children lived there.



Caroline and Laura in Stanley, circa 1875.

In Van Winkle, together with her new husband, Caroline was busy with running the store and saloon. After his early death in 1873, Caroline remarried soon after, in 1874. From then until her second husband's death in 1879, she spent less time in the Cariboo and more in California. She

eventually established herself in San Francisco society, remarried, and with her third husband moved to their large new house in Sausalito, where Caroline remained for the rest of her life. After her husband's death, she successfully took over his business, building, buying and selling properties. Over time her house became a home for many of her nieces and nephews, while they were studying, or needed a place to live. She basically devoted herself to furthering their prospects.

Christine's life took a very different turn from her sisters. After arriving, she helped her family with the young children, married in 1874, settled briefly in Soda Creek, then in Victoria, had four children, one of whom died as a toddler, sadly followed two years later by his father. After nine years in British Columbia, Christine left for Oakland, California, with her three young daughters. In the meantime, her sisters had left Oakland and Christine felt very alone. She began to attend meetings of a cooperative living movement, the Bureau of Equitable Commerce which evolved into the Koreshan Unity Commune. Eventually she moved to their residence in Chicago, then in 1903 to their establishment in Florida. She broke her connections with her sisters and their families, and also almost completely with her daughters.

The tenuousness of life just 150 years ago is made vividly clear when reading about the lives of these women. Laura was widowed twice, Caroline three times and Christine once. Some of the men were only in their late thirties or early forties when illness struck. Also, at this time, children's lives were often cut short, and the Lindhard sisters were not spared such losses. Caroline was particularly hard hit, with her two daughters and her second husband dying within a year and a bit.

An interesting fact mentioned early in the book is that after 1810 there was a vaccine mandate in Denmark. One had to be vaccinated against smallpox to be confirmed at age 14, and without confirmation or having had smallpox, it was not possible to enter into an apprenticeship, pursue further education, serve in the military, vote, or marry.

The author's exhaustive research to piece together the lives of these 'ordinary' women who lived far from ordinary lives is impressive. Since Laura, Caroline and Christine did not leave diaries or stacks of letters, telling their stories, the author was required to use many other sources, such as a variety of digitized newspapers; public records such as birth, marriage and death records; censuses, wills and probate records; city and provincial directories; numerous archives; and information from the sisters' descendants. The information from some of these sources could be problematic to interpret, such as in a newspaper article that only mentions a married woman as, for example, Mrs. Hamilton, and does not include her first name.



Christine, standing far left, Florida, after 1903.

There are many photographs in the book, of people, the pioneer villages of the Cariboo, the rather stately house in Sausalito and a very posh hotel in San Francisco. While there are two maps, I would have liked a larger map, with more detail, which would have been easier to read and understand. At the same time there are extensive notes, giving sources and useful explanations.

The Lindhard sisters' stories show the significant contributions of women in building communities and the economy of early British Columbia, the kind of stories that are often overlooked in general histories. In short, this gripping book is a valuable contribution to BC history.

From Denmark to the Cariboo by Linda Peterat.

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Grete's Carved Glass

Glass Artist on Vancouver Island

Grete Wilkinson, née Nielsen, Thetis Island, B.C.

I was born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, in an environment that has nothing to do with sandblasting glass. In Copenhagen in 1966, I married a Canadian and the two of us travelled to Vancouver to meet his parents. We were going to stay one year, but I never moved back. We lived in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto and moved to Victoria in 1971. I have lived on Vancouver Island ever since. When I first came to Canada, sandblasting glass was not part of my life. I stumbled into this artform and career at a time when I ought to have started to think of retirement.

It began as something my husband thought might occupy me while he was away working in the Arctic and was gone for several months at a time. We bought 16 large sheets of glass from somebody who had given up on building a green house, and my husband rigged up the equipment and built me a small blasting cabinet. He then showed me where to turn the compressor on and off, wished me luck and went up north.



There I was. I knew nothing about compressors and even less about sandblasting or cutting glass. All I had was four video tapes on glass etching and a friend who could advise me about the cutting of glass, plus a total lack of doubt in my ability to learn this new thing. I was thrilled when I made my first mark on a piece of glass. This would actually work! After a couple of months of exploring on my own I took a one-week workshop in the United States.

One thing I quickly learned is that it is not possible to see what you have been working on until the glass is out of the booth. Only when the dust and resist (the protective masking) has been removed can I see if the finished work looks the way I intended it to look. It is exciting every time and I love it.

I also enjoy working with my clients. I meet so many nice people. I may only know them for the duration of the job, but during that period I find it interesting and challenging to understand where they come from and what they are asking me to do. Not just what they

say, but what is behind what they are saying. So I get to meet people in a way I would not have been able to, were it not for my sandblasting glass.

The challenge in making the design fit the glass is another part of the process that I enjoy. Trying to catch movements and expressions and make them into 3-D images in the flat glass is very exciting. I have now been working with sandblasted glass for more than twenty-five years. It has turned into a retirement career and I hope to continue doing this till the end of my days. I sandblast one-of-a-kind designs on flat glass for windows, doors and other decorative items. Many people when they see sandblasted



Handrailing at Oliver Woods Community Centre, Nanaimo.

glass call it “etched” glass. And they are correct. It is glass etched by sandblasting. By using sandblasting techniques, it is possible to cut deep into the glass. You can even blast right through the glass if this is what is required. On the other hand, it is also possible to just shade the glass very lightly. The light shading is a soft white finish, while the deeply carved glass is very white.



Coastal Community Credit Union, Nanaimo.

The deeper the glass is etched, the whiter it becomes. In the deep carving you can see the “wall” of the carved area. With a combination of these techniques, it is possible to create a design in many different shades of white. When light hits the glass just right, the carved design will shine intensely green and beautifully bright. When sandblasted glass is displayed in an opening that catches the sunlight, the design changes with the light and is almost magical.

Sandblasted glass is always subtle, distinguished, elegant and is often functional. In the residential and commercial sections of my website, you can see how it has been used for purely decorative purposes as well as for specific functions. All my work is custom designed, generally worked out in correspondence with my clients. If you can imagine it and it can be made into a line drawing, it can be sandblasted. As a glass artist, I find joy in every project that comes my way. Large or small, whimsical or corporate, I can bring a vision to glass.

Sandblasted glass is always subtle, distinguished, elegant and is often

To contact me you may phone me at: 250-751-4455 or email me at Gretewilkinson2021@gmail.com. To see more of my work, please visit my website: gretescarvedglass.com.

Hans Island dispute settled

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



The ownership of Hans Island, located in the icy waters halfway between Ellesmere Island and Greenland, had been disputed for nearly fifty years, claimed by both Canada and Denmark.

To mark their claim the Danes planted a Dannebrog on Hans Island. Below the flag-pole they placed a bottle of Aalborg Akvavit, in case the Canadians should come by and needed some sustenance. Later the Canadians flew to Hans Island and replaced the Danish flag with the Maple Leaf. At the bottom of the flagpole they placed a bottle of Canadian whisky. These actions were repeated several times.

To solve the ownership of the barren and uninhabited Hans Island the two sides agreed to sit down to negotiate a settlement, each side hoping to convince the other of its claim under international law.

After many years of negotiations the two sides agreed to split the island down the middle. In this way the two sides showed the rest of the world that it is possible to solve a territorial dispute peacefully. In the process they created a land border between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark.



The settlement was officially agreed in Ottawa on June 14, 2022, when Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod signed the agreement to divide Hans Island. After the signing ceremony the two foreign ministers symbolically exchanged bottles of spirits.

Minister Joly presenting her Danish counterpart with a bottle of Sortilege Prestige, a Canadian whisky and maple syrup made in Quebec, while Minister Kofod presented Minister Joly with a bottle of Gammel Dansk Bitter Dram.



A North Atlantic Saga: Faroese Immigration to Canada before WWII

Steffen Stummann Hansen, Leirvík, Faroe Islands

The Nordic countries provided well over two million immigrants to North America during the 19th and 20th centuries. Even from Iceland in the far North Atlantic, until 1918 a county within the Kingdom of Denmark, thousands ventured across the Atlantic in the 19th century and created the vibrant settlement of New Iceland in Manitoba. However, less attention has been paid to the emigration from another North Atlantic part of the Kingdom of Denmark, namely that of the archipelago of the Faroe Islands.

Many of the approximately one hundred small settlements on the Faroe Islands have provided immigrants who in the period 1870-1930 left their homeland in the hope of finding a better life across the Atlantic. They would usually board one of the commercial ships between Copenhagen and Iceland and then get off in Leith (Edinburgh) on the east coast of Scotland. They would then take the train across Scotland to Greenock (Glasgow), from where many of the big transatlantic passenger ships departed for North America. Some of the Faroese immigrants headed for the United States and others for Canada. Some tried both countries, before deciding where to settle permanently. So far, their story has only to a very limited degree been recorded and told.

It is against this background that the present author, about seven years ago, tried to generate an overview of the extent of the emigration movement and the reasons for it. It quickly became clear that this would be a dreary and rather time-consuming project. I therefore decided to just focus on the about one hundred Faroese who immigrated to Canada.

Facts about the Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands are an archipelago in the North Atlantic consisting of 18 islands of which 17 are inhabited. They are located 350 kilometres north-northwest of Scotland, and about halfway between Norway (850 kilometres away) and Iceland (700 kilometres away). The archipelago is one of three constituent countries that constitute the Kingdom of Denmark. The islands have a total area of about 1,400 square kilometres with a population of about 54,000 in 2022. Around 1900 the population was just 15,000. The islands have a mountainous landscape and a subpolar, windy, wet, cloudy, cool oceanic climate. Temperatures are moderated by the Gulf Stream, averaging above freezing throughout the year. Since the Viking Age the subsistence economy of the islands was based on farming. However, in the late 1800s the conservative farming society collapsed and was replaced by the present modern Faroese society based on commercial fishing.

Faroese immigrants to Canada settled primarily in three provinces, in Manitoba, Alberta and in Nova Scotia. In 1893 a group of five Faroese came to Winnipeg, one of which sadly died a few weeks after arrival. Two siblings settled in Winnipeg and their home became a central meeting place for Scandinavian immigrants and a stepping stone for later Faroese immigrants. Another group arrived in 1903 and others the following years. They were all more or less members of the same families and from the same settlements back on the Faroe Islands. These Faroese immigrants were absorbed into, and in a number of cases inter-married with, the Icelandic community of New Iceland. Most of them went into farming and homesteaded next to each other in what became a small Faroese enclave in The Narrows (Oakview) at the northern end of Lake Manitoba.



THIS IS WHAT THEY WORE — The Independent publishes this picture as a service to Stettler businessmen so they will know how to dress during Homestead Days June 26 and 27. These were the bachelor pioneers of Stettler around 1905. Left to

right: John Christiansen, Jim Nelson, Bert Wright, Dooley Wright, Sam Carlson, Bob Carlson, Ole Christiansen, Nels Ole-son, Bob Myers, Chris Fritz, Dave Ritchie and Rob Russel is sitting.

Newspaper clipping from The Stettler Independent of May 27, 1970, with a photograph from about 1905 with both Ole and John Christiansen.

Around 1903 two Faroese brothers, Ole Christiansen (1867-1942) and Johannes Christiansen (1880-1962), were among the founders of a settlement in east-central Alberta, which a couple of years later became Stettler. A few years after that the two brothers moved to nearby Gadsby where they became attractive stepping stones for a number of Faroese who in the period leading up to WWI immigrated to Canada. Most of them filed for a homestead. Descendants of a couple of these Faroese settlers are still to be found in the Stettler area today. A number of the Faroese who had initially come to Stettler and Gadsby later settled in other locations in Alberta.

During WWI a group of Faroese settled in Nova Scotia and the State of Maine in the United States. This movement had no relation to the settlers in Manitoba and Alberta but was related to the war. Many young Faroese men had since the last decades of the 19th century fished with English trawlers from the big fishing ports on the east coast of England, particularly Grimsby. However, due to the serious war situation with German submarine activity in the North Sea, the British Admiralty seized most of the fishing fleet to do service as for instance minesweepers, which left many fishermen without a job. Some of these Faroese fishermen then appear to have moved to Nova Scotia to sail on fishing ships from Halifax and other ports.

The Faroese who immigrated to Nova Scotia could continue to work as fishermen, just as they had at home or in the ports of Eastern England. They had grown up in small, isolated settlements in a mountainous landscape and a wet Atlantic climate with moderate differences in temperature between summer and winter. However, for the Faroese who settled on the Canadian prairies the circumstances of life and work were quite different and often a major challenge. They now encountered an environment of long hard winters with temperatures down to minus 40 degrees Celsius, while during summer they had to struggle with temperatures up to plus 30 degrees Celsius, with swarms of mosquitoes. It was a vast flat land where they had to struggle with isolation and loneliness. In old age, after a long and hard life, a fair number of Faroese immigrants moved to British Columbia to enjoy the milder climate. Living on the coast also offered them the possibility to fish on the ocean, as they had during their childhood and youth back in the Faroe Islands.



*A group of ten young Faroese men from the westerly island of Vágur emigrated in late April 1928. Here nine of them are photographed in Greenock, Glasgow, before embarking on the Canadian Pacific Line's steamship **Montnairn** bound for Quebec City. Their emigration was partly organized by the Danish Immigration Aid Society in Winnipeg. Photograph kindly put at the author's disposal by Hanna Hansen (Miðvágur).*

Through my research I have come into contact with a good number of descendants of these Faroese immigrants, now spread all over Canada. They have in general shown great interest in learning about their parents or grandparents Faroese origin and background. In some cases unique material about these immigrants and their first years in Canada has been preserved. Letters and photographs provide a fascinating insight into their reasons for emigrating and how they experienced their encounter with their new homeland.



Six, of the group of ten; cutting bushes in Camrose, Alberta, in the summer, following their arrival in early May, 1928. The whole group started their careers in Canada on farms in Camrose, but quickly split up. Their hopes for a new life in Canada were dealt a severe blow by the international financial and economic crisis in 1929. Without any social security six of them decided to return to the Faroe Islands in the early 1930s. The remaining four stayed in Canada and now rest in cemeteries in respectively Camrose, Wetaskiwin and Stettler, Alberta, and in Red Lake, Ontario. Photograph kindly put at the author's disposal by Jákup Eyðun Joensen (Kambsdalur).

In Canada we find a New Denmark in New Brunswick, a New Norway in Alberta, a New Iceland in Manitoba, a New Finland in Saskatchewan, and then a New Sweden in the American state of Maine. But there is not a New Faroe Islands. The number of Faroese immigrants was simply too small for any such aspiration. Some of the Faroese immigrants sought out other Scandinavian communities, such as in the case of New Iceland, but in general the Faroese who stayed in Canada seem to have been forced by circumstances to integrate quite quickly.

Of the roughly one hundred Faroese who immigrated to Canada about 15% returned to the Faroe Islands after some years, while others decided to move on to the United States after some years in Canada. A few lived almost all their life in Canada, but returned in old age to their home village on the Faroe Islands, either because they wanted to see the old country again, because of a terminal disease or because they wanted to die there. About 60 % of the Faroese immigrants lived in Canada for the rest of their lives, and died there. A few of these had their ashes brought back to the Faroe Islands.

It is also noteworthy that two Faroese immigrants in the spring of 1916 volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force and fought in France. Some also served in the Canadian Army during WWII, one of them paying the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed in action in Northern Italy in October 1944.

Although the saga of Faroese immigration to Canada is minor compared to those of the other Nordic countries, it still contains a host of fascinating aspects. The aim of my project is thus to write this story, place it in historical context, and finally to present it to a wider audience.

About the author: *Steffen Stummann Hansen (born 1955) is a Danish archaeologist who has lived in the Faroe Islands for the last twenty years. He has specialized in the Viking Age in the North Atlantic and has conducted archaeological excavations and surveys in Denmark, Norway, the Shetland Islands, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland. He is also the author of a large number of academic and semi-popular books and articles on archaeological and historical topics.*




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Were the Vikings Barbarians?

Grayson Hedekar – A Student Essay (Age14. His teacher gave him an A+)

The meaning of barbarian is: A person or people who are rough, ruthless, unwilling to follow rules, and uncivilized, meaning they were not a normal person in that they acted and thought stupidly. The Vikings were not always like this, they actually did some of the things people consider civilized in modern times. I think the word barbarian should not be used to define Vikings or Scandinavians.

The Vikings lived in civilized towns and villages in productive locations. The Vikings structured their villages for people to farm, fish, and build boats. In these villages the people worked together to keep a stable economy and live in harmony with each other. In order to do this the Scandinavians/Vikings needed to be civilized and act in a way that is not barbaric. The productiveness of Viking villages and towns were ahead of their time.

In Viking civilizations they created laws that seemed very acceptable for their time. Vikings laws were almost like a code of honor. The highest ranking officials inside the town hired people to start enforcing these laws strictly and forcefully. These people were called Law speakers. Laws were conducted and controlled in Viking towns proving they were willing to follow rules and even create them.

The Vikings had a religion/mythology called Norse mythology. In this religion it contained many different types of gods and people. Some of these gods are well known from Marvel, which used Norse mythology to create stories. These stories included Loki, Thor, Odin, and Freya who were supposed to live alongside the humans and fight to defend them. The Vikings created this religion showing they were civil enough to create and convince people that their religion is real.

The Vikings were not always ruthless, rough or not willing to follow the rules. They were quite civilized when not raiding; they even connected continents with their sophisticated technology. That is why I believe Vikings should not be called or be referred to as barbarians.

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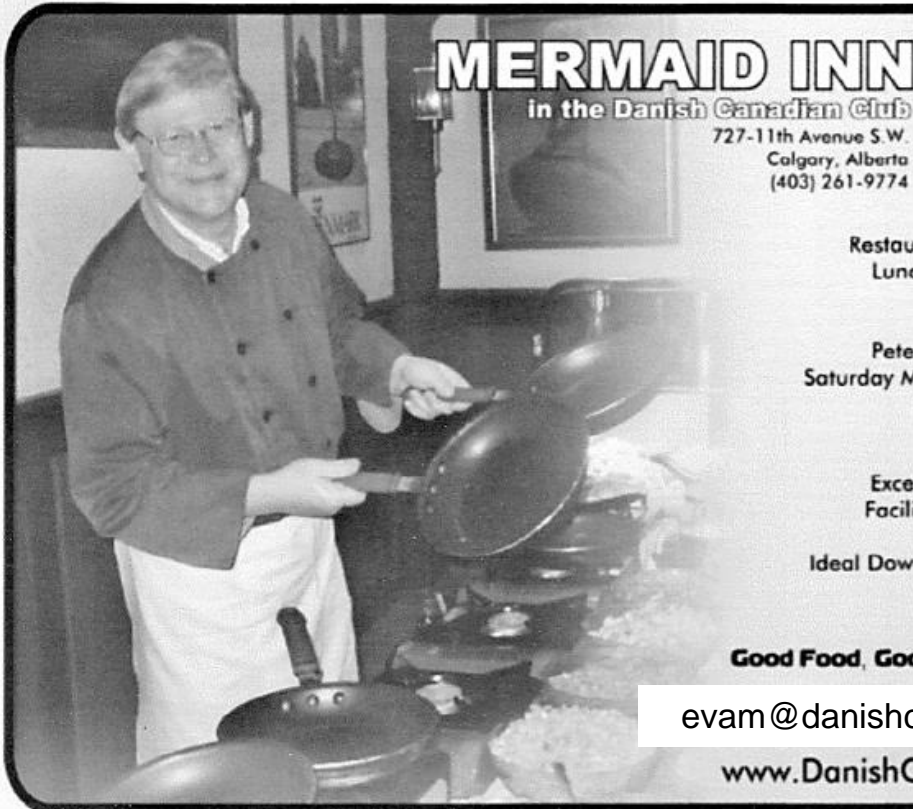
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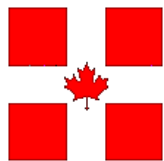
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Reports from the Member Organizations

Submitted in lieu of presentations at the Danish Federation's Annual General Meeting held Via Zoom Video Conferencing on Saturday, June 11, 2022

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 reports from the member organizations:

1. New Denmark Historical Society/Memorial Museum, New Denmark, New Brunswick

We have had a rough couple of years as we manoeuvre through Covid 19. Our Museum was closed during that time and because of that, we didn't have the opportunity to fundraise. Our 150th Anniversary of the Danes arriving from the old country was June 19th of 2022, but unfortunately we had to make the hard decision to postpone that celebration until June of 2023. We look forward to a huge celebration which will include a memorial service, parade, family dance, along with several other events. We are looking forward to celebrating our community which is the oldest Danish Community in Canada.

Sincerely, Heather Jensen, President

2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc., Quebec

The past year has indeed been different due to the current pandemic and this report is in many ways a "non-report". Almost all the Society's regular functions were cancelled and the board's one and only meeting (AGM) was conducted via Zoom. We did manage to arrange a Christmas service in Danish at Saint Ansgar's Lutheran Church in Notre Dame-de-Grace, of course with everyone wearing masks and social distancing. Even with masks on, it was possible to sing many of the lovely Danish Christmas hymns and of course our organist took the opportunity to play some spectacular music before and after the service. Thankfully life has more or less returned to normal and we are planning our first social gathering in December 2022 with a Christmas dinner. Some of our board members caught the Covid-19 virus – with me included, but we are all doing well. People are again travelling, and Denmark has of course been one of many destinations. I would like to convey a personal thank you to those who have been keeping me up to date during this past year. All the best wishes: to members and friends of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada in the hope that 2023 will return to normal for everyone.

Respectfully, Ole Larsen, President

3. The Danish Club of Montreal, Quebec

The Danish Club of Montreal was founded on January 24, 1922, in the home of Danish Consul General Poul Schou, making it one of the oldest Danish clubs in Canada, and the only one with a continual existence all those years. To mark the anniversary, the Danish Federation devoted the front cover and a couple of feature articles in the 2022 Heritage Book to the Montreal Club. Unfortunately, during the Covid-19 pandemic, which had started in March 2020, in-person club activities ground to a halt. Many months after the outbreak we hosted monthly ZOOM NOON gatherings online. We played trivia games with bottles of aquavit as prizes. That continued over the year. In the summer of 2021, our club organized a soccer tournament gathering at the Burgundy Lion Restaurant Pub on Notre-Dame Street West. It was well attended and we decided to build on that momentum by commencing our monthly in-person Danish Club Lunches at the Burgundy Lion. It was a sweet spot in timing, as government regulations were relaxed greatly and as a club we could legally defer the covid liability to the Burgundy Lion establishment with their approval and blessing. Their capacity for full vaccinations for their staff satisfied the concerns we had. In June 2022, we were able to return to the Black Watch Regiment on Rue de Bleury following National Military headquarters authorization that we could recommence our monthly smørrebrød lunches, with a Carlsberg and Aalborg Akvavit included in the price of the lunch. It was good to meet again in person. All this time we have continued to add new members to our club. Typically we are 20 to 30 people for lunch. Naturally the Club will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in style. However, disappointingly yet understandably, we were advised very recently by our 100th Anniversary Benefactor, they wish we postpone the 100th Anniversary celebration into 2023 due to their timing constraints and their concern over a potential rise in covid that may expose young parents and consequently their young children. The Danish Club Board convened over this issue this past Friday, and unanimously agreed to postpone to a new date in 2023. We look forward to that. At present the club's board of directors consists of President Kren Clausen, Vice-President Peter Skovbo, Secretary Alexia Jensen, Treasurer Arthur de Vaublanc and Director Kim Lebech.

