



2024 HERITAGE BOOK



T O R O N T O

B E C K O N S



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& CULTURAL CENTRE
TORONTO

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FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DANOISES DU CANADA

DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Toronto, Ontario

May 23-26, 2024

Toronto Beckons



Our Meeting Place / “Forsamlingshus”

T O R O N T O B E C K O N S

We welcome you all to our meeting place - our *Forsamlingshus* - for the 2024 Federation Conference.

Like many other place names in Canada, 'Toronto' has indigenous roots. In the Mohawk language it refers to a place where tall trees stand in water. It indicates a good fishing spot, at the mouth of a river that flows



into big open waters. To the Huron people, Toronto means Plenty. Plenty of trees? Water? Space? Plenty of opportunities is certainly what beckoned the Danes who left Denmark behind in the big wave of emigration in the 1950s and 60s and who came to settle here – where tall trees do stand in the water, and where land and industry and adventure were plentiful.

That wave of immigrants quickly became a community! It was this community that founded The Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and created a space where Danes and their expanding families have now gathered for decades, and not just for Sunday Service. Over time, we have become much more than that – we like to think of ourselves also as a *Forsamlingshus* like the ones that still exist in every town and village in Denmark.

A *Forsamlingshus* – a gathering house - is a community meeting space where people come together for all manner of activities. Christening lunches, wedding celebrations into the night, and an afternoon beer and

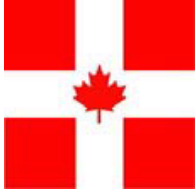
sandwich together after a funeral. They are also the place where community associations gather, and where everyone is always welcome to join the harvest fests, the bingo nights, and the amateur theatre productions.

Our church here in Toronto is a meeting place for all of those events and many, many more! The passing of the years and decades is always an opportunity to look around and reflect on what we and our community need. The global pandemic forced us all away from our communal meeting places for a while and the experience changed us and our communities in deep and lasting ways. How meaningful it was to know that we would have a community, and a meeting place to come back to! Now, we want to make sure we expand that community and open our doors to as many of our friends, families, and neighbors as possible. We do not take what we have here for granted and we recognize both the hard work that goes into building and growing community, and the many rewards it gives us.

That's why we are so delighted to be the meeting place for the 2024 Federation Conference, and why we are very excited to share with you here the new name for our *Forsamlingshus*: "*Danish Lutheran Church & Cultural Centre Toronto*".

Venlig hilsen
Sune Overgaard, Gerda Andersen,
Kirstine Rasmussen & Susanne Truelsen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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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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EDITORS OF ANNUAL HERITAGE BOOK

Editors of the Annual Heritage Book 1982 – 2024

Vancouver	1982	Poul B. Christensen	
Montreal	1983	Svend Berg	
Calgary	1984	Les Bonke	
New Denmark	1985	Glenna Jensen & Judy Armstrong	
Toronto	1986	Eva Terp	
Kolding	1987	Birgitte Dedenroth-Schou & Rolf Buschardt Christensen	
Winnipeg	1988	Bent Sørensen	
Ottawa	1989	Rolf Buschardt Christensen	
Vancouver	1990	Poul B. Christensen	
Copenhagen	1991	Rolf Buschardt Christensen	
Dickson	1992	Elin Barlem, Kathleen Christiansen, Erling Hansen, Juanita Nissen	
Kingston	1993	Rolf Buschardt Christensen and Poul B. Christensen	
Edmonton	1994	Lili Nielsen and Svend B. Nielsen	
Montreal	1995	Morten Holm	
Nanaimo	1996	Niels Jorgensen	
New Denmark	1997	Morten Holm	
Winnipeg	1998	Niels Jorgensen	
Calgary	1999	Niels Jorgensen	
Aalborg	2000	Niels Jorgensen	
Kitchener	2001	Eva Terp	
Red Deer	2002	Erling Hansen and Kirsten Wohlgemuth	
Thunder Bay	2003	Eva Terp	
Montreal	2004	Svend Berg	
Blair, Nebraska	2005	Svend Berg	
Vancouver	2006	Svend Berg	
Edmonton	2007	Svend Berg	
Ottawa	2008	Svend Berg	
Red Deer	2009	Svend Berg	
Winnipeg	2010	Svend Berg	
Calgary	2011	Svend Berg	
Toronto	2012	Svend Berg	
Victoria	2013	Svend Berg	
Ottawa	2014	Svend Berg	
Vancouver	2015	Ed Kuhlman	
Montreal	2016	Ed Kuhlman	
Red Deer	2017	Ed Kuhlman	
Halifax	2018	Ed Kuhlman	
Winnipeg	2019	Ed Kuhlman	
Nanaimo*	2020	Ed Kuhlman	* Postponed to later date due to Covid-19 Pandemic
Nanaimo*	2021	Ed Kuhlman	
Nanaimo*	2022	Ed Kuhlman	
Nanaimo	2023	Ed Kuhlman	
Toronto	2024	Ed Kuhlman	



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GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 23–26, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2024 Danish Canadian Conference hosted by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.



This event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Danish culture and to highlight the many contributions that Canadians of Danish descent have made, and continue to make, to our nation in all fields of endeavour. It is also a chance to reflect upon the history of your organization, to share ideas and experiences, and to set goals for the future.

I would like to commend the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for its commitment to preserving and promoting Danish culture and heritage, and for fostering fellowship in the community. Your organization stands as a wonderful reminder that Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive and memorable event.

Sincerely,



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

GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 23 au 26 mai 2024

Chères amies,
Chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes les personnes qui assistent à la Conférence dano-canadienne de 2024 organisée par la Fédération des associations danoises au Canada.



Cet événement est une excellente occasion de célébrer la culture danoise et de souligner les nombreuses contributions que les Canadiens et Canadiennes d'origine danoise ont apportées et continuent d'apporter à notre nation dans tous les domaines d'activité. C'est aussi l'occasion de s'arrêter sur l'histoire de l'organisation, de communiquer des idées et expériences et de fixer des objectifs pour l'avenir.

Je tiens à féliciter la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada pour son engagement à préserver et à promouvoir la culture et le patrimoine danois et à favoriser la solidarité au sein de la communauté. Votre organisation nous rappelle que le Canada est véritablement une nation multiculturelle dont la diversité est source de force et de résilience.

Je vous souhaite une rencontre des plus fructueuses et mémorables.

Cordialement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Trudeau', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

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

GREETINGS



Ottawa: May 2024

Warm greetings: to the annual Danish Canadian Conference.

The Danish monarchy ushered in a new era, when HM Queen Margrethe II announced her abdication in her annual New Year's Eve address on live TV. On January 14, HM King Frederik X ascended to the throne with HM Queen Mary. Our monarchy plays an important role in our bilateral relationship with Canada, and signs of visits have left beautiful fingerprints. From the red oak tree, that HM Queen Margrethe II planted in the Rideau Hall Gardens during her visit to Canada in October 1991 to the Crown Prince couple's visit to Canada in 2014, where they left behind the impression of a modern royal couple, who are tapped into current issues.

Danes have left such positive fingerprints in Canada for generations of immigrants. They became part of the Canadian mosaic and part of a meeting place symbolised by a national ideology of inclusion and diversity. It is therefore very relevant that the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada will host the Danish Heritage Seminar, where delegates will reflect on *Danish Fingerprints*, and the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto is hosting the conference and has chosen the theme *Toronto – The Meeting Place*.

Some of the important meeting places for Danes and Canadians in Toronto were launched in 1971: The Danish Food Centre and the Copenhagen Room Restaurant on 101 Bloor Street W. In a Danish designed interior, Torontonians got to enjoy *A Taste of Denmark* through cheese demonstrations served up by the Danish "Karoline girls" and open face sandwiches and pastries served by "smørrebrødsjornfruer." A Danish-owned furniture store across the street helped create a hub for Toronto's Danish community, which continued for the next 20 years.

We still see the impact of this hub in the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce and in the Toronto cityscape and culinary scene, where Danish pastry shops and design stores are blended into Toronto's multicultural landscape. The Danish diaspora played and still plays an important role in promoting the heritage and identity of Danes in Canada as well as building important bridges between our countries and cultures.

Today, the Embassy in Ottawa and the Consulate General in Toronto work to promote Danish values in Canada that strengthen Transatlantic cooperation, Arctic and global security. Strong allies are more crucial than ever in times of geopolitical uncertainty. We aim to put a modern Danish fingerprint on strategic priority areas like the Life Science sector, showcasing technology and digital solutions from the Tech sector and by promoting a green Denmark focused on climate, energy and green transition. Denmark tops the Climate Change Performance Index and Danish companies are amongst the world's most sustainable. We have ambitious goals, market driven solutions, for today and tomorrow, and fast implementation. The Danish green transition is good for growth and jobs and Danish companies are committed to driving the green transition, also here in Canada.

I look forward to our continued cooperation on behalf of Denmark and wish to thank you all for your efforts. Keep up the good work you do for Denmark!

Hanne Fugl Eskjær

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

GREETINGS



Pass Lake Historical Society

Greetings from The Pass Lake Historical Society,

2024 is a special year for Pass Lake, as we begin preparations to Celebrate 100 years. The Pass Lake Historical Society has had a busy 2023, from celebrating our 40th Anniversary as a Historical Society and with the changing of the majority of the Executive Board members within the Historical Society. We Thank the Past President, Secretary and Treasurer for their years of dedication in ensuring the importance of preserving our history.

With the upcoming 100th Celebration, the Pass Lake Historical Society has been preparing documentation of Pass Lake and surrounding area by creating a book, “Pass Lake The Rugged Danish Settlement 100 Years”, to capture the beginning of Pass Lake along with Memories from Past and Present Residents.

We have been in the planning stages for the upcoming celebrations on Saturday August 24, 2024 and Sunday August 25, 2024.

Saturday August 24, 2024:
Pass Lake Country Fair
Pass Lake Historical Display

Sunday August 25, 2024:
Pass Lake Salem Church Service
Pass Lake Historical Society Celebration Luncheon & Display

Further Information will be forth coming closer to the celebrations.

We look forward to welcoming everyone who comes to Pass Lake for our 100th Celebration.
From the Pass Lake Historical Society President Betty Ann Price

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.

Canadä

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

Board of Directors 2023 - 2024

National President	Mr. Rolf Buschardt Christensen, R, Ottawa, Ontario
National Vice-President	Mr. Ed Kuhlman, Port Coquitlam, British Columbia
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FEDERATION



Members of the FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

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

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 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.



New Denmark Memorial Museum displaying portraits and porcelain place settings. In June 1872 New Denmark, N.B., was founded as a Danish colony. The 150th anniversary of New Denmark was, due to Covid, celebrated in June 2023.

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*

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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.

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.

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 the Danish Canadian Conference in Innisfail, Alberta, in 1992. The Museum was officially opened on May 26, 2002.



Pioneer Fred Mikkelsen outside his log cabin on his homestead in Pass Lake, Ontario, 1930. Pass Lake had been founded as a Danish settlement in 1924.



The Danish Club of Montreal, founded in 1922, celebrated its centennial at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on May 6, 2023.



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

Annual Report
2023 – 2024

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for the year 2023- 2024. It has been a busy year for the Danish Federation as well as for the member organizations, now that we are “back to normal” - or at least back.

Despite a year late, due to the pandemic, New Denmark celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2023. As well, New Denmark is moving ahead with needed renovations to the New Denmark Memorial Museum. In May in Montreal the Danish Club celebrated its centennial with a grand dinner and dance at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, also a year late, due to the pandemic. In Edmonton in September 2023 Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first Danish Church Service in Edmonton, which led to the creation of the Ansgar congregation.

Moreover, during the past year the four Danish DSUK congregations in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto have been busy upgrading and renovating their churches, thanks in part to the generous donations from the Granly congregation which closed in 2022. Then in October 2023 Dania in Burnaby held a traditional Rejsegilde celebration, when the walls and roof were completed for the new affordable housing project that will provide a home for 155 local seniors.

This year Pass Lake in Ontario will celebrate its centennial as a Danish colony. To mark the occasion the Pass Lake Historical Society has worked diligently for a number of years and has now published a substantial book about the history of Pass Lake. As well, this year it is 80 years ago since the Royal Danish Guards’ Association, Western Canada, was established in Calgary.

Last year the Danish Federation sadly lost three board members, Larry Kjeersgaard, who passed away in March, Glenna Hitchcock who died in July, and Gunnar Pedersen who passed away in December. Ære være deres minde! To replace Svend Berg, Kren Clausen of Montreal has joined the Board, and so has Anne Marie Jorgensen of Dartmouth in Atlantic Canada.

In this connection let me mention that Regional Meetings have been held twice a year in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. These meetings have proven very beneficial in keeping the various organizations well informed of what is going on in the greater Danish community in their area.

The biggest meeting during the year is our Danish Canadian Conference where we also hold our Annual General Meeting and distribute our 200-page Heritage Book which contains a wealth of information. A warm thank you: to the many people who provided interesting articles, exciting biographies and insightful reports. And a sincere thanks to our many generous advertisers!

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The Danish Canadian National Museum also holds its Annual General Meeting in connection with the Conference. This cooperation is beneficial for both the Museum and the Danish Federation. It gives all the delegates an opportunity to keep up to date on what is happening at the Museum in Dickson. It is wonderful to see how Danish organizations support the Museum. For instance during the past year or so the Danish churches in Surrey and Edmonton donated items to the Museum. Moreover, the generous financial donation from the Granly Danish Lutheran Church has made it possible to move ahead with plans for the expansion of the Museum with the new Granly Hall.

The 2023 Conference in Nanaimo was hosted by the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club. President and head of the organizing committee, Tom Hedekar, and his team did a great job of hosting the Conference, particularly after postponing it three times. The Conference started with a welcome reception at the Nanaimo Museum, while the rest of the meetings were held at the Coast Bastion Hotel. For the Conference our Vice-President, Ed Kuhlman, had designed and edited another great Heritage Book. Lisa Olsen produced a printed Directory of Danish Organizations and looked after the Danish Federation website. Sune Overgaard looked after the finances and ensured that the Federation's assets were well invested. Ed Kuhlman chaired the AGM and the election was chaired by Svend E. Nielsen. Elected president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer for the coming year were respectively Rolf Christensen, Ed Kuhlman, Lisa Olsen and Sune Overgaard.

Immediately after the Conference the Danish Federation held a Heritage Seminar at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo, the first since 2019 in Winnipeg, due to the pandemic. Headmasters were Pastor Lasse Hultberg and his wife Frederikke. The theme was Exploring Danish Identity.

Naturally we follow what happens in Denmark. A historic event earlier this year was when Queen Margrethe II of Denmark abdicated in January, after 52 years on the Throne, and King Frederik X was proclaimed monarch from the balcony of Christiansborg Palace. It was moving and heart warming to see how King Frederik was enthusiastically cheered and welcomed by his subjects.

In conclusion, thank you to the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation for all the work you do during the year. And thank you to all the member organizations for putting our community on the map and keeping our traditions alive. You make us proud!

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

President, Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

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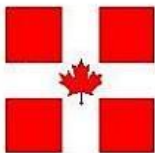
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THE ONTARIO REGION of THE DANISH FEDERATION



Wishes our Fellow Members a Warm Welcome

To

**The 2024 Conference in Toronto and
the 2024 Heritage Seminar at Niagara Falls**



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



BIOGRAPHIES

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CONVERGE 

From Lomborg to Toronto

Asger Maarupgaard Pedersen

My parents owned the farm Søndre Kjelder in Lomborg, seven km south of Lemvig. I was born in Lomborg on September 15, 1938. I was the youngest of eight brothers. At that time growing up on a farm meant you went to school for seven years and at age fourteen you were out working full time with our hired farmhands.

I remember working in the fields with a horse and cultivator thinking about the future and what I would like to do in life. One option was farming, the other was to be in sales. However, I kept thinking, I need to make some money and I need to learn to speak English. As part of our education, we all had to attend a Danish Folk School for five months. I attended Staby Efterskole, a boarding school near Ulfborg, south of Lemvig. At age sixteen I was back on my father's farm working mostly in the fields. Sometimes I did custom work for other farmers, as we were one of the first farms to have a tractor.

During those years my plan was to immigrate to the United States, as we had family there plus my father had spent six years in the USA, but came back to Denmark in 1918 to take over the family farm. In 1950 my two oldest brothers immigrated to the USA. However, the second oldest was so young he would have been drafted during the Korean War, so he returned to Denmark after six months.



The family farm Søndre Kjelder in Lomborg.

Already at age 20 I started to investigate immigrating to the United States, but I feared being drafted, so I decided that Canada was a better option. I saw an ad in *Jyllands Posten* that the Canadian National Railways were looking for farm helpers, so I applied and was accepted. On April 14, 1960, my parents drove me to Copenhagen and I boarded *SS Stavangerfjord*. It was a very emotional moment for all of us. The crossing was a 10-day voyage. We arrived in Halifax at Pier 21 at 3 am on April 24, 1960. We went through Immigration and then took the train with a coal burning stove to Toronto. The train trip to Toronto took two days. I traveled with a friend, who was going to Oshawa, where his brother lived. He convinced me to join him as there were many jobs available in Oshawa. From there we drove to Sunderland where I stayed with a Danish family. The next day I obtained a job on a farm just outside town, which would pay \$100 a month. I spoke no English. However, I learned enough English the first month to ask for a raise, to \$125. There were other Danish immigrants working on farms in that area, which was comforting to me. September came with not too much to do on the farm, so I decided to look up friends of my parents who lived in Toronto. I packed my suitcase and then took a bus to Toronto. Once I arrived at their place, I left

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my suitcase, and took the streetcar into the city. I had the addresses of two Unemployment Offices. I applied for a welding job. I had some experience from our farm in Denmark. Before I got back to my friend's house, I had a welding job and was to start at 8 am the next morning. My friends could not believe I had a job starting the next day. Yet, they were relieved and excited for me.

For the next five years I worked as a welder building lift trucks. I got married in 1964 and now the income did not meet our needs so I searched for a part time job to supplement my income. I managed to find a part time job selling Fuller Brush items after work. This went well. One night I came to a house where I did not make a sale. However, the man called me back in and asked me if I would like to sell Life Insurance. This was about the last thing I could think of, so he suggested I take a test to see if I was suitable for this kind of work, which I thought was a good idea. I heard back a few weeks later and decided to give it a try. We agreed on a minimum pay of \$5,200 a year on a draw. I thought if it didn't work, I could always get my welding job back.