Respectfully submitted by Kren Clausen, President

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa, Ontario

We are back after two years of uncertainty. And we are almost back in full force. We started 2022 with a luncheon in March at our new location, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, where we have been welcomed with open arms by the congregation and Pastor Joel Crouse; a big thank you to them. The event had a good turnout where we had amazing Danish open face sandwiches and some great conversation. We continued the year with Bingo, a Seniors Lunch and an Easter Service. The board is very excited to finally be able to host our annual bazaar again in November 2022. This should help to replenish our club coffers. Our membership is down, not surprisingly, and we are hoping that the bazaar and the children's Christmas party in December 2022 will be well attended and bring back many of our past members. As always, the club is looking for help from volunteers for all of our events.

Lene Kelly, President



5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto, Ontario

Greetings from the Danish Church in Toronto! Like all churches and social clubs, we have had to adapt to pandemic rules and communicate in different ways with our members. Zoom meetings, on-line services and communication by emails, phone, Facebook and Twitter have been the result. In September we were pleased to meet again for in-person services while following covid rules. Previous church groups were once again able to meet face to face. Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen worked with a new group studying Christianity. A Thanksgiving Lottery was held to help



handle expenses. Heritage Books and the Knud Rasmussen book were sold. With Pastor Simon's initiative, a very successful mini-bazaar was held whereby people could pre-order Danish imports and Danish open-faced sandwiches and pick them up at a later date. For the three Sundays in November, Children's Hour continued followed by lunch and Lucia rehearsals which resulted in us being able to

celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Lucia in our church. Former Lucia participants were invited to join and all sang the well-loved Christmas carols while wearing masks. Due to the restrictions, no dinner or entertainment was held afterwards as per our usual custom. Regardless, it was still good to see the church nearly full of festive people. As with most of us, our in-person Christmas services and other celebrations had to be cancelled due to health rules. In 2022 social gathering rules were once again relaxed so our AGM was held both in-person and on Zoom. Renovations of the sanctuary continued under the direction of Sune Overgaard and the board. New Danish lamps were hung, Danish chairs arrived, new floors were finished and the new altar arrived. A celebration of the inauguration of the upgrades was held on Easter Sunday and at that time the two Biblical paintings by Simon Aaen were unveiled as well. Four young people were confirmed in our "new" church in the presence of their proud families and friends on a beautiful spring day. Since our last report we have had entertainers from Denmark in the form of speakers, a guitar player and a 30 member choir from Thisted. We have been blessed with visiting pastors as well: Pastor Poulsen, Pastor MacLaren and Pastor Hanne Vejs Christensen from Denmark. As usual Grundlovsfest was held at Sunset Villa. Pastor Simon held for the first time a hyggelig outdoor service for those interested at the adjoining Sunset Mindepark. We continue to work on increasing our Sunday membership. For various reasons, here and elsewhere, members attending Sunday services are much lower than when Covid started. A group will be formed to find ways of improving our numbers again.

Visit our website at www.danishchurchtoronto.ca.

We can be contacted by email at mail@danchurch.ca.

Respectfully submitted, Liselotte Østergaard

8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch, Ontario

You may ask what Sunset Villa has been up to in the last year? Sunset Villa had the opportunity to meet with several interested parties to run The Danish Place restaurant after it closed in November 2020. The club is excited that Mark Mogensen and Darrin Mascarin made the commitment to take on this adventure in June 2021. It's nice to have partnered with them. They have had their struggles through Covid but are still in the swing of making it work. Next, we

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were able to hold our Nordic Market in December 2021, which was another success! Approx. 700+ adults and 200+ kids came out for the day making snobrod on the fire, visiting with Santa, walking the Nisse trail, spending money at the 20+ vendors and enjoying the sleigh rides. What great reviews we've had on this event! We've had a few Senior's apartments come available. We've had to raise the rent to stay viable. So moving forward, any apartments that come vacant will be adjusted slightly below market value. We are looking into working with the County of Wellington for government assistance to individuals who need a subsidy. Baker Sundays have resumed, which has brought back the traffic to the Sunset Villa property. We do hope that we will gain a few more memberships to bring back our membership numbers to pre-covid levels - its slow climbing but we are staying positive. Our Butik was moved outside through Covid, but has had record number sales for two years in a row. Who would have known? Let's hope these numbers still continue to climb. Thanks to Lisa Olsen (Past President) and Birthe Rowell and Andra Jensen (members at large) for their many volunteer hours running it. We had a special general meeting early February with a special guest in attendance and our AGM meeting in May via zoom. Both meetings were successful with record numbers in attendance. We are currently working with engineers to replace the septic system for apartments 1-6, which has given out on us after 35+ years. This will definitely set Sunset Villa back a few dollars. We've had so many inquiries regarding our icon from the front gate "The Red Danish Clog". After several years with members arriving to the property asking what happened to the Danish clog! It's back! Hopefully you have noticed the clog as you drive into the park. We celebrated Constitution Day June 5th after three long years, and it was wonderful to get together again. Our biggest fundraiser of the year was a great success, with 775 adults and 175 kids in attendance. Highlights included the Church Service at Sunset Mindepark by Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen, special guests Danish Consul Jeppe Fredslund and Danish Federation President Rolf Christensen, two Royal Guards, Danish Smørrebrød, Hansen Bakery, Vendors, Viking Show and Village, Danish Folkdances, Kids games, Facepainting, Lego Creation Contest for the kids, Tombola, æbleskiver, æbleskiver contest, Danish hotdogs, Pony Rides etc. Many volunteers helped. It takes a village to operate Sunset Villa. I feel honoured to be the President of the organization with Lisa Olsen as Past President. See you at the park!

Monica Jensen, President

9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario

Sunset Mindepark (incorporated 1990) is situated on a lovely country hectare in Puslinch, Ontario, between Guelph and Hamilton. In our 32nd year we are serving not only the local Danish communities in southern Ontario, but also from across Canada and even from the US. We have over 1,100 urns interred in our cemetery of over 800 plots and niches, with most of them already sold. We are hoping to add more soon, as these days more and more people are looking for this form of burial. We are a registered Not-for-Profit organization which relies heavily on volunteer support to keep the cemetery in a park-like and welcoming condition.

Covid affected us these past few years, along with everyone else, by allowing only very small groups for interment services. Now that those restrictions have been lifted, many delayed interments are being held. This year we have already had almost 40 interments which is the greatest single year amount since the cemetery opened. As well, this year our sales have increased - we have sold almost 20 plots and niches. Due to this new demand, Sunset Mindepark is planning to increase its capacity by constructing a new niche wall with about 100 niches.

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Although we are a very small cemetery with limited space, once a new wall is built, we are hoping to have capacity for another seven years or so.

Our cemetery is closely partnered with the Danish Church in Toronto where memorial services are often held, and with the interment to follow (often at a later date) in Sunset Mindepark. Our goal is to maintain the cemetery to the high standards we currently have, and keep it as a fitting final resting place for Danish emigrants and their families. We receive many accolades on how beautiful and inviting the urn cemetery is. We are very grateful to the dedicated volunteers who make this possible, and we are always looking for more helpers in case you are interested. For more information, check our website www.mindepark.ca.

Submitted by Sune Overgaard

11. Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Manitoba

It is wonderful to see the COVID restrictions lifted and a return to hosting events and enjoying each others company. We were so fortunate to sneak in the Danish Christmas dinner this past December (between all the restriction changes). It was a lovely event and much needed for our weary souls. On April 6th we had the distinct pleasure of hosting Hanne Fugl Eskjær, the Danish Ambassador to Canada in our Centre, for an elegant dinner. The evening was paid for by the Danish Club of Manitoba with most of our members and spouses in attendance. The Embassy also extended a donation, which we appreciated. At the same dinner, our own Consul Helle Wilson was presented with “The Order of the Danebrog” by the Ambassador on behalf of Queen Margrethe. It was truly a memorable evening, and we were able to showcase our Centre at its best. This past two years we saw some changes to our Board of Directors. Jane Meech, Janis Chase and Kennedy Chase all resigned from the Board. We thank all three ladies for their contributions to the Danish Community; they have been so valuable to the club. Jane has been one of the Centre’s most dedicated volunteers throughout the Covid years; providing baking for the lunches and dinners to go etc., and she is back at helping with the Norwegian Friday lunches. Thanks so much Jane. We wish Janis, Kennedy and Dani well in their new home in Princeton B.C. We have added Sara Siggelkow and Bjorn Kragh-Hansen to the Board, and they have been active in attending our ZOOM meetings. Bjorn has assumed the Treasurer position, and Sara will be our new Secretary. In addition, we have the following members on the Danish board; Karl Sorensen, John Markmann, Robyn Rempel, Krista DePourcq, Barb Nault (our Federation Delegate and Media person) and me, Susan Person. We managed to hold monthly board meetings via ZOOM, just to keep in touch with the current restrictions and do the required business of the club. In September on a cool fall Sunday, we met with the Swedish Club of Manitoba for a picnic and Kongespil challenge. The Danes emerged victorious as the winners of the two game challenges. Midsummer was held at Susan and Brian Person’s house, with a BBQ and a small bonfire where we threw notes written with burdens we did not want to carry into the next year (COVID and Trump seemed to top most lists) in addition some were brave enough to take a dip in the pool. Our Folklorama cultural festival returned after a two-year absence. Again we opened the Danish Candy Store and made a record profit on our sales. Our club has picked up a few new members this year and that continues to be an on-going challenge as we are a small Danish community and most potential Danish Heritage people are now 3 or 4 generations with other heritages combined. Still, we hope to keep our Danish heritage an integral part of Manitoba’s mosaic.

Respectively submitted by Susan Person, President

12. Danish Canadian Club, Calgary, Alberta

The Club has now been open for almost five months this year and business-wise the year started out with support of the Club by a lot of members and friends plus a few banquet bookings. Another Covid-19 wave slowed down the attendance to a point where it made sense to close the



Club on Mondays. Fortunately, the Covid-19 effect is wearing off and the Mermaid Inn Restaurant is from time to time experiencing good support and more banquets are being held. However, we do have to deal with the reality that the Club is not operating in the black, so something has to change at some point. Our current plan forward is to obtain proposals for the sale of the land and building; with a lease back condition that would allow us to keep operating in the current facility for two plus years, but with cash in hand that would

guarantee the continuation of the Club for many, many years. I would like to encourage members who are not yet Shareholders to purchase a share and become part of the decision making in deciding the future of the Club. This can be done by contacting Executive Assistant to the General Manager: Eva Mamchur at the Club. For existing Shareholders, please encourage your children to become members. We need the younger generations to become part of our future. A membership could be a birthday present and an opportunity to invite the family for a meal in the Club. To those of you who have been supporting the Club throughout all the difficulties we have experienced the last two and a half years, a big thank you to you all.

Sincerely, Per Andersen, President

13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary, Alberta

Our Annual General Meeting was held on May 15, 2022 after our morning church service and an outstanding cold luncheon prepared by Peter Berg. Thank you Peter! The meeting was chaired by Jonas Albeck. Pastor Charlotte Berg, President Karsten Dalberg and Treasurer Jamie Pendergast gave their reports; most of the content of these appear in June-August 2022 newsletter. Approval was given for the installation of new carpet in the Church sanctuary. There was considerable discussion regarding putting a ramp into the front of the Church to allow access to the communion rail for handicapped persons. It was eventually decided to get sketches done for possible ways of doing this, and to hold a congregational meeting about this when more information was available. The Board members remained the same as before with the welcome addition of Dale Fish to the Board. *Submitted by Karen Falkenberg-Andersen, Vice-President*

Our President, Karsten Dalberg reported: As the Covid-19 pandemic is slowly fading, and our lives are getting to look more like they did more than two years ago, it is important that we continue to do our best to help protect ourselves and each other against a repeat of this situation. At the Church we have slowly worked on getting our services and activities back to normal. We have resumed singing, and are starting to be more comfortable being close together. We are now meeting for coffee after the services where we share with each other about our activities. We are also slowly seeing people return to the services in the Church. It almost feels strange to be able to meet face-to-face with people we haven't seen in more than two years. Welcome back everyone! We continue posting morning devotionals on Facebook and are pleased to see it being enjoyed by many people. Thank you to Ellen for doing this! Spring came and we resumed our spring clean-up day where we got the dust and other things out of various corners and cracks, and the garden was tidied up too. Thank you to all that came to help out with this! The Board has

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decided to go ahead with replacing the carpet in the Church sanctuary. We have received several donations towards the new carpet and, together with the donation received from the Granly Church in Surrey, B.C. we have the money to go ahead with this project. We will also proceed with getting the projector in the sanctuary permanently mounted and the wiring, both upstairs and downstairs in the Church, tidied up. We have funds received from our Dinner and Fundraising evenings that were held before the pandemic to help with this project, and the balance needed will come from the funds received from the Granly Congregation. We also have a good friend of the Church who has the necessary knowledge to do the work, so that will help keep the costs down. This will be a great help for our deacons as they will not have to set the projector up and then take it down after each service. On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Respectfully submitted by Karsten Dalberg, President

15. Naver Club, Calgary, Alberta

The Calgary Naver Club has 43 members. So far this year, 2022, has been good. We had several successful meetings. Our spring brunch in the Danish Canadian Club was well attended and everyone was happy to meet up with friends who they hadn't been able to see during COVID. We hosted our Stampede Breakfast at Strathfield Potato Farm with about 80 people. We had a great day for the event, warm and no rain. We had many people visiting from Denmark, which was wonderful, always nice to meet new people. Our August BBQ was held at Dennis and Karen Olsen's place with about 30 people for the event; 19 lbs beef rib roast and an 18 lbs turkey were cooked, plus potato salad, kale salad, corn on the cob and desserts. We are looking forward to Mortens Aften in the Danish Club in November with the ladies as well. At the upcoming December Naver meeting we will have our Julefrokost (Christmas lunch) which is always well attended.

Med Kno På Bordet (With knuckles on the table), Jens Laursen, President

17. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson, Alberta

Greetings from the Dickson Store Museum! The museum had a busy and successful year while undergoing some changes. Our esteemed manager, Sharon Lightbown, announced her retirement after working at the museum for 22 years. In February, the Society began looking for a new manager and was pleased to hire Candice Vikse. She grew up in the area, remembers well when Queen Margrethe II visited during the grand opening of the Dickson Store Museum in 1991, and even worked as a summer student at the museum! The museum was able to ensure continuity and succession by enabling her to train under Sharon in all aspects of the museum's operations. Throughout the off-season the museum offered monthly mini-exhibits. Each mini-exhibit had a different theme and showcased items from the community and artefacts from our collection that aren't always on display. Having the museum open to the public for these mini-exhibits one weekend per month was a wonderful way to connect with the community year-round and will allow the museum to be eligible for a greater number of grants. They were very well received. So much so, that they will be offered again in our next off-season. The Society was happy to host



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some of their regular fundraising events which began with a merry evening of *Duelling Pianos by 176* on April 9th. It was a very entertaining evening and they will come back next spring. The Society was able to run “Chase the Ace” at a local establishment throughout the spring and summer. Planning is underway for the Fall Supper (October 1) and Julestue (November 5, with the Danish Canadian National Museum). The ongoing renovations (exterior trim repair and painting) have been completed to continue our careful caretaking of the 113-year-old building to keep it well maintained and in good shape. At the start of the busy summer season in May, we teamed up with the Danish Canadian National Museum, Historic Markerville (Creamery) and Stephansson House Provincial Historic Site to create a passport, called *15 Miles of Heritage*. When visitors visited each site and got their passports signed they were entered into a door prize draw with goodies from each site. Many people took part, with a number of them reporting that it had been years since they had been to “this” site or “that” site, but because they wanted to complete the passport, they had gone to all 4 locations and really enjoyed themselves. The Society received federal funding from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs to hire staff for the summer. An inventory was done of the entire collection. The last time an inventory was done was in 2005, so it was time. Preparation is underway for a new temporary exhibit about the Dickson Drainage District, called *Sloughs To Swaths*. This exhibit will highlight the drainage ditches that are still in operation today. These ditches were dug 100 years ago and made a huge difference in the landscape of the Dickson area. It will feature a diorama contrasting the ditches and sloughs of the past and the successful agricultural fields of today. The diorama will become part of our permanent exhibits in the lumber shed. The museum has partnered with the *Men’s Shed*, a local group in Spruce View, who will build the diorama. There are a number of men in the group who have been part of the Dickson Drainage Board and have been very valuable in sharing their knowledge. The Dickson Store Museum Society would like to thank the many volunteers and hard-working Board of Directors who continue to contribute to our success.

Submitted by Candice Vikse, Manager

18. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson, Alberta

It has been a season of change at the Danish Canadian National Museum. Covid restrictions have been lifted and a new manager for the Museum, Doreen Soderberg, started in April and has been a good fit for our little slice of heaven out here in Dickson, Alberta. The Saga Café has a new and fresh look! : New carpet on the stairs and fresh paint in the hall, as well as in the Saga Café. The menu has changed to a more traditional Danish cuisine, and we have had remarkable success and feedback on it. With the Museum now opened to the public, we had a busy season. We started off with a soft opening May long weekend. In June we participated in a Parade in the 1913 Days in Sylvan Lake; held the Red Deer County Seniors’ Garden Party on the grounds; had a table in the Norwegian Laft House Festival; and Celebrated Father’s Day in the Saga Café. Great turn out! We also celebrated and hosted a few weddings and funerals on the grounds. July was also a remarkably busy and successful month with Æbleskiver and Jam Day on July 1, and the much-anticipated AGM both held at the Museum. Again, we held several weddings on the grounds throughout the month of July. The month of August was also busy again with a few weddings, a funeral hosted in the Church and a Golden Wedding anniversary. We also hosted Viking Days which was the largest gathering of Vinland Vikings in North America this year. The event was sponsored by a local brewery in Innisfail, Field and Forage Brewing Co. We are so excited to have them come on board and look forward to having them sponsor us again next year.

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We are fortunate again to have our grounds coordinator Jill Blocksom come on board later in the summer. We are thankful for her expertise in maintaining the grounds. A survey of the buildings and a list of projects that they will need has been compiled. The south entrance steps to the Dormitory need to be replaced, currently have an estimate on cost of material and will investigate volunteers for labor. The trees on pathways need to be cleared and the bridge also needs to be taken out and replaced. We have looked at cost and a lead on a local company who may do it for material cost only. Saga Café east bay window needs to be replaced, the seal is gone and leaking down the wall. Currently: looking into pricing and replacement - part of a county grant. Thomsen cabin window frames are rotten and chinking needs to be redone - part of a pending County grant we have applied for. The largest and most expensive item to be done is the removal of several large spruce trees north and south of the Dormitory. Currently: getting several different estimates for the work to be done - part of the pending county grant. The gift shop has been restructured and has added a lot of new items for sale. We partnered with the Danish Lutheran Churches in Calgary and Edmonton to import Danish goods. We are getting ready for our Julestue in November, in partnership with the Dickson Store Museum at the Spruce View Hall. It is a community event that is immensely popular, and we are looking forward being part of it. Presently the Board of Directors has a full slate of directors and officers, with a new President, Connie Swarbrick, taking over from Svend E. Nielsen at the AGM. We are so pleased to have Connie on board. She has a lot of know-how and grit to get things done. The Board of Directors has been reviewing its Strategic Planning and will be updating it at the Board's Weekend Retreat November 11-13. If you are interested in becoming a director or volunteer, please contact the museum.

Sincerely, Doreen Soderberg, Manager

19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, Red Deer, Alberta

The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club membership continues to hold steady at about eighty members. We are a social club and hold a number of events throughout the year including: (1) Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, (2) Spring Campout on the May long weekend, (3) St. Hans Fest in June, (4) Golf Tournament in August, (5) Fall Campout on the September long weekend, and (6) Harvest Party in October. We provide three \$1,000 Bursaries to graduating high school students in our area annually. Our 2022 Executive Board: Joanne Nielsen, President; Hanna Giles, Vice President; Birgitte Jensen, Secretary; Larry Kjearsgaard, Treasurer. Other board members are Dorothy Stone, Ester Ouderkirk and Mona Fossen. We corresponded through emails, zoom meetings, our Teledane newsletter and Facebook. Our March 6, 2022 AGM was in person, with a Zoom option. The board again volunteered to do another "covid pause" with RDDCC members agreeing we remain for another year. We are planning our regular activities for 2022.

Visit us at: www.rddcc.com or on Facebook.

Respectfully, Joanne Nielsen, President

20. Danish Canadian Society DANIA, Edmonton, Alberta

Dania, founded in Edmonton in 1921, is the oldest Danish social and cultural club in Canada. We were proud to mark this 100-year milestone in 2021. Moreover, Dania was featured in the Danish Federation's 2021 Heritage Book. However, due to the pandemic Dania's regular social

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functions were cancelled in 2021. We are now happy to say that we are celebrating our 100th Anniversary on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the Dutch Canadian Centre – “Home of the Scandinavians”. The bar will open at 6 pm, dinner is at 7 pm and dancing will commence at 9 pm. Food will be catered by Three Vikings Food + Drink, while music and photobooth will be by Revolution Entertainment. The menu will consist of traditional Danish smørrebrød, including pickled herring with curry sauce, fiskefillet with remoulade, a variety of open-faced sandwiches, Akvavit and a beer, coffee, tea and dessert plus song & dance! The price of tickets is \$75 per person. And then on Tuesday, November 15 we will hold our Annual General Meeting in the Nordic Room at the Dutch Canadian Centre. Finally on Saturday, December 4 we will again hold a traditional Children’s Christmas Party.

Submitted by Lis Walker, President

22. Scandinavian Cultural Society, Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby, B.C.

During the Covid-19 shutdown, the Scandinavian Cultural Society kept members together with email bulletins, virtual meetings and programs, and a 2022 edition of our newsletter. Our active Genealogy interest group, operating in conjunction with the BC Genealogical Society, offered Zoom and individual electronic support so no service was lost. Our 2020 Nordic Spirit heritage photo exhibit, *Scandinavian Immigrant Women*, originally scheduled for April 2020, was postponed because of the pandemic. However, we prepared additional information from home so our show, when finally presented in April 2022, was exceptional, a fascinating tribute to immigrant women's lives of hardship and achievement. The Scandinavian Community Centre Board credited us the rent we had paid in advance for the postponed 2020 date, but our families were “forced” to eat the pies already baked and in the freezer for the show’s coffee break. No one complained! Our theme for Leif Erikson Day 2022 was “Nordic Exploration and Indigenous People”. The event included presentations about Gudrid the Far Traveler, Knud Rasmussen's 5th Thule Expedition, and Fridtjof Nansen and his Sámi expedition members. After a supper followed by more of Carolyn Thauberger's homemade pies, we showed “The Wedding of Palo”, Knud Rasmussen's 1933 film of life and love among the East Greenland Inuit. While our membership has remained stable (we offered free membership for the pandemic years) some of our active volunteers found other areas of interest during the period of enforced inactivity. There are two areas where we must rebuild. As always, we must interest new people in our active volunteer work. Another challenge is the loss of our funding from BC Gaming Commission since we did not offer programs as scheduled and did not meet their budget requirements. Fortunately, a grant from the disbanding Danish Canadian Community Centre will pull us through until we can again meet Gaming requirements. The Scandinavian Cultural Society has as successfully as possible weathered the difficulties caused by Covid-19. Since spring we have resumed our usual program of talks, concerts, art and photo shows, genealogy meetings, and other heritage activities. We are currently working on our Spring Art and Photo Show and are considering an online celebration for Sámi Day in February. Ed Kuhlman has stepped down as President. Our new President is again Poul Erik Rasmussen and we have made other additions to our Board. On our behalf, Arne Møller attended the Danish Federation meeting held September 19, 2022, in Chemainus. We are so pleased to again be able to work together to support Nordic culture in British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted by: Poul Erik Rasmussen, Carolyn Thauberger and Judith Anderson

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23. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver, B.C.

Lodge 328 celebrated its 90th Anniversary in 2021. Due to the very unusual times we have experienced since the start of the Corona Virus Pandemic in early 2020, no festivities were arranged to celebrate the event. As an organization, a number of both board meetings and general meetings were cancelled. In late 2021 all meetings resumed; things went back to the new normal. Starting in 2021 proof of vaccinations, were a must to be able to join the meetings and were checked at the door. That is still the norm in 2022. Several conventions and other meetings involving members of Danish organizations on the West Coast were cancelled in 2021-2022. Most of those meetings have been rescheduled. A Pacific Region meeting of the Danish Federation is planned for April 11, 2022, and is a sign that things are back to normal. Lodge 328 was on the receiving end of \$8,000.00 from the Danish Canadian Community Centre (DCCC) in November 2020 when it was decided to dissolve that organization and distribute a large part of the funds on hand to qualifying organizations. Lodge 328 qualified. As is tradition, Lodge 328 supported some worthy causes, this time with a larger sum than normal; this time, \$500 due to this recent windfall. Surrey and Vancouver food banks, the two Danish Lutheran churches and the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, all received \$500. Lodge 328 is maintaining the membership numbers with several new members recently joining the Lodge. Tina Prægel's delicious sandwiches, at the end of the business meeting, continue to be a draw to get members to attend the monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Kjeld Christensen, Secretary

25. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B.C.

The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver is doing well. We now have 246 members. Despite the Covid-19 crisis, the congregation and other church goers and supporters have attended the church services and functions and financially supported the church with the effect that the church has managed very well throughout this entire time. We had a few outside services when the weather permitted it but in late summer, early fall, activities started up again with a few differences. People continued wearing masks and followed all other restrictions. The church celebrated its' 84th birthday and there were visitors from DSUK in Denmark: The Danish Bishop and her husband. The Honorary Danish Consul in Vancouver, Mikkel Strojær, also visited. The bazaar was held in the fall and people could choose one hour time slots to attend. Smørrebrød was sold and the auxiliaries had many items. A wonderful Christmas concert in December, as well as the Lucia Fest, was held. The two auxiliaries, other volunteers, the music committee, and people taking care of the memorial walk where plaques can be placed in memory of loved ones have all been part of the reason for the success of the church. The church recently held its Spring Tea and Bake Sale which was also successful. With masks no longer being mandatory due to the eased restrictions there was a good turnout. We thank our pastor, Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, for all her comforting services, reminding us of many Danish traditions and her reaching out to people through the videos the pastor and her husband, Søren, created. We are sorry to say that later this summer Pastor Susanne has ended her five-year term in Canada with her last service held July 17. We have applied to have a new Danish pastor. In the future we will seek to find an available Canadian pastor to step in when our pastor is on vacation.

Submitted by Danish Lutheran Church representative Margit Hansson

26. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby, B.C.

The mission of Dania Home Society and Dania Society is to provide quality housing and residential healthcare for seniors in our community, reflecting our Danish history. Dania's Leadership Team, Staff and Board Members have worked relentlessly with these objectives in mind and they have had great success over last year. Here are the highlights which demonstrate Dania's commitment to improving the quality of life for our seniors. One of Dania's key strengths is our Director of Residential Care and her Clinical Team. They continue to focus on ensuring that Dania Home and Dania Manor meet the clinical standards of Accreditation Canada, a not-for-profit organization that assesses organizations like Dania against standards developed by Health Standards Organization (HSO), International Standards Organization (ISO) and others. These world-class standards enable organizations to provide the highest achievable quality for its patients. Dania has succeeded over the last 10 years to meet Accreditation Canada's highest 'Exemplary' status. The Team has recently completed the extensive audits and collection of evidence in preparation for the next formal survey happening this Fall to reclaim its high status. Another great strength of Dania is its clinical systems. Dania has invested in a number of online clinical care platforms over the last year; these include Health Connex to do more, online audits of care processes rather than paper-based; Surge Learning to provide online staff education and orientation for improved accountabilities; and PointClickCare (PCC) Analytics to help senior clinical staff to make quicker, better informed decisions on resident care needs. The Clinical Team have also done well in mitigating the potential risks during this COVID-19 pandemic. They have continued to educate residents, staff, and families as well as Board members and the general public on the best practices, recommendations, and requirements set by the Fraser Health Authority and the BC Government. Based on these excellent efforts, the Team have succeeded in keeping resident COVID cases down or even non-existent on the Campus. This is a clear example of Dania's excellent leadership in providing quality residential healthcare services to our community. Dania's Recreation Department have also had great successes since the lessening of COVID restrictions over the last year. Bus outings and a music therapy program were able to resume in early 2022; this enabled residents to enjoy the outdoors as well as music programming again within their neighborhoods. More family members came to visit their loved ones during this Summer, and they have commented on how the quality of the programming has improved. They have witnessed new themed programs such as 'Pony Day', 'Pirate Week', and 'Fun Fair Week' at Dania Home. These events have attracted great interest from our local elected officials such as Raj Chouhan, BC MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds, and the Current Speaker of the BC Legislature. He attended our recent 'Superhero Appreciation Day', which was a celebration of our residents and staff as superheroes for being proactive and making our community safe during the COVID pandemic. Over the Summer, Dania's Support Services was bolstered with a new manager who brings a wealth of managerial experience, discipline, and collegiality. She and her Team continue to oversee the important enhanced cleaning required during this COVID pandemic; they were also fortunate to obtain a BC EquipCare grant over the summer that enabled the purchase of new housekeeping equipment, e.g., carts, for better infection control. Another success of this Team is enhancement of the dining and meal ordering experience at Dania. They have been working toward a new online service – eMenuCHOICE - whereby Dania residents, families, staff and guests will soon be able to see our seasonal menus online and then pre-order their meals for a set date and time. Overall, this innovative way of delivering food services along with the continued effort of keeping the Campus clean and safe shows the great caliber of our current support service leadership and staff. Dania has been also successful in

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improving the Campus' infrastructure and equipment supply. In particular, BC Housing provided funds to improve the quality of life for residents of Carl Mortensen Manor. These monies were used to install air conditioning units in each resident suite as well as new flooring, painting and lighting upgrades for all common areas. Fraser Health provided funds for new beds, mattresses, staff chairs, and air conditioning for resident rooms at Dania Home. BC EquipCare also provided funding for the replacement of the communal bathtub at Dania Manor. All of this funding is now making a significant impact on the lives of our residents and staff. Lastly, Dania's Seniors Affordable Housing Project has made great strides over the last 6 months. Its' Executive Director, Comptroller, Building Committee along with its hired architect and developer have worked persistently to get 'Provisional Project Approval' and more recently 'Final Adoption' from the City of Burnaby. A building permit is expected sometime Fall 2022. Once completed, this new building will provide much-needed housing for seniors in our community. In summary, Dania continues to provide outstanding housing and excellent care. The skills, experience and education of our Leadership Team, Staff and Board Members form the basis for these achievements.

Submitted by Paul Christensen, President

27. Danish House Society, Burnaby, B.C.

The Danish House Society (DHS) is based at the Scandinavian Community Centre (SCC) in Burnaby, along with four other houses: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. We share in the maintenance and improvements in the centre. The Danish House Society has approximately 466 members and participates in the centre activities such as:

- The Midsummer Festival which was held June 26th and 27th. This was a great event, after two years of not holding it due to COVID. The weather and turnout were great.
- Nordic Spirit – Scandinavian Immigrant Women April 23rd & 24th.
- Leif Erickson Day on October 16th.
- A seniors' luncheon was held each month on the second Friday (except July and August).
- Spring and fall clean up parties at the SCC; the DHS provided the lunch this fall for the workers.
- There are a number of events sponsored by the other houses which we may also attend.

For the DHS events:

- The Annual General Meeting was held March 21st. Peter Praegel is now our president. With Ed Kuhlman leaving the board, his plethora of duties was shared amongst the board members. Thank you to Ed for all of his contributions to DHS over the past ten years. Ed brought to the Danish House his enthusiasm and knowledge that has propelled Danish House further. In 2022 we welcomed new board members: Pia Petersen, Bent Nielsen, Don MacKenzie and Tina Praegel.
- This year we celebrated Queen Margrethe II's birthday on April 16th. This celebration was put on by the Royal Danish Guards' Association Pacific North West and the Danish House Society. The 83 people were greeted at the entrance by the two tambours playing on fife and drum.
- On June 5th we had a 'bring your own picnic' to celebrate Danish Grundlovsdag.
- Our Annual Family BBQ was held August 21st.

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- Danish Federation: Pacific Region Meeting Sept. 19th, in Chemainus on Vancouver Island.
- We have a Kroaften on the first Friday of each month except July and August. This year we will have December Kroaften for the second time.
- There is annual ‘Christmas by the Fireside’ in December.
- Annually we have the DHS and (from the Estate of) Ruth and Johannes Pedersen Scholarships. For the next two years there will also be two scholarships from money received from the Danish Sisterhood.
- We publish a DHS Newsletter four times a year. Included are past and upcoming events, information out our Danish language classes, scholarship information, obituaries and interesting news about Danes.
- For general inquires we have an email: danishhousesociety@gmail.com
- For our DHS information: <https://scancentre.org/denmark/>

In sadder news, we lost a few wonderful members of Danish House:

- Inge Lyth Nielsen was a long time member of the Danish House. Inge had been a board member for 14 years. Inge had been involved in many areas of Danish House. She was a huge part of gathering volunteers for the Midsummer Festival and organizing the Danish House tent for the Festival. Inge also helped to organize our Christmas by the Fireside by getting us all to make the event special.
- Stan Chester died on April 28, 2022. Stan was instrumental in starting the Danish House scholarship program.
- Jorgen Lyth was a DHS board member and past president. Jorgen was a member of the Tuesday Gang and fed the Gang over many years.

Submitted by Danish House Society

28. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo, B.C.

We look forward to getting back together for fun times, good food and some sort of “normal”. Earlier this year, our Club attempted to host a Sankt Hans Midsummer Celebration so we canvassed members to determine interest but there were too many ‘maybes’ so the Board scrapped the idea for this year. At a recent ZOOM meeting, our Board decided to go ahead and try a couple of events towards the end of the year including a possible Æbleskiver Afternoon and perhaps a Christmas Party sometime in December. Planning is currently underway for those events. Since we are not offering any social events, we are still not collecting any membership dues. We have, however, published a couple of issues of our Newsletter to help members keep in touch. We held our 2022 Annual General Meeting via ZOOM in March and got through the basic business required at an AGM including the election of officers. Our slate of officers for 2022 was as follows: President: Tom Hedekar; Vice President: Carsten Krogh; Secretary: Lena Tsuji; Treasurer: Rebecca Taylor; Director: John Jensen; Director: Darlene O’Neill; Director: Louise Krogh; and Director: John Strandt. However, since our AGM, we have received a letter of resignation from our Secretary so we are currently looking to fill this vacancy. Lena Rasmussen continues to maintain our Club website at www.danishclubnanaimo.com and Lynn Hedekar continues to post interesting items on our Facebook page that you can find by searching FB for *Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club*. I believe that both our web page and our

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Facebook page are instrumental in attracting interest and new members to our club. We seem to lose more members to the great beyond than we gain so our current membership sits at around 150. Moreover, back in the Spring of 2019, our Club agreed to host the Danish Federation Conference and AGM in Nanaimo in May 2020. But that soon got cancelled, due to Covid, as did our plans for 2021 and then again in 2022. We are now offering to host the 2023 event in Nanaimo on May 25 – 28, 2023. At a recent Board meeting, it was agreed to go ahead with the Conference and AGM, so we are looking forward to hosting delegates from across the country in May 2023. We have a fabulous agenda planned for this conference so we hope that it will be well attended.

Submitted by Tom Hedekar, President

32. Danish Canadian American Friendship Association, (CANUSA), Strib, Denmark

For a year and a half contact with our members was severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many CANUSA events were cancelled or postponed. At the same time fewer people took part in the events that we did carry out. Our season began October 1, 2021 with our traditional “Mad & Film” in Aarup Bio, where we saw the American movie *Nomadland*. This was followed on November 25th with a Thanksgiving Dinner in Vissenbjerg, where a young student, Sara Friis Salzmann, gave a lecture entitled, “Finding yourself on the Pacific Coast Trail”. In January 2022 we enjoyed an evening, again with a dinner, where Kim Bo Larsen, a guide and globetrotter, gave a talk about a 2,600 km journey by kayak down the Yukon River. CANUSA’s 60th anniversary was marked at our annual meeting in March, where the Fanø Fiddlers played a set inspired by Cape Breton traditional folk music. Despite Covid-19 and only a few people travelling across the Atlantic we did manage to publish four editions of our magazine, each containing three or four articles. Moreover, our Fund, the DCV’s Venskabsfond, has provided grants to the following four recipients: to Laura Lund-Hansen, for a High School Stay in Arkansas, USA. A \$30,000 donation: to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, to help with their current expansion. A donation to De Grønne Pigespejdere (YWCA), who took part in the large National Scout Camp, together with a Canadian group of scouts. The last grant was given to Irish Millie, a Canadian folk musician, who gave a series of concerts around Denmark in August 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Anton Petersen, Chairman, and Anders Friis Knudsen, Secretary and Editor

Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey, B.C.

Greetings from Granly! All our regular activities were held at our Church, Hall or Parsonage. The Wednesday Club would usually show a Danish movie. The Study Group focussed on Danish Literature. The Bible Study was conducted in the Parsonage next door. The weekly Sunday and Holiday Church services alternated between Danish and English. Sadly the Granly congregation was dissolved and the property sold, due mainly to shrinking and aging membership. The last service was in August 2022 and the new owners took over in November 2022. But all activities and closing celebrations happened in the spring and summer with good attendance. On May 28-29 a Gala Dinner for members and invited guests, and special closing service was held. On August 28 the last service with capacity attendance and closing ceremony was held. Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen conducted all church related activities and was involved in all social

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events. Ruth and Tom have now been at Granly for four years and three months, and supported us until the closing date. We have enjoyed the last few years with them, and will miss them! Every event seemed to be a celebration of Granly's "60 years of activity" Farewell and best wishes from the Granly Board.

Respectfully submitted by Manfred Hoff, President

Pacific Region of the Danish Federation

Our April 2022 AGM was the first in-person meeting in two years. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we held our previous meeting/AGM in April 2021 via Zoom. We thank Sandra Alexander and Ella Wolder who so graciously hosted the recent meeting in their new home in Langley. Members from mainland British Columbia and from Vancouver Island gathered and enjoyed socializing before the meeting and during the traditional Danish Lunch served after the meeting. Our current officers are Jannet Tricarico, Secretary; Kjeld Christensen, Treasurer; Henny Andersen, Director; and Margit Hansson, President, who were re-elected and one new member, Arne Moller, was elected. Reports from the organizations in the Pacific Region were submitted and read. Information received during the year from the Danish Federation was discussed, including the Heritage Book and the upcoming Conference and Seminar in Nanaimo.

Best regards, Margit Hansson, President



PACIFIC REGION
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

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For Hosting the Conference in 2023

The Pacific Region includes representation from:
Vancouver Island Danish-Canadian Club, Nanaimo; Danish Social Club of Victoria;
Danish Brotherhood of America, Lodge 328; Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby;
Danish House Society; Royal Danish Guards Association;
Dania Society & Dania Home Society; Scandinavian Cultural Society

Pastor Vilhelm Beck

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Pastor Vilhelm Beck, Montreal, passed away on April 6, 1986. He was 97 years old. At the funeral on April 10, at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, Bishop William Huras preached the sermon with Pastor Marat (Marty) M. Holobow officiating. Fourteen visiting pastors formed an honour guard in front of the church as Pastor Beck left St. Ansgar's for the last time. Serving as pallbearers were Neil McLean, Philip Beck, Peter Hall, Henrik Langer, Andy Andersen and Kris Kristensen, with Henning Ross Jensen bearing Pastor Beck's medals and honours.

Following the interment at the Danish Cemetery in Pointe Claire, Montreal, family and friends gathered in St. Ansgar's Beck Hall for a reception. Pastor Beck left his wife, Marie, also aged 97 and two children: Dr. Johannes Christian Beck, and Dr. Ellen Signe McLean, and their families.

Vilhelm Beck was born on September 12, 1888 at "Nysted" in Ramme near Lemvig. His father, Kristian Ulsøe Beck was a mail carrier and farmed on the side. His mother, born Nielsine Nielsen, was from Nees near Vemb. At the age of eleven Vilhelm became a shepherd. For half a year's work on the farm, he received 12 kroner and a pair of wooden shoes. After his confirmation he apprenticed for three years as a carpenter, becoming a coach-builder. His father died early and Vilhelm spent his early youth in Lemvig and Ringkøbing. He was considered a good coachmaker and he had no trouble finding jobs.

Through a missionary society he became interested in the work they were conducting in the Sudan in Africa. He therefore decided to study theology. In 1913, he left for the United States, where a brother lived, to study at Trinity Seminary at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. Trinity Seminary had been established in 1884 by Danish "Indre Mission" pastors. When Vilhelm Beck arrived at Trinity, the president was Pastor P.S. Vig, who later wrote the first large history of the Danes in the United States: *Danske i Amerika*, in two volumes.

Towards the end of the First World War, Vilhelm Beck was drafted into the U.S. Army. In April 1918 he was sent to the front in France, where he remained until the armistice in November 1918. He was in Germany with the army of occupation and did not return to the U.S. until June 1919. He had in 1918 received the Honourable Discharge Medal with bars, U.S. Army, 341st Battalion (St. Michel Meuse-Argonne Defensive Sector).

He had the misfortune to be gassed and the effect stayed with him more or less the rest of his life. He was discharged with 50% disability. When he graduated from Trinity Seminary in 1922, all doctors advised him against missionary work in the Sudan. Subsequently he chose to serve in the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

On June 4, 1922, Vilhelm Beck and Marie Brandt were married in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She was the daughter of Christian Brandt and Marie, née Olsen. Vilhelm and Marie had been engaged

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before Vilhelm left Lemvig in April 1913. She had, however, left for Blair, Nebraska, in 1914, and subsequently had taught Danish at Dana College.



Pastor Beck's first call was at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Audubon, Iowa, where he served until 1925, when he received a call from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Many Danish immigrants were arriving in Winnipeg in the late 1920s. Already in 1927, St. Ansgar Lutheran Church was built in Winnipeg, at the corner of Bannerman Avenue and Emslie Street.

From 1933 to 1938, Pastor Vilhelm Beck served Nazareth Lutheran Church in Standard, Alberta. Standard was a Danish settlement, founded in 1910, by Danes from Elk Horn, Iowa, who were seeking farm land at reasonable prices. Pastor Beck's annual salary in Standard was set at \$800 per year plus Christmas, Easter and Pentecost offerings. But there was not much money around, so it was decided to take donations of wheat from the farmers. Mr. Gunnar Nortoft, who had a milk business, was to deliver \$50 worth of milk per year, and be credited for it as a donation to the Church, and as well, it had to go off Pastor Beck's salary. Pastor Beck later informed the

congregation that his family could not use that much milk. The congregation then told the Becks that they could have all the milk they could use, free of charge.

Standard was a very active congregation. Just taking care of the many children was a major task. One year the confirmation class consisted of 36 students. And the Sunday School consisted of 14 teachers and 112 children.

In 1938, Pastor Beck received a call from the St. Ansgar congregation in Montreal, which had been organized in October 1927. Already in the fall of 1939, the year after he arrived in Montreal, the stately Vanier House at 1837 Dorchester Street West was purchased. It was a four story building, which had formerly been the home of General Vanier, who later became Governor General of Canada. The main floor and basement were made into a church and a meeting hall, and the two upstairs floors were made into a comfortable parsonage for the Beck family.

During the Second World War Pastor Beck served as president of the Danish Relief Fund, while his wife was vice-president of the Danish Branch of the Canadian Red Cross. Within the Danish Relief Fund Pastor Beck worked closely with Montreal Consul General Georg Holler, engineer Per Hall and many others. Danish Relief Fund branches were eventually formed across Canada, helping the many Danish sailors who sailed for the Allies, and after the war, sending medical supplies, equipment, food as well as clothing to Denmark.

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Pastor Beck retired from St. Ansgar in Montreal in 1959. But he continued to be of service to the congregation, as late as 1977 assisting with communion. On December 15, 1963, in extremely cold weather, Pastor Beck laid the cornerstone of the new St. Ansgar Church at 4020 rue Grand Boulevard and the corner of Avenue Notre Dame de Grace. As a tribute to him the adjacent hall was named Beck Hall. That same week the Church at 1837 Dorchester Street was sold.

Marie and Pastor Beck had two children, a boy and a girl. Johannes Beck became a professor at McGill University and a doctor at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. Ellen Signe became a librarian. From 1949 to 1951 she worked for the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. She later married John McLean and settled in Nova Scotia. She was extremely active and received many honours, including an honorary doctorate from St. Francis Xavier University and the Order of Canada, and is in both the Nova Scotia and Canadian Agricultural Halls of Fame.

Pastor Beck was honoured by Denmark on three occasions: after the war he received the King Christian X Freedom Medal as well as the Danish Red Cross Medal. In 1951, King Frederik IX bestowed on him the honour of Ridder of Dannebrog.

Pastor Beck also served as secretary (1927-30) and president (1930-34) of the West Canada District, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, and vice-president of the UELC Atlantic District (1949-54). From 1943 to 1967 he was a member of the General Board of the Canadian Bible Society.

In addition to Audubon, Winnipeg, Standard and Montreal, he preached over the years at Pass Lake, Ontario; Swan River and Sparling, Manitoba; and Dickson, Chancellor and Hussar in Alberta. Pastor Beck lived a long and meaningful life. He was a person who made a difference!

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Kai Winther, Ostenfeld

1917 - 2020

Kai Winther passed away at the age of 103½. He died on December 31, 2020, on the family homestead in Dufresne, Manitoba. He was predeceased by Janie, his loving wife of 68 years, as well as two sons in infancy, Dennis and Allen, and oldest son Brian in 1993. He was also predeceased by his parents, Christian (Christen Jensen Vinther 1887-1982) and Christine Winther (née Kristine Christensen Villadsen, 1891-1971), as well as by his brother Harry (see 2020 Heritage Book) and wife Frances Winther, sister Edith and husband Marvin Brown, his in-laws, Fred and Lillian Irwin, and sister-in-law Pearl and husband Vic Carroll.



He will be lovingly remembered by his children: Karen (Norm) Friesen, Judith (Jim) Schellenberg, Faith (Dave) Haack and Bob (Wendy) Winther; his eight grandchildren, as well as ten great-grandchildren. Also, Kai will be remembered by his beloved brother Ernie and wife Susan Winther; numerous nieces and nephews along with their families. A memorial service was held later in the spring at Ostenfeld Lutheran Church when restrictions were lifted.

Kai Winther (originally Kaj Vinther) was born on June 20, 1917, in Tversted on the north coast of Jutland, overlooking Skagerrak, the sea between Denmark and Norway. He was born on a farm that has been in the Winther family since about 1600. The family immigrated to Canada in 1927 and settled in Ostenfeld, a Danish settlement in South East Manitoba. Kai was heavily involved in community life and was usually dashing off to one meeting or another. In 1930, he helped construct the first Ostenfeld Lutheran Church and was deeply involved over the years in renovations to that building and in construction of the new church building in 1991. Kai was an active and dedicated member of the church from an early age right up until services were suspended due to Covid. Every Sunday, prior to the service, Kai would ring the outside bell, which he helped purchase in 1951.