I spent a couple of years selling life insurance; but I soon realized that I needed to expand into other insurance products. To do so I needed contracts with insurance companies. Having managed to obtain contracts with four insurance companies I started on my own in 1968. I set up my office in the spare bedroom, but it took a few years of hard work to get the business to the point where I could acquire my own office. In 1984 I purchased the plaza at 3148 Kingston Road, where I occupied 800 sq ft on the second floor with three employees; the rest was rented out to seven tenants, but as their leases expired, I took over their space. I realized that in order to have a good relationship with the various insurance companies, I had to increase the volume. In 1994 I purchased my first brokerage to increase volume, while hiring more employees. Within the next five years I purchased eleven other brokerages, with the help of two skillful managers and a staff of 22 professional insurance brokers.



Kresten Maarupgaard Pedersen and his wife Anine Maarupgaard Pedersen with their eight sons, 1958.

Later, I bought a brokerage in Barrie, but it didn't take long before I realized to make this venture worthwhile, I needed more volume in Barrie, so I purchased a second broker. This brokerage worked out of an old house converted into an office. It didn't take us very long to outgrow this space so when the house next door came up for sale, I purchased it and eventually added an extension to the main building. I had my daughter Laila, who joined our team of employees in 2002, manage the Barrie office. With the growth in business and the many amalgamations over the years, we built up a clientele of about 15,000 accounts. We had a good reputation in the insurance industry, represented ten different insurance companies and employed 34 brokers. When the time came to retire, I had many brokers who were interested in buying the business.

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Going back to my childhood, gymnastics and soccer have been my two keen interests. At age ten I joined the local adult gymnastic team during the winters and at age 14 our neighbouring town's junior soccer team invited me to play for them; at age 16, I joined the adult team. When I turned 19, I was called up and serviced in the Danish military for the compulsory 18 months.

After having settled in Toronto in 1961, I joined the Danish Youth Club, run by the Danish Church in Toronto. Monthly meetings were held at the German Lutheran Church on College Street West, until 1966 when our own Danish Lutheran Church at 72 Finch

Avenue West was built. Attending the monthly meetings gave me many contacts. We decided to start a gymnastic team with 10-12 participants. In 1962 we managed to perform one night on TV, and after that we performed at the Danish Constitution Day at Sunset Villa in Puslinch. Every year at Constitution Day members of the Royal Danish Guards' Association Eastern Canada would carry in the Danish and Canadian flags. They wore their so-called blue uniform, but the bearskin (Bjørneskindshuen) was missing, so my friend Aage Nielsen and I decided to donate one to the Guards. We ordered it in Denmark and presented the bearskin to the Guards' Association at their 25th anniversary ceremony, held at the Royal York Hotel on April 16, 1983. It was a spectacular event with Danish American comedian Victor Borge as the special guest.

In 1963 I had joined Local 222, a Soccer Club in Oshawa. I played there for three years, in an Ontario league. In 1969 we were able to gather enough Danish players to form our own team called The Vikings. We played in the Toronto District soccer leagues 2nd division. It soon became very competitive so in 1975 we decided it was time to call it quits. In 1974 I moved into the West Rouge area, where I joined a local senior soccer league. Unfortunately, in 2004 my back was telling me to hang up my soccer boots.

My time playing soccer has been among the most memorable years in my life. In 1977 a Danish lady's 16-year-old son, who played soccer for St. Andrews soccer club, was looking for a soccer club in Denmark to host their team. Fortunately the Køge Bold Klub in Denmark agreed to host them for their tournament, including billeting all the players. That visit was so successful that St. Andrews invited the Køge Bold Klub to Canada the following year. The following year there were so many participants from Denmark that St. Andrews could not accommodate all the families. The Canadian soccer club contacted the Danish Consulate in Toronto for help. They suggested to contact the Danish Lutheran Church, which in turn suggested contacting Asger Pedersen. I approached my team for help and together we found enough homes for the families. Everything went so well with the West Rouge Blues club that they received an invitation to visit the Køge Bold Club in Denmark in 1981. This relationship went on for 24 years, during which time we visited each other several times. Then in 1984 while talking to Knud Westergaard the topic of soccer came up. Knud, who had lived in the Far East, said the Germans living in Thailand had a team that arranged a tournament every year in Bangkok. I thought that this sounded interesting, so Knud contacted his friend John Madsen in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in charge of Carlsberg in the Far East and he planned a tournament. Knud also contacted Claus Blume an executive for Lufthansa Airlines in Thailand. I soon received an invitation for their

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tournament in 1985, and I managed to scramble a team together. On this trip we met nine teams; Lufthansa teams from Germany, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Viet Nam, The Philippines, the Danish Vikings in Thailand and a team from the Royal Bangkok Sports Club. It turned out to be a real success and we ended up travelling back 13 times, receiving invitations from all the different clubs. Our plan was that we would warm up in a different country each year. We have played in South Korea, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur. One year we went through Europe and played in Denmark, Stockholm and Helsinki before we boarded Finnair to Thailand.



The West Rouge vs German All Stars game ended in a scoreless draw. International Bangkok Post, 1985.

During those years many of the players we meet were transferred to other countries. Claus Blume was transferred to Caracas, Venezuela. Before I knew it, I received an invitation to a tournament he was arranging with teams from countries all over the world. We participated in 1991 and 1992. Another Danish player I met in Bangkok was transferred to Los Angeles, and he invited our team to participate in a Danish North American annual soccer tournament in Seattle in 1988. We managed to arrange a team, participating every year thereafter. We played in Solvang, Vancouver, Spokane, Phoenix, Chicago, New York and Fort Lauderdale. In 1995 the Toronto team hosted the tournament. Then in 1997 we played few games in Costa Rica. In 2002 I joined a team from Calgary and played my last international tournament in Dunedin, New Zealand.

When I arrived in Canada my initial plan was to stay here for two years. However, I liked Canada and I have never regretted having spent most of my life here. I have maintained close connections with my family in Denmark and I have also kept my Danish Citizenship. My father died in 1962, since then I have visited my mother many times on her birthday, until she died in 1996 at the age of 99. Now I try to visit Denmark yearly for our annual cousin family reunion.



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Paul Futtrup, baker & sailor

Paul Futtrup

I was born in Hedegaarde on Nymarksgaard, Hedegaardevej 46, part of Øster Hurup, on July 27, 1945. Øster Hurup faces Kattegat and is a part of Aalborg Bay. My parents, Janne and Anders Futtrup, were not from around there, but my grandparents had bought a farm in Solbjerg, so I think that is why my parents chose to settle in Øster Hurup. We were five children. Three boys: Hans, Jørgen and Poul, born right after each other. Then after seven years came Birgitte. After that my father said, "This is it, no more children." Nevertheless, eleven years later came Anders Christian. And that was it! By that time our mother was about 44.

We were raised in a rather poor environment. The buildings were old and dilapidated. You might say that we had two pair of parents. Our nearest neighbours were Niels and Esther Andersen. They didn't have children and were very nice people. We all spent a lot of time at their place. Niels taught us to curse. We knew those were bad words, and if we used them at home we would be slapped with a slipper.

I didn't like school very much. There were two classes and there were 48 kids in mine. Our teacher was Mr. Mikkelsen (the younger) and Mr. Mortensen. We were not always nice kids and sadly enough Mr. Mortensen had to take sick leave for some time. That meant we had many substitutes. They were also unable to control us, but then came Mr. Eriksen. He would hit us hard and willingly. A new school had been built - with large windows. In the wintertime there was a lot of snow. I liked throwing snowballs - which was strictly forbidden because of the new windows. So that meant several slaps in the face. He struck hard - but there was discipline. One good thing about the new school was the woodwork classes. I liked those. Mr. Mortensen was our teacher - and he was good at his job. Apart from that I spent most of my time at school looking out the window from where I could see the harbour.

Maybe I should have stayed in school a couple of years more, but I was not really interested, so my father went to talk to the teachers. They seemed to think that they could not teach me much more. So we had a talk with Lars Peter Madsen - and I was hired as a baker's apprentice.

I remember very clearly May 1, 1960. I was 14 years old. I said goodbye in the morning, and never again did I come home to live. I was given a room to the north above the bakery and I was very happy to live there. The head baker was Ib Hansen who lived in the house next to the bakery, at Solbjergvej 3. He was married to Ellen. They later had a bakery in Godthåb, Greenland. He taught us about "the birds and the bees" which was enlightening since there wasn't much talk about that in our home. I learned a lot from Ib. Working for Las and Tove was also good, as long as you worked hard. In the summer time it was an amazing place to work. There were a lot of tourists. We sold bread from the windows in the bakery during the night. We would often work 10 to 15 hours a day; and this at age 14 and 15. But I did not mind.

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In particular I remember the mornings at Whitsun, when people from the camp sites and summer houses came to buy bread after watching the sun rise. Often we had almost sold out before the shop opened. People were not always sober, sometimes a window was smashed. It could be boring for a young man to work in a bakery every Saturday. But I said to myself, that one day I would rent a cottage, go to the bakery in the night and buy bread. We have done that several times during the past 50 years. But it was also a good time for a young boy like me. There were 4 or 5 rooms for the employees upstairs, so there were always young people around. We started work at 4 o'clock in the morning, on Fridays at 12 midnight. In the winter we would finish around noon, but in the summer we didn't finish until the afternoon. When we had finished baking we had to clean up, scrape the baking sheets. And it had to be done properly.



MS Sargodha, built 1956, for the East Asiatic Co.

After working there for three years, the apprenticeship was four years, Las said to me, "I cannot teach you anything more, but I know a confectioner's shop in Herning." The name was Trianon, comparable to Konditori Kristine in Aalborg. We went there for an interview. The owner, Knud Sørensen, hired me and I spent the last year of my apprenticeship there, finishing my education as a baker and pastry chef. We were many employees and Herning was a nice town.

An apprentice's wages were low. The first year I got 14 kroner a month plus room and board; the second year 21 kroner. But in the summer it was better. My job was to look after the ovens and it was hard work. At times I could make up to 100 kroner a week. We worked six days a week. In the winter I went to school. After having finished my apprenticeship I went back to work for Las again. I did that every summer for some years. In the winter I worked at Mors.

Then I had to do my national service. I had always wanted to join the navy. So I was excited. It was Arnold Jensen (the blacksmith who was the chairman of the parish council) whose job it was to interview the young men. I remember that he asked me, "Can you make ryebread?" "Of course I can," I said. Arnold knew that already; so I was accepted in the navy. I spent six weeks in Auderød for basic training. Then I received my white uniform and went on board "Vædderen" bound for the Faroe Islands. We went there for 5 to 6 months to observe that the Scots, the English and the Russians did not cross into the Danish fishing zone. We did that the whole week. On Saturdays we sailed to Klaksvig or Torshavn on the Faroe Islands.

A sailor in uniform was very popular with the girls, so that was a good time. It was the baker's job to sell beer. You could buy one beer a day. It cost one krone - but it had to be opened. On the Faroe Islands it was good business. I had the key to the beer, but I did not always want a beer myself. So I collected the bottles, went ashore and sold them for 4 to 5 kroner each. On the Faroe Islands at that time you could not buy beer, if you had not paid your taxes. And if you had paid, the beer had to be brought up from Denmark. It was rather inconvenient. Once we had 4 or 5 bottles of snaps with us. We could sell them for 5 times as much. So I was somewhat of a businessman. On board the ship I would start work at four in the morning. At five the captain

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came to have his new baked rolls. He had the night watch. That was “hyggeligt.” It was very rough waters to sail in. The rolls in the oven were not always easy to control. At sea they could slide and stick together. I often burnt myself trying to separate them.

Once there was a heavy storm. We were called out to assist a Russian trawler in trouble. We were tied with ropes so that we would not be washed overboard in the huge waves. I remember that a lot of stuff was broken in the galley. Luckily I never got seasick. I remember one New Years Eve when the locals caught 110 whales. They cut them up and put the pieces right next to our ship. Then when we were to sail home, we had all grown a beard. It was not a tradition for sailors to have a beard so when we reached Kronborg, entering the Sound to Copenhagen we heard a command over the radio: “No marines wear a beard.” I haven’t had a beard since.



MV Thala Dan, built 1956, at Antarctica. Photo by Paul Futtrup.

Later I sailed with “Ægir”. It was an old former German ship which had sailed in Africa. After the war it had been given to Denmark by the Allies. It became the supply ship for Danish submarines. There were a lot of people on board. We were two bakers. The other baker was often very seasick, so he never made bread. He eventually went ashore.

Having finished my service I returned to Hurup for the summer. I lived on the top floor of the bakery with the other young people. We were between 20 and 25 people working there. There were many tourists that summer, and often a long line up of customers outside the shop.

My dream had been to sign up with ØK (The East Asiatic Company), so late summer 1966 I applied for a job. They were not sure that they had a job for me as most of their ships had frozen bread on board. Only a few ships still had bakers on board. While I was waiting for a reply, I was hired by a bakery in Terndrup. After a few weeks the union sent me to a baker in Fjerritslev. My job was to make cones, which was difficult because you had to take them straight from the oven and fold them while they were still hot. It could cause blisters. Now they are made on a machine. I had of course told the baker that I was waiting for a call from ØK. One day while drinking our morning coffee the phone rang. It was ØK with the message, “You will be leaving from Rotterdam tomorrow”. I quickly went to Copenhagen to finalize the paperwork, then by train through Germany and Holland to Rotterdam. ØK had originally employed another baker who had come on board in Copenhagen. But he was so drunk that when they reached Rotterdam he was put ashore. So they needed another baker and that was me.

For four months we sailed on the “Magdala” to Marseille, Genoa, the Suez Canal and Australia. The Suez Canal was interesting. You sailed through the desert, 96 miles. At that time it was only one-way traffic. Halfway there was a lake where one ship would anchor up while another ship passed. Just last year I sailed through the canal again. Now they sail both ways. We sailed with a

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cargo of machines to Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. I made that trip more than once. In between the tours I stayed in a small flat at Søgaaards at Solbjergvej 3, while I worked in the bakery again. It was good money; there was a lot of overtime pay. I remember Las once said, "Poul, today you have made more money than I have."

My next ØK ship was "Sargodha." We sailed through the Suez Canal, carrying 40 tons of bank notes from England to Vietnam. When we arrived we could not get into the harbour in Saigon due to the war. We had to anchor on the river for six weeks. Finally we were able to sail to Saigon. The river banks were completely bare, no vegetation. They had been sprayed with what the Americans called Agent Orange. It was right in the middle of the Viet Nam War. We saw and heard the helicopters fly by and we could hear the explosions. It was a well paying trip with a bonus because of the risk. We all earned three times our normal wages. Sadly, our sistership was hit by a mine. Fortunately nothing happened to our ship. I don't think we realized at the time how dangerous this undertaking had been.

Our next stop was Manila, The Philippines, where our ship was loaded with coconuts. From there we sailed to Bangkok where we took three elephants on board. They stood on the deck. We called them Rip, Rap and Rup. There was a keeper to take care of them, feeding them hay, sugar canes and carrots. They were going to the zoo in Genoa, Italy. But when we reached Genoa there was an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, so the elephants could not be landed. It was very cold for the elephants and the food supply was low. But they liked my bread and I kept baking to keep them alive. The elephants were set ashore in Rotterdam, but it had surely been a cold crossing for them. I returned to Denmark to work in the bakery for the summer.

In the autumn I applied for a job with J. Lauritzen A/S and was hired to work on the "MV Thala Dan" an ice-strengthened refrigerated cargo-passenger ship, built in Aalborg in 1957, and powered by a B&W diesel engine. It was going to the South Pole. We sailed to Le Havre, France, where we loaded barrels of vin ordinaire, but also with at least a hundred cases of really good wine. This was so that we would not suffer at the South Pole. We also loaded tins of French foie gras. Taking 58 days we sailed through the Panama Canal to Hobart in Tasmania. Just off Easter Island, where we could see the big statues on land, we had to conduct an exercise. We then continued through the strait between the North and the South Island of New Zealand. In one of the harbours where we visited the local church, the priest said to us, "We have a big problem. We are short of water, so would you please drink beer?" Which, we did. When we reached Hobart 48 scientists came on board. The ship had steel plating to provide a watertight skin of the ship. We sailed through turbulent waters right until we reached the ice floes. We had finally arrived at a station called Dumont d'Urville, a French scientific station in Antarctica.

We set the scientists and their wine barrels ashore. Some of the scientists were going to stay there for 14 months with no possibility of leaving. While we were at the South Pole, I killed a penguin. I kept it in the freezer all the way home. I had it stuffed and gave it to the school in Øster Hurup before I left for Canada. For eight months we sailed for the Australian government in the area. Among other things we brought some of the scientists back either to Hobart or to Melbourne. After that we sailed to Denmark. We had a wife and two small children on board. She was sick the whole time, so we had to take care of the children.

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Margaret and Paul, September 1969.

In the summer of 1968 I worked in Hurup again. I then read in *Jyllands-posten* that they needed Danish bakers in Canada. I applied and was offered an interview in Århus. It was a baker's job near Niagara Falls. The baker's father-in-law was in Denmark and he was supposed to find the right man. There were about 100 applicants, and I got the job: "Why me?" I asked. "You don't look like someone who will feel homesick." Four weeks later I boarded the "MS Batory", a Polish immigrant ship. I really enjoyed the ten-day crossing. Most passengers were Polish immigrants. When we reached the St. Lawrence River it was so foggy that we had to anchor there for over two days, before continuing to Quebec City.

I then took the train from Quebec City to Toronto and on to St. Catharines, a town on the way to Niagara Falls. At a little Danish bakery in St. Catharines I worked for Harold and Grethe for nearly seven months. I started in September 1968 and a week later I met Margaret. She is from Scotland and she was supposed to teach me English. We were married the following year.

I then heard that a large supermarket chain, which was opening bakeries, was looking for bakers. Since I didn't speak English, I applied for a job as a baker's assistant. I got the job. We were 15 bakers. Three months later there was only one of us left. In Canada you do not have to apprentice to become a craftsman. A shoemaker might as well work as a baker, and if for example you want to build houses you just do it. That's the way it is. I quickly became the master baker and head of the bake shops which were installed in the six supermarkets. I worked there for over thirteen years, opening shops all over Ontario. I drove 100,000 kilometers to open bakeries. There was much to be done. Ovens had to be bought; recipes had to be made!

I then joined a company where I became part-owner. We made a lot of frozen bread: bagels, pita bread, croissants, Danish (wienerbrød) and so on. After about ten years the company was sold. Then two friends and I started Give & Go Prepared Foods Corporation, a company where we made brownies. We would freeze them and send them to shops. They were very popular. We became a rather big company. We made about four million brownies a day, seven days a week, and we had 1,000 employees. After about ten years the company was sold. I stayed with the new owners for a couple of years and the company is still doing extremely well. Today they sell all over Canada. Some years ago they also exported brownies to Denmark. Eventually I only worked four days a week, later three days and then two days. Then one day I said, "I do not have time to work anymore!"

When the children were small we had a big house in Toronto. We have two girls, Charlene born in 1972 and Kirsten born in 1975. We also have three grandchildren, Dain, Brady and Easton. They only live a ten minute drive away so we see them often. They have been to both Denmark and Scotland several times. We have a cottage 150 km north of Toronto. It is on an island. We spend a lot time there during the summer, a wonderful place for the grandchildren.

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After the girls left home, we sold the big house and bought a smaller one. We also bought a house in Florida, near Fort Lauderdale, right by the sea. We drive down in November, about 2,500 kilometers. We always fly home to spend Christmas with children and grandchildren, and then return to Florida, staying until May.

Last year we were only home for three weeks as we took a very long trip, a world cruise which lasted 4½ months, and included Miami, The Panama Canal, Los Angeles, Marques, Fiji, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, The Philippines, China, Singapore, Bali, Thailand, The Comodo Islands, India, Egypt, Jordan, Malta, Algeria, Spain, Portugal, and London. We sailed on the same ship, "Viking", the whole time. Previously we visited South Africa and we have also visited many places in South America. Recently we have been on a river cruise on the Danube, the Main and Rhine rivers, going through 68 locks. When I think back on my life, I realize that it has brought me to all seven continents. Indeed, I have travelled a lot!



Paul Futtrup at Sunset Villa.

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Soren and Viola Westergaard

Marianne Westergaard and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Soren Westergaard arrived in Canada in 1930 just as the Great Depression was setting in. It was not a good time to start a new life in Canada, but he was 20 years old, keen to work and ready for adventure. He had been born Søren Jacobsen Westergaard in Horsens, Jutland, on January 3, 1910. His father owned a stable, so Soren was acquainted with horses and after he finished school he attended an agricultural folk high school. Soren then felt he could set out on his own and that his chances of a good life would be better in Canada.

He arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in 1930 and then headed for Didsbury in Alberta. Jobs were scarce, but in British Columbia he was able to get work on a dairy farm for the summer, where after he returned to the Didsbury area, where he then worked on a farm for the next two years. By this time Soren had enough money to buy some property so he moved to Kevisville, west of Dickson, where he took up land. In 1936 Soren began working in the Markerville area for Mr. C.M. Hummer. As Mr. Hummer's health increasingly deteriorated, he first rented the farm to Soren, and then finally sold it to him. Later Soren bought land from Homer De Long, a neighbouring homesteader.

Soren was single and well enough off to be able to make regular trips to Denmark. After a trip in 1950 Soren returned to Canada with a bride, Viola Petrea Kirstine Larsen. She had worked as a nanny for a neighbour of Soren's parents. Viola, daughter of Ole Christian Larsen and Emilie Petrea Precht Petersen, was born on August 20, 1919, in Bredballe Strand, near Vejle. After the wedding in Laurbjerg they sailed to Canada. Viola would never forget the trip across the Atlantic as the journey took twelve days and she was seasick most of the time. Viola and another passenger had heard that if they could get out to the bow of the ship, and see the ocean, that would solve their seasickness. They found a way to the bow and just as they got there, the bow dipped down and they were drenched and washed down the deck. Luckily the two were soon found by some engine room staff, clinging to a pole for dear life. Later they got a talking to from the captain.

Upon their arrival in New York, Soren went to get their luggage, and Viola was left alone, feeling strange in these foreign surroundings. She thought, maybe she should have listened to her father, who was very apprehensive about his daughter going to Canada. Each time Soren visited Denmark, Mr. Larsen hoped it was because Soren had sold his farm, and was returning to Denmark to stay.

In New York Viola wanted to go to a hairdresser. Soren found a beauty salon in the hotel and took Viola there. As Viola did not speak English it was Soren who told the hairdresser to cut her hair. When she got in the chair the hairdresser started to cut away. Viola didn't know what to say, she just wanted a wash and set, not a haircut. The next few days were very quiet in the hotel room.

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Viola encountered a host of new and strange experiences those first years in Canada. It was her keen sense of humour which helped her to adjust to life on the Canadian Prairie. Making the transition somewhat easier was the fact that they joined Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson, where many members of the congregation spoke Danish.

Soren and Viola had two children, Marianne and Kim. Their daughter, Marianne Precht Westergaard, was born in Edmonton on May 18, 1952, while John Kim Westergaard was born on February 21, 1956, also in Edmonton.

Soren Westergaard passed away in Innisfail on June 17, 1980, at age 70. Viola died nearly 21 years later, in Innisfail, on May 6, 2001, after a massive heart attack and stroke from which she never recovered.

Soren and Viola's daughter, Marianne, studied anthropology at Red Deer College for one year, worked in retail, and then in three different printing shops in Red Deer and Innisfail. In 1994 she decided she needed a career change so she became a dog groomer. After taking a course in Rocky Mountain House she became a Professional Small Breed Dog Groomer. The name of her business is Topknots 'N Tails. In 2007 she moved to the Niagara Peninsula, living first in Port Colborne and then Crystal Beach. While in Ontario she worked in two Mac's stores, while running her dog grooming business. In her spare time Marianne was a volunteer driver for the Red Cross. Then in June 2022 she moved back to Alberta, and she now lives close to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. A friend suggested that she should volunteer for Viking Days at the Museum. She loved the experience. In November 2022 her volunteering became a paying part time job.



Soren and Viola with Marianne and Kim (on Soren's arm). On a visit to Viola's cousin in Idaho, ca. 1958.

Kim Westergaard didn't go to College as such. He went to Calgary where he became a helicopter engineer. He also took courses in that field in Los Angeles, California. Upon his return to Canada, he also operated the family farm. Kim married Heather and had three children, Shylo, Cody Lee and Taya. In later years, he became interested in a new product coming out of South Africa that made logging roads, any roads really, last longer and make less dust. He became the sole salesman for the United States, which meant he was often getting on planes to jet off to wherever he was called to demonstrate or deliver a sales pitch. He was a successful salesman, but sadly he died on May 11, 2006, from esophageal cancer. The funeral was held at the Bethany Church in Dickson.

Søren and Mille Jensen

Standard, Alberta

Delores Jensen and Leila Jensen (Granddaughters), Kelowna, B.C.

Our father's parents immigrated from Sønderskov, just east of Hjørring in North Jutland to Standard, Alberta, in the spring of 1920. At the time their names were Søren Andreas Jensen and Karla Emelie (Mille) Sofia Christensen, but to us they will always be "Bedstefar" and "Bedstemor", our paternal grandparents.



Søren Jensen, born in Tårs, Denmark, August 1, 1899, died January 5, 1987.

Their move was less than two years after the end of the First World War. In those changing times Canada utterly wooed Scandinavian immigrants, but the immigration policies of the day were superciliously moralistic and bureaucratically inefficient, as our grandparents soon found out.

Not one of their friends or relatives in North Jutland could understand the need for them to leave their homeland for a new country. There were suspicious questions, and even Bedstefar's Aunt Marie, who herself had "emigrated" from Jutland to the metropolis of Copenhagen, told them they would do very well staying in Denmark. But they were determined to follow the pull of their heartstrings, to start a new life as a married couple in a new land. They also, to their later chagrin, naively followed the advice of the Canadian Pacific Railway official in

Copenhagen, who told them, without any explanation, that they would be better off to purchase their tickets as singles, and to delay their marriage until they arrived in Canada. Very poor advice!

Their journey began at Sønderskov Train Station on Sunday, May 30, 1920 at 5:16 pm bound for Copenhagen to retrieve their Canadian Pacific Railway tickets before sailing to Hull, England, for passage to Canada. The first leg of their journey, from Sønderskov to Copenhagen filled with enthusiastic intentions of boarding the CPR passenger ship to Quebec City, was uneventful enough, but upon arriving in Copenhagen to purchase their tickets, they found themselves stymied by a general seaman's strike throughout Denmark. As this was their first time in Copenhagen, they were glad Aunt Marie was there to show them the city and accompany them in their efforts to solve their predicament. Their only option, they discovered,



Mille Jensen, born in Tårs, Denmark, June 30, 1900, died September 19, 1979.

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was to buy tickets on a Finnish freighter, which not only offered poor amenities on rough seas, but arrived late in Hull, England. This caused them to miss their scheduled CPR sailing from Liverpool and to be warehoused in that unappealing city for a couple of weeks awaiting the next outward scheduled passage. Assuredly, throughout their troubled travels from the time of their departure by train from Sønderkov on that Sunday to their arrival in Standard, Alberta, weeks later, they must have wondered whether they had made the right decision.

Søren wrote the story of their journey in Danish in March 1921. Jette Staal Nielsen, daughter of Pastor Charlo Staal Nielsen, later transcribed the story into English. Here is our adaptation of Søren's journey taken from that journal.

As we stood on the pier with hundreds of people, we like the others tearfully wondered if we would ever see our homeland again. Then, suddenly with feelings of wonder, we realized we would soon be stepping onto the ship. About an hour after boarding, the ship pulled out of the Copenhagen harbour moving into Øresund, going north towards Kronborg. As it was long past dinnertime and we hadn't eaten since breakfast, we were hungry, but there were no signs of any meals so we stepped downstairs to look around and see what was going on. As it was a freighter, there was naturally no accommodation for passengers, but there were some tables and benches made from two-by-fours and shiplap which worked just fine. A lady entered with some steel plates, and knives and forks which she threw on the table in a pile. One lady brought a pail of potatoes boiled with both peels and dirt while another lady brought a pail filled with meat and gravy that looked more like slop for pigs. I started to peel my potato but no, nothing doing, so we sat there eating such as it was.

As we sailed northward into Kattegat, the wind started to blow harder and harder. Seasick passengers, including Mille, disappeared downstairs where they were shown a cabin room for about eighteen passengers with triple bunks. Mille crawled up into the top bunk saying in Danish, "I don't want anybody vomiting down on me!" Unbelievably, the big open place with big straw-filled sacks for mattresses and dirty blankets on the bunks nearby would soon be my accommodation.

When we passed the northern tip of Denmark, the waves rushed right over the ship. Finally, by Tuesday, June first, the wind had gone down, and despite the sight and smell of cabins filled with seasick people and not a moment of cleaning attempted by anyone, passengers were able to eat some tasty yellow pea soup. We reached Hull late Thursday evening but didn't enter the harbour until early Friday morning, June fourth. Imagine us standing on the wharf until noon after being seasick for nearly three days with nothing to eat since Tuesday morning! Our knees, in fact our whole bodies, were shaking as we stood there for several hours. Finally, coaches arrived and hauled us to the train station where we were served a fine lunch before leaving by train to Liverpool at exactly the same time our scheduled CPR passenger ship was leaving Liverpool!

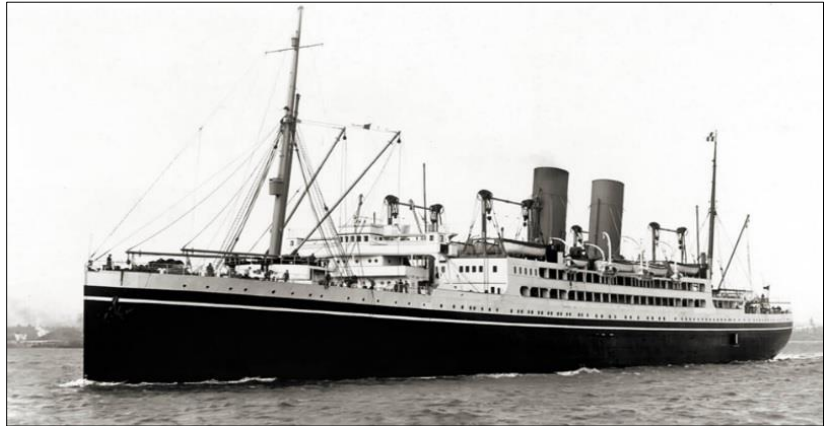
As soon as the train stopped in Liverpool, an authoritarian man came there hollering abrasively, "Canadian Pacific, Canadian Pacific. Come on, Come on!" We were led to a bus, piled in, and quickly driven to a narrow back street. The bus stopped, a large door opened and two men shouted, "Come on! Come on!" (Years later this would remind me of a good-sized cattle liner in Alberta.)

As soon as we were inside the "warehouse", the door slammed shut and locked right behind us and one of the men shouted, "Hurry up, you dogs, get on, get on." Of course, this was in English

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and we didn't understand it, but two of the passengers had travelled to the USA before, so they told him off. The dog chaser chased us through a long, narrow hallway to "guestrooms" that held ten to fourteen persons in each room. After awhile, a lady rang a bell to call us for supper, which consisted of bread and butter, a piece of canned meat and a cup of coffee without sugar or cream. Everybody thought that if we were going to live on this ration for very long, we surely would "go to the dogs" as the saying goes. Two weeks passed, I'm not sure how, and at last, on June 18th, we boarded the CPR's passenger liner "SS *Minnedosa*" for Quebec.

We passed Ireland the next forenoon in the midst of the most pleasant weather you could ask for. Soon after that, the ship started rolling, Mille went to bed and later so did I. For two days, most of the passengers stayed in bed as the waves spilled right over the ship's deck. When the storm cleared off, we had the finest weather for the last five or six days of sailing. We survived the poor quality food and the dirty plates and cutlery. Mille was at the table only three times during the eight days it took us to cross the Atlantic Ocean. After the seasickness left, I developed a rash by my ear and on my face. Fortunately, there was a doctor who helped me as there was a worry that I might be refused landing with such a face.



The CPR's SS Minnedosa had two funnels, and three powerful screws. The four decks accommodated 550 first class cabins and 1,200 third class cabins.

Once we landed in the port of Quebec passengers started to go through the process of the passport, tickets, money and medical examinations. I didn't like the situation at all on account of my sore face, but surprisingly, that went fine. Once we got to the passport and ticket exam, they stopped Mille and asked her where she was going and with whom. Of course, we said we were going to Standard, Alberta, which is a Danish settlement, but we had no specific name or address. We were just pushed into another room, as we were not married, and Mille could not go along with me, as I could be a slave trader. We didn't know at the time why we were pushed aside, as we could not understand the language. All the other passengers were taken to the train for Montreal. Two men came, one an interpreter, to question us why we were not married in Denmark. I told them that the CPR top official in Copenhagen told us that it would be much better go to Canada without being married. Our plans were to go over and see how things were in Canada and then get married. They told us, "You can't land before you are married. There will be a minister here tomorrow morning who will perform the marriage." We discussed this possibility and had already decided that if their reason for holding us back was marriage, then we would say yes. We were taken upstairs and I was pushed through a door to a large hall with 96 bunks, given a couple of blankets and told by the guard to make my bed. I really felt I was imprisoned behind bars. Frightened, Mille was pushed through the door to a presentable room with one room-mate.

You can imagine my feelings upon waking and thinking, "Today is my wedding day!" After breakfast, Mille and I took a little stroll on the balcony which was enclosed with a high steel

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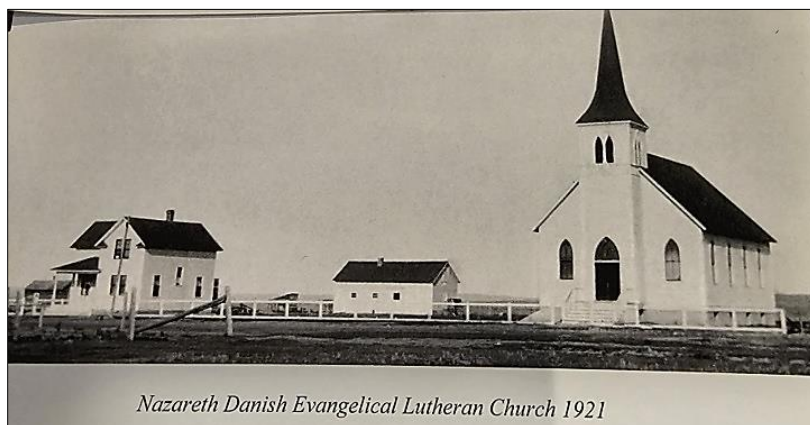
railing with sharp spikes on the top. We waited hour after hour, but no official appeared. It was really lonesome as there were no Danes to talk to, while I think all other races and nationalities were represented.

The next day, an official arrived and the nightmare continued. We were now told we had to have a permit to be married and that we couldn't get one because you must be 21 to get married in Quebec. Mille was only 20! When he asked us where we intended to go, we replied, "We are just going out to the Wild West. We aren't going to anyone." to which he replied, "Well, then there is nothing to do but send you back to Denmark." I asked if the CPR's top official in Copenhagen was allowed to send people on a lie, saying we could get much better land in Canada without being married. The man thought for awhile, then said, "The only thing we can do is to send an application to the Canadian Government in Ottawa to ask for permission for you to get married." But he added immediately that it was practically impossible to get such permission. There we waited, hoping and praying, for twelve days!

Twelve days is a long time to wait in such an institution. Finally, the letter came from Ottawa. We were granted permission to go to Standard, on the condition that we got married within thirty days. It was July eighth. That meant we had to be married before August eighth, with a certificate sent to the immigration office in Winnipeg. As soon as we said yes, we were let out of confinement to get our baggage checked to go to Standard.

At last, after some delays, we arrived in Montreal for the express train from Montreal to Alberta. For the first forty-eight hours, we saw nothing but trees, rocks and water. From Port Arthur to Standard, it was the opposite, not a tree for miles, just open grassland. By the time we arrived in Bassano to transfer to Standard on July thirteenth, I am not so sure we looked like civilized people.