In 1945 Kai married Janie Irwin and moved to her family farm in Dufresne. He slowly took over the operations and later passed it on to Bob and his wife Wendy and it is now considered a Heritage Farm. Kai and Janie enjoyed the simpler things in life, such as dancing, old time music, cribbage, whist and visiting with friends. Kai and Janie would also travel all over Manitoba to attend fiddling events. A short biography of Kai and Janie appeared in the 1998 Heritage Book. In that book Kai also wrote a short history of the Ostenfeld Lutheran Church.

Kai made a list of the committees and boards he was involved in over the years. In total he was involved in 34 community services. The most dear, to him was the church committees, the

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Manitoba Hog Marketing Board and St. Anne Co-op Oil. In November of 2018, Kai was honoured at the Manitoba Legislative Assembly for his extensive community involvement, and was bestowed the distinction of Dawson Trail's Hero.

After Janie passed away Kai's activities were still numerous. Some of his favourites were attending the old time music jam sessions in nearby Anola on Friday mornings, or daily coffee at Tim Hortons or McDonalds. The Good Life Club was also special to him. Kai also enjoyed going for long rides around the province with his children. Often his nephew Neil would come and pick him up - and they would head out on adventures!

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Marian Perkins

**Raised awareness of alcohol addiction
and helped women in trouble with the law**

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Marian Perkins devoted her life to educate the public and governments about alcohol addiction, in the process advocating for both victims and their families. At the same time she was an ardent advocate for women in the justice system, both inside and outside prisons.

Marian Johanna Perkins, née Hansen, passed away at the Saint John Regional Hospital on September 9, 2020. Marian was born in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, on June 8, 1927 to Lewis Hansen and Anna Hansen, née Larsen. Marian grew up in Grand Falls with loving parents, and her brother Douglas. Both parents died prematurely, but they had a large extended family in neighbouring New Denmark, where her grandparents from Denmark had settled. Marian graduated from Mount Allison Commercial College, and then went to Edmundston to work as a secretary for the Fraser Companies, which produced pulp, paper and lumber, and this is where she met Malcolm Lloyd Perkins, a navy veteran.

Marian and Malcolm were married in 1950 and moved to Fredericton, where Malcolm could complete his university courses in electrical engineering. Malcolm was tall, handsome, and intelligent, from a good family and fun to be with. However, anyone can become a victim of a disease, which in Malcolm's case was alcohol addiction. Marian hoped he would go to AA, but he didn't live long enough. He died suddenly of an aneurysm of the heart. Marian was left with four young children.

Malcolm and Marian had settled in northern Maine, where they had four children; Brian (Carla), Jane Perkins Love (Howard), Kristin Thompson (Gary) and Lorna (Jerry). Later the family moved to Montreal, where Marian sought help to combat the "dreaded disease that had invaded our family in the form of alcoholism." "Without experience of violence or conflict growing up, Marian was unprepared for the changes in personality that accompanied the progression of alcoholism in its victims." She learned first hand how devastating alcohol addiction can be, not just for the afflicted addict, but for the rest of the family in trying to cope with the resulting turbulence. In Montreal Marian discovered a 12-step program which helped her. "I learned that I was not responsible for another person's illness, that I did not cause it and could not control or cure it, but I could learn to cope with it. Quickly, I began to recover. It gave me encouragement and hope that things could be better for me and for my children."

It was a change which prompted Marian to help others in similar situations. After moving to Saint John in 1965, Marian was courageous enough to appear anonymously on a popular Saturday morning phone-in radio program to discuss the impact of alcoholism on families. Her audacious move launched her long involvement with public advocacy and education for the

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disadvantaged in society. After Malcolm died in 1968, Marian started working as a field representative for the Alcohol Education Division of the New Brunswick Department of Health.

In 1969, Marian attended a seminar on alcoholism in Fredericton with Dr. J. P. Chiasson from Sherbrooke University. The seminar was not reported in the newspaper and so Marian wrote to the *Telegraph-Journal* complaining that the paper had not covered this seminar. This led to an article about her, which exposed Marian to a larger readership, and raised awareness of her work in Saint John. For twenty-five years Marian thus worked as a social worker for the province of New Brunswick.

She was instrumental in establishing the Family Education Program at the Ridgewood Addiction Centre. After years of lobbying, the government finally relented and created the Ridgewood Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, now Ridgewood Addiction Services at South Bay.



As well, Marian was a founding member of the Elizabeth Fry Society in Saint John. Working as a counselor in an addiction treatment facility Marian saw many men and women struggle with addiction after being released from prison. Realizing that she would need a university degree to continue her work, she applied to the Maritime School of Social Work through the University of New Brunswick. As her field project she decided to establish a branch of the Elizabeth Fry Society.

In 1985, Marian thus invited women working in Corrections, Probation, and Parole Services to attend a meeting for the purpose of forming an Elizabeth Fry branch in Saint John. In the fall of 1986, the Volunteer Centre put out a public call for volunteers to join the branch, and on April 2, 1987, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John was officially organized. Upon graduation later that year she received a Bachelor of Social Work.

Given access to the incarcerated women in the Saint John Regional Correctional Centre, Marian and other volunteers visited the women weekly. At first the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John offered counselling, advocacy and support services to incarcerated women every Thursday morning. Significantly, the other volunteers helped bring new ideas and activities to the program.

In 2012, the government of New Brunswick announced that it was moving incarcerated women from Saint John to the Women's Correctional Centre in Miramichi in northern New Brunswick. Marian thought the decision was wrong and fought against the move. But she was not successful.

Over the years Marian has made many jail visits, on several occasions to see Maritime women who were incarcerated in the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ontario. And since it opened in

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1995, she has made regular visits to women in the Nova Institution for Women, which is a federal prison for women in Truro, Nova Scotia, which can accommodate up to 70 inmates as well as different levels of offenders. An agreement between the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John and Correctional Services of Canada allow books to be mailed to the inmates in Truro.

Marian's work with alcohol addiction and women who get in trouble with the law has been duly recognized. Her awards include a Certificate of Appreciation, United Nations Association of Canada, New Brunswick Branch; International Women's Day Award for longstanding contributions and positive impact on the community in 1992, and in 2003 the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for volunteer leadership and "her significant contribution to the community." The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John won the Community Star Award in 2008, and then in 2010 the New Brunswick Human Rights Award, presented to the Society by the Lieutenant-Governor at Government House.

In 2013 Marian was awarded the Order of New Brunswick. She was also awarded the Lady of the Year honours from Saint John Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's social, cultural and service organization, for her advocacy work championing women's rights and issues of social justice.

Volunteers with the Elizabeth Fry Society still have to clarify their position, which is that they are not trying to abolish prisons entirely, since there are people who are a danger to society and to themselves who must be incarcerated. And while there is finally some attention being paid to people with mental health problems, especially youth, the Elizabeth Fry Society is concerned for all those mentally ill adults who still languish in jail.

"We are just volunteers so it doesn't matter how much experience we have, we're not regarded as any authority at all by the government. Also, I think they don't want to spend money on helping these people because there is not the political will to do it."

Most inmates seen by Elizabeth Fry volunteers have been convicted of fraud and shoplifting, offenses that are related to the pressures associated with poverty and addiction. Members of the Society believe the emphasis should be on healing, not on punishment. People should be given the option to enter rehabilitation, and if they choose to do so, their progress would be assessed, and after a reasonable amount of time, if they do not show inclination to adopt a new way of thinking and behaving, they will be transferred to regular incarceration.

Marian feels that a prison is beneficial only if the environment supports the possibility for healing; but for the most part, jails are far from therapeutic. All too often a person is still in the throes of drug withdrawal when jailed, and should be more appropriately treated in a detoxification centre.

In conclusion, Marian was also active within the Danish community. She served as secretary and later as president of the Danish Canadian Society of Saint John. She also gave talks to school children about Danish culture, for example, Danish Christmas customs and traditions.

In short, Marian was driven by her will, determination and optimism. Her faith and devotion defined Marian's life. She was an active member of the Silver Falls United Church and participated regularly in their active choir for many years. Expressing herself by singing sustained her through some dark times.

Remembering Edith Wulff

Rolf Buschardt Christensen



The passing of Edith Wulff came as a surprise as I had just spoken to her on the phone a couple of months before she died. Despite her serious health challenges she sounded fine on the phone and we spoke like in the old days. Her memory was excellent. I had phoned her to talk about her translation of a 1903 poem by Danish American Pastor Adam Dan, which he had composed on the occasion of the passing of Pastor Frederik Lange Grundtvig (1854-1903), which Edith had skillfully translated, from Danish to English.

Some years back she had translated another poem for me, a poem by Pastor Jes Gundersen of Dickson, Alberta, which was more or less an autobiography in verse. The poem was later published in the Danish Federation's 2017 Heritage Book, in connection with a biography of Dickson Pastor Gundersen. In 2006 Edith composed a song on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Danish Federation. It was sung at the Ontario Region dinner at the Grimsby Church in September 2006.

As many of you know, it was also Edith who wrote the poem on the Danish plaque at Pier 21, the Canadian Immigration Museum in Halifax. Naturally she was present at the unveiling of this plaque at Pier 21 in August 2002.

Edith was active in the Ontario Region of the Danish Federation and served as secretary of the Ontario Region. She attended several national conferences across Canada and she also contributed to the yearly Heritage Books with ideas and contacts. Her favourite involvement was without doubt the one week Heritage Seminars held in different locations across Canada. She enjoyed attending and participated in various ways with entertainment and also at one point with a more serious lecture and demonstration of first aid.



Danish Consul Harry Mathers, Edith Wulff, Dr. Ruth Goldbloom, Pier 21, and Kyra Hansen, New Denmark.

Due to Edith's involvement in the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby she was involved with hosting meetings of the Ontario Region of the Danish Federation. While we discussed serious

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things at our meetings, such as selling our Heritage Book and financially supporting the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta, Edith always made certain that there was a social aspect to our meetings, which included a dinner and local entertainment.



Edith Wulff, at Heritage Seminar, Thunder Bay, 2003.

Edith Nielsen was born in Copenhagen on December 25, 1935, the daughter of Anton Nielsen and Norma, née Blichfeldt. Edith immigrated to Canada in March 1954 and married her sweetheart, Alfred Wulff (1927-2005) in May that same year. They had been pen-pals for three years after he left Denmark for Canada in 1951. They had three children: Maryann (Roman), Robert (Debbie) and Johnny (April) and became proud grandparents to seven grandchildren as well as eight great-grandchildren.

Edith was lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mother while her children were young but soon became involved in the community as a volunteer in Home and School, Girl Guides (55+years), St. John Ambulance (50+years), the Danish Lutheran Church (60+years) and the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. She loved sewing, knitting, embroidery, crafts, cooking and swimming, but most of all she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends at home in Hamilton and at her cottage at Wasaga Beach on Georgian Bay.

Edith Wulff became a member of the Order of St. John in 1996, also known as the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. In 2002 she advanced and became an Officer of the Order. As well, Edith Wulff was Captain of the Girl Guides, where she among other things taught First Aid.



Edith Wulff reads Opening Prayer at the closing ceremony of Grimsby Lutheran Church, April 22, 2018.

Edith was interested in many things and could speak knowledgeably about a host of topics. I always enjoyed talking to her. Edith passed away in Hamilton, Ontario, on Saturday, April 16, 2022. She will be remembered and missed. Ære være hendes minde!

Egon Greve Sommer, Ponoka

1942 – 2021

Carl Sorensen, Edmonton

Egon Sommer of Ponoka, Alberta, who passed away on May 4, 2021, had a significant connection to the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. As the obituary below notes, Egon was the son of Karen and Kresten Sommer. He was born in Harridslev, outside Randers, on October 23, 1942. He and his parents and siblings, with the exception of a sister who remained in Denmark, came to Canada as immigrants from Mariager, Denmark, in 1957. When his mother, Karen, passed away in Ponoka in 2006, she left a bequest of \$40,000 in her will to the Danish Canadian Museum, to be used "for something special".



Egon Sommer, 2009.

The Museum Board, consulting with the Sommer Family, decided that the gift should be used by the Museum to acquire a replica of a Viking ship. The Family enthusiastically supported that. After some research the Board decided to have an authentic replica of a Viking ship built in Denmark, at the Shipyard of the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark. In 2008 the Board contracted with the Viking Ship Museum for the ship to be built and shipped by that Museum to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The ship was launched and christened, *Freydis Joanna*, in Roskilde in April 2009. Egon was among those present at that event.

The *Freydis Joanna* was shipped to Halifax that summer, and was on display there for some weeks at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The Museum Board had earlier decided to bring the Viking ship across Canada from Halifax to Dickson in such a way that it could be displayed and seen by Canadians, and most particularly by Canadians of Danish heritage in a variety of places across Canada from Halifax to Victoria, B.C, and finally Dickson.

This is where Egon stepped in! He had closely followed the progress of *Freydis Joanna* being built and of its coming to Canada. Because of his own strong connection with his Danish heritage, and because his mother had provided the funds to have it built, he volunteered to drive to Halifax with his vehicle and an enclosed trailer, and bring the ship to Dickson. Moreover, he would not charge the Museum for the considerable cost of doing that; he would document all his expenses and the total would be considered a donation to the Museum. The Board agreed. He and a friend drove to Halifax and picked up the *Freydis Joanna* and then made a five-week trip across Canada to Dickson, arriving there to great celebration in August of 2009. On the way Egon and *Freydis Joanna* had stopped and been seen with excitement, and media coverage, by

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many Canadians, in large cities such as Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary and in many small communities such as Gimli, Manitoba; Redvers, Saskatchewan and Tilley and Standard, Alberta. It even sailed on the Glenmore Reservoir in Calgary. The following year, 2010, Egon and *Freydis Joanna* were on the road again, this time from Dickson to Vancouver and Victoria and other West Coast locations, as well as through British Columbia.



The Freydis Joanna's launching in Roskilde Fjord.

The Board of the Museum subsequently decided to build a permanent "Naust" on the Museum grounds - a typical Viking-era structure built to house Viking ships. Egon and Norma contributed to the considerable cost of building the Naust.

All of us associated with the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson are proud of *Freydis Joanna*, an authentic replica of a Viking ship - one of only three of its type in Canada. And we are immensely grateful for Egon and Norma's significant assistance in making its acquisition possible! Thank you. We will remember Egon Sommer! May he rest in peace!

Egon Sommer's obituary in the newspaper reads as follows:

Egon Greve Sommer was born in Harridslev, Denmark, on October 23, 1942 to Karen and Kresten Sommer. He was the third child of six. In 1957, at the age of 15, Egon and the rest of the Sommer family boarded a ship and came to Canada, landing in Pier 21. They boarded the train and made their way out west to Alberta. In 1965, Egon and his brother Knud started a construction company and in 1971 Sommer Home Hardware was established.

Egon will be lovingly remembered by his wife of almost 55 years, Norma; daughters Shirley (Lorne) and Arlene (Harley); grandchildren Zachary, Brandi-Lynn (Richard), Katelyn (Levi), Hunter (Georgia) and Callie (Sam); and great-grandsons Blake and Samuel; his sisters Kirsten (Knud) of Denmark, Olga (Mike) and Vera (Scott); and sister-in-law Lil and their families. He was predeceased by his parents Kresten and Karen Sommer; sister Tove; brother Knud; son Egon Jr.; and grandsons Kirk, Lucas and Levi.



The Naust, at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta.

Memorial donations in Egon's name are gratefully accepted to: the Alberta Lung Association, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (S.I.D.S.), Mental Health Foundation, or Alberta Cancer Foundation. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the service will be held later.

Svend Berg, Montreal

1931 – 2022

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

One of the founders of the Danish Federation passed away in Montreal on December 2, 2022. Svend Berg had been in ill health for some time. He was 91 years old.

Svend Berg was present at Sunset Villa in June 1981 at the founding meeting of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, representing the Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, of which he was president. He had been elected president of the Danish Canadian Society the year before and was eager to see the establishment of a Danish Canadian national umbrella organization, above all since his Society had tried to form such an organization in the 1930s. And in the 1960s others in Montreal had again tried to form such an umbrella organization, to be called Canadania. Svend played a significant role at the founding meeting, ensuring the success of the endeavour. In the 1983 Heritage Book, which Svend Berg edited, he pointed out that the establishment of a national organization was one of the aims of the Danish Canadian Society, and was clearly stated in the Society's Bylaws.



Two months prior to the Danish Federation's founding meeting Svend Berg sent me a two-page letter outlining his thoughts about a national umbrella organization. The letter contained eight points including suggesting a name (Federation of Danish Canadian Organizations) and a membership fee structure of 50, 100 or 200 dollars, based on the number of members of an organization. Since the Danish Federation would be a club of clubs, Svend suggested it should be one club, one vote. He suggested arranging a competition to select a Danish Federation logo, and he proposed that *Modersmaalet*, the Danish language newspaper in Toronto, and the Danish Federation enter into an arrangement whereby *Modersmaalet* would become the newsletter of the Danish Federation. Svend also proposed that the Danish Federation should compile and sell a song book, and start a library with Danish films which could be lent out to clubs. Finally, Svend felt that the Board of Directors must consist of directors from across Canada. He added that it would be desirable if the Danish Federation would be able to subsidize travel across Canada when the representatives of the Federation meet. Indeed, many of Svend's points were incorporated into the bylaws and or practices of the Danish Federation.

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Prior to the founding meeting the author had obtained a \$4,000 grant from the Federal Minister of State for Multiculturalism. In this way the out of province (outside Ontario) delegates to the founding meeting could be reimbursed for their travel expenses. In awarding the grant the Hon. Jim Fleming stated that he very much supported the establishment of a Danish umbrella organization.

At the meeting, Poul B. Christensen of Vancouver, who chaired the founding meeting, wanted to host the first Danish Canadian Conference. That was agreed. Svend Berg, seconded by Ole Larsen of Montreal, wanted to host the second Danish Canadian Conference. That too was unanimously agreed.

On his return to Montreal Svend Berg got his friend Erling Nielsen involved and Erling was elected President of the Quebec Region. Erling and his wife attended the 1982 Conference in Vancouver. For the 1984 Conference in Montreal Svend and Erling were co-organizers. For the Conference Svend compiled and edited the Conference Book, now called the Heritage Book. Svend would later edit another eleven Heritage Books for the Danish Federation.

Prior to the first Danish Canadian Conference in Vancouver in 1982, Svend Berg sent a letter to the author suggesting that the Danish Federation take over the administration of the King Christian X's Jubilee Foundation of 1937. Danish Consul-General Julius F. Bruun of Montreal felt that the administration of this fund should be taken over by the Danish Federation. The purpose of this fund was to help send a senior citizen who had not visited Denmark for twenty years, on a trip to Denmark. It was unanimously agreed that the Danish Federation take over the fund, which had \$1,200 in the bank. The Foundation was not, however, taken over by the Danish Federation. But Svend helped find a deserving candidate, Mrs. Kamma Monpetit, née Mortensen, of Montreal.

Svend continued as president of the Danish Canadian Society until 1986. In 2008 Svend was inducted into the Danish Canadian Society's Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to the Society. He was also active in The Danish Club of Montreal, and served as Club President from 1995 until 2001. Later he was editor of the Club newsletter and served on the board as treasurer.

In 1995 Svend also joined the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation, serving as Director for the Quebec Region until his passing. Svend was also active in the group of Danish Quebeckers who met at Sunset Villa every year or two.

Svend Berg was born in Kolding on February 22, 1931. He was fourteen years old when the War ended. He apprenticed as an electrician, and in 1955 he immigrated to Canada. In 1957 he married Bjørg Klingenberg Sel, and they had two children. They are Sonja and Peter.

In 1976 Svend started his own company, after having worked for RCA and ITT. With an incredible mind for electronics and communication, Svend was involved in establishing the DEW line in the Yukon, building systems to televise the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, and building Canada's first earth satellite communication system. A successful entrepreneur, he was always proud of starting Pointe-Claire Electronics which became UPMACS Communications, which is now owned and operated by his son Peter.

Svend also wrote poetry and *lejlighedssange*, occasional songs, often written and sung for a special occasion. Occasional songs have a long tradition in Denmark and are often written and

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sung by Danish immigrants in Canada. Generally the songs are personal and long. Below is a sampling of some of Svend's short humorous and sarcastic poems.

In 1984, Svend suggested that the Danes in Montreal should have a Viking Ship float in Montreal's St. Patrick's Day Parade, as well as in the Canada Day Parade. The float was enthusiastically supported by the Danish community and was a big hit with the spectators along the parade route.

For years Svend was involved with St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, serving on the Church Council. He took a great interest in the Danish Cemetery at Lakeview Memorial Garden in Pointe Claire, helping sell plots. He wrote a short history of the cemetery in one of the Heritage Books, which is now uploaded to St. Ansgar's website.

Both the Danish Canadian Society and the Danish Club of Montreal describe Svend as a pillar within the Danish community, which he truly was. Yes, he will be missed. Æret være hans minde!

Poems by Svend Berg

<p>Technical Progress</p> <p>Today what is technically difficult to do is done right a way without much ponder, what simply cannot be done only takes a little bit longer.</p>	<p>Founding The Danish Club of Montreal</p> <p>A group of Danes they met for lunch, in 1922, Discussing purpose of a Club and what it was to do; Not finishing, they all agreed to have another lunch, Second Wednesday of next month. Danes, they always can agree to - Sit down and have a lunch.</p>
<p>Insomnia</p> <p>Sleepless nights sure are a curse, but they can also have their worth, for when it's time to get out of bed, a brand new rhyme is in my head.</p>	<p>Queen Margrethe</p> <p>Queen Margrethe of Denmark is a lovely lady, to this fact there ain't no maybe, she has beauty, intelligence, charm and grace, and she couldn't be queen of a better place.</p>
<p>Car Accident</p> <p>(Falling asleep at the wheel)</p> <p>When driving a car I hope you are alert and wide awake. If you take a snooze when at hundred you cruise Your snooze eternity may take.</p>	<p>Unscrambled Eggs</p> <p>Science and Technology has taken us far, we walk on the moon, we probe distant star, still human knowledge is lacking. So far no one has developed the "tech", how to reconstruct a broken egg, on that problem we should "get cracking".</p>

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Erik the Red

When Erik The Red and his Viking band,
hungry, tired and dirty,
finally set foot in Newfoundland,
it was seven o'clock, or -- maybe it was
seven thirty.

Erik had in mind to stay,
and they settled down to rest a bit.
All went well, until the day,
they ran out of Akvavit.

Don't pop a pill - pour an Akvavit

If you wake up in the morning and feeling blue,
here is advise on what to do.

You get up and gently fumble your way,
to the kitchen to find something to brighten your day,
You open the fridge and your eyes catch sight,
of a bottle that is filled with pure delight,
you open it and have one or two perhaps,
and say "Skål" to yourself with a "Medicine Snaps".

Short Obituaries

Hans Ib Andersen, Nanaimo

1933 – 2020

Hans Ib Andersen was born in Denmark on January 7, 1933 and died in Nanaimo on September 10, 2020. He was a TV repair man and was a member of the Nanaimo Yacht Club. He was also a member of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club and was the DJ at Club parties.