On the train to Standard, we met Mr. Hansen, a farmer from Iowa who owned land in Standard. It was our first friendly conversation with anyone for three weeks. What a relief to meet and speak Danish with such a gentleman. He invited us for dinner at the restaurant in Standard. It was a tremendous relief to be there with him, surrounded by other fellow Danes.



Nazareth Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church 1921

We could hardly believe the time had come to meet Pastor J.K. Jensen and tell him our story. Pastor Jensen told us we would have to get a license in Gleichen to get married. I asked him if the papers from Ottawa were enough and he told us we had to get a real license in Gleichen, a town about twenty miles away; otherwise, he would be fined \$100.00 for marrying us.

Since we needed a car to get to Gleichen, Pastor Jensen suggested we ask Mr. Chris Andersen, a farmer living in town. Mrs. Andersen gave us permission to use the car but now we needed a chauffeur to drive it. It didn't take Pastor Jensen long to find Ole Larsen's son, Leo, and Chris Andersen's daughter, Lykka, to volunteer for the job. In a jiffy we were all ready for our first car

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trip in Canada. By supper time we were back in Standard ready to be married, at 8:30 pm on Tuesday, July 13, 1920. The wedding was performed just like they are in Denmark, even though there were only eight persons in attendance. When we heard the newly purchased church bell ring, we felt our connection and deep love for each other. The bell reminded us of our promise to be partners for life. We were invited to the Andersen home for coffee and *kaffekage* after the wedding. Under the circumstances, we thought we had a very nice wedding all in all.

After the wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Andersen took the newlyweds into their home where they felt welcome and comfortable. They were on their way to becoming settlers on the Canadian prairie. At first, they both worked for Mr. Chris Andersen on his farm. At harvest time, they were given new jobs—Bedstefar stooking and hauling bundles for threshing and Bedstemor cooking for the crew. Later, he worked at the coal mine nearby. With their earnings, they soon purchased a two-room shack from Mr. Svendsen for \$425. Just when they felt well-off, Bedstefar was laid off; however, they were grateful to get credit at J.P. Hansen's store and for the opportunity for Bedstemor to work for the Andersen's for \$40 per month while Mrs. Andersen was ill.



*Back row: Mille, Robert and Søren.
Front row: Arne, Bodil, Marion, Edith and Svend.*

Throughout the first year, the two newcomers actively participated in the activities of the church, where they became friends with other members of the community. The young married couple proved their endurance and demonstrated their determination to succeed in their new home.

Since some of their relatives had already settled in Dalum, it is a mystery to us why our Bedstefar and Bedstemor chose Standard rather than Dalum as their home in Canada. We suspect it may have had something to do with the fact that the Nazareth Danish Lutheran Church in Standard was a pious Inner Mission (“Holy Danes”) congregation, while the Danish Lutheran Church in Dalum was Grundtvigian (“Happy Danes”), part of the other Danish synod.

And who knows why they were told by the CPR agent to wait until they arrived in Canada before getting married? What we do know and remember, though, is that throughout his life, Bedstefar consistently professed the purity of their single-person status during the entire voyage from Jutland until their wedding night in Standard. And how enviable, we think at times, as now, in our seventies, we review our own life. We remain deeply grateful to them for showing us the bond of love they shared with each other throughout their lives.

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While they lived in Standard, their son Robert was born on May 11, 1921 and their son Svend was born on April 18, 1923. At the beginning of their second year in Canada, Søren worked on the CPR track for thirty cents an hour. He recalled that both butter and a dozen eggs were each one dollar which meant that he worked half a day to be able to purchase them. However, both Søren and Mille knew how to be frugal and resourceful, so with careful saving they purchased a residential lot from the CPR and Mr. Chris Andersen moved their house there with a steamer. After the First World War, when the soldiers returned to Canada, the CPR built twenty-five farms southeast of Chancellor. Apparently many of these men did not care for farming and one would-be farmer after another left his farm. Søren and Mille purchased one of those farms in the spring of 1923.

Sunny Range School, a small building in the country nearby, was where many gatherings and opportunities for meeting others took place. Most memorable were the Sunny Range Christmas concerts and sing-alongs where food and fun were plentiful and enjoyed by newcomers and established country folks alike. The best get-togethers occurred after seeding the crops was done in the spring and after harvest time in the fall.

The church was central to communities on the prairie and Standard was no different. Attending church was always a priority for Søren and Mille. The journey to Nazareth Danish Lutheran church, twelve miles away in Standard, took three or four hours return trip by lumber wagon.

In the fall of 1924, Søren and Mille purchased their first car, a Model T Ford. What a blessed experience it was to take their toddlers to church in that vehicle! When winter arrived, they jacked the car up and left it until spring. It was back to travelling by lumber wagon until the warmer days of springtime returned.

For several years, farming progressed well on the prairie landscape and the expanding Jensen family seemed settled in their community. Soon, there were five children with the arrival of Arne on November 5, 1926, Bodil on November 16, 1927 and Edith on May 22, 1930. All the children were born at home except for Edith who was born in the hospital in Bassano. The school aged children attended the one-room Sunny Range School until 1932.

Then came the dry years and like their neighbours, hard times descended and dreams of prosperity were crushed. In 1931, the Jensens planted ten bushels of potatoes and harvested just ten bushels in the fall. Becoming depressed with the dry conditions, they made the decision to rent a farm at Dickson, another Danish community in Alberta, where there was a possibility of more rain because of its location near the Red Deer River west of Innisfail. Much to the chagrin of their son, Svend, they chose to move on his ninth birthday before he was able to complete his year at Sunny Range School. Søren rented out their farm at Chancellor including the tractor and machinery to his brother, Aage Jensen, for three years (1932, 1933 and 1934). Thereafter Aage returned to Denmark to rejoin the extended family in Denmark. In 1932, with thirty-five dollars in his pocket, Søren and his family left Chancellor for Dickson to start all over.

While Søren and Mille kept many contacts in the Standard/Chancellor area and occasionally visited them in their homes and at community events, they had no desire to return to the dry grasslands. In 1941, their son, Svend, who had no interest in pulling more roots in order to create farmland in the Dickson area returned to Standard with optimism and enthusiasm all set, ready to build his life on the prairie thereby giving Søren and Mille a continued connection to their first Canadian home.

Søren and Mille Jensen

Dickson, Alberta

Delores Jensen and Leila Jensen (Granddaughters), Kelowna, B.C.

In 1932 our Grandparents relocated from Chancellor to a rented farm that they later bought from S.P. Lonneberg, due south of the hamlet of Dickson. During the thirties machines were a luxury not everyone could afford so most of the backbreaking work was done by hand, including breaking land, picking roots/rocks, planting grain, stooking and threshing grain, hauling water, haying, milking cows and picking berries – just to name a few of the tasks that were done by young and old alike. It was a mixed farming operation of animals, grain and hay that grew over time. Born at home on the farm in Dickson, Marion, the youngest child, arrived in July 1933.

Søren, Mille and all the children worked hard on the farm, in the fields picking roots and rocks, seeding, haying and harvesting, gardening, cooking and cleaning. As time went by, the farm prospered, the children grew up, moved on and extra help was needed in the form of hired hands. One such hand was a young man, Borge Rasmussen, who came from Denmark to work for Søren. He became part of the family and subsequently a successful Dickson farmer in his own right as well as a respected member of the community and the church in Dickson.

The Jensen family was very active in the Danish Lutheran Church (subsequently Bethany Lutheran Church and now King of Kings Lutheran Church) in Dickson as well as the community at large. Originally, church services were held in Danish but over time changed to English. Søren also served as a member of the Church council.



Mille and Søren Jensen

Dickson had a one-room schoolhouse across the road from the Church. All of the Jensen clan rode to school in Dickson each day – lots of stories about that – six kids on two horses!

In 1947 Søren and Mille decided to take a trip to Denmark to attend our Great-Grandparents' Golden Wedding Anniversary and to visit their families after being away for 27 years. They were accompanied by three of their children, Arne (21), Edith (17) and Marion (14) who met their

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relatives for the first time. For the 3 young Canadians Denmark was an environment with dissimilar customs and practices. Arne and Marion returned to Canada with Søren and Mille, but Edith stayed and was sent to “Home Economics School” in Silkeborg, Denmark, because, up to that point, she had refused to learn to cook! In Denmark Edith met and married Tage Sørensen. Later they moved to Canada eventually starting the fabulous and renowned Danish Home Bakery in Calgary.



The first Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson

Søren and Mille also purchased the Kjeers-gaard's small acreage south of the farm as a “summer residence”. It was situated on the Red Deer River across the road from a provincial camp site and it was a lovely place with endless opportunities for grandchildren to have exciting adventures along the riverbank!

In 1963, Søren and Mille sold their farm to Bob and Jean McLerie and retired to a new home on Vercheres Street in the Mount Royal area of Calgary where they lived until their passing. Søren retained a half section of land in Dickson which was then farmed by their son, Arne Jensen, for several years. They became very involved in the congregation at Calgary’s new Danish Lutheran Church under the service and care of Pastor Charlo Staal Nielsen. Their Calgary home continued as a place for visits, family gatherings and celebrations as grandchildren grew up and moved out on their own and onward to higher education, careers or raising their own families.

The farm, the river acreage and the Calgary home are all fondly remembered by all of Søren and Mille’s 19 grandchildren as a place to get together with uncles, aunts and cousins, to have fun playing in the hay loft, running around the farm and acreage while visiting Bedstefar and Bedstemor, and often spending holidays with them. We enjoyed Danish traditions – especially Christmas Eve and trying to find the almond in the rice pudding and then receiving the *mandelgave* (almond present); as well as live candles (yes, live candles) on the tree and singing Christmas carols around the tree before opening gifts. Then in 1970, the family celebrated Søren and Mille’s 50th wedding anniversary and the same year, they sold their summer residence to Fred Fischer, Riverside Apiary in Dickson.

As Leila’s mother, Jytte, contracted polio and was paralysed, Jytte was sent into isolation at the Calgary General Hospital for several months. Leila’s dad (Arne) was unable to care for Leila, so Bedstemor and Bedstefar looked after her in their home until Leila was able to rejoin her parents at about age one and a half. Leila had learned to walk and had started speaking Danish while she

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was in their care. As a result, they were always very special to Leila and so she was sure she was their favorite grandchild. However, it is a common belief in the family that each and every grandchild thought the same thing, *“I am #1 with Bedstefar and Bedstemor!”*

When the government dammed the Red Deer River south of Dickson in 1983 to build the Dickson Dam (Gleniffer Lake) it claimed parts of the former Jensen farm and all of the summer residence acreages. Many memories are now at the bottom of that lake. The remainder of Søren and Mille’s Dickson farm, now called Lakeridge Farms, is owned and operated by Jordan Hindbo, a descendent of another Danish homesteading family in the Dickson area. After their death both Søren and Mille were buried at Queen’s Park Cemetery in Calgary.

The Descendants of Søren and Mille Jensen



Left to right: Marion, Edith, Bodil, Arne, Svend and Robert.

Søren and Mille Jensen farmed successfully and raised their family of six children in Dickson, until their retirement in 1963, when they moved to Calgary. Five of Søren and Mille’s six children have the middle name Drastrup. The name comes from the farm called Drastrup that our great grandfather, Niels Peter Jensen, bought. He was henceforth known as Niels Peter Drastrup. All of his children and then grandchildren and many children in the next generations continue to be called Drastrup. Below are brief biographies of each of their six children.

Robert Drastrup Jensen (aka RD) was born in Standard on May 11, 1921. He was the first child born to Søren and Mille. Robert started school in Chancellor, and at the age of 11 he moved with his family to Dickson, where he continued his education at the Dickson School. Prior to the

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beginning of the Second World War Robert visited Denmark where he met and in 1942 married Karen Margrethe Christensen at Hirtshals in Northern Jutland. Two children were born in Hirtshals (Alice in 1943 and Ivan in 1945). During the war Robert was involved in the Danish resistance movement. After the war he returned to Dickson where he bought his own farm east of Dickson and started farming. In the Spring of 1947 Karen, Alice and Ivan immigrated to Canada travelling by ship to New York and then by train to Alberta without the benefit of the English language for a life Karen was not prepared for. Two more children joined the family – Verner in 1949 and Allan in 1959. There are seven grandchildren from their union. Eventually Robert and Karen divorced, sold the farm and moved to Calgary, while Robert roamed around looking for something, we know not what. At some point he re-married, to Charmie Cooper. They resided in the Vernon area in British Columbia where Robert passed away in the early 2000s.

Svend Drastrup Jensen was born at home in Standard on April 18, 1923. At 3 weeks old, he moved with his parents, Søren and Mille, and his older brother, Robert, to the CPR farm they purchased near Chancellor. Svend enjoyed his childhood on the farm, attending church at Nazareth Danish Lutheran Church in Standard, and once he turned seven attending the Sunny Range School not far from the farm. He loved to play soft ball and create intricate ink-lettered drawings from a young age. In 1932, on his ninth birthday Svend reluctantly joined his family for the relocation to Dickson where he attended classes in the one-room school in Dickson. Svend had ambitions and they did not include clearing land for farming, so in August 1940 at age seventeen, he left home with his bicycle and his black metal lunch kit on which he so carefully etched his name in perfect calligraphy, returning to the Standard/Chancellor area where he worked on farms and in the coal mine nearby. By 1944, he had his own trucking business. Prosperity was his goal.



Svend Drastrup Jensen



Svend and Leda Jensen, 1945

On August 26, 1945, Svend married Irene Leda Jensen, daughter of Maurids and Ellen Jensen (no relation) at Nazareth Danish Lutheran Church in Standard. By May 1948, the couple rented an eight-hundred-acre farm near Hussar, Alberta from Theo Larsen. In 1957 they purchased the farm which by 1966 they had expanded to 1,280 acres. Their property holdings continued to grow throughout the years with purchases of land near Byemoor in Stettler County, near the Sun Shine Colony in the eastern region of Wheatland County and elsewhere. Svend became known for his interest in agriculture and progressive farming practices. He grew many crops including malting barley and canola, plus he raised Hereford, Angus and Charolais cattle.

Throughout the years, Svend and Leda were active in their church activities at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Hussar where Leda was the church organist. They were also active in community affairs which led to a broader interest in

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provincial, federal and worldwide associations. Leda was provincial president of the Alberta Women of Unifarm. They were part of the Canadian delegation to the world conferences in Kenya and Germany and were preparing to be the leader of the Canadian delegation to the conference in China when Leda was diagnosed with cancer. Rewards were many for their efforts with awards and life time memberships granted to several associations and federations including the honour of being inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Svend and Leda had three children – Delores Arlene (May 21, 1947), Phyllis Elaine (September 1, 1948) and Earl Keith (October 4, 1953) plus four grandchildren. In 1977, Leda and Svend bought their “weekend home”, an acreage on the west side of Calgary with a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains and began attending Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Calgary. Leda and Svend enjoyed many trips abroad to Denmark and elsewhere as well as numerous visits to California and the Midwest of the USA where Leda’s relatives lived. Together, they hosted many social gatherings in their own homes where they could be counted on to have both scrumptious fare and enjoyable entertainment.

After forty-one years of farming, Svend and Leda sold most of their farm to Eric Nielsen in 1989 and retired to a house in Calgary. Leda passed away on January 6, 1990 of acute leukemia. In October, 1994, Svend married Dolly Deeley in Banff, Alberta. They sold the Calgary home and bought another acreage west of Calgary and property in the Shuswap, keeping the original acreage home west of Calgary until the present time. They enjoyed spending time at their “cottage” in Salmon Arm and travelling in their motor home.



Svend and Dolly, October 1994

Svend passed away on November 5, 2022. He will be fondly remembered for his dry understated sense of humour, his storytelling and his practical skills with a multitude of tasks as well as for his deep love of the prairie landscape.

Arne Drastrup Jensen was born on November 5, 1926 at home in Chancellor. After the family moved to Dickson, Arne attended Grades 1-8 at the one-room school, riding horses to and from school every day. He had a lifelong interest in and love for horses. As teenagers, he and his friend, Erik Hansen, rode horses together and shared many adventures. After the Second World War, Arne visited Denmark for the first time in 1947 when the family travelled back to attend his grandparents’ 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. He stayed there for four months meeting relatives, becoming familiar with family, his roots and making new friends. After his return to Canada, Arne worked on his Dad’s farm as a hired man for the next 3.5 years. Due to some health issues his doctor suggested he go to a sea level climate. So, in 1951 he travelled to Denmark where he met and in Odense married Jytte Larsen on December 22, 1951. They left Esbjerg, Denmark, on December 26th aboard the passenger ship *South Hampton* via England and France crossing the Atlantic in eight days, arriving in New York in the new year of 1952. In New York, while waiting on a platform, Jytte, who didn’t speak a word of English, was left in charge of all their belongings. Suddenly along came a fellow who snatched Arne’s accordion and ran off

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with it. As he was returning to the platform, Arne saw what the guy did and gave chase but couldn't catch him. At long last, they embarked on what Arne described as his first and last bus trip – an uncomfortable journey all the way from New York to Calgary.



Arne and Jytte Jensen, Odense, 1951

Arne and Jytte bounced around to different accommodations in Dickson for a couple of years. Jytte was unprepared for the everyday hardships of living in rural Alberta. Arne worked away on crews clearing road allowances and living in work camps. Their first mode of transportation was a 1909 Durant. Within ten months of arrival in Canada there was an extra mouth to feed when Leila was born. Less than a year later, Jytte contracted polio and was hospitalized at the Calgary General Hospital. Leila stayed with Søren and Mille during that time, learning to walk and talk.

In 1953 Arne and his friend, Erik Hansen, pooled their resources and started farming together. Their first crop hailed out 100%. Erik left the partnership in the second year and went to work for Arne's brother Robert (RD). When Karsten was born on January 27, 1955, Arne and Jytte moved the family across the Red Deer River to the Red Lodge Park area farming 3 quarter sections (480 acres). The Little Red Deer River ran right alongside the house. There was outdoor plumbing, no electricity and water was either pumped by hand on the back porch or hauled up from the river in pails. However, there was a crank telephone with a live operator! There are many memories and family firsts from the years spent on that farm. Then on July 19, 1956, Ralph was born.



In 1959 Arne bought a ½ section of land from Chris and Pete Sorensen three miles west of Dickson with home site including an "updated" house.

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The land was cleared and drained and as a result the next 40 years produced a reasonably successful mixed farming operation with the usual challenges of mixed farming along with hail storms and a few unexpected fires. Arne was interested in purebred cattle and built up a herd of Black Angus in the 60's, switched to Charolais in the 70's and later turned to the Speckled Park breed.

Arne's love of horses blended well with hunting and every year after harvest he would take one or two horses and go "out west" on a hunting expedition with a bunch of guys, (mostly other farmers), for a week or two. Riding horses, hunting, camping and enjoying time spent either in the Rocky Mountains or the Foothills of the Rockies is something that he passed on to all of his children.

In 1965 Arne took flying lessons and got his pilot's license through the Innisfail Flying Club. He later bought his own aircraft, a PP28 130 Cherokee, that he enjoyed flying for many years.



Arne and Jytte divorced in 1976. Arne was remarried to Barbara Randall in 1977; they divorced in 1985.

In 1989 Arne bought a lot on Grand Cayman Island and started spending winters there, building a house and landscaping the yard with plants and fruit trees. He thoroughly enjoyed all those years in Cayman. Then in 1996 Arne retired from farming, sold the farm and equipment, bought 18 acres across the road from Red Lodge Park and built a home and shop on the property. He continued to have a couple of horses and put up some hay.

In 2006 he met and married Charme Cooper from Vernon. Arne eventually sold the acreage and moved to Vernon where he resided until his passing on July 17, 2017.

Bodil Drastrup (Jensen) Gundersen was born November 16, 1927, at Chancellor, and later rode "Pete" to school in Dickson each day. She was very active in sports at school. She attended Sunday School and Church in Dickson as well as the Luther League where she and Edith sang duets. After finishing school, Bodil went to work for the Herluf Jensen family in the Baynum area near Standard, where she met Borup Gundersen who was working for John Hansen in the same area. They were married in 1946 and they made their home on the Gundersen homestead 2.5 miles west of Dickson. Borup and Bodil had several rough years of farming as weather was their biggest challenge. However, they persevered through all the hard times and had a successful

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Borup and Bodil Gundersen, 1946

farm when they retired in 1981. They had three children – Lucille in August 1947, Doris in June 1951 and Brenda in May 1962. Bodil loved her home and enjoyed her garden immensely. She loved to bowl, have a good game of cards with friends and was an avid bingo player. Bodil travelled to Denmark twice, once with her parents and once with Borup and Jack & Mary Gundersen. Bodil and Borup also enjoyed a trip to Hawaii with sister, Edith and George – Hawaii had never before seen such white bodies!! They were so much fun to be around and made many lifelong friends.

Bodil and Borup became grandparents in 1966. Over the next 30 years six more grandchildren were added to the family and in 1997 they were honored to have “Great” added to their title with seven in total.

Bodil was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2000, spent the last six months of her life in the Innisfail Hospital and passed away on February 2, 2001.



Portrait of Bodil

Bodil and Borup’s family has been very much involved in volunteering at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson. Both Lucille (Moore) and Doris (Norman) have been active at the Museum for years. More recently, Doris’ daughter, Connie Swarbrick, assumed the role of President and her daughters (Bodil’s granddaughters), Julia and Michelle, are quintessential volunteers at the Museum!

After Bodil passed away, Borup moved to the Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. He passed away January 24, 2003. Daughter, Doris (Doug Norman) has lived at the homestead since 2003.

Edith Irene (Jensen) Sorensen/Stone/Travalia was born at the hospital in Bassano, Alberta, on May 22, 1930, while the family was still farming in Chancellor. Edith started school in the same one-room school in Dickson as the rest of the Jensen clan. Edith was one of the three adult Jensen children who accompanied her parents to Denmark in 1947 to attend the grandparents’ 50th anniversary. This was a turning point in her life. As Edith had thus far refused to learn to cook, Søren and Mille sent her to home economics school in Silkeborg. During this time, she met her future husband, Tage Sorensen. She and Tage were married in 1949 and lived in Denmark. Their first child, Soren, was born in November 1949.

Tage wanted to go to Canada so in May 1950, they were reunited in Calgary with the Jensen clan. Tage got a job at a bakery in Edmonton but struggled because he didn’t speak English so they decided to try farming instead. However, farming didn’t turn out well and after being hailed

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out three years in a row they moved to Calgary and opened their own bakery. The Danish Home Bakery was born and successful from the very first day! Their daughter, Margit, was born in September 1953 and their daughter, Lona, in June 1958 followed by son, Gary, 14 months later in August 1959.



Edith and Tage Sorensen, 1949

married again to Alex who passed away soon afterward. She lived in the Kelowna area until she moved to Airdrie, Alberta to be closer to her family.

Their world fell apart in 1972 when Tage was diagnosed with brain cancer and died 7 months later in February 1973. It was good fortune that George Stone was dedicated to his job working at the bakery at the time. Edith and George worked well together and they were married in 1975. When Edith sold the bakery, they moved to Kelowna. They enjoyed the longer summers, tending their flowers and establishing new friendships. They were active members of the Faith Lutheran Church in Kelowna. She has 11 grandchildren. George died suddenly in 1986 of a heart attack.

Edith met Bill Travalia at a New Years Eve dance and they were married in 1988. They enjoyed traveling. Bill passed away in 1997. Since then, Edith has kept busy with her home, sung in the church choir, played golf and piano, painted with oils and acrylics and travelled a bit. She was briefly



Portrait of Edith

Marion Drastrup (Jensen) Saske/Anderson was born on July 9, 1933 at home on the Dickson farm, youngest child of Søren and Mille Jensen. Marion grew up and went to school in Dickson. In 1947 at age 14 she went to Denmark for the first time with her parents and siblings Arne and Edith. Marion thought it was amazing to suddenly have so many relatives, and to meet them all for the first time was wonderful. Due to the trip she readily realized, already at age 14, the difference between a long-established country's cultural customs and expectations and that of a relatively new country's basic ways of living, particularly in the rural western part of Canada. After the trip she decided that she would return to Denmark, which she did as a young woman. When she came back to Canada, she pursued her dream to live in an urban place, settling in Calgary, where she lived for the rest of her life.

Thus Marion moved to Calgary at age 19, looking for a job. She worked in the corporate oil and gas industry, including drafting for Husky Oil and several other companies. Later she became legal assistant to her daughter, Darcy, who had become a lawyer. At age 22 Marion had married Joe Saske and later the same year was blessed with the birth of the light of her life, daughter Darcy. Her marriage to Joe didn't last and as she puts it, "Darcy and I went solo."

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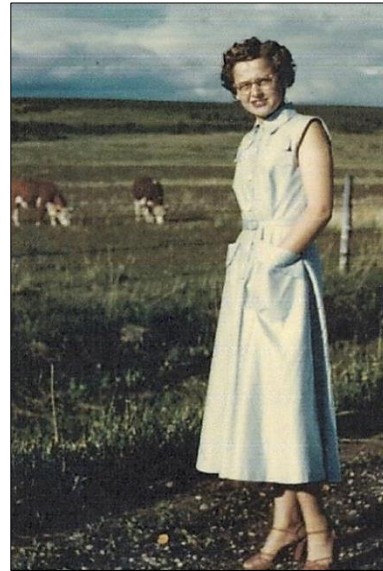
Andy Anderson came into her life and the two married in 1970. Marion and Andy enjoyed travel through Canada and the United States and skiing holidays in winter until bad knees and age caught up! Andy Anderson passed away October 25, 2006.

Gardening and travel were joyful pastimes for Marion. She derived great pleasure from wearing her big floppy hat and putting her hands in the dirt. She said she was grateful for all the good memories and very few “should have”. Auntie Marion was a favorite of nieces and nephews – she loved watching them grow up to be fine women and men. She kept their secrets and

confidences to the end. Marion was very proud of her Danish heritage and shared it with family and friends. Marion was able to go to Hawaii three times, having discovered it truly was Paradise. It was always a dream to return to Denmark and Hawaii for just one more visit. But alas, Auntie Marion passed away in Calgary, December 9, 2022.



The Jensen family with Marion in front



Marion Drastrup Jensen

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Georg Nissen, Dickson

An autobiography, translated from Danish by Margrethe Nissen

The autobiography below was written by Georg Nissen in about 1940. He arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in February 1928, accompanied by his wife, Sophie, and their eight children. Missionary Jens Dixen had encouraged the family to immigrate to Dickson, where they already knew Hans Hansen. With assistance from Hans and Christian Morck they had before emigrating leased the Sam Finson farm. The Nissens came from North Slesvig, the part of Denmark which had been a part of Germany before the First World War. At home they spoke both Danish and German, the children speaking German to their father and Danish to their mother. Their Danish was the North Slesvig dialect, which in Dickson became their language in the home. Dickson being a Danish settlement, the family felt right at home, receiving a hearty welcome at the Bethany Church, which became a sacred place for them. Georg died on July 11, 1970, 91 years old, at the Innisfail hospital.



I, Asmus Georg Nissen, was born on January 6, 1879, in Bremholm, Sterup, in Angeln, Schleswig Holstein, in the district of Flensburg. My father was Johannes Nissen, born in June 1850, and my mother, Dorothea Christine Asmussen, was born in Möllmarkheck in February 1854. Our home farm had been in the possession of the Nissen family since 1750 and had passed from father to the eldest son. The names Thomas and Johannes were repeated through the generations. In my childhood the farm had 20 hectares. We had one team of horses; about eight milk cows, some young stock and a few sheep, as well as a number of hogs.

I was the eldest son and the second in the family. My oldest sister Marie Christine was named after my father's mother, who had a black spot on her scalp. So did my sister. My sister Marie Christine was later married to a "Post Secretaire", a widower with three children. The eldest son, Magnus, later married my younger sister. My sister Anna married Johannes Kuhl, who was killed during the First World War. Their son Johannes is a minister of the gospel at a parish in the Danish northern part of Slesvig where he ministers to a German minority congregation. Since 1920 that part of Slesvig has belonged to Denmark. The next sister, Helene Dorothea, died as an eight-week-old baby. Following her there



Georg Nissen, 1928 passport photo.

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was Helene Christine, who grew up to become a schoolteacher. She married a man by the name of Louis Maly, who was a Roman Catholic. Before the Second World War, they were quite well to do, but after the war they lost everything. My sister and her granddaughter were killed in the bombing of Warsaw.

When I was eight years old, I got a brother. I was fed up with all the girls, so my brother was a very welcome addition to the family. His name was Thomas. He had always been very close to my heart. He was a blacksmith by trade and was killed in action during the First World War. Next came another brother. His name was Johannes and he became a farmer. He was a great help to my own family when I was serving in the war. Later Johannes was called up for military service. He too was killed in action.



Von links nach rechts

Hintere Reihe: Marie (Mide) Bauer geb.Nissen, geb.13.2.1877
Thomas Nissen geb. 16.11.1886 (gefallen)
Anna Kuehl geb.Nissen, geb.6.3.1881
Georg Nissen geb. 6.1.1879
Johannes Nissen geb. 18.4.1889 (gefallen)
Helene Maly geb. Nissen, geb. 26.6.1884
Mittlere Reihe: Heinrich Nissen geb. 26.10.1894
Nikolaus Nissen geb. 3.5.1891 (gefallen)
Martha Bauer geb. Nissen, geb. 24.11.1895
Dorothea Nissen geb.Asmussen, geb.3.2.1855
Marianne Boysen geb. Nissen, geb.19.4.1901
Johannes Nissen geb. 17.6.1850
Vorne sitzend: Theodor Nissen geb. 4.12.1896
Dorothea Hansen geb. Nissen, geb. 12.4.1893

*Johannes Nissen and Dorothea Nissen, née Asmussen,
family photograph, 1902, with explanations in German.*

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Two years after Johannes another brother was born. He was named Nikolaus. He was called to serve when the war began and was killed soon after. Then we had another sister named Dorothea (Dora) after my mother. She is married to Hans Hansen who was employed by the Power Company for many years as their collection agent. Another brother, Heinrich, took over the home farm. He married a neighbour's daughter, Christine (Tide) Tramsen. Their son went missing in the Second World War and was never heard from again. Next was my sister Martha. She married Magnus Bauer. He was a Telegraph Secretary. Their son (Wolfgang) is a well-known prosecutor in Germany. Martha was sick for a long time and died of arthritis.

Next born was my brother Theodor, who married Hans Hansen's sister. They had no children. Theodore is farming part of the home farm. His first wife died and he married a widow, Hedwig Krutzfeld. Two of her sons, Kurt and Ernie, are doing well here in Canada.

Finally my sister Marianne was born, which brought the family to a total of 12 living children - 6 sons and 6 daughters. Marianne married Georg Boysen, who worked in a bank. Two of their sons are farmers (Hans Jürgen and Gerhard) and one is a lawyer (Kurt).

Going back to my childhood, I liked living in Möllmarkheck. Both my great grandfather and great grandmother were still alive back then, but I only remember them as lying in bed. They must have died soon after. I remember my great grandfather lying in his coffin. I was about two years old then.

I remember clearly when I started school. We had a half hour walk to school. My father took me there the first day. As my mother's brother Uncle Jes had been teaching me a few things I was ahead of the rest of the class, with the result that I became plain lazy. After a while I discovered that one of the girls could read better than I could. That made me get down to business! We had a two room school with close to 100 students. The boys had to attend 8 years, the girls 7 years. It was not a common practice then to go to high school. In the lower classes we had a great variety of subjects, but it was the same year after year and finally I knew about everything by heart. As I was not very ambitious to learn, I never took a book home the last years. If anybody else was called on first I could usually continue. I never liked going to school. When I was confirmed in 1894, school ended for me. Confirmation was on Palm Sunday. As that came very early that year, I considered myself very lucky.

From the earliest days of my life, I experienced the influence of a Christian home. My parents were sincere Christians. My father was not a man of many words, but we loved him dearly and respected him highly and what he said was law in the house and no "back-talk". Our home province, Schleswig Holstein, as a whole was Evangelical Lutheran. By far most of our church buildings were built before the Reformation and were named after some saint. The church in our neighbouring town, Sörup, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It was said that the Danish king, Valdemar the Great, had that church built before 1200. Its tower is 187 feet (57 metres) high. The teaching in the churches was orthodox, but in many cases without life. The Inner Mission Movement became a great influence and Christians gathered in private homes for Bible study and prayer meetings. A number of lay preachers held meetings now and then and a considerable number of people came to believe in Christ as their Saviour. But looking at it as a whole it was "the little flock", as stated in the Bible.

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As far back as I can remember I would sometimes go to these meetings with my mother, but I had no peace in my heart and I was scared of dying. Sometimes my mother and I would go into another room where we knelt down and I prayed that God would give me a new heart.

When I was 12 years old we started a brass band, and I took part from the beginning. My Uncle Nikolaus gave me a "flugelhorn". After we had gained some experience, the band was invited to play at some evangelical meetings with outside pastors and missionaries as guest speakers. In God's providence I became more enlightened in my soul and after some time of doubt and believing I found peace with God and assurance of salvation. I may have been about 16 years old at the time. A number of my friends became Christians too and found peace in Christ. My Uncle Jes, was principal of a boys school in Flensburg. He was my mother's brother and was a great blessing to me. In a conversation about why Jesus had to die on the cross, I thought it was because God wanted to show His love to mankind, but Uncle Jes said Christ died in our place. From then on my eyes were opened to understand the importance of the atonement and reconciliation with God.

After I finished school I worked at home four years, after which I worked on a neighbouring farm for 1½ years, and subsequently I worked one year on a farm close to the Danish border in Strandelhyørn. I soon found some families that held Bible Studies and prayer meetings in their homes, and soon felt at home with them, even though to begin with I could not understand Danish. During that year I came to love these North Schleswig Christians very much.



Sophie and Georg Nissen, 1905

On October 22, 1900, I was called up for military training in Sønderborg on the island of Als. I soon found some Christian friends among my comrades and later also among some families in the city, in particular, Christian Leimand, a painter. Their home was like a home for me. Heinrich Lawaetz was serving at the same time as I, and as we both played in the brass band we became good friends. His home was just outside of Sønderborg, in Ulkebøl where his father was the pastor.

During the second year of military training, Sophie Frederiksen came to work for Leimand. From the first time I saw her, I loved her, but for a very long time I did not dare to talk to her of my feelings.

After I finished my training in Sønderborg I worked for one month at the farm of Hermann Lawaetz in Ulkebøl. Lawaetz was a seed farmer and I was greatly interested in the enterprise.

During the second year of my military training I was promoted to corporal (Gefreiter), which greatly influenced my future military career, although it did not look to be a great advantage at first. Twice I had a six week period of additional training because they wanted to make me a corporal, and as such I obtained

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a much preferred status in the First World War. Thus during the war I was at all times in the division that took food supplies in to the soldiers which was not nearly as dangerous as if I had been on the front line.

Sophie and I were married in April 1905, whereafter we moved to Konsbyfeld on Schwansen between Schleswig and Eckernforde. We celebrated our first Christmas together. We had a wonderful Christmas present, as Christine was born on Second Christmas Day. She was baptized in the Siseby parsonage and we named her after both of her grandmothers, Dorothea Christine.

In the spring of 1906, after the farm that we were on was sold, we moved to Als and worked on Hermann Lawaetz's big seed farm. The first year we had over 100 acres in beet seed, and about 30 acres in turnip and carrot seed. On May 10, 1907, Johannes was born and soon after, he was baptized in the Ulkebøl Church. He was named after my father. After two years in Ulkebøl we leased a dairy farm in Harrislee near Flensburg.

Hans was born in 1908. He was baptized in our home in Harrislee shortly after and named after his grandfather in Egen. In 1910, another little son was born, but God took him home again after a few days and he was buried in Sterup cemetery. He had been baptized in the Deaconess House in Flensburg and was named Georg.

Margarethe, born on my birthday in January 1911, was baptized a few days later by Pastor Lindemann in our home in Harrislee. On September 25, 1912, Sophie was born. She was named after our mother and baptized in our home by Pastor Lindemann from Handewitt.

In December 1913 another little daughter was born. As there was little hope of her survival, I baptized her and she was named Lydia Marie. She died a few days later and was buried in the Handewitt cemetery.