Helmer Biermann, Saint John

1923 – 2005

Helmer Biermann, the former president of the Danish Canadian Society of Saint John, passed away in Saint John Regional Hospital on November 27, 2005. Helmer Biermann was born in Skærbæk, Sønderjylland, Denmark, on February 15, 1923, the son of the late Heinrich and Maren Katrine Biermann, née Davidsen. Helmer was only four years old when he and his parents immigrated to Canada, arriving by ship in Saint John, New Brunswick, on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1927. He grew up in Saint John, where he met Catherine Anne “Rosalie” Morgan, who he married in Saint John on June 25, 1949. Helmer worked for the newspapers *Telegraph-Journal* as well as the *Evening Times Globe* from where he retired as Editor of Arts and Entertainment. He was an avid reader and writer, had a love of old classical movies, opera and classical music, and enjoyed swimming and golf. He was a member of the first board of directors of the original Saint John Symphony, honorary member of the Saint John Art Club, and a member of the Fortnightly Club. Helmer was a member of the Danish Canadian Society and was elected president at age 80, serving until he passed away two years later. He was a member of Hope Lutheran Church, a congregation in Saint John founded by Danish immigrants in 1931. Moreover, Helmer was a world traveler. Helmer is survived by his sons Frederik Schani and Karl Edward, and his daughter Catherine Brunhilde. He was predeceased by his wife and his sister Olga. He was interned at Fernhill Cemetery.

Bent Bjerno, Hamilton

1931 – 2021

Bent Bjernø was born in Aalborg, Denmark, on December 3, 1931. He passed away in Hamilton, Ontario, on January 1, 2021. Bent and his wife Mimi were interned at Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario, in September 2021.

Mimi Lillian Bjerno, née Rosengaard, Hamilton

1931 – 2021

Mimi Lillian Bjernø, née Rosengaard, passed away on March 17, 2021. She was born in Varde, Denmark, on October 19, 1931. A Loving wife to Bent Bjerno for 65 years; beloved mother to Lars (Terri), Susanne, and Hans (Nancy); cherished Farmor to Jacqueline (Kyle), Carolyn (Matt),

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Kiersten, Dane (Sandra), Nate and Zack and adoring Oldemor to Ryker, Anderson, Holden and Adelaide. Mimi and Bent were grateful for the life they built in Canada, but their hearts always belonged to their beloved Denmark.

Jens Brondum, Burnaby

1932 – 2021

Jens Brondum passed away on January 18, 2021. He was born on March 17, 1932. Jens was predeceased by Aase, his wife of 65 years. Due to Covid restrictions, there was a service for immediate family members only. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver.

Stan Chester, Vancouver

1932 – 2022

Gordon Stan Chester, born on July 4, 1932, passed away on April 28, 2022. Stan was predeceased by his parents Henry and Mae Chester, his sister Marlene Swensen, by his first wife Beverly, and second wife Margaret, née Henriksen. Stan launched the Danish House Society's Scholarship Committee. He attended many of the Danish Federation's Heritage Seminars, where he on a couple of occasions gave talks on forestry. A Celebration of Life was held on July 16, and there were many foresters present.

Frede Ostergaard Christensen, Edmonton

1955 – 2022

On June 5, 2022, Frede Ostergaard Christensen passed away peacefully at the age of 67. Frede is survived by his family: Jorgen (brother) and Merete; Lene (sister) and Per; Leif (brother) and Marianne; and Ole (brother) and Susanne. Frede was predeceased by his parents Annelise (2014) and Emil (2017). Frede was born in Løgstrup, Denmark, on February 5, 1955. He completed his bricklayer apprenticeship in 1977, and shortly thereafter arrived in Canada where he worked as a skilled mason for 40 years. A funeral service was held at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church. Following the service refreshments were served.

Jens (Chris) Christensen, Nanaimo

1934 – 2021

Jens (Chris) Christensen passed away on June 3, 2021 at Nanaimo Hospital. He was born November 5, 1934 in Esbjerg. Jens, better known to most as Chris, or Papa, immigrated to Canada in 1957 with two of his buddies (Erik and Bent) and quickly embraced the backhoe world. He worked as a backhoe operator until the age of 78, at which point he was pulled kicking and screaming from his backhoe levers. Chris married Wendy on June 5, 1961 and they went on to have three beautiful children. Chris lived life to its fullest. No matter what, you would always find him with a smile on his face and that twinkle in his beautiful blue eyes. He was the center of attention no matter where he was, and made an impact on every life he touched. He is predeceased by his daughter Lisa Maria in 1983; his wife Wendy in 1999 and his brother Mogens in 2021. He is survived by his partner Sonja Sojer; daughter Michele (Euan); son Mark

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(Matilda), brother Ole (Ina) in Denmark; and grandchildren Christopher Keisha, Riley and Owen.

Konrad Juel Christensen, Edmonton 1968 – 2022

It is with sadness that the family of Konrad Juel Christensen announce his sudden passing on June 25, 2022 in Spruce Grove, Alberta, at the age of 54. He was born on May 5, 1968. Konrad is survived by his loving daughter Zoe; his father Helge; his mother Bitten; sister Lisa; brother Mark (Rekha) and nephew Henrik; along with many aunts, uncles, and cousins in Canada, Denmark and around the globe; and many, many lifelong friends. Konrad will be remembered for being a fun, kind-hearted soul; always welcoming and generous; always greeting you with a smile, an invitation to chat and quite possibly a beverage. And chat to you about any subject from music and movies to the meaning of life. His humour, thoughtfulness and genuine interest in others made everyone want to be around him. "Big Swede", as he was playfully called, was proudly Danish and served on Dania - The Danish Canadian Society of Edmonton's Board. Konrad was both a farbror and an uncle. He was the fun uncle for all his family and friends' children and dogs. His love of dogs was boundless especially towards his beloved Vizsla, and Lola, who he recently lost. A Celebration of Life was held on July 12, 2022 at Westlawn Funeral Home, Stony Plain Road, Edmonton.

Kurt Mathias Christensen, Aldersyde, Alberta 1930 – 2021

Kurt Christensen, beloved husband of Margit Christensen, née Jensen, of Aldersyde, Alberta, passed away on November 6, 2021. Kurt was born in Aarhus on November 3, 1930. He later immigrated to Canada (Calgary) in 1952. Kurt graduated from the University of Aarhus with a degree in Agriculture. He joined the Royal Danish Guards at the age of nineteen and served for two years in Copenhagen. He remains an honorary member of the Royal Danish Guards and received a medal for his years of service. In 1954, Kurt married the love of his life Margit (Gitte) Jensen. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary, and the Danish Businessmen's Association. He also volunteered every year with the Calgary Stampede and the Danish Canadian Club. Kurt accomplished much through his life and was proud of the work he accomplished during his time with Otis Elevators, where he was the Manager for Western Canada. He cherished the lifelong business friendships he established during his career. He was extremely proud of his family and of the life he built for himself in Canada. Kurt enjoyed being with his friends and was known for his generous nature. Kurt is survived by his wife, daughter, son and grandchildren.

Lis Christensen, née Rasmussen, Sedgewick, Alberta 1931 – 2014

Lis Christensen was born in Copenhagen on April 26, 1931. Lis was the older of two children. Lis lived in Denmark for 43 years raising her three children, Bente, Jan, and Jesper, from a previous marriage. Lis worked as a supervisor for a data company, which was owned by Bent Christensen. Through company functions, Lis got to know the Christensen family well and

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became good friends with Bent's sister, Ellen. Ellen insisted that Lis would be the perfect match for her brother, who was living in Canada. Ellen hosted an "engagement" party for Lis and Svend, unbeknownst to Svend, and six months later, in December 1972, the "couple" met for the first time. Four months later, Lis quit her job, threw her belongings and Jessie into the trunk, and moved to Killam, Alberta to become a farmer's wife. Lis and Svend were married on July 17, 1973. Lis quickly learned that life on the farm was vastly different from her life in Denmark, and her job description quickly grew. She became everything from Svend's right hand woman to gardener, bookkeeper, and master chef. Family was important to Lis, and her and Svend hosted many family get-togethers at their house. One Christmas tradition, among others, was creating gingerbread houses with her grandchildren. When Lis wasn't occupied with her family, she enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, and bowling. She and Svend also enjoyed traveling. Lis passed away on July 22, 2014, due to cancer.

Per Normann Christensen, Nanaimo 1926 – 2022

Per (Norm) Normann Christensen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 16, 1926, and died in Nanaimo on August 17, 2022. He chaired the founding meeting of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in 1989. Per left for Canada with his wife Lisse and son Per Jr. in 1954. They found lifelong friends in Edmonton through Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church. The family, which had grown with daughter Dorte and son Paul, moved to Nanaimo in 1970, so Per could establish Christensen Motors (Mazda). In 1977, Per began a 45 year commitment to daily cardio exercise, primarily walking. It was a great joy in his life, keeping him healthy, and providing time for reflection and his own form of therapy. In 1989, Lisse was affected by Alzheimer. Per lovingly cared for her at home, and later in care. Per later found love again with Lillian. Per was a good man with a hearty laugh, big smile and a great sense of humour. He was kind and generous. He enjoyed deep discussions of philosophy and politics. Per treasured his family and friends. He was a wonderful father, grandfather, and was delighted to become a great grandfather. Per was predeceased by his son Per Jr in 1973, his wife Lisse (Mikkelsen), and his parents Camma and Eigil Christensen. He is survived by Lillian Howard-Gibbon, Dorte Pittaway, Paul Christensen (daughter-in-law Kim Rothery), granddaughter Margot Lisse Day (Chris), and great-grandchildren Chloe and Tyler. He will also be missed by Lillian's son Ken Pedersen (Nancy) and many friends.

John Ernest (Chris) Christiansen, Nanaimo 1925 – 2013

John Ernst (Chris) Christiansen passed away peacefully in Nanaimo on October 13, 2013. Chris was pre-deceased by his parents John and Anna, and 11 brothers and sisters, as well as Florence, in 2007, his loving wife of 63 years. Chris was born in Fort Frances, Ontario, on May 17, 1925. Chris grew up enjoying time with family and a love for sports. In 1941, Chris moved to Rossland, B.C., and began working at Cominco. Over a 40 year period at Cominco, Chris was an exceptional citizen who loved his job and worked hard as a plumber, pipefitter and millwright. It was at Cominco that Chris and Florence met, marrying in 1944. A devoted husband and father, Chris always demonstrated an infinite love for his family. His greatest enjoyment in life came from spending time with family and watching his children and grandchildren play sports. He

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enjoyed woodworking, fishing, golf games with his buddy Al Dixon, and summers with family and friends at Christina Lake. As per his request there will be no funeral service.

Lilli Frederikke (Frostrup) Christiansen, Parksville 1928 – 2009

Lilli Frederikke (Frostrup) Christiansen lost her courageous battle with cancer on August 31, 2009. She was born in Lindeballe, Denmark, on May 20, 1928, and in 1951, immigrated to Canada, with her young family, to join her husband (Poul) who was working at Eaglecrest Estate in Qualicum Beach, B.C. In 1963, the family moved to Parksville. Lilli was a remarkable lady with her wit and infectious laugh. Being the perfect hostess and cook, no one left her home without feeling part of the family. Lilli loved to dance, host parties, and spend time camping. Lilli was predeceased by her husband, Poul, of 59 years, in 2005. She leaves her daughter, son, grandchildren, great grandchildren and two sisters and a brother.

Jørgen Dam, Newmarket 1939 – 2022

Jørgen (John) Dam passed away on May 20, 2022 after a short illness, surrounded by his wife Inge; daughters Amanda (Joe) and Rikke (Keith); and granddaughters Clare and Emma. Jørgen was born into a farming family in Denmark on February 22, 1939. After agricultural school, Jørgen served for two years in the Guard Hussar Regiment. In 1967 Jørgen immigrated to Canada. He worked for Canadian Tire for 37 years. In 1973, Jørgen married Inge, with whom he shared his life for over 48 years. His daughters are grateful for all he has done to raise them as strong women. Jørgen loved living in Schomberg, Ontario, being close to the farms and rolling hills. He belonged to the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and was a regular participant in the Ontario Region Meetings of the Danish Federation.

Jack Bruun Dresen, Calgary 1925 – 2022

Jack Bruun Dresen of Calgary passed away on April 1, 2022. Jack was born in Copenhagen on February 23, 1925, to Gunnar and Elisabeth Dresen. The family moved to Canada when Jack was four years old. He met his wife Shirley Strong in 1946. They were married on May 4, 1949, and had three children, a boy and two girls. Jack is survived by six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife in 2016. They were married for sixty-seven years and had many lifelong friends. After finishing school Jack joined the army and served the majority of his time overseas. Upon returning to Canada he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway until his retirement at age sixty. His passion was camping and fishing with family and friends. A Memorial Service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Calgary.

Aage (John) Fischer, Edmonton 1930 – 2021

Aage (John) Fischer died on January 28, 2021. He was predeceased by his mother, Ellen; father, Gerhard; and brother, Arne. He is survived by his brothers, Karl-Henrick and Hans-Henning.

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John was born in Denmark on April 12, 1930. He immigrated to Canada in 1957 and settled in Edmonton where he worked as a groundskeeper at the University of Alberta for many years. As a talented gardener and handyman with a caring heart and a kind smile he made numerous friends, many of whom became family.

Bente Friis, née Eriksen, Toronto **1944 – 2022**

Bente Friis passed away on July 10, 2022. She was born in Nørresundby, Jutland, on September 16, 1944. She was loved by many including her parents, Ester and Sven Eriksen; her siblings, Hanne Kruse (Vagn) and Ole Eriksen (Inge); her husband Kurt Friis; her sons, Peter (Stephanie), Martin (Kelly) and Thomas (Anna); her grandchildren, Simon, Madelyn, Katherine, Shyla, Sarah; and the Thomas family.

Birthe Gelineck Graugaard, née Nielsen, Nanaimo **1937 – 2022**

Birthe Graugaard passed away on October 19, 2022, a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Birthe leaves behind Kurt, her husband of 65 years, her siblings, children, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Birthe was born in Aarhus on March 16, 1937, to Kristian and Helga Nielsen. In 1959 Birthe, Kurt and their three children emigrated from Denmark to Golden, B.C., where they would have three more children. In retirement she and Kurt enjoyed travelling south in the winter. Birthe enjoyed time with her family and her grandchildren fondly remember her teaching them card games. Birthe will be remembered for her friendly demeanour, kind heart, giant smile and love for dancing.

Ove Herskind Grotrian, Calgary **1927 – 2022**

Ove Herskind Grotrian passed away on July 31, 2022, just shy of his 95th birthday. He was born in Denmark on August 27, 1927. Ove moved to Canada in 1952 and met Marjorie soon after. They were together until her passing in 2021. Ove worked for Canadian Western Natural Gas until his retirement in 1987. He was an active member of the ATCO Pensioners Association, the Danish Lutheran Church and the Danish Canadian Club where he met many life long friends. He loved his garden and could provide everyone with amazing vegetables. Ove had the best sense of humor and kept it to the very end. A celebration of life was held at the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary.

Violet Marjorie Grotrian, Calgary **1929 – 2021**

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Marjorie on June 2, 2021 at the age of 92. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed. She is survived by her loving husband Ove, children Ruth Hendrickson (Harold), Dan Grotrian (Janice), Karen Henkelman, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A family celebration of life was held at the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary.

**Niels Lundsgaard Gundersen, Calgary
1924 – 2021**

Niels Lundsgaard Gundersen of Calgary passed away on November 15, 2021. Niels was born in Copetonas, Argentina, on May 10, 1924, but spent his early years in Denmark as the family had chosen to return to their home country. He was a life-long bachelor. He is survived by his brother, nephews, nieces and other family members in Canada, Denmark and Argentina. After the Second World War, Niels went back to Argentina to visit family and was drafted into the army since he was a citizen. After a few years he made his way north to Canada where his brother, John, had previously immigrated and made Calgary his permanent home. Niels was known for being a hard worker in the physically demanding construction trade and an astute businessman. He was a kind, generous, social man, and possessed a great memory especially for family history. Niels spoke three languages, and maintained close relationships on three continents. He was proud and determined that he would live out his life in his own home which he did to the very end. A Funeral Service was held on November 25, 2021 at Foster's Garden Chapel, Fourth Street NW, Calgary. The City of Calgary Vaccine Passport Bylaw 65M2021, required all individuals attending funeral services to provide COVID-19 proof of vaccination, or proof of a privately paid negative test result taken within 72 hours of service, or documentation of medical exemption.

**Elin Maria Hansen, Brampton
1932 – 2022**

Elin Maria Hansen passed away on April 7, 2022. Elin, a resident of Brampton for over 60 years, will be missed by her five children, her eight grandchildren, and her six great-grandchildren. She will also be missed by all her church and condo friends. Elin, born in Denmark on March 17, 1932, moved to Canada in 1956. She lived a full, happy and independent life. A Service was held at the Danish Church, Toronto.

**Ellen Hansen, Newmarket
1922 – 2022**

Ellen Hansen passed away in Newmarket, Ontario, on June 1, 2022, nearly 100 years old. She was born on the island of Fyn on December 26, 1922. She was married to Knud Hansen, and the two immigrated to Canada in 1956. Ellen was an active participant in the Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto, as well as a frequent participant in conferences, seminars and regional meetings of the Danish Federation.

**Hans Oluf Voigt Hansen, Burlington
1934 – 2022**

Hans Oluf Voigt Hansen passed away on September 19, 2022 at Mount Nemo Christian Nursing Home. He was born in Denmark on June 5, 1934, and in 1954 at the young age of 19 decided to visit an uncle in Alberta. Unexpected turn of events put a hold to that adventure and Hans remained in Ontario, working for Sheridan Nurseries putting his training as a florist to good use. For the next three years Hans continued to work at Sheridan. But it was always his dream to one

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day own his own gardening business. That dream was fulfilled and for the next 40 plus years Rainbow Landscaping operated as a very successful gardening business in and around the Milton area. With a work force at one point of around 35 employees the company secured numerous commercial contracts within the town of Milton and beyond. Hans was a very hard worker, but he was also very social. He enjoyed being in the company of others, whether it was to shoot a game of pool or to discuss the events of the day! He was always eager to tell you a story or two. Hans was quite masterful at playing the harmonica and accordion. In his early years he enjoyed travelling and did eventually make it out to Alberta to see his uncle! Hans leaves Mary, his beloved partner of over 35 years. Together they created many beautiful gardens in Milton and for nine years in Victoria, B.C. They enjoyed renovating and decorating their homes, one of which was featured on HGTV! Hans will be fondly remembered by his stepsons, five grandchildren, three great grandchildren as well as siblings in Denmark.

Svend Aage Hansen, Port Moody 1923 – 2022

Svend Aage Hansen passed away in Port Moody on May 1, 2022. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 56 years, Edna May Hansen, née Doleman (1921-2002). Svend was born in Haderslev on September 4, 1923 and came to Canada with his parents in 1928 to start a new life in Carnduff, Saskatchewan, where his aunt and uncle had settled. Svend moved to Calgary to finish school and then worked for Model Dairies. He joined the Navy and served on ships on convoys in the Atlantic. After the Second World War he enrolled in the University of Alberta, Edmonton, studying agriculture, obtaining first a BS, then a master's degree in 1952. While at university he married Edna. He returned to Calgary to work for Model Dairies. In 1966 he went to BC, becoming manager of the Jersey Farms ice cream plant. He then moved to London, Ontario, to manage the Silverwood ice cream plant. Then to BC to manage Silverwood operation in Wester Canada, before starting, his own consulting firm, and overseeing many food industry installations. Svend was a devoted family man. He was a proud WWII veteran and enjoyed sharing his story with various groups as part of the Memories Project. He was a hard worker with a long established career in the dairy industry and later devoted much time to his condo strata council. For years Svend and Edna were avid square dancers.

Ulf Kragh Hansen, Calgary 1931 – 2020

Ulf Kragh Hansen passed away in his home in the early hours of December 24, 2020. He is survived by Helen, his wife of 59 years, his two daughters and two granddaughters. Ulf was born in Copenhagen on October 6, 1931, to parents Oscar and Ingeborg Hansen. He grew up in the countryside and learned the secrets of animal husbandry on the family farm and various dairy farms and ranches. He graduated from agriculture school when he was 20 years old. As the oldest of a family of five children, Ulf remained in Denmark while his family immigrated to Canada in 1951. In 1952, when he was finally able to leave Denmark, Ulf came to Canada and settled in the Calgary area where he met Helen. Together they built a solid and loving home for themselves and two daughters. In Calgary, Ulf went to SAIT and became a mechanical designer. His career in HVAC took him to UMA engineering, Lennox and ATCO Trailers among others. Ulf's kind spirit and eternal optimism paved his way through the good and difficult times in his

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life. His “dad” jokes and dry humour kept everyone on their toes. Ulf taught his family to appreciate every minute of life and cherish every person who he loved. A funeral service was held at Eden Brook Funeral Home, with Pastor Charlotte Berg, Danish Lutheran Church of Calgary, presiding.

Mona Panduro Hendriksen, née Eiberg, Delta 1946 – 2020

Mona Panduro Hendriksen passed away in Delta, British Columbia, on March 29, 2020. Mona was born in Vedbæk on August 11, 1946, to Eva and Christian Eiberg. In 1967 she married her long-time love Claus Hendriksen. Together that same year, they immigrated to Canada, settling in Vancouver. Mona began a career as lab technician at VGH. She was an avid and talented porcelain painter, an amazing seamstress and her creative brilliance could turn any soup into a gourmet meal. Mona is survived by her loving husband, daughters and grandchildren. Her easy-going charm, generosity and humor endeared her to all.

Inger Lise Hojhus, Toronto 1921 – 2022

Inger Lise Hanne Hojhus, a Danish citizen, passed away at her home in Toronto on July 7, 2022, surrounded by friends and neighbours. Inger Lise was raised by her adopted parents. She received her education in Copenhagen where she lived until 1952. She immigrated to Canada where she started a new life in Montreal, establishing her career as a buyer, merchandiser, and catalogue curator at Eaton's. In 1973 she moved to Toronto to head all of Canada's Bowring gift shops. However, shortly after, she returned to Eaton's to work alongside John Craig Eaton II, running the art gallery at Eaton's, curating the famous Eaton's annual catalogue. Her work took her on buying trips to Paris, London, Rome, Milan, Florence and all the major cities in Scandinavia. She was responsible in promoting indigenous artists with whom she maintained personal friendships and ties. She travelled five times to Cape Dorset commissioning indigenous artists and buying and supporting their works by bringing it to the Eaton's Gallery in Toronto. All her life, while proud of being a resident of Canada, she remained a Danish citizen, proud of her roots, and remained closely connected to Denmark. In 2007, she completed a tour of Greenland at the age of 88. She visited her homeland 2-3 times a year, travelling solo until the age of 96. Inger Lise was an inspirational strong woman. She remained fiercely independent and proud until her last breath. She exuded elegance, class, and sophistication. She loved taking long walks and loved late-night dinner conversation. She was a great storyteller and a competent advisor to many of her close friends. Inger Lise left donations to The Salvation Army, Toronto Grace Hospital, Bridgepoint Active Healthcare, and Princess Margaret Hospital. Her body was cremated, as per her wishes, on July 10, 2022. It was her wish that her ashes be spread over Lake Muskoka.

Jorgen Rebstorff Holm, Orangeville 1935 – 2020

After a brave battle with lung cancer, Jorgen Rebstorff Holm passed away peacefully in his home on November 21, 2020. Born in Copenhagen on June 9, 1935, he immigrated to Canada with his

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family, where he started Orangeville Art and Welding, eventually establishing Dufferin Sheet Metal. A loving man to his three sons, six grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren, he was interned at Sunset Mindepark.