In the spring of 1914 we moved to Heiselberg, a farm between Haderslev and Aabenraa. We leased the farm from my sister Lene's husband, Louis Maly. Later we purchased it. The farm consisted of 78 hectares (192 acres) in one parcel; and according to the hunting laws we had our own hunting privileges. It had always been my dream to obtain my own farm. We started with high hopes but in August 1914, the First World War broke out and I had to go to war. My brother Thomas, who was helping me on the farm had to go a few days later. However my brother Johannes then came to our help, until he too was called up soon after. My brother Theodor came to work on the farm, as did Martin Westergaard, another young man. These were very tough times for our dear Mama.

On March 7, 1915, God gave us another little daughter. We called her Lydia Georgine. She was baptized by Pastor Frederiksen in our home in Heiselberg. On November 17, 1917 Helene was born. She too was baptized at Heiselberg by Pastor Frederiksen.

Although the war still raged, by God's grace and as a result of our prayers, I came home in the summer of 1917, one year before the war ended. Our help on the farm at that time were two prisoners of war. By that time the number of our cattle had decreased because we had to make deliveries to the army. We had only a few horses and for a while we used a team of oxen. By and by, however, things improved a bit, and we were all glad that I could be home.

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In November 1918 the war ended in defeat for the German armies. In 1919 we had a referendum and the northern part of Schleswig voted to join Denmark again, including Heiselberg. We became Danish citizens in accordance with the peace treaty (Treaty of Versailles).

SIGNALLEMENT - DESCRIPTION			
Stilling	Profession	Profession	Stilling
Coni	Madsen	Madsen	Sloffen
Født den 10. 7. 75	Nedste 10. 7. 75	Born 10. 7. 75	Obleven 10. 7. 75
Agou	Agou	Agou	Agou
Bopst	Donskde	Ridalsde	Wohort
Polst	160	160	160 m.
Haar	Grønt	Grønt	Grønt
Øjne	Blå	Blå	Blå
Stærkde	Sigevirksomhed	Peculiarities	Besondere Kennzeichen
BØRN - ENFANTS - CHILDREN - KINDER			
Kon	Navn	Navn	Navn
Sex	Alder	Alder	Alder
CANTON - IMMIGRATION - ANNOTATION			

Sophie Nissen's Danish passport, issued 1928

On April 14, 1919, our youngest son, Georg was born and baptized in our home in Heiselberg. Georg and Sophia had ten children, two of which died as infants. (They had 17 grandchildren that survived infancy.)

As a result of the war all of Germany including Schleswig suffered an economic crisis, in contrast to Denmark which had benefited through trade and high prices. But their money was down to half of par. All our transactions were done using this low exchange rate, mortgages included. Somebody in Denmark then got the idea that the Danish Krone should be raised to

par at once. The result was that cattle and everything else was worth only half the price we had paid, and our debt on the farm was the same. In other words our debt had just doubled.

We arrived in Heiselberg in 1914 and left in 1928. The children were growing up and we had many dear friends and neighbours. We felt at home and we all loved Heiselberg. It was, so to speak, with bleeding hearts that we left. Many of our neighbours were worse off than we, but I had received some money from Bremholm and when this and the children's money was all pooled we were able to start anew. We bought our steamship tickets and put \$1,200 in a bank in Innisfail, Alberta. We came to Dickson, Alberta, on March 3, 1928. We were welcomed in Innisfail by Fred Pedersen, Art Kure, John Petersen, Hans Hansen, Fred Weinrich and Dan Morkeberg. Here we had our first experience eating in a Chinese restaurant, having pie and all the trimmings. When the pie was served our Mama exclaimed that the pie on the top of the meal was unnecessary and would over do a good thing. Fred Pedersen had a good laugh and answered: "It is all included and paid for".

The next day, Sunday, we all went to church. We felt as if we were in a Mission House in North Schleswig and felt at home right from the start. We shook hands with all the other parishioners and never forgot our first impression of the Dickson congregation. We felt under the gracious wing of God.

After the first disappointment, in particular over the house on the farm of Sam Finson, which we rented, we started as real Canadian farmers. The next day we went out to Kevisville and bought three horses from Jens Madsen and the day after two more on a sale in Innisfail, all with the help of Christian Morck and Hans Hansen. They had also found the farm and leased it to us before we had even left Heiselberg. Soon we had eight cows and some pigs. As we had a good crop that first year and prices were high we got a good start. The next year, 1929, was rather dry and prices were slipping, but as our rent was 1/3 of the crop we still had the 2/3 for our work and never came into real need.

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Georg (George) Nissen, passport photo 1964

We all helped each other in every way. Lydia, Helene, and George went to school in Dickson. Ruth Thomsen was their first teacher and by her faithful help they soon learned to understand some English. Hans worked for Chris Sorensen the first summer, and the next summer John went to Standard and worked for Jorgen Laursen. Christine helped at home and Margarethe worked for Morck's. Christine then worked for Mortensen in Ponoka. Later on Christine came home (Mama was sick) and Margaret took her place in Ponoka. A friend of Margaret (Esther Nielsen) gave her a good foundation in the English language (that is, she taught her how to pronounce TH in 'seventh').

In 1930 John and Hans bought a 1/4 section school land. By that time we had a good eight horse team and John and Hans cleared and broke 50 acres of land, finishing during the first part of July without any help to speak of. In the summer of 1930 John and Hans rented land from Forbe and bought a good horse from him

for \$50. We named it Forbes and that horse was the best horse we ever had. The next year John and Hans had a heavy wheat crop on this land. They had half of their own land in oats and half in wheat. The wheat froze on August 2nd and it gave a small crop of poor quality, but the oats went at 100 bushels to the acre.

Further Diary Notations written later

The grown up children soon found jobs, Christine, Margarethe and Sophie first with neighbours and later in Edmonton; John and Hans worked on farms in the district and in Standard, a Danish colony. Lydia, Helen and George went to school in Dickson and to a certain degree soon learned to master the language. In 1930 the Dickson High School was started and Margarethe, as all the other students, started in Grade 9. (There were a few students in grade 10).

As time went on we bought some land, but still rented the Finson farm. We were there eleven years. Four of our daughters were married. Christine married Homo Christiansen and Helen married Gordon, sons of Carl Christiansen, who was one of the early pioneers and founders of the Dickson Congregation and the General Store. Sophie married Richard, son of Fred Pedersen, also one of the pioneers, who for many years was president of the congregation. Lydia married Harlan, son of John Petersen, also one of the first settlers and a member of the Dickson Church. John and Hans married two sisters of Norwegian descent, Clara and Margaret Bonaa from Sedgewick. George married Violet Murphy and they settled on Vancouver Island.

In 1938 we began to build a new house on our farm near the junction of the Raven and the Red Deer River, where we have resided since.

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My daughter Margarethe (Margaret in Canada) went to High School in Dickson and then attended Normal School in Calgary. After graduation she taught school in Hillanvale, which was closed the following year. Margaret then taught in the Dickson High School, Miss Else Gundersen still being the principal. In July 1943, after teaching for 8 years, she sailed for Nigeria to work as a missionary. She had always wanted to teach and at age 12 after hearing a missionary speak, she wanted to become a missionary. In Nigeria she learned Hausa, the lingua franca of Nigeria. She translated German, English and Danish texts into Hausa. She taught Nigerian women to read and many of her students went on to study in Britain or the United States. In 1975 illness brought her back to Dickson. Her health improved and she taught at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose until 1985. After a long life Margaret Nissen passed away in October 1999.



Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge #328, Vancouver Board of Directors 2023

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

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Edmonton Church Centennial

Pastor Lasse Hultberg, Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton

On September 16 and 17, 2023, Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton celebrated that the first Danish church service in Edmonton had been held one hundred years earlier. Indeed, the first Danish Church Service had been held in the fall of 1923 at First Scandinavian Lutheran Church by Pastor Mathias Gammelgaard Christensen of Calgary. This was less than two years after the Danish Canadian Society *Dania* had been formed in Edmonton. Pastor Christensen would visit Edmonton at least once a month until a missionary pastor from the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, based in Blair, Nebraska, was permanently stationed in Edmonton. In September 1924 Pastor Anders Peter Hansen came to Edmonton, where he held services twice a month until he returned back to Denmark in 1927.

In 1928, DKU, the Danish Church Abroad, sent Pastor Max Mathiesen to Edmonton. In fact he was the first pastor sent to Canada by DKU, a private and voluntary mission society based in Denmark and linked to The Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark (Folkekirken). Mathiesen secured and rented an available and empty German Reformed Church, exactly where our present Church is



Ansgar Church with street festivities.

located. Since then, Danish Lutheran Church Services in Danish, and later also in English, have been held at the Church's current address: 9554 108A Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Church was designed by the Danish architect Anton Christian Holnn-Møller, and construction began in the fall of 1939. The onset of the Second World War was not the best time to start the construction of a new church, and after April 1940 there was no contact with Nazi-occupied Denmark, including contact with DKU. It was a struggle to get the church built. Yet, the small and determined congregation managed and the new church was inaugurated in August 1942.

Over the years the congregation has kept the building in good shape, and various improvements and additions were made. Nevertheless, the church was starting to show its age and the sanctuary needed to be renovated. The centennial was a good occasion to tackle items on the congregation's wish list. For months up to the celebration, the Ansgar congregation was busy

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preparing for the anniversary with upgrades to the entrance and the sanctuary. The old front door, donated by Pastor Niels Bentsen and his wife in the early 1940s in memory of their son, was fully renovated and restored to its original glory. The sanctuary was painted, and new organizers, brass vases and oil lamps were installed on the pews. But most noticeable were the installation of



Food Tent on street with line up for free hot dogs.

a pipe organ along the West wall and the addition of new glass mosaics by the Danish artist Peter Brandes in the Chancel's East wall. The sanctuary now feels much brighter and lighter, more beautiful and uplifting.

The lovely organ was a donation from John and Christine DeJong. Warren Mack, an organ technician, installed the new instrument in our sanctuary and added a sub-bass voice from his own collection. The organ's façade was made by John DeJong himself in North European baroque style in the same wood and

stain as our pews. The curve on the side mimics the curve on the west rose window flawlessly. The sound and volume of the organ is perfect for our relatively small sanctuary. There is a wide range of sounds from very bright flute pipes to the deep subbass that makes the Church resound and vibrate.

Thanks to a very generous donation from Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, B.C., Ansgar has acquired a three-piece glass mosaic over the altar by the Danish artist Peter Brandes. He has worked on several churches and cathedrals in Denmark, Norway and the United States. The glass mosaics are made with mouth blown glass, using a special technique that stems from the 'Middle Ages'. They represent the three elements of the two Lutheran Sacraments. The blue north window is the water of baptism. The red south window is the wine or blood of Christ of the Communion; and the window in the middle is the bread or body of Christ.

The centennial festivities began on Saturday, September 16, with a street party and open house from 4 pm to 7 pm. The party was for the entire neighbourhood and community. The Danish Women's Club looked after the food: Danish pork roast sandwiches, coffee and 'kransekage' for sale and free hotdogs, popcorn and soft drinks. There were also activities for the children and a Jazz Band played



The Danish Women's Club in the kitchen.

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music from the 1920s. As Ansgar is located in an inner-city neighbourhood, the street people were attracted to the event. You could see the parishioners sitting beside the homeless enjoying the food and entertainment. The festivities gave a beautiful feeling of inclusiveness and belonging to the community members as well as visitors. Everything went extremely well and was so festive. Inside the Church, the congregation and guests could admire the renovated sanctuary. The two short organ concerts and presentations of the church were well-attended and much enjoyed.



Ansgar Singers and the two organists in front of new mosaics.

Tammy-Jo Mortensen and Daniel Aalto as organists. For this service we were joined by Pastor Charlotte Berg of Calgary as well as Pastors Lars and Liselotte Basbøll, who in the past have served as pastors in both Edmonton and Calgary. Also the chair person of DSUK, Anne E. Jensen attended in addition to the presidents of the three other DSUK congregations in Canada, i.e. Karen Falkenberg-Andersen of Calgary, Sune Overgaard of Toronto and Robert Taylor of Vancouver. Invited, as special guests, were the former president of the Granly Church in Surrey, Manfred Hoff, and his partner Bente Pastro. This was in recognition of the generous donations to the Danish Churches and organizations in Canada from the now dissolved Granly congregation. The festivities concluded with a dinner for the congregation and our guests with scrumptious food, informative speeches and lively songs; a proper way to celebrate a hundred years.

The festivities brought public awareness of the Danish community and our congregation and not just in our neighbourhood, but to the wider public, as the event was covered in the local neighbourhood news, but also on CBC Radio and CBC Television.

Saturday evening concluded with a full-house Vesper service at 7 pm with participation of the Rev. Mads Davidsen of Odense, the Bishop responsible for the Danish Lutheran Churches in Canada, the Rev. Selma Ravn, Secretary General of DSUK (Danish Seamen's Churches and Churches Abroad), Pastor Carsten Mølgaard Hansen of Vancouver, and me.

On Sunday the festivities continued with a full house morning service with the Ansgar Singers, conducted by Amelia Kaminski, and with



From L: Pastors Charlotte Berg, Carsten Hansen, Liselotte Basbøll, Lasse Hultberg, Lars Basbøll, Selma Ravn and Bishop Mads Davidsen.

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The anniversary was a major undertaking requiring many volunteers. Among other things Vagn Boelsgaard renovated the entrance door and made and installed organizing holders for our pews. Gunnar Jensen worked all over the Church. And at the last-minute Jens Woller stepped in and carried out the final dry walling for the windows in the Chancel.

A great party needs organisers. The members of the Church Board, headed by our President, Kirsten Olsen, together with helpers from the congregation, worked tirelessly. The following, Jeanna Baty, Eija Aalto, Birgit Wildenhoff and Alice Nickel must be added to the list of organizers together with board members Inge Andersen, Lene Nielsen, Mette Rasmussen, Dorrit Morrow, Christopher Sørensen, Angla Moroz and Bent Skousbøl.

What is a party without food? The Danish Women's Club stepped in as they have done countless times before; Else Woller, Susanne Reid, Lis Walker, Birgit Wildenhoff, Susanne Balsløv Kulak, Margith Hansen, Darlene Atkinson, Randi Mark, Kirsten Thorup and others ran up and down the stairs to the basement with food and drinks as well as assembling or serving the food and drinks, also to the people of the street. Indeed, many more helpers could be mentioned. In closing, it is a great feeling to hold a successful community event and it is a joy to admire the renovations and improvements to the church. Ansgar can now confidently look forward to the next 100 years.



The congregation and the participating clergy in front of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton.

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DKU – the extended arm

Pastor Christian Dickmeiss, Danish Church, Toronto, 1972

In reading the small 1969 pamphlet "From DKU's diary" which the Danish Church Abroad (DKU) published on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, you readily get the impression that one defining characteristic of DKU's work over the years, is that of being a traveller with a suitcase in hand. That is, since its founding 53 years ago, DKU has been engaged in work across most of the globe, either taking the initiative to form Danish congregations where new Danish colonies arose, or to take charge of already existing Danish congregations which needed DKU's help and support.

DKU, formed in Copenhagen in 1919, launched its church work abroad in Berlin that same year. Next DKU naturally became involved in Danish church life in South Schleswig. DKU services in the Nordic countries quickly followed, later spreading to Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Shanghai, Canada, Venezuela, London and Paris. In recent years, DKU has also been active in Rome, Mallorca and Israel.

In many of these places there is no DKU work today. It must be so, because DKU wants to offer Lutheran church services in Danish and provide the framework for Danish folk life for Danes abroad, as long as there is a desire for it as well as a basis for it. At the same time, the need changes constantly as the waves of emigration rise and fall and change direction. Therefore DKU must always be prepared to pack its bags and move on.

A DKU church is and must be a transitional church, whether it exists for one or many decades. The work of DKU has succeeded when it has made itself redundant by helping the Danes to settle in and feel at home in a local Lutheran church. As this can also take generations. DKU must continuously consider its justification for existence in any given location.

DKU in Toronto

After having been an Assistant Minister at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto for one year, Pastor Christian Dickmeiss wrote an article entitled "*Folke- og Frikirke – en lykkelige blanding*" for the **Diocese of Lolland-Falster 1972 Yearbook**. It was at a time when Danish post-war immigration to Canada was rapidly dwindling and the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto was supported by Dansk Kirke i Udlandet (DKU), a non-governmental organization in Denmark. While DSUK, a corporation under the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs, has replaced DKU, many of his observations are still relevant fifty years later, and are therefore reprinted here to make them available to a larger English-speaking audience. Translated the Danish title of the article would be "Folk Church and Free Church – a happy mix". To a Canadian audience it should probably be "State Church and Independent Congregation – a happy mix." The translation of his article, with some light editing, was made by Rolf Buschardt Christensen.

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DKU has taken on a distinctly Danish state church task by trying to bring the gospel to people who were baptized in *Folkekirken*, the Danish state church, but who left Denmark. 'Baptize them and teach them', Jesus commands. We in the Danish state church try to comply with this double command, certainly towards those who live in Denmark. But what about Danes who emigrate? They are actually still members of *Folkekirken*, as long as they have not joined another church in their new country. And the road into a new church can be long for an ordinary Danish emigrant!

DKU understands the emigrant's churchless situation and feels responsible for him; DKU therefore rightly calls itself "the extended arm of *Folkekirken*". But in order to do so, DKU must ensure that each individual state church member is aware of DKU's work and supports it.

DKU's work is not — and probably should not be — the responsibility of *Folkekirken*, but that does not mean that DKU's work is not the responsibility of members of *Folkekirken*. DKU is one of the many Danish charitable associations which sees a specific mission and a particular obligation to help perform a particular task, much like the various Mission Societies, the Church Foundation (which helps build churches) or Kirkens Korshær (which helps the vulnerable and homeless). That DKU is really a state church undertaking is most clearly seen by the fact that people from all factions of *Folkekirken* are committed to its goals, and all denominational shades of Lutherans are represented among DKU employees and volunteers, both at home and abroad.

Allow me to quote paragraph 1 and 2 of the bylaws of the Danish Church Abroad. That way you clearly see our aims:

§1 THE DANISH CHURCH ABROAD, DKU, aims, on an Evangelical Lutheran foundation and in collaboration with *Folkekirken*, to work among Danes abroad for the preservation of faith, its revival and growth by assembling believers into Christian communities in orderly congregations and where young Danes reside in large numbers, to form Christian youth associations. In connection with direct Christian work, DKU will work to maintain, awaken and deepen our compatriots' love for our fatherland, its language and history.

§2 The work may be taken up anywhere abroad, where there are colonies (settlements) of Danes, and where no other permanently organized ecclesiastical work on an Evangelical Lutheran basis takes place. Where there are larger settlements, pastors will be sought and be employed and churches built. Where conditions make it possible, youth secretaries will be sought. Where smaller colonies exist, we will seek to hold services and meetings by Danish pastors or lay people.

It is my intention to take the reader to a specific place, that is the Danish Church in Toronto, and a specific small part of DKU's work, namely what takes place here. But first, very briefly, a bit of Danish church history in Canada. You have to remember that the Danes were here before DKU. Large migrations already in the last century led to the formation of Danish congregations. Thus, just this year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the oldest Danish colony "New Denmark", which consists of approximately 200 farming families in New Brunswick. A Danish church was built there with pastors from Denmark or the United States. For the last generation the church services in New Denmark have been primarily in English.

Similar colonies can be found elsewhere. For example, on a trip across Canada we visited the Danish church in Calgary. And one night this summer we stopped at a motel near Pass Lake in

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Western Ontario. The owner was Danish, and so was the owner of the restaurant across the road. It turned out that we had landed in a Danish colony from the 1920s. We were shown their lovely little church, which reminded me of a Danish village church. At the church we spoke with old first-generation Danes who spoke real *Jysk*, which they had passed on to the next generation. The services were now held in English, but the Danish touch was unmistakable.

Other colonies from before the DKU era could be mentioned, for instance Dalum, Alberta, which has a large, beautiful Danish village style church. (I must add that I know far too little about this exciting but complex chapter of the history of Danish immigrants). These churches have gone the same way as the Lutheran churches of Danish origin in the USA. They are English-speaking with living Danish traditions, but without support from *Folkekirken* or DKU.

It must be underlined that Danes immigrants are not characteristically colonial people, settling in colonies. Rather countless Danish immigrants live scattered across Canada with no practical possibility of association with other Danes or Danish church life.

The first formal relationship between DKU and Danish congregations in Canada took place in 1928, when DKU supported the pastor's salary in both Vancouver and Winnipeg. Also that same year, the first Danish DKU pastor was sent to Edmonton. In 1937, the Danish church in Vancouver, which by now had a pastor from DKU, was consecrated.

DKU's work in Ontario was triggered by the large movement of Danish immigrants to Canada after the Second World War. In 1957 two DKU congregations were formed in Hamilton and London (the work in Hamilton was later moved to Grimsby). DKU began its work in Toronto, when pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen was transferred here from Edmonton. Today in Canada there are eight DKU pastors, four in Ontario and four in the western provinces. There are seven DKU churches, three in Ontario and two in each of Alberta and British Columbia.

But back to Toronto and the start of the first Danish congregation here in the 1920s, in 1925 Pastor John M. Jensen, a minister in the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who was serving at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New Denmark, N.B., came to Toronto to conduct a service for a group of Danish immigrants. The Synod, based in the United States, then sent Pastor Anton Hansen to try to start a congregation in Toronto. Thus St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto was established and soon thrived. During the Second World War and certainly in the immediate post-war period the church became more or less English-speaking. In St. Ansgar there are to this day still many Danes from the interwar years. (On Easter Sunday I held an English-language service there, but afterwards about 75 greeted me saying "Glædelig Påske"!)

In the 1950s and 60s many new Danish immigrants arrived in Toronto. They wanted a church where the language and traditions were Danish. This is why DKU started its work here. In the beginning, the work focussed on starting a congregation, and to collect funds to build a church. At first the services took place in a German Lutheran church downtown, but in 1966 our new church, located about 20 km from downtown, was inaugurated. Designed by a Danish architect, residing here, it is both beautiful and spacious (350 seats). Moreover, the outside premises are good. Many people are involved in the church work here, but it must be said that the Danish church in Toronto, both the formation of the congregation and the construction of the church building, is due in great part to the unique pioneering effort by our current provost, Poul Overgaard-Thomsen.

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I will now try to give a modest impression of life at the Toronto DKU church, both ecclesiastical and popular. This is based on just one year's experience as an assistant minister, i.e. second pastor. It can only be a first impression. I will draw particularly attention to what seems peculiar from a Danish perspective. First of all, the church in Toronto is not a neighbourhood church, on the contrary. The Danes who attend our church are spread over an area of at least 50 x 50 km — that is, considerably larger than the Danish island of Lolland. This characterizes all our work, and it must always be taken into account. As a general rule, when you have come such a long way, you must also "get something out of it", as the Danish saying goes. That's why, for example, you never get complaints about long sermons, but maybe about short ones!

Congregational meetings in the traditional Danish sense do not exist, but we have many larger events instead. Twice a year everyone is invited to dinner in our downstairs Royal Hall, namely for Thanksgiving dinner and for the King's Dinner (on King Frederik IX's birthday). The tables are festively decorated with white tablecloths and red napkins. 200 people are catered for. The menu for Thanksgiving is always turkey. At this dinner, the ladies auxiliary is responsible for the preparation, which takes place in a kitchen with a hotel-sized stove. At the King's Dinner, the men on the church council are the chefs in the kitchen! — and the menu is a surprise.

We sing the Canadian and Danish national anthems and dinner begins. People have come from far away (some live 240 km away), people chat and enjoy being together. A very important part of the program are the songs from *De Unges Sangbog* or the *Folk High School Songbook*. Some of the Danes probably only sing in Danish these few evenings, and you can understand that they will drive far to participate. Our "Pot-luck dinner" for the elderly is also festive. The ladies each bring something to "det store kolde bord", which overflows with typical Danish dishes. Again we sing, and as a new arrival you get to learn several Danish songs!

The Royal Hall is also used for large private parties, weddings, christenings or wedding anniversaries. Again, it is the ladies of the ladies' auxiliary who toil in the kitchen, and the profits go to the work of the church.

This year, to make up for the long distances in a different way, we will try something new. We call it "satellite meetings". The idea is to hold living room meetings in private homes in the various areas. The hosts then invite Danes from their neighborhood and circle of friends, and the pastor gives a presentation for discussion on a religious topic. It is our hope in this way to get in touch with new Danes and provide a bit of Christian education for adults.

Despite the great distances, we are pleased that the Sunday services are well attended and festive; yes, the service is definitely the center of gravity and the gathering point in the life of the church. What the Danes want from the church is first and foremost the Danish High Mass, as they know it with the well-known hymns and melodies, as well as the traditional baptism and confirmation.

It is an extremely good feeling to meet the familiar in a foreign country; many a rare churchgoer in Denmark has in Canada found his way to the Danish church where he truly feels at home. One's mother tongue is probably the best language to hear God, and the language you speak when you pray. This must be understood without a trace of sentimentality, and it has nothing to do with nationalism. But I can find no better definition of one's mother tongue than to say: It is the language in which one learned to pray. And for Danish emigrants, that language would be Danish.

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That is why we experience what Grundtvig wrote, that "the mother tongue deeply bends, easily and delightfully it conforms to the Lord's way of thinking". But despite our church's unwritten directive which states, "No Sunday without a service in Danish", we do have an English-language service every month, primarily due to the confirmation students, whose native tongue is English. And for the most part, when we have baptisms, it takes place in English. We are pleased when the parents and the rest of the baptismal party stay for the entire service.

The church choir is a delight. We are not great singers, but every Wednesday evening the choir, which consists of approximately 15 adult unpaid members, gather and we go through the coming Sunday's hymns and melodies. Each Sunday the choir leads the singing.

A visitor from Denmark, and we have many in the summer months will immediately discover some differences from a church service in Denmark. For instance, our collection. After the sermon, two church council members go around with wooden plates, which are passed from bench to bench, and a donation is given. The congregation rises and sings "*Alle gode gaver*", while the money is presented to the pastor at the altar, after which the pastor says a prayer of thanks. This custom may seem strange, but you quickly understand that it is a meaningful part of the service: "We humbly offer our thanksgiving offering." In Denmark it is more difficult to see this part of the service as it takes place after the closing prayer, if at all.

Regarding our confirmation classes I must say that the level of basic knowledge of Christianity by the confirmation students here is quite inadequate and cannot at all compare with the level of knowledge in Denmark. The teaching takes place in English after the service (due to the long distances). The confirmation students and their parents diligently come to church, but since the young people largely do not understand Danish, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the services are in Danish, they are totally bored during the service, which is not the best circumstances for the subsequent teaching. The students' prior knowledge differ greatly, often equal to zero, as there is no state church and no religious teaching in Toronto schools.

Let me comment on the church weddings, as they are very different from those in Denmark. Most often no hymns are sung, and if there are, they are in English. The wedding is frequently between people of different denominations and different cultural backgrounds. Often the wedding is something of a 'show', as the bride and groom, in addition to the 'rehearsal' and 'ring service', have up to six groomsmen and bridesmaids standing in a row with them at the altar, dressed to the hilt and according to the latest fashion. As a groom recently said to me: 'The most important thing is that we get some good photographs!' Incidentally, the person passed out in the middle of the big question, most likely because of the heat — we continued in the church parking lot! I remember weddings in the Danish countryside as quiet celebrations with vigorous hymn singing.



Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto, ca. 1972.

I could describe our Sunday school, our library, the youth club and ladies' auxiliary, but space does not allow it. Instead, I will give a short insight into the financial operation of our church. It

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is not an exaggeration to say that economic considerations must be taken into account in everything we do. Fortunately, this does not in the slightest impact on the freedom of preaching.

In DKU's accounts from 1971-72, one can read that DKU has contributed 132,748.45 Danish kroner to the work in Toronto. This very significant amount covers the salary and travel for two pastors. (This includes 7,839.83 Danish kroner which DKU has received from us in Toronto as help for salaries). In addition, in the same year, DKU paid for the move to Denmark for a pastor and his family. Without this enormous financial support from DKU, the church here could simply not be maintained. So Toronto is a congregation that is maintained 'artificially' through money from Denmark. The congregation knows this, and they are very grateful for DKU's generosity!

The vast majority of the money that DKU sends to Canada (this year 600,000 Danish kroner) is collected by fundraising in Denmark, and a grant from the Danish state. This government grant of DKK 115,000 will cease on April 1, 1974.

The congregation in Toronto has sizable expenses. The church's own income in 1971 was \$27,500. There is a great willingness to donate among the regular churchgoers. At the same time a lot of hard work and ingenuity goes into collecting money from the larger Danish community.

Let me mention some of the main revenue streams (the figures are from 1970): Sunday collection: \$7,670, which is an average of approximately \$125 per church service! Women's Auxiliary: \$3,000. Included in this figure is the bazaar, royal dinner, serving at parties etc. Youth Club: \$1,600. This figure includes a bazaar in addition to bingo evenings and other events. The budget for 1970 includes: mortgage payments of about 6,000 dollars, rent approximately \$2,000, heat and light \$2,000, as well as \$7,000 to be set aside for the parsonage building fund.

However, these figures are unrealistic for this current year, due to new expenses for hiring a second pastor. Furthermore, it must be added that operating expenses are kept down by voluntary work; cleaning the church, painting the church and so on. Many people give not only their time, but money to cover the work, which does not figure in any accounts.

When the church today is as dependent on support from DKU as it is, it is partly because it is young; as well, since the construction of the church, there have been significant new investments, especially in the form of buying land around the church: for a parking lot, a parsonage and new driveway (this one alone cost \$13,500). It is estimated that the parsonage will cost about \$40,000, for which a building fund has been set up. Let me mention a few examples of fundraising for the building fund (which must not affect the church's ongoing operating expenses): Garden parties: A family invites Danish friends to a party. Price per pair \$15. Holding an auction: Result \$200! A member of the church's choir is a trained hairdresser. She opens her salon in the church every Friday evening. The money goes directly to the building fund. Goal: \$500! The church council has promised to take the lead later when a more intensive fundraising campaign is launched.

A happy mix of state church and independent congregation

In practice the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto is a blissful blend of an independent congregation and a state church, like *Folkekirken* in Denmark. Many members of *Folkekirken* take the church for granted, it is there if needed. Members of a *Frikirke* or independent

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congregation (outside the state church) take their membership and commitment seriously, and are devoted and supportive of their self-contained church and congregation.

The above is very much a Danish framework which you will appreciate when you hear who we consider members of our church. We have two types of members. First, we consider all Danes who were baptized in *Folkekirken* and who are not members of any other church as members of our congregation. In other words, we do not know how big our 'parish' is! Therein lies a big challenge. There are approximately 15,000 Danes living in the Toronto area and they are all welcome. You do not have to take out a membership or apply to become a member. Our church has no connection with the majority of these 15,000 Danes. And we have no idea of how many have joined a Canadian church. We can only say that those who come to our church are always welcome whether they are considering a baptism, a confirmation or marriage. And in principle all church services are free. They are welcome to come to our bazaar, for a Christmas service or any other activity. The communion table is of course always accessible - which is far from being the case in many Canadian churches.

Here in Toronto we actually share the same conditions and challenges which urban parishes face in Denmark: that is we have far too many nameless members. But the universal character of the state church - of openness - gives us freedom in our work and makes our congregation quite unique here in Canada. We really are an extended arm of the open *Folkekirke*. But we also have members similar to the free churches (independent congregations) in Canada, that is, members who are registered and entitled to vote at our annual general meeting and who have committed to supporting our church financially. These signed up members number approximately 200 families; among whom there is solid group of donors and volunteers.

On a daily basis the relationships between the two parts of our congregation function smoothly. Of the 29 young people who were confirmed this year, about one-third came from church member homes in the narrow sense, while the rest came from *Folkekirke* homes. Each month, our Church Bulletin is sent to approximately 800 households, of which a quarter are paid-up members.

For me, this mixture of state church and an independent congregation is a happy mix. The pastors never feel dependent on a small group of influential churchgoers, which could be dangerous in a small independent church. Our work is for all baptized Danes. Moreover, we never feel alone in our work, there is always a large group of volunteers, willing to help, which must have something to do with the mixture of a universal national church and a small independent congregation. This cooperation between everyone involved in the church is very gratifying. On the other hand, you would likely not find a comparable group of volunteers in a parish in Denmark, as the church and property is owned by the Danish state, and the salary of the pastor is paid by the government.

There are, however, underlying issues here, basic problems, and the general picture of DKU would not be complete if I didn't touch on some of these as well. In a speech at DKU's annual meeting in 1971, our chairman, Provost Helge N. Blauenfeldt mentioned some of these. Blauenfeldt had himself been a DKU pastor, serving in Berlin from 1931 to 1943. Among other things he said:

One way to increase awareness of DKU, I think, is to invite people to a truly critical discussion of DKU's *raison d'être*. It entails both a theological and a popular

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question, and time will continuously change the popular question. If the mother tongue changes [from Danish to English], which language is best suited to convey the gospel? How long should church services be conducted in Danish? How close a relationship should a DKU congregation have with other local churches? How much or how little should the DKU pastors and the congregation be engaged in the political and social life of the host country?

Let me close by picking up a bit of this invitation from the perspective of Toronto. All the questions that the chairman poses are highly relevant and must be answered along the way in each and every DKU congregation. First, it must be clearly said that a Danish Lutheran church in the Danish language is a great blessing for many first-generation Danes, who could not do without it. But is being Danish exclusively a question of language, speaking Danish, or does being Danish also pertain to sentiments, feelings, mentality, memories, traditions and a way of life?

In any case, at present very few people of Danish descent in English-speaking environments are fluent in the Danish language. That is, children who emigrated with their parents, or children born here to Danish parents, feel and think in English. It is their mother tongue. It must also be the language in which they must meet the gospel.

It undeniably raises some questions about the work of our church. Should we use English more, or should we realize that we are a first generation church and try to help the young people into Canadian churches? (In Toronto there are over 20 Evangelical Lutheran churches).

Until now, only our Sunday school has been conducted entirely in English. The monthly services in English are actually Danish services in English, conducted according to Danish Lutheran rituals. This applies equally to the hymns, which have been translated from Danish. We must admit that we are an immigrant church, that is we must live with a suitcase in hand; if no new immigration occurs, the decades we are needed here can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Do we prolong the immigrant's process of adaptation to the new country by having a Danish church? Families with older children are sometimes forced to make a choice between us and a Canadian church. If a family leaves us and moves to another church, we are likely to feel it as a loss, whereas we should really be happy to make ourselves redundant.

It raises the question of whether our church is becoming too established. In Toronto we have a large new church, and there are plans to build a parsonage. The buildings and the accompanying financial burdens entail a "stabilitas loci" (tying us to this location), which may not be entirely appropriate for a church whose goal is to extend a helping hand to immigrants in the difficult years of transition, so that it is not only their body, but also their soul that is transplanted from Denmark to Canada.

Is our DKU church in Canada too national? We love the Danish church service, the Danish language, as well as the Danish hymns and songs. Danish is the language of our heart — at least for the first generation. This entails that something old-fashioned can easily encase an immigrant church, where it thus continues to live in the past.

Is Denmark still your home when you have lived in Canada for years or decades and have put down roots here? And is the changed Denmark of today still your Denmark?

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Is our DKU church too isolated? I will not answer with further questions, but with a clear yes! We have practically no cooperation with other Lutheran churches. We sit, not least because all our energy and finances go to ourselves, behind closed walls. We receive far too few impulses from ecclesiastical issues or debates in Denmark or Canada. We have far too little regard for being a church for anyone but ourselves. It must become an urgent task to start relations and cooperation with other Lutheran Churches in Canada, and not just the other DKU churches. We must get actively involved in the political and social life of Canada, with a view to the rest of the world.

Do we receive too much financial support from DKU? An emigrant church will probably never, even when established, be completely independent financially. It is naïve to imagine a voluntary church tax from all Danish immigrants, similar to the Church Tax in Denmark. Despite the great willingness to sacrifice and donate on the part of many Danes, our church must ensure that it becomes as self-reliant as possible. Some expenses will go up. For instance, with inflation the pastor's salary is an expense that will increase over time.

Here in Canada a happy mixture of a state church and an independent congregation (*folkekirke og frikirke*) easily comes into play. Since we have no fixed framework, as in Denmark, for the members' financial support to the church, and therefore no lobby group advocating a certain church view, our services are able to take place in a free framework. It is the freedom and right of the Danish state church to be able to serve all Danes, also abroad, without having to look at the financial aspect. And it is DKU which makes this possible! The extended arm of *Folkekirken*.