Solveig Holmes, née Jensen, Calgary **1950 – 2021**

Solveig Holmes, née Jensen, passed away in Calgary on April 26, 2021. Solveig was born just outside Copenhagen on May 28, 1950. She immigrated with her parents to Canada when she was 7, first to Montreal, then Saskatchewan, before settling in Calgary. Solveig was one of five children born to Ludvig and Ruth Jensen. Solveig lived a colorful life. She left home early and her first job was with the carnival at the Calgary Stampede. The opportunity to travel with the company made her stay with it and travelled throughout Canada and the United States. Unfortunately, Solveig suffered a stroke in Florida at the age of 18 and subsequently she returned to Calgary. Left with some disability, that never stopped her. Her many hobbies included knitting, crochet and painting. She loved cooking. She helped people by volunteering at several organizations. In 1999 she met her soul mate, Guy Carrière, and they were together ever since.

Lis Hood, née Henriksen, Orangeville **1932 – 2022**

Lis Hood passed away in Orangeville, Ontario, on June 4, 2022. She was born in Rødovre, Denmark, on February 12, 1932. She was the dear mother of Eileen Welsh, Bonnie Hood (Phil Falcone) and Murray Hood (Emma). Cherished grandmother of Liam; loving stepmother to Terry Rooney (Harold & Michael); remembered by her brother Paul (Carole), and her sister Lily.

Niels Husted, Edmonton **1930 – 2020**

Niels Husted was born on July 25, 1930, in Vemb, Denmark, and passed away in Edmonton on November 6, 2020. In 1957 Niels, Nelly and three of their children immigrated to Canada where they made Alberta their home. Always a hard worker, he came to Canada as a baker and then spent many years as a realtor and property manager. Niels leaves Nelly his wife of 68 years; five children as well as 18 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. Due to the pandemic, there was no immediate service.

Lis Brandt Iyer, née Barchager, Sidney **1943 – 2021**

Lis Brandt Iyer, née Barchager, passed away in Sidney, British Columbia, on June 24, 2021. Lis leaves her three sons Nils (Diana), Morten (Lea) and Steven (Kimmie). Lis was born in Nykøbing, Falster, to Kaj and Eva Barchager, on November 8, 1943. Lis followed her older sister, Inge, who had moved to California. In 1967 Lis married her first husband, Knud Bisgaard, in Solvang, California, before they travelled across the USA along Route 66 to Chicago and onto New York, from where they flew back to Denmark. By 1974 Lis was divorced, but used her creative business talents and sense of adventure to open two shoe stores, which was an

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impressive accomplishment for a single mother of two. By 1980 Lis had met Jai Iyer and remarried. She moved to Canada (Delta, British Columbia) to join Jai along with Nils and Morten. Not long after, Steven came into the world. By 1987 her business interests surfaced again, as she opened a shoe and clothing store on West 10th Avenue in Vancouver called Lisa B Shoes. By 1994 Lis and Jai moved to Qualicum Beach. She created a beautiful addition to her old character house in Qualicum Beach which she named Old Country Cottage. It had an English garden and many antiques that brought her much joy. For seven years Lis had an antique store, Old Country Cottage Antiques, in Parksville. She also made and sold wreaths, wicker chairs and other creative items during this time. Lis' hobbies always included gardening and she maintained beautiful English flower gardens and she participated in the Qualicum Beach summer garden tour. Her home was filled with her paintings, and she won some local art awards for her work as well. She was an amazing cook and knew how to bring out “Hygge” in her home. A Funeral Service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby with family joining virtually from Denmark and California. As per her wishes her remains were brought to Vordingborg and laid to rest next to her parents.

Ingvard (Danny) Jakobsen, Duncan **1931 – 2020**

Ingvard (Danny) Jakobsen passed away on April 6, 2020. Born in Dalbyneder, Denmark, on February 12, 1931, he was raised in Randers to parents Lars and Margarita Jakobsen (née Andreassen). Danny was predeceased by a brother and two sisters. Danny is survived by Mary Doreen Jakobsen (née Wood), his wife of 58 years, his three sons, six grandchildren and one great grandson. He also leaves his sister in Denmark, and his three brothers in Washington State, Florida and Denmark. Danny moved to Canada in 1952, and settled in Duncan in 1956, where he met and married Doreen. Family was important to him. He raised his children with a strong sense of responsibility to their parents, grandparents and each other. Danny loved soccer. He played as a young man, coached his boys and never missed an opportunity to watch his boys or grandchildren play. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, spending hours exploring beaches, building with blocks, teaching them the fine art of house painting and the skills required to grow and harvest an awesome raspberry patch. He entertained with his stories of life in Denmark and the rest of his long life. He was a kind, gentle man who would help anyone in need.

Bert Wolder Jensen, Port McNeill **1936 – 2002**

Bert Wolder Jensen passed away at home in Port McNeill on June 15, 2002. He is survived by his wife Birthe, daughter Alice (Dave), grandson Jordan, and son Allan (Susie). He is also survived by his mother Birgitte, brothers Jens-Peder and Birger, sisters Jonna, Karen-Marie and Elin in Denmark, brothers-in-law Holger and Børge and family in Port McNeill, aunt Ella and family in Langley, and step-grandchildren Scott and Carly in Calgary. He was pre-deceased by father Ernst, two brothers and one sister. Bert was born on Samsø Island, Denmark, on January 25, 1936. He immigrated to Vancouver in 1956 and returned in 1962 to marry Birthe. They moved to Port McNeill in 1967 and over the next many years built Madsen Construction into a

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respected member of the business community. Bert was very active in the town, serving as alderman for eleven years. Bert's love of flying began when he earned his pilots licence in 1978.

Erik Lundgaard Jensen, Ladysmith 1927 – 2019

Erik Lundgaard Jensen died in his sleep on January 15, 2019. He was born in Denmark, at home, on August 4, 1927. He was the youngest of ten children to Gunnar and Karen Jensen, all of whom have predeceased him. He was also predeceased by his first wife Evelyn. He is survived by his beloved wife Winie, his stepchildren and nieces and nephews in Denmark. He immigrated to Canada in 1952, knowing two English words, "yes" and "no". He was a hard worker and proud of the fact that he was never without a job. He retired from the saw-mill in Youbou after thirty years. He was later well known in the Ladysmith area delivering local papers. He may not have remembered your name, but he knew your house number! A Memorial Service was held January 26, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Cassidy, B.C.

Jonna Solveig Jensen, Calgary 1939 – 2022

Jonna Solveig Jensen was born in Denmark on December 15, 1939. She passed away in Calgary on January 2, 2022. Jonna was Mom to Pia (Lars), Jan (Anita), and Jens; Farmor to Carly (David), and Jorden; Mormor to Casper (Katrine) and Benjamin; as well as Oldemor. She was head chef at the Danish Canadian Club, Calgary, for nearly 20 years and ran the kitchens at SMED until her retirement.

Kaj Jensen, Vancouver Island 1930 – 2015

Kaj Jensen was born in Denmark on February 22, 1930. He grew up on a farm, and came to Canada (alone) at the age of 20. He worked in logging for several years, and then got interested in fishing. His first boat was a small gillnetter, and then he "moved up" to troller ("Regal I"). It proved to be the ideal occupation for him – he could live on the boat and be self-employed, all in a natural environment, and in the winter when fishing was closed, he could work in logging. In 1967 he chose Port Hardy for a winter port, and there, through mutual friends, met Doris Bland (widow of a fisherman). They eventually married and had a son, Timothy. They lived in Nanaimo for the first six years and in 1971, Kaj built a new (fibreglass) trolling boat, the "Madrona". In 1977 they moved to Ucluelet, where they lived "off the grid" for nine years until they built a house. When Kaj reached the age of 65, fishing stocks were deteriorating, so he sold the boat and they bought a hobby farm at Coombs, where for the next twelve years, he raised chickens and a few sheep. During this time, he and Doris joined the Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community, while it was still in the planning stage, and when finished in 2009, they sold the farm and moved in. His handyman skills were much appreciated there until he was unable to work. In March 2014, he was diagnosed with cancer, and slowly weakened. He died on March 13, 2015. Besides his wife and son, he is survived by his only sister, Eva Jepsen, in Denmark, and her descendants. His younger brother, Eigil, died previously.

Svend Jensen, Calgary
1935 – 2016

Svend Jensen was born in Odense on May 24, 1935, and moved to Calgary in 1955 where he lived and worked as a contractor. He raised a family, skied and enjoyed his friends at the Danish Canadian Club, ending his working career in the Arctic. He passed away in Calgary on May 4, 2016. Svend will be missed by his children, their mother Helen, and five grandchildren. At Svend's request there will be no service.

Erling Jepsen, Nanaimo
1934 – 2022

Erling Jepsen passed away peacefully at home in Nanaimo on October 25, 2022, aged 88. He will be sadly missed by his wife Jessie, family in Denmark and Singapore and his many friends. His passion for sailing and adventure took him from Denmark to many countries in the world, often living aboard sailboats that he built, including his pride and joy the "Zigeuner". He finally settled down, moored in Richmond, British Columbia, and in 1994 married Jessie onboard the "Zigeuner". After they retired to Nanaimo he enjoyed sailing, using his wood-working skills and many artistic talents.

Alice Jessen, née Rødtness, Ottawa
1931 – 2022

Alice Jessen, née Rødtness, passed away on August 1, 2022. She was born August 7, 1931 in Billum, west of Varde, one of ten siblings. She married Herluf Runge Jessen in Denmark and together they came to Canada in 1957. They first settled in Ladysmith on Vancouver Island and then in 1959 came to Ottawa. Herluf and Alice had three sons, Kim, Jeff and Steven. Herluf and Alice were co-founders of the Danish Club of Ottawa. Alice had many friends within the club and enjoyed being active with the club's bazaar. She will be missed. Ære være hendes minde.

Anne Lise Johansen, Nanaimo
1930 – 2012

After an 11-year battle with cancer Anne Lise Johansen passed away on May 17, 2012. She was born outside of Nykøbing Falster, Denmark, on March 8, 1930. She completed her schooling and graduated from her dressmaker's apprenticeship in 1949, to become a master seamstress. In 1950, she married Per Johansen, her partner for 65 years. Their only daughter, Lone Harms Johansen, was born in 1953. In 1958 the family immigrated to Canada. They arrived speaking only Danish. The Johansens traveled west by train to settle in Kitimat, B.C., where they encountered harsh winters, a new language, and foreign customs. Lise embraced the saying "Home is Where the Heart Is" and made lasting friendships during their time in Kitimat. By 1960, the Johansens came to Nanaimo. Per found work as a groundskeeper for the City, and Lise made Nanaimo their new home. In 1966 Lise became a Canadian citizen, and that same year, supported Per as he started Johansen's Landscaping. As well as being a wife, mother and homemaker, Lise became actively involved in the bookkeeping of the business, and prepared hand-written invoices for the company for over 40 years. She also flourished as a seamstress,

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creating every type of garment from wedding gowns to hand-knit doll clothes, often without a pattern. Over the years, Per and Lise enjoyed traveling, but entertaining in their home was always a greater joy for Lise, as she preferred to open her home and her heart to those close to her. Lise would not let obstacles hinder her - not the challenges of starting a new life in Canada, not her diagnoses of Multiple Myeloma, nor the painful loss of her only daughter, Lone, in 2010. She was a fighter through her last days. Perhaps what Lise's friends and family will miss most about her will be her generosity, her welcoming nature, her kind listening, or her warm smile. Perhaps it will be her sly wit, her fierce loyalty, or her unfaltering gentle strength. By request there was no funeral service.

Per Harms Johansen, Nanaimo 1928 – 2013

The city of Nanaimo lost one of its longstanding esthetic architects with the passing of Per Harms Johansen on October 7, 2013. Per Johansen was the owner and operator of Johansen's Landscaping. Per had been born in Denmark on September 6, 1928. For over 50 years, Per used his signature style to create picturesque landscapes in many of Nanaimo's parks, schools, boulevards, businesses and real estate developments. Per met and worked alongside many people in town, but few knew him beyond his work. Professionally, he was known for his fierce commitment to his vision, his unrelenting determination to use his skills and knowledge to the fullest, and to always exceed expectations. Per remained passionate about his career and continued to work well into his eighties. Those who really knew Per enjoyed his mischievous nature, his celebration of friends and family, and his generosity. Per was always happy to enjoy good food, good company and a few drinks. Friends of Per knew they were always welcome, anytime. Per was devastated by the loss of his only daughter, Lone, in 2010, followed shortly thereafter by the loss of Lise, his beloved wife of more than 60 years. Such heartbreak took an extreme toll on Per's health, and finally forced him to slow down. Per's talent, passion, and dedication to both the science and art of horticulture has been a huge influence on Nanaimo's landscape. By request there was no funeral service.

Paul Jorgensen, Kamloops 1930 – 2022

Paul Jorgensen passed away in Kamloops on November 24, 2022. He was born in Denmark on February 28, 1930, one of twelve children. He served in the Danish military before managing the family business, a poultry slaughterhouse in 1952. He met and married Birthe (Bea) Louise Jorgensen (June 6, 1933 – September 24, 2019). In 1959, he brought Bea and their two children to Canada. They settled in southern Alberta and added another child to the family before moving to Kamloops in 1964. Paul became a skilled carpenter and his company constructed many homes and buildings in Kamloops, including Overlander Extended Care. Once he retired, he built many birdhouses giving them to family, friends and neighbours. He was a proud member of the Kamloops Elks Club for over 60 years, a club dedicated to raising money for charity. Paul had a big heart and was recognized for his many hours of volunteer work, receiving the Kamloops Pillar Award (Community Service) in 2008. Grandchildren and great grandchildren lit up his life. He helped build kites, took them to the Calgary Stampede when they lived in Calgary, attended Christmas concerts and just enjoyed having them around. Paul was very independent, living on

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his own after Bea died. He eventually moved to River Bend Manor where he enjoyed playing bocce and attended 'pub night'. He continued to play crib at the Elks Club and maintained his driver's license until his passing.

Poul Jorgensen, Edmonton 1953 – 2022

Poul Jorgensen was born in Denmark on February 13, 1953. After a long illness he passed away at the University Hospital in Edmonton on July 10, 2022. Poul was raised in Manning, Alberta, and moved out east to enjoy forty years in his beloved New Brunswick, dedicated to the Trans Canada Trail. His laughter, ingenuity and love of the outdoors will live in the hearts of his family and friends forever. A Celebration of Life was held on July 18 at Park Place Funeral Home in Sherwood Park. Poul was predeceased by his parents, Hans and Elsie and brother Leif. Poul will be deeply missed by his long-time partner, Jan, and by his daughters, stepsons, siblings as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Cecilie Juergensen, née Lystlund, Ottawa 1932 – 2022

Cecilie Juergensen, née Lystlund, passed away at Laurier Manor in Ottawa on July 7, 2022. She was born in Bredebro, Southern Jutland, on March 28, 1932. She leaves her daughter and son, Linda and Donald. She was predeceased by her husband Alfred. Cecilie and Alfred were married on October 31, 1953 and immigrated to Canada in 1957. They were founding members of The Danish Club of Ottawa, and attended functions regularly, despite living in Alfred, Ontario, over 70 km east of Ottawa. From its beginning Cecilie was very active in the Club's Ladies Bazaar Group. Ære være hendes minde.

Steven Kaasgaard, Tiny, Ontario 1959 – 2021

Steven Kaasgaard passed away at his home in Tiny Township, Penetanguishene, Ontario, on April 18, 2021. He was born in Brampton, Ontario, on February 7, 1959, beloved husband of Bobby; loving son of Helen and Jens Kaasgaard. Steven will be fondly remembered by his extended family and friends. Co-founder of the Canadian Green Party; Steven made significant contributions to a wide range of environmental efforts during four decades of activism; in the 1970s he worked to protect farmland in the Brampton area, and in the 1980s fought to protect water quality in North Simcoe; he began writing the World Nuclear Emergency Day alert in March 2011. Residents of North Simcoe will remember him as the guy who risked his own well-being, and political career aspirations, back in the 1980s, when he employed direct action efforts, to draw media attention to the Perkinsfield Waste Dumpsite, and the risk it posed to the well-being of residents. Closure of the site soon followed. Cremation has taken place.

**Ingeborg Kristiansen, née Larsen, Nanaimo
1931 – 2022**

Ingeborg Kristiansen of Nanaimo passed away on September 7, 2022. She was born in Sønderborg on November 4, 1931, and married Svend-Åge Kristiansen in 1951. He was born in Outrup on July 24, 1929. They came to Canada in 1957 landing at Pier 21. They then headed straight to Edmonton. They had three children. Svend was elected president of the Nanaimo Club in 2006 and served as such for a year or two. He died in 2018. Ingeborg and Svend's biographies were written up in the 2013 Heritage Book.

**Svend-Aage Kristiansen, Nanaimo
1929 – 2018**

Svend-Aage Kristiansen passed away on January 11, 2018. He was born in Outrup, Jutland, on July 24, 1929. He was a Master Butcher. He and his wife Ingeborg immigrated to Canada, and settled in Edmonton in 1958. They worked hard and loved the outdoors; fishing, hunting and gold-panning among other things. They returned to Denmark, where they ran a successful hotel business; yet they missed Canada and returned. Svend and Ingeborg were married for 66 years and worked as a team in their own deli, butcher shop and restaurant businesses in Sidney and Victoria, before retiring to Nanaimo. He was president of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in 2006. His biography appeared in the 2013 Heritage Book.

**Hans Kunow, Mississauga
1938 – 2022**

Hans Kunow, P. Eng., Professor Emeritus, passed away in Toronto on June 4, 2022, after a full and wonderful life, using *medical assistance in dying (MAID)*. He is survived by his wife, Clare Lamb; his sons, Mads (Marie) and Niels (Daniella); and their mother, Helle; as well as his five beloved grandchildren; and his sister, Else. Hans Kunow was born in Denmark on March 14, 1938. He was educated in Denmark where he completed his doctoral studies in electrical engineering. He showed an early interest in what was then the emerging field of biomedical engineering and left Denmark for Canada in 1967, when he was offered a professorship at the University of Toronto's newly established Institute of Biomedical Engineering (IBME). He spent the rest of his career teaching and researching at the Institute, which he headed from 1989 to 1999. Hans retired in 2003, but continued to teach, mentor, and act as a senior resource for engineering students for the capstone design course. He used to say, "I love dealing with young, intelligent, curious students." In 2019, he became the Dean's Designate on Academic Offences, a position he held until the end. Hans never forgot his Danish roots and holidayed there often as well as cultivating an extensive network of Danish-Canadian friends. He loved sailing the Danish waters. Having lost his own father as a very young boy, Hans became an engaged and active Big Brother to four successive Little Brothers. While he might not have been as successful as he would have wished in encouraging his passion for woodwork in them, he did establish a long lasting friendship with Trevor. Hans was a warm, generous and sociable man. He was an avid reader, with an infinite curiosity for philosophy, literature, languages, the "magic of words", politics, history and economics. He had a passion for sailing and woodworking. He was named Big Brother of the year in 1986, and awarded the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee medal in 2002.

**Helga Elizabeth Kure, née Hindbo, Spruce View
1921 – 2018**

Helga Kure (Grammie) of Spruce View, Alberta, passed away at Maple Cottage (Community Care Cottages) in Red Deer, on December 25, 2018. Leaving to celebrate and delight in her longevity are her three children and their families: son Colin Kure (Gerty), daughters, Janie Loney, Michele Johannson (Ike) and six grandchildren: Kurt (Elaine) Kure, Kelsey (Tanya) Kure, Jed Loney, Luke Loney, Justin (Tannis) Johannson, Jill (Jeremy) Blocksom, and nineteen great grandchildren. Helga is survived by her two sisters in law, Isabelle (Hans) Hindbo, and Ester (Henry) Hindbo. Helga was predeceased by her husband Elmer in 2012. Helga was born in Bramdrup, Denmark, on May 12, 1921, the youngest of eight children to Tina and Jeppe Hindbo. At six years of age Helga came with her mom and siblings: Meta, Hans, Henry, Jenny, Mijane, Eva and Jens to Pier 21 at Halifax to join up with her dad Jeppe Hindbo one year later in 1928 getting off the train in Rosedale, Alberta. In 1934 Helga's family moved to New Hill and then in 1937 to Dickson where in that time she worked with dad on the farm helping with the sheep, cattle and breaking the land. She met her future husband Elmer in the early 1940's and got married October 31, 1943 at the Dickson Church just as her three siblings were called to war. Helga and Elmer settled and made their farm home, just 1.5 miles east of Spruce View where they resided until 1995. They decided to have Ike build them a house in Spruce View where they lived until it became apparent that support to daily living was needed for both Helga and Elmer. They moved to Sunset Manor briefly until Elmer passed away in 2012. Helga then moved to her new caring home at Maple Cottage, where she was served so beautifully in an exceptional, safe and "hyggelig" manner. During Helga's life she adored her husband and the good life they had on their grain farm. She was capable of everything from running the grain truck and combine to hunting in the fall and growing a bountiful garden. She had a gift for arranging flowers, baking Danish pastries, cooking and serving a first class wild game meal and enjoying her sarsaparilla with Elmer before their dinner. Helga enjoyed the outdoors, golfing and curling where she won many trophies and prizes. Over the years she was also known as the local barber. She and Elmer were a team. After retiring from farming in the 1970's, Helga and Elmer enjoyed travelling with his work and many great fishing trips with friends. Helga was blessed with six grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren who spent many fun hours in Grammie's house. She was very adept in preparing many a gracious spread at a moment's notice for all who entered their home. During her lifetime, Helga quietly served in many angles of hospitality at Bethany Lutheran Church. Her family will miss that "spark of life" – so unique to "Grammie." A Celebration of Helga's 97 years was held at King of Kings Lutheran Church (formerly Bethany) in Dickson, Alberta.

**Dorrit Gunderup Larsen, Burnaby
1937 – 2022**

Dorrit Gunderup Larsen of Burnaby passed away on May 22, 2022. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 45 years, Lars K. Larsen, sister in-law Katrine Larsen of Faaborg, Denmark as well as many friends in Denmark and Canada. Dorrit was born in Aastrup, Denmark, on January 1, 1937. She joined Lars in Canada in 1976, where they married. Dorrit was a valued member of the Danish Church and for many years a deacon. Dorrit will be remembered for her creations of Danish "Julenisser" which she sold at the church, Scandinavian Centre and craft shows. A Celebration of Life was held on June 22, 2022.

**Gudrun Irene Larsen, Kitimat
1933 – 2015**

Gudrun Irene Larsen was born on April 30, 1933, during a thunderstorm in Næstved, Denmark, and she passed away on October 12, 2015, in Terrace, British Columbia, during a windy rainstorm, with her family at her side. She had been a resident of Kitimat since 1960. At the Kitimat General Hospital, where she was a much-loved nurse for over 20 years, she was known as Irene. She was predeceased by her son, Leif, and leaves behind Hans, her loving husband of 64 years, as well as a son, a daughter, six grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. A funeral service was held on October 19, 2015.

**Hans Christian Larsen, Parksville
1931 - 2020**

Hans Christian Larsen, born in Copenhagen on March 8, 1931, passed away in Parksville, B.C., on July 13, 2020. He moved from Kitimat to Nanaimo and then Parksville where he spent the last two years. Hans is survived by his son Finn Larsen (Anna) and daughter Susan Bare (Dave), daughter-in-law Carol Larsen along with a multitude of grand-children, great grand-children and great-great-grandchildren. Hans was predeceased by his wife Gudrun Irene Larsen and son Leif Christian Larsen.

**Jytte Jorgensen Larsen, née Neess, Brampton
1938 – 2022**

Jytte Jorgensen Larsen passed away with her sons by her side on February 15, 2022 at St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener. Jytte was born in Denmark on January 9, 1938 to Hedvig and Alfred Neess. Loving wife of Willy Larsen, they were married for 64 years. She was predeceased by her parents and brother. Left to mourn are her two sons and grandchildren. Following immigration to Canada, Jytte and Willy established themselves as a part of a large group of Danish ex-pats who were involved with Sunset Villa Association in Puslinch. With Willy often working away from home as a machinist, marina owner/operator and later as a long distance truck driver, Jytte was left to keep the home running. She had an extensive list of contacts with whom she kept in touch by regular phone calls and letters. Jytte was a born hostess serving elaborate multicourse meals on fine Danish china to her many friends at their home in Brampton. These gatherings often went on into the wee hours. Internment will be at Sunset Mindepark.

**Paul Larsen, Thunder Bay
1936 – 2021**

Paul Larsen passed away peacefully in hospital on June 24, 2021. Paul Larsen was born in Haarby on the island of Fyn, Denmark, on September 5, 1936, the son of Anne-Marie Larsen. His mother later married Agner Jensen. Paul attended school for seven years and then worked on the family farm, until he immigrated to Canada at the age of 18. At first he worked on a farm north of Edmonton. Then he moved to Thunder Bay. So began his many years of service in the mining, construction and building fields that would bring him to, many worksites across Canada and the United States. An avid lifelong learner Paul took great pleasure in discovering new

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places and sharing his experience and knowledge with others. Throughout his life Paul had great respect for honesty, knowledge, generosity, friendship and family. Paul will be deeply missed by his family here and in Denmark. He leaves behind a daughter and son-in-law, a granddaughter and four great-grandchildren. As per Paul's wishes, a private service was held at St. Andrew's Cemetery.

Poul Larsen, St. Catharines 1931 – 2016

Poul Larsen passed away after a brief illness at NHS-St. Catharines with his children by his side on November 11, 2016. Beloved husband of the late Anny; Loving father to Peter (Christine Wasielewski), Lisa (the late Per) Petersen, and Tina (Darren Eales); fondly missed by his grandchildren and by Sharon Larsen (Bob), Sylvia and Keith Morris, nephew Steven (Fran) and family. Cremation has taken place.

Poul Egon Larsen, London 1927 – 2019

Poul Egon Larsen passed away on November 9, 2019, in his 93rd year. Poul is survived by his wife Colleen and his children Hanna, Arne, Peter, Tom, Jack, Karen, Liza, as well as by his stepchildren and grandchildren. He is survived by his brother Gunner in Sweden, sisters Aase, Lydia and Inge in Denmark. Poul is predeceased by his father, Ole, and mother, Julie, his brothers Martin and Christian, sister Else, daughter Lillian and grandson Zachary. Poul Egon Larsen was born in Denmark on August 25, 1927. After WWII he immigrated to Sweden. He then immigrated to Canada, arrived with his wife and two children in London, Ontario, on Saturday of the July 1st long weekend staying at the Hotel London until Tuesday as everything was closed both Sunday and Monday. His work permit said he was a bricklayer's helper, but due to a misunderstanding the first job he was sent out to was as a bricklayer. He then proceeded to quickly learn the trade of bricklayer/stone mason. There are many fine examples of his brick and stone work in and around London. He enjoyed life, always taking the off beaten track while travelling, and enjoyed interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds. As per Poul's wishes cremation has taken place.

Simon Larsen, South Surrey 1934 – 2008

Simon Larsen passed away in Peace Arch Hospital on July 7, 2008. He was born in Brønderslev, Jutland, on September 13, 1934. In 1953 Simon immigrated to Canada, where in 1964 he married Lone, née Nielsen. In 1978 they moved to South Surrey. Simon's priority was always his wife, his children and their families. He embraced his two sons-in-law as his own. He was a wonderful Papa to his grandchildren, active in their lives, so proud of each of them and they brought him the utmost joy. Simon enjoyed life and the people around him. Simon was hard working, sensitive, forgiving, compassionate, mischievous, with a wonderful sense of humour, and always up for a debate. His passing has left a huge hole in our hearts but he has given us so many wonderful memories. He was predeceased by his parents, Magnus and Rosa, and his sister Ingrid. A memorial service was held at Granly Danish Lutheran Church.

**Knud Lyneborg, Nanaimo
1931 – 2022**

Knud Lyneborg in his 92nd year, passed away in Nanaimo on November 14, 2022. He was born in Esbjerg, Denmark, on May 11, 1931. Knud immigrated to Canada in the 1950's. He was a travelling salesman on the prairies in the 1960's and 70's and owned businesses in the 70's and 80's. Many people will remember him as a cheery Purolator delivery agent up and down Vancouver Island until his final retirement. Knud was known for his joking nature. Always ready for a good time and a few laughs. Knud leaves behind five children and ten grandchildren. Knud lived independently up until he was 92. He was a tough old soul. While he suffered from mesothelioma, a type of cancer, he never gave up. Knud was a founding member of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club.

**Ole Madsen, Ladysmith
1939 – 2021**

Ole Madsen passed away peacefully on September 25, 2021, with his daughters by his side. Ole was the loving husband of Anna Marie, to whom he was married for 47 years, and caring father to two daughters. Ole was also proud to be a grandfather (Morfar). Ole was born in Denmark on December 4, 1939. He immigrated to Canada in 1967, eventually making his way to British Columbia, the province that became his home. Apart from his family, Ole joyed jazz music, non-fiction books, Galiano Island, sweets, as well as wood-turning, fashioning wooden pieces or blocks into various forms and shapes on his lathe.

**Kirsten Bodil Mains, Vancouver
1931 – 2022**

Kirsten Bodil Mains, born in Aalborg on January 27, 1931, passed away in Vancouver on August 22, 2022. She is survived by Palle, her husband of 68 years. They immigrated to Vancouver in 1957 with 2½ year old Dan in tow. Once Dan entered school, Kirsten worked as an Accountant/Office Manager for many years. Kirsten and Palle made many trips to Europe and enjoyed many winters in Palm Springs.

**Henning Mikkelsen, Toronto
1932 – 2020**

Henning Mikkelsen passed away with family by his side on November 9, 2020. Henning was born in Højbjerg, Denmark, on April 6, 1932. He leaves behind Vera, his wife of 63 years, daughters Susan (Dolph), Sally (Lloyd), cherished granddaughters, Dayna and Averi, and his brother Agner (Annelise).

**Inger Kirstine Mogensen, Edmonton
1928 – 2020**

Inger Kirstine Mogensen passed peacefully on February 18, 2020. This charming, amazing person was born in Helsingør, Denmark, on May 2, 1928, the fifth of seven children. Inge was

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lured to Canada by a brother and in 1957 she landed in Edmonton, where she met Frode Mogensen (February 15, 1928 - February 20, 2022). They soon married and made a long and happy life together. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October 2019. Together they raised two children, Laila (Steve) and Brian (Kathy).

Margrethe Mogensen, née Munk, Victoria 1909 – 2009

Dagny Margrethe Andersen Mogensen, née Munk, was born near Hammel in east-central Jutland on January 12, 1909. In the fall of 1929, at the age of 20, traveling alone, speaking only Danish, she came to Halifax by ship, and then by train to Calgary to marry Niels Peter Mogensen (b. July 1905 and died January 1989), who had arrived in Canada from Denmark in 1927. They were married in November, and their first child was born in 1930. They were the only members of their respective families to come to North America, and because of the Great Depression, the Second World War and other obstacles, she did not see her Danish family again for over thirty years. She is survived by four sons, one daughter, and their spouses. She had 21 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, and 7 great-great grandchildren. To make pronunciation of their names easier for their Canadian friends they became Margaret and Nels. After enduring tough times in Calgary during the Great Depression, they became central Alberta homesteaders in 1939, living in a tent for the first few months while Nels built a small two-room log house, the first of several houses he built. Margaret encouraged all her children to seek more advanced education than she and Nels had received in Denmark. Realizing that none of their children would follow in their footsteps as farmers, they moved to the nearby town of Eckville, Alberta, where Nels built houses and a church, and Margaret, a lover of books, became a librarian. In 1971 they moved to the Cobble Hill area of Vancouver Island, later to Duncan, and then in 1985 to Victoria. Following Nels' death, Margaret enjoyed 21 years of retirement, making new friends, enjoying family visits, reading, and playing Scrabble. In January 2009 about fifty people gathered at the grand Empress Hotel in Victoria to celebrate her 100th birthday. She passed away on December 15, 2009.

Arne Bandsberg Nielsen, Vancouver 1929 – 2019

Arne passed away at The Arbutus Care Centre in Vancouver on October 3, 2019. Arne will be remembered by his wife of 61 years, Anne Marie, and his two sons John (Nit) and Mike (Fawn) and three grandchildren Mitchell, Ryder and Anna. Arne was born on March 10, 1929 in Tarm, Denmark. Before coming to Canada Arne served in the Danish Military's Cavalry Unit. He immigrated to Canada in 1951. Arne's first job in Canada was in Drumheller, Alberta, working on a farm for about a year, until he moved to B.C., where he had various jobs. He worked in a logging camp in Tahsis, at Britannia Mine near Squamish and Acme Shingle under the Oak Street Bridge. Because he had his boiler ticket, he became a heating engineer for the Vancouver School Board where he worked for 35 years. Arne shovelled coal to heat the boilers at Mount Pleasant Elementary School, where he was the last Vancouver School Board Engineer to do so. He retired as Chief Custodian from Eric Hamber Secondary School when he was 65 years old. Arne had a couple of small fishing boats and loved to take his boys to fish near West Vancouver and Bowen Island. He enjoyed walking at Spanish Banks with his dog. Arne and his family

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loved trips to the Gulf Islands, mostly Thetis and Galiano Island and sometimes Pender Island. A celebration of life has been held.

Arne Henning Nielsen, Woodlawn **1925 – 2020**

Arne Henning Nielsen, born in Denmark on June 6, 1925, passed away in the late afternoon on Sunday, December 13, 2020. He was a born survivor. Tough as railroad nails and disciplined like no other. In his last moments he was reminded: That there is nothing to fear, your family and friends they all love you and God loves you too. He will surely be missed by many. Goodbye Arne. We thank you for all the good times we had.

Erling Juhl Nielsen, Toronto **1936 – 2021**

Erling Juhl Nielsen was born in Vinding, north of Brødstrup, Skanderborg Amt, on April 19, 1936, son of railway worker Niels Kristian Nielsen and Lilly Erna, née Larsen. He passed away at Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga, on December 19, 2021. In 1956-57 he served with the Royal Danish Guards. He then immigrated to Canada arriving by ship in Montreal on April 1, 1960. He settled in Toronto where he met and married Lenora Cottenden. In 1975 they had a son, Edward (Ted) Juhl Nielsen. In October 1962 Erling became a member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada. On the Guards' shooting range at Sunset Villa he won a number of shooting trophies. For many years he operated a pool service company. He was interned at Sunset Mindepark on June 16, 2022.

Evald Georg Nielsen, Okotoks **1948 – 2022**

Evald Georg (George) Nielsen passed away on November 22, 2022. Born in Denmark in 1948, George left the family farm at a young age with only 350 kroner to pursue his baking apprenticeship. He immigrated to Vernon, B.C. in 1975 with his then spouse Jytte Nielsen, where their children were born. He moved his family to Black Diamond, Alberta, in 1985, where he bought the Black Diamond Bakery which he successfully ran for over 32 years. He retired in 2017, and spent most of his time with family, on the Turner Valley golf course and at his property on Okanagan Lake. He leaves behind a legacy of community involvement and entrepreneurship. He is survived by his wife Patricia Nielsen, his daughter Tina (Eldon) Baker, his son Glenn (Sheena) Nielsen, his four grandchildren Kimberley, Logan, Isla and Kasie. He is predeceased by his parents, his brother Pedar and his sister Jenny. He is survived by numerous siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins in Denmark and the United States. He will be fondly remembered by friends and family for his sense of humor, laugh, kindness, generosity, work ethic, bakery treats, and Danish rye bread. A Service was held at Snodgrass Funeral Home, High River.

**Hans C. Nielsen, Chilliwack
1929 – 2011**

Hans C. Nielsen, who was born in Denmark on December 8, 1929, passed away in Chilliwack on September 28, 2011. Hans came to Canada in 1958 travelling the province extensively for work. He eventually settled in Agassiz to become a dairy farmer with his brother; Asgar. He leaves his sisters Karen and Mariane, his brother Jens (Ingrid) and family in Denmark. Hans will also be remembered by sister-in-law Barbara, nephew Harald (Sherry), niece Ellen (Russ) and their families. There was no service by request.

**Hans Henrick Lund Nielsen, Nanaimo
1932 – 2022**

Hans (Hank) Henrick Lund Nielsen passed away on October 28, 2022. Left with cherished memories of a remarkable man are son Rick (Doc), Julie and grandson Cole. Hank is survived by his brother Ole and wife Barb. Hank was predeceased by his wife Betty, son Phil and sister Grethe. Hank was born in Køge on June 10, 1932. He immigrated to Canada in 1951. Hank owned and operated Nicol Street Service Station for a number of years. He was well known for tuning up cool cars and provided excellent customer service to all. Hank loved fast cars, he was active in racing, and was known as the “Flying Dane”. In 2014, he was inducted into the Vancouver Island Racing Hall of Fame. In Nanaimo, Hank met the love of his life, complete with two young boys. Together Betty and Hank raised a family, travelled to Arizona, followed racing, made new friends through the motor home community, and kept busy with home improvements, the garden and entertaining. After Betty’s passing, Hank became an accomplished cook, was famous for growing garlic and tomatoes, making homemade salsa and raspberry jam. Hank appreciated a good dinner with those he loved, was quietly better at cards than we thought, and loved to be surrounded by the somewhat loud and boisterous Pearce clan. Hank was especially proud of Cole and his partner, Erika, as he found joy in their endeavors and love for him. Hank was an example of how we can all grow, as we age; always seeking to become a better person, open to change and opportunities. A celebration of Hank’s life was held on November 18 at the Simon Holt Restaurant.

**Helga Nielsen, Nanaimo
1914 – 2006**

Helga Nielsen, born in Denmark on April 22, 1914, passed away at Dufferin Place on January 14, 2006. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Kristian, in 2000 and eldest granddaughter, Debbie, in 1998. She is survived by daughter Birthe (Kurt) Graugaard, son Erik (Doreen) Nielsen, daughter Karin Nielsen (Roy), and Ingelise (Randy) Arnault, ten grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren. A memorial service was held on January 20, 2006 at Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo.

**Inge Rosten Nielsen, née Lyth, New Westminster
1936 – 2022**

Inge Rosten Nielsen, née Lyth, passed away in New Westminster on March 17, 2022. A funeral service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver. She was born in Roskilde on October 15, 1936. Inge was the youngest of nine children, and the only girl born into her large family. Following the completion of her basic schooling, Inge trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen as a Fashion Designer and Patternmaker and went on to have her own line of clothing in Europe prior to immigrating to Canada, where she also worked in the fashion industry. Inge immigrated to Canada in the summer of 1958. She sailed to New York, followed by a train journey across North America to arrive in Vancouver, to meet her family and her fiancé, Knud Nielsen. Inge and Knud were married on September 19, 1958. They loved the outdoors and to spend their spare time boating and camping at Pitt Lake and Oyama in the Okanagan with family and friends. Inge stopped working in the fashion industry following the birth of their two children, Anna-Marie and Eric, and began her journey of motherhood and volunteering. In the early 1980's Inge found Polynesian Dancing after her daughter began taking dance lessons. She enrolled in lessons for herself and never looked back. Inge's fashion and pattern skills were large assets with the creation of the many costumes involved with Polynesian dancing. Inge was very active in the Polynesian dance community for many years and later shared her love of the dance through teaching seniors dance programs at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Kensington Community Centre and at the Danish Lutheran Church. Inge and her ladies performed at many seniors homes over the years, and at various functions. For years Inge was involved with the Bonsor Seniors' Society, as well as with the Scandinavian and Danish Communities. Inge loved to travel the world and experience new cultures. She was predeceased by her husband Knud and son Eric, and leaves her daughter Anna-Marie and her brother Jorgen.

**Jytte Nielsen, née Navntoft, Cobourg
1946 – 2021**

Jytte Nielsen, née Navntoft, of Cobourg, Ontario, passed away on February 9, 2021. She was born in Borris, Denmark, on March 20, 1946. She was predeceased by her daughter Ulla Nielsen. She is survived by her husband Erik Nielsen, her son Flemming Nielsen, and two grandsons.

**Niels Hansen Nielsen, Nanaimo
1938 – 2022**

Niels Hansen Nielsen passed away at Nanaimo Seniors Village on January 12, 2022. He was born in Esbjerg in 1938 and immigrated to Canada in 1957. Predeceased by his mother and father, Anna and Jens and his brother Egon, he is survived by his sisters Anni and Edith and their families, his wife of 43 years, Sylvia, and together their four children Tim (Teresa), Kay, Alan (Lise), and Sandra (Rick). Niels was blessed with grandchildren, Eric (Lydia), Christopher (Brianna), Troy, Craig (Jenna), Morgan, Alan, Michelle, Lindsay (Jon) and Scott, and four great grandchildren. He was an avid sailor and member of the Nanaimo Yacht Club for over 50 years. He was a master carpenter and was the proud owner of Dana Cabinets in Nanaimo. Niels was a gentleman until the end. As per his wishes there was no service.

**Paul Christian Nielsen, Fergus
1936 – 2021**

Paul Christian Nielsen passed away in Belwood, Fergus, Ontario, on March 9, 2021. He was born in Faardrup, Slagelse, on April 11, 1936. Beloved husband of the late Shirley Myrtle Rose Nielsen, (June 10, 2000), and loving partner of fifteen years to Margaret Hamilton, and her children, and as well, treasured father of three daughters. Paul Christian Nielsen will be missed by eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Sonja C. Nielsen, née Sørensen, Pitt Meadows
1938 – 2020**

Sonja C. Nielsen, née Sørensen, Pitt Meadows, passed away at home on April 22, 2020. She was born in Copenhagen on February 4, 1938. She was predeceased by husband Niels, and her sister Lillian. She is survived by a sister, three children and four grandchildren. She loved gardening, walking her dog and making sure birds were fed. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Terry Fox Foundation would be highly appreciated.

**Sonja Eleanor Nielsen, née Fredrickson, Edmonton
? – 2018**

Sonja Eleanor Nielsen passed away on October 29, 2018. She was the youngest daughter of Holger and Ruth Fredrickson of New Norway, Alberta. She was extremely active in Canadian Girls in Training, a non-denominational Christian organization for girls in grades 7-12. She was very proud of her accomplishments and lived by their standards all of her life. Upon completion of high school in New Norway, she moved to Calgary, where she obtained a position at Shell Oil. There she was able to show her artistic talents in the geographical Department. With such success, she was soon transferred to Edmonton. That is when she met her husband, Bendt Nielsen, on a blind date at the Northlands Race Track. Bendt married the burgermeister's daughter on September 30, 1965. Sonja accomplished many things throughout her life. She volunteered for the Danish Canadian Society DANIA for many years. Sonja and Bendt enjoyed the Danish parties, where they danced like Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. In 1980, Bendt and Sonja built a new house, where again she was able to use her artistic talents and design the house from the ground up. Sonja loved antiques which she turned into a business that allowed her to travel, buying and selling antiques. Moreover, Sonja and Bendt were blessed with three daughters, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Verner Rueskov Nielsen, Nanaimo
1934 – 2021**

Verner Rueskov Nielsen, age 87, died at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital on July 5, 2021. He was born in Odense on February 21, 1934. Verner was from a very large Danish family, eleven siblings in all. He moved to Calgary where he met and married Birthe Johansen. They were married for 46 years, and had four children. Birthe passed suddenly in 2008. Vern was devastated by her passing, but eventually moved on and met Margery Trimblett. They spent eleven years together dancing and traveling. Verner worked at Harmac Pulp and Paper Mill for

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seventeen years from 1973-1990. He served in the Danish military for a short time. He is survived by his son, Peter Nielsen, and daughters, Judy Nielsen, Lena Nielsen, and Ja-Lynn McIntyre as well as by six grandchildren.

Henny Norgaard, Comox

1921 – 2004

Henny Norgaard was born in Copenhagen on October 7, 1921. She passed away in Comox, B.C., on February 8, 2004. She was predeceased by her husband, Einar, and her sister, Gerda. She will be missed by her sister, Lis in Denmark, and her daughters, Ingelise (David), Doreen (Daniel), Ruth, Joanne (Karl), stepson Henning (Rosemary), and by her eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Henny enjoyed long walks, her pets, and in her younger years competitive ballroom dancing. No service at her request.

Niels Andersen Norgaard, Salmon Arm

1930 – 2013

Niels Norgaard of Salmon Arm passed away on September 14, 2013, after a courageous battle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). He is survived by Helga, his loving wife of 56 years, his son Brian (Lana), his daughter Cindy (Gord) along with his two grandchildren. He is also survived by many family and friends in Denmark, Calgary and the Shuswap area. Niels was born in Rødning, Viborg, on July 23, 1930. He served in the Danish Military for a total of five years where he rose to the rank of tank commander for the Dragon Regiment. Niels immigrated to Canada in 1956 and was soon employed in the construction industry in Calgary. He eventually joined the dairy industry where he worked for 35 years until his retirement. In 1994 Niels and Helga retired to the Shuswap area where he enjoyed spending time with family and friends, relaxing on the back deck overlooking the lake and pursuing his favourite hobbies which included gardening, reading, woodworking and bowling. At his request there was no funeral service.

Gerda Olsen, Edmonton

1921 – 2020

Gerda Olsen passed away in Edmonton on March 28, 2020, one month before her 99th birthday. She is survived by her five children; seven grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband, Borge Olsen, and nine brothers and sisters. Gerda was born in Tvis, just outside Holstebro, on April 28, 1921. In 1957 Gerda and Borge with their four children immigrated to Canada. Family was very important to Gerda as her descendants fondly remember the many Sunday afternoons spent sitting around a kitchen table having coffee and whatever goodies she happened to have baked. Everyone who met Gerda always said she was "the sweetest lady."

**Eva Tove Panther, West Vancouver
1925 – 2022**

Eva Tove Panther passed away in West Vancouver on February 18, 2022. She was born in Helsingør on May 26 1925. Most of her early years were spent in Copenhagen. Shortly after the war, Tove travelled to England where she met her future husband Major Reginald Panther. They began their married lives together in London, and soon after had two sons. Sadly Tove's husband passed away in 1959. The family then moved to Sussex in the south of England. In the late 1960's the decision was made to follow her mother (Gertrude) and brother's (Poul) move from Denmark to Point Roberts, Washington. There Tove spent many happy years actively involved in her brother's art gallery and her own women's clothing boutique. She had a true entrepreneurial spirit and liked meeting new people. In 1990 Tove moved to West Vancouver. For many years she enjoyed helping out at Brougham Interiors, her son's business. Customers loved her genuine and sincere personality. She was open, respectful, honest and humorous.

**Borge Pedersen, Winnipeg
1926 – 2013**

Surrounded by family Borge Pedersen passed away on November 8, 2013. Borge was born near Aalborg on November 4, 1926. He served in the Danish army and later in 1957 he immigrated to Canada with his wife Else (née Hansen). Their first child Susan (Ken) Larson was born in June of that year. Followed by Jan (Shelley), Dennis (Rebecca) and Lisa (Robert) Collen. Borge made countless friends but his main joy was his children, twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He made many camping trips with his family, especially to Blue Lake. His whole life Borge worked with his hands, as a farmer, construction worker and carpenter. For many years he also worked for the River East School Division. It was hard to drive around Winnipeg without him drawing attention to a building that he helped build, as we passed, or he would point out one of the many purple martin birdhouses that he had built in his spare time.

**Frits Borge Vendelbo Pedersen, Ajax, Ontario
1930 – 2021**

Frits Borge Vendelbo Pedersen, born on May 12, 1930, passed away on January 22, 2021. Loving husband of the late Loretta, he was the cherished father of Denyse, Kelly and Paul. Beloved grandfather of Tyler, Jesse, Braden, Ryan, Scott and Robyn; he will be dearly missed by all his friends and family in Canada and in Denmark. The lives of all those around him were enhanced by his adventurous spirit.

**Kristian Pedersen, Montreal
1925 – 2022**

Kristian Pedersen passed away at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal on September 29, 2022. He was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth (d. 1999) and his cherished grandson Christopher (d. 2013). He is survived by his sister (Sonja), three children Jeffrey (Helen), Sandra (Antonio) and Margaret (Michael), five grandchildren, and his six great-grandchildren. Kris was born in Thorsø, Denmark, on September 23, 1925, to parents Thorvald and Margrethe Pedersen.

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After WWII, he served in the Royal Danish Navy, and then embarked on a lifelong career as a carpenter, builder and construction contractor, ultimately working as the consummate gentleman contractor on many of Montreal's finest homes. A memorial service was held at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Montreal.

Carla Else Perris, née Hesselberg, Toronto 1931 – 2022

Carla Else Perris, née Hesselberg, passed away in Toronto on September 14, 2022. She was born in Copenhagen on November 16, 1931, the first of three children to Carl and Martha Hesselberg. She was somewhat of a tomboy, involved in sports, and showed a level of independence uncommon for girls at the time. In her late teens, she moved to London as an au pair, and then to Paris, where she studied at the American University of Paris. That was the closest she ever came to moving back to Denmark for any significant length of time. She continued to travel, including a trip to Northern Africa, capturing the attention of the Danish newspapers given the novelty at the time of a woman backpacking beyond Europe. Those itches to travel did not fade, and by the mid 1950s, Carla was on a boat across the Atlantic. She settled in Toronto and lived much of her single life in the City's Annex neighbourhood. Initially Toronto was another way station as Carla was intent on crossing the Pacific to India. Although this journey never happened, she would have joked that the consolation was meeting an Indian man by the name of Gregory Perris, whom she would marry. Greg was well known in the Anglo-Indian community. Carla and Greg had their firstborn Mark (1970), and then Kirk (1975). The Perris household, whether in Brampton or later in Kingston, was lively with stays by overseas visitors and lunch or dinner parties with friends and family. The move from Brampton to Kingston was a time of rejuvenation for Carla. The Danish Community in Kingston was large, and very social. Greg was instantly accepted by the Danes in Kingston in the same fashion as Carla was by the Anglo-Indians in Toronto. The Perris family was active in the Danish Canadian Club of Kingston and Carla attended many Danish Canadian Conferences. With Greg's passing in 1996, Carla found companionship with other widowed women. She would travel, find new social groups, or reconnect with old ones. Trips included Hong Kong and Beijing, Japan, Hawaii, and countless trips to Europe. The jaunts to Europe usually included a trip to Paris or Milan to see her sister, Johanne, who now resides in Copenhagen. As Carla neared her 80th birthday, she was drawn to Toronto where much of her single adult life was lived. She settled across the street from St. Basil's Catholic Church, where she was married to Greg in 1965, and where her sons were baptized. Carla was also very fond of Kirk's wife, Greta, sharing personality traits of being unreservedly independent, feisty, and embracing their European roots as immutable parts of their identity. Farmor, as Carla was known to her two grandsons, Tomas and Noah were worth their weight in gold to her. Together they enjoyed playing cards and eating sweets. In Carla's later years, she was ailed by sight, hearing, and cognitive issues. Reaching the age of 90 was in large part to the credit of her son, Mark, whose unwavering efforts ensured Carla was looked after. Carla could have strong opinions about certain things, but also personified tolerance, kindness, acceptance, and an innate curiosity about the world. She had a zest to live life to the fullest.

**Aase Inge Petersen, Nanaimo
1928 – 2017**

Aase Inge Petersen passed away peacefully at the Kiwanis Lodge in Nanaimo on November 22, 2017. Aase was predeceased by her husband Erling, and is survived by son Ole (Sue), daughters Lisbeth and Sandra (Barry) and by her seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Aase was born in Copenhagen on February 15, 1928, and immigrated to Canada in 1957 with her husband and two children. They finally settled in Nanaimo in 1966. Aase was a stay at home mom and helped her husband with his carpentry business. Aase was an avid sports fan who loved the Vancouver Canucks up until the day she died. She was also an active bowler in her earlier years, belonging to several leagues at Fiesta Lanes. Aase was loved by everyone who knew her. She had an infectious laugh and a witty sense of humor.

**Johan Viggo Petersen, Toronto
1948 – 2022**

The passing of Johan Viggo Petersen occurred peacefully at his home in Toronto on October 14, 2022. He was the beloved husband and best friend to Renée; Papa to Kirsten (Justin) and Christian (Aaron), and proud Bedstefar to Charlotte and Sebastian; cherished son of Eiler and Odile Petersen, brother to Lise and Peter. His nicknames were many: Jani, Jopi, Papa Fix-it, The Great Dane, and Pack Leader. Born to Danish parents in Lisbon, Portugal, on January 12, 1948, Johan lived a vibrant and adventurous youth, exploring the splendid beaches and countryside of Portugal with his family and friends. Educated in Portugal, Denmark and Switzerland, Johan came to Toronto in 1972 with only a suitcase and some cash in hand. Via a business introduction he met his future father-in-law, Frans (Lydie) Sayers and through Frans, Johan met Renée in 1973. When Johan proposed to Renée, he said, "be prepared to move to other places in the world!" They married in 1975 and 47 years later were still living in Toronto! Much to his chagrin (not a fan of Winter!), Johan still enjoyed 50 years living in Canada. He was an avid cyclist, walker, paddler, camper, sailor, cross-country skier, gardener, and MG enthusiast, and he enjoyed countless weekends with his favourite people at the family cottage. Johan loved nothing more than to plan their next trip, holiday, adventure, or drive. Johan's career in the food industry allowed ample opportunity to travel across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. His adventures were many, and often shared with his favourite travel partner - Renée. In retirement, they continued to travel, cottage, camp, and enjoy as much time together as they could. Keen on motorcars from a young age, Johan defined the eras of his life by the cars he drove. He and Renée purchased their first MG in 1976 and joined the MG Car Club of Toronto. A pillar of the club for many decades, Johan was an active member and volunteer with the executive, planning countless events, drives, and socials with his friends in the MG community. There, he maintained his reputation as "The Great Dane" and "Pack Leader" - Johan always left on time. Many years later, Johan got his dream car, a 1961 MG - resulting in a home renovation to accommodate both MGs in "Jopi's Garage". With all things in his life, Johan devised a plan, and his approach to cancer was no different. He faced it with strength, dignity, and courage. The care and kindness shown to him while at Sunnybrook Hospital was exceptional. His legacy is his family, his kindness, quick wit and sense of humour, and thoughtfulness of others. He loved a good pint of beer and always found the best fish and chips in town. Johan was the glue of the family, a mentor, confidante and advisor, and a staunch believer in upholding traditions. A funeral service

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took place on November 4, 2022 at the Danish Church, Toronto, where he and Renée were married.

Niels Als Rasmussen, Nanaimo 1925 – 2013

Niels Als Rasmussen passed away at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital on February 6, 2013. He was predeceased by Celsa Maria Rasmussen, his devoted wife of 40 years. Niels is survived by his son Niels A. Rasmussen Jr. of Vernon, CT, his son Erik A. Rasmussen, daughter-in-law Frances Rasmussen and grandsons Kyle and Joel Rasmussen of Great Falls, VA, and many nieces and nephews in Denmark. Niels was born on a farm in Hals, Denmark, on November 16, 1925, and immigrated to Canada in 1951. He spent time in Ontario before moving to British Columbia and finally working at a plywood plant in Port Alberni from 1952 to 1954. Niels then moved to the United States and became involved in the fragrance and essential oils industry. He rose up to be Vice President of the US division of a French-based company - Charabot, and worked in New York City and New Jersey. In 1988 Niels and his wife Celsa decided to retire and fulfill their dream of returning to Vancouver Island. They moved to Nanoose Bay and built their dream house overlooking the Strait of Georgia and the mainland mountains. Here Niels was able to reconnect with old friends, pursue his interest in golf and enjoy his retirement exactly where he always wanted to live.

Poul (Teddy) Rasmussen, Nanaimo 1935 – 2012

Poul (Teddy) Rasmussen passed away on April 30, 2012. Poul was born in Gelsted, Denmark, on February 21, 1935. He was predeceased in 2007 by Anni, his loving wife, and by his son, Glenn, in 2010. He will be missed by his two daughters, Susan (John), Tammy (Ted); and five grandsons. Poul was past president and an active member of the Nanaimo Lions Club for more than 35 years; he took great pride in his "Lionism." As a member of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, his Danish heritage remained a part of his life until the end. Poul had a great sense of humor. He often said he wasn't a "Good Dane" he was a "Great Dane!" Poul enjoyed many hobbies over the years; fishing, camping, woodworking, photography, metal detecting, slot machines and most recently his computer. Poul, passionate about gardening, will always be remembered for his immaculate garden and his perfectly grown tomatoes!

Svend Aage Rasmussen, Calgary 1917 – 2013

Svend Aage Rasmussen passed away on May 9, 2013. Svend was born in Aarhus on December 5, 1917, and immigrated to Canada in 1955. He opened Svend's Barber Shop in Acadia Shopping Centre and operated it until his retirement. He later moved to Chilliwack, B.C. In 2003 he returned to Calgary, living in the McKenzie Towne Retirement Residence. He was predeceased by his wife Chris.

**Tage Rasmussen, Nanaimo
1933 – 2019**

Tage Rasmussen passed away in Nanaimo on August 8, 2019. Tage was born in Aarhus on July 20, 1933. In 1953, he immigrated to Canada with his siblings and settled in Prince George, British Columbia. After receiving his pilot's license, Tage's new hobby was flying small airplanes. In 1957 in Prince George he met Wivi, a young lady from Denmark who had immigrated to Prince George with her mother and brothers. They married five cold winters later. Tage was an expert faller for many years and then went on to master carpentry and start his own construction company in the 1970s. Tage designed and built many beautiful homes in Prince George. He continued working well into his late 70's. When he finally did retire, he and his wife moved to Nanaimo to be near their daughters. There he enjoyed using and teaching his carpentry and mechanical skills, reading, walking, gardening, and enjoying the mild winters. Tage is survived by his wife, children Lena, David and Susan, and his grandchildren. He leaves his parents, Hans and Caroline, and brothers, Ove and Gunner.

**Ruth Evelyn Sorensen, née Jensen, Fredericton
1923 – 2008**

Ruth Evelyn Sorensen, née Jensen, wife of the late Alfred Sorensen, of Fredericton, died on November 15, 2008, at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital. Born on March 20, 1923 in New Denmark, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Annie (Hansen) Jensen. She was a seamstress with Freeman's Ladies' Wear, member of All Saint's Anglican Church in Marysville, past president of the Ladies' Auxiliary Branch #15 Marysville, volunteered with Meals on Wheels and was a member of the Mic Mac Trailer Park in Lake George. She was buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in New Denmark, N.B.

**Peter Høj Simonsen, Warkworth
1937 – 2021**

Peter Høj Simonsen was a banker, realtor, builder and farmer, as well as a father, brother and friend. Through his construction company he built many hundreds of family homes in the Greater Toronto Area. A semi-retired farmer and well-known figure around Hastings for the past 20 years, he previously lived in Guelph, Sarnia, Toronto, Pickering, Oshawa and Ajax. He was born on a small farm near Ølgod, Jutland, on March 22, 1937. After living in Canada for most of his life, he passed away on February 10, 2021, at the Warkworth Place long-term care home in Warkworth, Ontario. He was predeceased by one and survived by two former wives. He will be missed by his lifelong friend Jens Sønderskov of Scarborough, and his good friend and neighbour David Gibson of Hastings, Ontario. Long-time readers of The Toronto Star newspaper may remember him as an articulate, prolific, and sometimes critical letter writer.

**Svend Erik Skov, Edmonton
1940 – 2022**

Svend Erik Skov passed away peacefully in his home on July 13, 2022. He was born on February 24, 1940. A memorial service was held for him at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton. He was loved tremendously and will be greatly missed.

**Holger Sondergaard, Port McNeill
1933 – 2018**

Holger Sondergaard was born in Resen, Denmark, on November 22, 1933. He followed Birthe (his sister) and Bert Jensen to Canada in 1967, settling in Port McNeill on northern Vancouver Island, just as it was incorporated as a village. Holger worked for many years as a carpenter and contractor, helping turn the village into a town, with many now living in the houses he built. After retirement, Holger kept busy with woodworking, tending his garden, making jam, and enjoying a cold beer with his good friend Stu Goldsbury, a painter, and others at the pub. Holger passed away at the Port McNeill Hospital on June 2, 2018. He will be greatly missed by his sisters and family in Denmark, and by his great-nephew Kaj.

**Orla Holger Rosenfeldt Sorensen, Salmon Arm
1918 – 2013**

Orla Holger Rosenfeldt Sorensen passed away on November 14, 2013, in Vernon Jubilee Hospital. Holger was born in Aabyhøj, Denmark, on July 7, 1918, to parents Laura Doris Rosenfeldt (née Jensen) and Søren Sørensen. He was one of three children. During his youth, Holger was a well-known Greco-style wrestler with the sports club Thrott, wrestling throughout Europe and winning many championships. He kept his Thrott membership pin and wore it proudly on his lapel during his long life. He served in the Danish army and during the German occupation of Denmark was active in the resistance movement. After the war he married Anni Louise Moller (now his ex-wife living in Port Alberni) and had two children; Jean (Jane) Rosenfeldt Sorensen of Vancouver and Ron Rosenfeldt Sorensen (ex-wife Leafa) of Port Alberni. The family was part of the post-war exodus of emigrants leaving Europe and the family arrived by ship in New York and took a train across the continent to British Columbia. They stayed with friends of the family on Mayne Island and then settled in Port Coquitlam, where they lived for several decades, enjoying what was then, a small town of 5,500 with a rural atmosphere and a large contingency of Danes throughout the Fraser Valley. For many years Holger worked in his trade as a master craftsman jeweller having started an apprenticeship as a young teen in Denmark. He was able to produce many uniquely crafted items because of his skill, his artistic ability to recreate (often stolen or lost) items from photographs or drawings, and, his quest for perfection when making a piece of jewellery, which defined him as a sought-after journeyman and craftsman. He was employed by many of the larger and most exclusive B.C. jewellery outlets during a career spanning 1950s and 1990s. Holger moved to Salmon Arm following a visit to the area and falling in love with the farming and fishing it offered. He enjoyed many of the town's social activities through the singles' club and was known to 'cut a fine rug' on the dance floor. He would stay in the area nearly four decades living in Silver Creek, Tappen, and finally in downtown Salmon Arm before moving into care at Lander's Lodge and Bastion Place,

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where he has spent the later stages of his life. Throughout his life in Canada, he never lost his affection for his native Denmark and often traveled back to his home town, where he kept in touch with many of his old friends and family.

Vagn Sorensen, Victoria 1928 – 2014

Vagn Sorensen, born in Denmark in 1928, passed away in Victoria on November 26, 2014. He was predeceased his wife Ruth, who died on July 22, 2010. He was also predeceased by his parents Ema and Magnus. He is survived by his four children and numerous grandchildren. In Denmark, Vagn started work in his father's cabinet shop. Vagn served in the Danish Army after the Second World War and immigrated to Canada in the late 1940's. His first job was in Ontario as a farm labourer. He then worked as a carpenter in Kitimat on the Alcan project. Subsequently, he moved to Victoria, where he met and married Ruth. He worked very hard as a carpenter, supervisor and project manager in the construction industry throughout the 1950's. At first he worked for various small contractors as a carpenter. Later he partnered with Ray Bowers to form Sorensen and Bowers. Their first major job was the Begbie apartments. After that they built Macaulay, Olympic View and Blue Cedar Apartments. Mixed in with building their own apartment buildings they also constructed the Harbour Towers and the Royal Scot Hotel and worked on the expansion of the Royal Jubilee Hospital. Vagn enjoyed spending time with his family and friends in sunny Bowser at the beachfront family cabin that he, Gary and his friend Melbye, built. Vagn and Ruth travelled the world and enjoyed many years of retirement. At home he was always busy in his wood working shop, including building a boat. In short, Vagn was an intelligent, hard working, practical and compassionate man.

Hanne Stanfield, née Hvetbo, Calgary 1938 – 2022

Hanne Stanfield of Calgary passed away on April 5, 2022. She was born in Copenhagen on February 22, 1938. After completing high school, she graduated from Handelshøjskolen (Copenhagen Business School) as a trilingual secretary in English, German and Spanish. She left Denmark in 1960 to work in Turkey, where she met her first husband Robert Blair. Through Bob's work, they lived in Venezuela, Colombia, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands. Their two daughters were born overseas, and they came as a family to Canada in 1971, living in Edmonton and later in Calgary. Before Bob's passing in 1983, they enjoyed a life full of love, family, and time at the cabin at Pigeon Lake. In 1993 Hanne married Michael Stanfield. With British Columbia now home, they lived in Cedar, Armstrong and Penticton where travel, art and music accompanied their shared love of their combined family. Hanne and Michael were inseparable, each cherishing the active and full life they had created together. Michael passed in 2014. Later Hanne was lucky to befriend Ove Poulsen at Athens Creek Retirement Lodge. They enjoyed several years of companionship before Ove passed in 2020. Regardless of where she was, Hanne was always connected to her Danish roots and active in local Danish church and community groups. She taught Danish for many years in both Alberta and British Columbia and returned many times to Denmark to visit her extended family. Hanne always had a passion for language and travel, creating lifelong friendships along the way. She will be remembered for her sense of adventure, her kind heart, and her beautiful grace. Hanne is survived by her daughters,

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stepdaughters, stepson, grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Hanne was predeceased by her loving husbands Robert Blair and Michael Stanfield, her parents Alfred and Rosa Hvetbo and her brothers Peter and Karsten. A Celebration of Life was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Calgary on April 22, 2022. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Danish Canadian Museum.

Karla Margrethe Svendsen, née Nielsen, Lake Cowichan 1921 – 2018

Karla Margrethe Svendsen, née Nielsen, of Lake Cowichan, BC, and past resident of Canwood/Nestledown, Saskatchewan, passed away in Duncan, BC, on July 9, 2018. Karla was born in Tørring, north of Vejle, to Jens Nielsen and Magda Lena Fransen in 1921, the third of six children. In the spring of 1927 the Nielsen family immigrated to Canada and settled in the Clouston area, south of Prince Albert, on a half section of land. Karla met Georg when visiting her sister in the Canwood area. They were married on April 23, 1943, in Winnipeg where he was stationed before being sent overseas in WWII. They settled in the Nestledown area, north of Canwood and farmed there before retiring to Lake Cowichan. Georg passed away in March 2000. Karla will be missed by her nine children, 16 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Mona Svendsen, Nanaimo and Burnaby 1925 – 2017

Mona Svendsen was born in Næstved on September 28, 1925, and passed away in Burnaby on March 28, 2017. She arrived in Canada in 1957 and although she resided at Carl Mortensen Manor in Burnaby, she was a member of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in Nanaimo for many years.

Knud Bent Thaagaard, Nanaimo 1933 – 2019

Knud Bent Thaagaard was born in Sæsing, Vendsyssel, Denmark, on January 28, 1933. He died in Nanaimo on February 13, 2019. Bent came to Canada at the young age of 22. His adventurous streak took him from construction work in Calgary to farming in Claresholm, and hotel ownership in several Alberta towns and Nanaimo. In 2001, he settled into his own piece of paradise at Pryde Vista Golf Course in Nanaimo. Bent loved to travel and saw many parts of the world with Thelma, his wife of 59 years. He was a member of the Kinsmen in Alberta and Gyro in Nanaimo. An avid hunter for many years he often traveled back to Alberta for duck and pheasant hunting. Among his greatest pleasures was a great meal with good company. He was predeceased by his four brothers. He is survived by his wife, Thelma, son David (Louise), and daughters Marianne (Bruce) and Karen (Mark), plus eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held February 24 at the Royal Canadian Legion #256 in Nanaimo.

**Arne Due Thomsen, Pincher Creek
1934 – 2015**

Arne Due Thomsen passed away at the Pincher Creek Hospital on February 18, 2015. He was the father of Andrea and step-father to John, Doreen, Wally and Mark. Arne was predeceased by his parents and his brother. He was born in Gesten, Vejen, Denmark, in 1934. He started his career as a butter maker as a young man. Arne moved to Canada in the early 1950s and continued his career in dairy production. He settled in Pincher Creek, working as a butter maker for the Co-op Creamery for many years. He then decided to open Sunalta Dairy. Arne won several awards for top butter and milk production. After several years he sold Sunalta Dairy and again worked for the Co-op. He was proud of his success with top quality butter and milk. Arne was an avid member of the Pincher Creek Lions Club. At his request there was no service.

**Gunnar Vammen, Salmon Arm
1933 – 2013**

Gunnar Vammen passed away in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, on July 17, 2013. Gunnar was born in Dronninglund, Denmark, on July 6, 1933 and immigrated to Canada in 1959 to work outside of Calgary. He worked and farmed around Calgary until 1973, when he moved to a farm outside of Olds. He remained in Olds until retirement in 1998, when he moved to Sicamous, British Columbia. He is survived by his two sons, four grandchildren, his brother in Kelowna and seven siblings still living in Denmark.

**Povl Westphal-Larsen (Paul Larsen), Nanaimo
1913 – 2002**

Povl Westphal-Larsen (Paul Larsen) was born in Tisvilde, Denmark, in 1913. He passed away peacefully July 5, 2002 at Nanaimo Regional Hospital. He became a successful architect in Denmark and later in Norway. In 1957 he immigrated to Canada (Victoria) with the family. He enjoyed a good long life, but was sadly predeceased by his wife Bergliot in 1997.

**Ingrid (Lotte) Koie Willesen, West Vancouver
1929 – 2022**

Ingrid (Lotte) Koie Willesen was born in Hillerød on July 26, 1929, in a large family of nine siblings. In 1954 she married her lifelong love, Herman, and in 1955 they immigrated to Canada, together with her older sister Lis (1928 - 2014) and brother-in-law Victor Willesen (1925 - 2012). Lotte and Herman put down roots in Sentinel Hill, West Vancouver, where they grew to a family of five children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Lotte passed away on January 14, 2022.

INVITATION

Toronto is well known as a meeting place of many peoples and cultures. We Danes may only be a small part of this big picture – but we are responsible for major contributions to the science and technology of a safe and sustainable future with breakthroughs in environmental controls, carbon-free power generation, architectural and product design, and even electronic and pharmaceutical advances. Our contributions and innovations in Denmark, here in Canada, and around the world leave much to be proud of.

T O R O N T O B E C K O N S

INVITATION TO
THE FEDERATION CONFERENCE
IN TORONTO. **MAY 23-26, 2024**

The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto is proud to be the host of next year's 2024 Federation Conference.

Through various workshops and presentations, we will further visit the important contributions of Danes to our future well-being. Of course, there is much to see and do in Toronto outside of our various meetings, and we will provide interesting options for you to choose from.

We hope you will join us for this special event and look forward to welcoming all of you to our big, bustling city.



The Organizing Committee



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