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In conclusion, the work here is not without problems and constant considerations of principle - fortunately. At the same time there are many exciting tasks and much encouragement. On a daily basis our church in Toronto is needed, and DKU is an exceptionally good employer for us pastors. Let me end by quoting Provost Overgaard-Thomsen's closing remarks in this year's report to DKU from the congregation in Toronto: Our daily work can now and then be both tedious and tiring, as we all know. But we look forward to the Sunday services and believe that the gospel of God's kingdom is being spread, also at the Danish church in Toronto, and that merits a big thank you.

St. Ansgar Church, Toronto

Carl J. Larson, Philip & Irene Jorgensen and Glen Nelson

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, founded by Danish immigrants in Toronto in 1926, closed in 2023, with the last service being held on Sunday, June 4th. While the church is closed, the property, as of late 2023, has not yet been sold. The church was located at 1498 Avenue Road in Toronto, at the intersection of Avenue Road and Lawrence Avenue West. It was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). The history below, from 1925 to 1978, was written by Carl J. Larson (married to Elsie Bondo) and edited by Pastor Philip Jorgensen and his wife Irene Jorgensen. Later Pastor Glen Nelson added the history of the church from 1978 to 1999. This history was posted on the St. Ansgar Lutheran Church's website: http://stansgar.ca/?page_id=44

None of us (Carl, Philip and Irene) have been members of St. Ansgar for fifty years, but our congregation has been a lively fellowship for that long. Now we pause to thank God for this life and liveliness. In our thanks we recall what has happened and try to understand what God has been doing among us. We see that we have developed our own character during these fifty years and we thank God for any good qualities that have emerged.

The character of our Church has been shaped by its mission. At first our mission was to the Danish immigrants and their children, then it broadened to include the community in which we are based, and we have even developed to be a metropolitan Church. In our history there have been those who had a vision they considered worth struggling to realize, even if that vision could only be achieved in part. There has been and is the vision of gathering into Christian community the thousands of Danish and Scandinavian immigrants. There is the vision of reaching and serving the immediate North York-North Toronto community. Finally there is the vision of gathering Lutherans and other Christians from all sectors of this cosmopolitan city. The vision has always been large and still is large, although at any one time we have always been a small congregation.

The character of our Church has also been shaped by the circumstances of its members and the situation of our nation. The periods of immigration have been our opportunity. The poverty and transiency of the immigrants limited that opportunity. The Great Depression and World War II developed a sense of community among us but handicapped our growth. The characteristics of the past three decades – prosperity, inflation, mobility, the leisure-life style have also been a mixed blessing that influences us.

Thirdly, the character of our congregation has been shaped and toughened by our struggles. There was the struggle of adapting to a style of Church life suitable to Canada from the style of Church life prevailing in Denmark and Europe. Only a small percentage managed that transition. There has been the painful but purposeful struggle in the transition from Danish to English as the language of worship and teaching. The matter of supporting a pastoral ministry and providing

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places to worship and meet that would be appropriate and that we could afford has been no small struggle. Making decisions about these matters sifted the congregation but also developed in us a deeper sense of purpose and loyalty.

Most of all the character of our Church has been shaped by the personal Christian influence and witness of its members and pastors whose love of the Lord and His Word and His people made them spiritual fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers to us all. Most of these members came out of the Church of Denmark. Several pastors and many of its laymen have come out of the practical churchmanship of the United States. Now our congregation is enriched by members from a variety of Lutheran and evangelical sources from around the world. At this point in our history we thank God for all who have been, and now are, our friends, teachers, intercessors, exhorters, leaders, and pastors at St. Ansgar. Our future is in the Lord's hands but with Him we now shape what is to come. We pray that we fulfill our solemn task with love and resting in His Grace.

The Mission to Toronto 1925-1954

Our congregation began as an idea of the Atlantic District of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church with synod headquarters in Blair, Nebraska. The District became aware of the large Danish immigration to Eastern Canada and in 1925 appointed Rev. J.M. Jensen of New Denmark, New Brunswick, to investigate the need for Danish Churches in our eastern Canadian cities. In July of 1925, Pastor Jensen conducted an experimental service in a dance hall where some 50 Danish immigrants indicated an interest in future services. He reported his findings to the district and they decided to attempt the establishment of Churches in Toronto and Montreal, and to provide the necessary financial subsidy.

In the fall of 1925, the Atlantic District commissioned Rev. Anton Hansen to work in Toronto for a one year term. Pastor Carsten Christian Kloth, who was serving as the Atlantic District president, organized the congregation on April 13, 1926. The congregation was organized with 32 charter members, was named, and a temporary constitution was adopted. When Pastor Hansen's term expired that fall, the pastoral leadership was turned over to a seminary student, Laurits Pedersen, for a 14 month term. During this term, and the interim pastors that preceded and followed, Pastor John M. Jensen visited the congregation regularly to conduct communion services and annual meetings and to perform baptisms, a confirmation, and other official duties. During Laurits Pedersen's ministry the congregation doubled to include 64 members and developed a mailing list of 200 addresses for the monthly church paper.

Rev. C.C. Kloth became the first regularly called pastor to St. Ansgar Church and he served 1928-30. Pastor Kloth had been pastor at First Lutheran Church in Westbrook, Maine, from 1919 to 1928. He then accepted the call as a mission pastor in Toronto. By 1930, the Ladies Aid, Sunday-School and confirmation classes had been established and by then 133 members had been received. St. Ansgar began to look more like a Church than a preaching mission.

In 1930 our congregation with the financial backing of the district and now also the synod called Pastor Viggo Willie Bondo, who had experienced, from 1914 to 1930, a long and fruitful ministry solely in Danish at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Racine, Wisconsin, and was enabled to have a similar ministry here. During his 17 years of ministry, our congregation grew to the size at which it has since been relatively constant. In 1947, Pastor Bondo's last year among

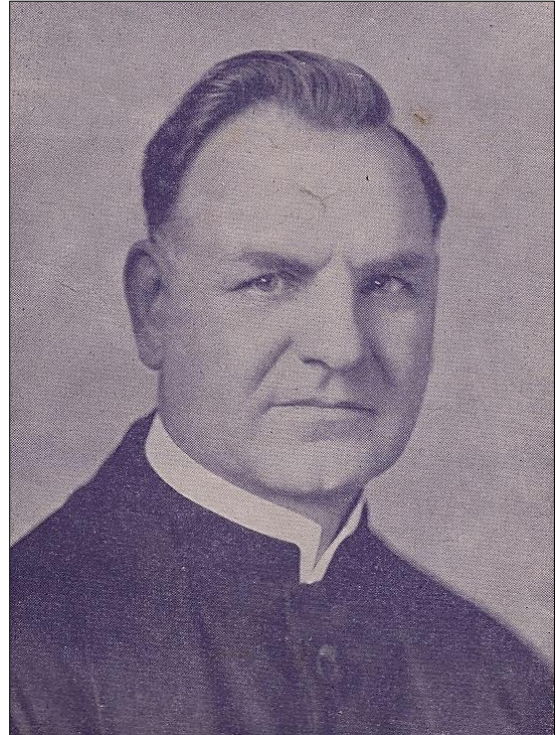
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us, the congregation had 228 confirmed members and 366 baptized. A cumulative total of 598 members had been received, and except for a few Norwegian families, the members were all Danish immigrants. Pastor Bondo and the congregation also engaged in mission work by establishing preaching points at Oshawa, Sheridan and King City, but none developed into congregations.

Still receiving home mission subsidy, we called Pastor Eric Christensen, a young pastor, who had been serving at Brush, Colorado. As he began his ministry, the congregation was moving into its own first church building. We were tenants no longer and we no longer felt like a mission although we had needed more home mission money in the form of a loan to build the new church. In 1954, our congregation, now made up of people from the community and Lutherans of other ethnic backgrounds, became self-supporting. The district and synod had subsidized our congregation with about \$35,000 over a 29 year period. In fact a large share of our synod's home mission budget was spent in Canada to establish Churches here. In 1935, seven out of every nine home mission churches of our synod were in Canada and received 85% of the home mission budget. The home mission work in Canada was the pride of the synod and it waited eagerly for reports of progress.

The Era of Danish Immigration 1925-1935

During its first years, St. Ansgar looked to the multitude of Danish immigrants for growth and development. They came by the hundreds in the early years but the number dwindled during the Depression. However, the transiency of the newcomers did not lend to building a large strong congregation. Many went back to Denmark after a short unsatisfactory stay while others moved on to other parts of the province and country. Only 6 of the original 32 charter members were still in the congregation after 4 years. The worship services had crowds of 130 and 150 people in its second year, but it seemed that each crowd was a new crowd and there were few steady members and attendees upon whom to build a Church. The new Canadians were usually quite poor, more in need of financial help than able to help the financial needs of the new Church. In response to their needs, the pastor and Church acted as a "traveler's aid society" as well as a ministry of Word and Sacrament. Pastor Kloth reported that as many as 10 immigrants a day pleaded for help and that in one year he corresponded with 336 inquirers about prospects in Canada. Pastors Kloth and Bondo regularly met them as they got off the trains at Union Station, and the parsonage was a dining hall and hostel for uncounted Danes. Many of the present membership testify to kindnesses received from pastors and Church during their arrival and



Pastor Viggo Willie Bondo

Born June 20, 1879, in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, served at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, Toronto, from October 1930 to January 1948. He retired due to ill health and died March 10, 1949 in Oaks, Oklahoma.

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settling-in period. The Church was also useful as a half-way house between Denmark and Canada. It served to ease the culture shock, and many used the Church as a temporary cushion, but then drifted away as they made the cultural adjustment. Pastor Kloth reporting in the synod paper wrote, “when we realize that the Toronto immigrants, as a rule are not the people with strong spiritual roots in the church of Denmark, but people somewhat removed from it, then we cannot expect that our congregation will rapidly grow and become self-supporting.” Many of the immigrants were influenced by the trend of the “cultured despising” of the Gospel and the Church which was beginning to bring some dark days to the Church of Denmark. The majority of the immigrants came from Danish parishes where the Lutherans were content to fulfill some minimal “obligations” such as receiving the Sacrament of Baptism and the rites of confirmation, marriage and burial; attending worship semi-annually; and paying the small church tax collected as part of the national income-tax. Not many who came from such a tradition gave themselves to this new North American style of Church life that called for faithfulness in worship attendance, the volunteering of lay leadership and a generous offering from a meager income. On the other hand, the suitcase of the newcomer typically contained their Danish hymnal and Bible and the fact of their existence begged their use. The emigrant also brought with him a basic Christian education from school and a thousand year tradition of Christianity and so despite social obstacles he was a prospect for our mission Church in Toronto. Some of the newcomers had been active in the movements of renewal which had their greatest impact in Denmark a generation earlier and these people brought a Christian depth to our new Christian community here. Partly what we celebrate this year is that there were some dedicated Christians from the Church of Denmark, and there were others who rose to the challenge of the new Christian life style here and so our Church was founded and survived.

The Depression Years: 1930-1939

The Danish immigrants were still settling in and our Church was barely started when the Great Depression descended upon us. The hopes and plans for both the individual members and for the Church were reduced to survival, to “just getting by.” Some lost their home to foreclosure; some were unemployed for long periods, while some had to choose between such essentials as food or coal. The congregation, like many families, had difficulty in keeping up with its bills. One winter the coal company lost its patience with our tardy remittances and demanded that we pay half the projected annual coal cost in advance of the first coal delivery! When Pastor Bondo arrived in 1930 he received a modest annual salary package of \$2,100. This annual amount had to cover rent, utilities, car allowance and wages. His salary went down annually for the next 8 years and after 15 years of service never rose to the ‘heights’ of his first year’s salary. Yet the parsonage hospitality and generosity continued. Many in the congregation, though very poor, shared with those who were in more need and the pastor showed a good example in this. A good effect of the depression was the importance that the Church and its fellowship had to its members. People gathered in homes or on farms, and in the church-house for talk and the singing of hymns and folk-songs. The Young People’s Society Dansk Luthersk Sammenslutet Ungdom flourished from the very beginnings of the congregation. Their Saturday night meetings provided a good time for just 104 and the annual conventions of the youth and the District were the big celebrations of the year. Another beneficial consequence of the “hard times” was that several Danish families fled the even deeper depression of Western Canada and settled in Toronto and strengthened our Church.

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The War Years: 1939-1945

Both Canadian and Danish Patriotism became very strong in the congregation during the war years as we became informed and involved in the war as it pertained to Canada and Denmark. The 1941 budget shows expenditures supporting The Danish Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross as well as Norwegian Relief, British War Victims, and gifts for men in Service. The Young People's Society used part of their meetings to write letters and send packages to those overseas and in the Merchant Marine. In 1941, the head of the Lutheran Church in Greenland visited our congregation with a request. He asked that members of our Church temporarily adopt some Danish children from Greenland so they could attend school in Toronto as Copenhagen was now closed to them. On two occasions we were visited by Henrik Kauffmann the Danish Minister (ambassador) to the U.S.A. At these visits we hosted large meetings of the Danish-Canadian community to hear about the war effort. Our own services were sometimes visited by Norwegian airmen from "Little Norway" on the Toronto Islands. Pastor Bondo represented our synod on the Lutheran War Commission – a body that assigned military chaplains. In 1947 Pastor Bondo was awarded the King Christian X Freedom Medal for his work for Denmark during the war. We also had special wartime services, including a service commemorating the political martyr, Rev. Kaj Munk of Denmark, and a service of thanksgiving for Victory Day. In 1946 we held a grand "Welcome Home" program for more than fifty young people of the congregation who had served in the Armed Forces. This event is remembered as an all-time highlight, as such relief and joy was felt at this homecoming.

St. Ansgar a Danish and/or a Canadian Lutheran Church (1925-1947)

Our congregation was started to serve the Danish immigrants of the 1920s and at first it was agreeable to all that the Church would function in Danish. Within four years (1929) came the need for English in Sunday School and confirmation class, within ten years (1935) monthly evening English services were held, within fifteen years (1941) there was a monthly Sunday morning service and two evening services in English. Only two years after this (1943) English

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and Danish had equal status in the congregation as the language of the Sunday morning services alternated. Five years later, in 1948, Danish services were relegated to Sunday evenings and 10 years after that in 1958 it was decided that the ability to speak Danish would no longer be a requirement in the Pastoral Letter of Call. The painful but inevitable language transition has been repeated in about 100,000 congregations of various ethnic backgrounds in North America. Like childbirth, the process is commonplace, each instance is painful and traumatic, but usually produces new life.

The need for a Danish language congregation for the adult Danish immigrant was serious. The Danish speaking congregation provided a fellowship where he could be free from the mental stress of trying to speak in this foreign English language. It provided a community where he had worth and dignity as a person in contrast to the indignities and discrimination he suffered in the job market, the neighbourhood and even from his own Canadianized children. The Danish-speaking congregation was also a place to use the treasured Danish hymnal and Bible, which were his confirmation gifts and a source of Christian nurture. The Danish-speaking congregation was also the place where he could use his considerable Christian knowledge and vocabulary gained in the Danish school system and confirmation class and this vocabulary and knowledge was not easy to acquire in the light conversations which were the source of most of his English vocabulary.

The need for English in a congregation of Danish immigrants comes from the children of the immigrants, and from the many non-Danish spouses. The need for English also comes from the realization that to be a real Church and a Church with a future we must try to communicate the Gospel to all people and therefore we must communicate in English. It was for the sake of his children and for the sake of the future that the immigrant made personal sacrifices and chose English. The choice was decisively made at St. Ansgar by 1947 as the congregation prepared to move to its new home on Lawrence Avenue determined to serve its new community with a new self-image. There was also a growing awareness that we were not only a Danish Church but also a Lutheran Church and that our future, and the future of the many ethnic Lutheran Churches was as Lutherans. Together as Lutherans we would have an important place and role in Canada and the individual Lutheran congregation would have a much broader base for growth.

An added push to the language transition came from the difficulty in obtaining Danish-speaking pastors from our synod which except in Eastern Canada had started the language transition a generation earlier and the second generation pastors were usually not able or interested in conducting a Danish pastoral ministry. When the Church of Denmark (Dansk Kirke i Udlandet - DKU) sent a representative to our congregation in 1947, offering to provide pastors from Denmark and the yet needed subsidy, we rejected this offer. Such an offer would have been welcomed 20 years earlier but now it would be “turning back the clock” and regressing rather than advancing. Our synod which in its pioneer days sought help from the Church of Denmark with scant results now had mixed feelings about these belated offers to help which were given across Canada.

It seemed that the language issue had largely been settled with the arrival of Pastor Christensen in 1948 and the congregation was growing with its English morning services and was beginning to attract Lutherans from other ethnic backgrounds and those from other Christian backgrounds in the community. But in 1950 emigration from Denmark increased and so did the language problem. The congregation again tried to go two directions at once attempting to serve

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the new immigrants in Danish and the community in English. In 1950 regular evening services in Danish and a Monday night Danish fellowship were started with good success.

In 1951 another Danish group began to hold services in Toronto. Wishing to maintain their own identity they rejected the offer of our building and by 1954 had become a congregation sponsored by the Church of Denmark (DKU). Partly because the Church of Denmark had made an agreement with our synod to leave the "Toronto Danish franchise" to St. Ansgar's we at first looked at this new congregation as a rival but then recognized the fact of their presence and wished them our blessing. This did not mean we would ourselves drop our Danish work and in 1956 we agreed to call an assistant pastor, more proficient in Danish, to head up this work and the synod agreed to fund this project. When all the details of the project had been worked out, the 1957 Annual Meeting decided by a close vote (52-32) not to proceed with this work. A year later, when it became necessary to call a pastor to replace Pastor Christensen, it was decided that proficiency in Danish not be required of future pastors. The last Danish speaking organization in the congregation was the Anna Bondo Circle which wound up its organization in 1970.

The language transition at St. Ansgar was certainly long and difficult and was a topic at annual meetings from 1935, when the first complaint about English services was heard, until 1958 when Danish-speaking pastors were no longer considered necessary for our task. The language issue was one about which nearly everyone felt deeply, and over which, depending on one's point of view, there was great stubbornness or great determination. More to be remembered was that despite the stress and suffering there was also much graciousness and self-sacrifice and much keeping silence for the good of the congregation. We are thankful that the issue never got out of hand and that no friendships were ruined and especially that the congregation's sense of mission was strengthened.

Housing the Church 1926-1948

We had no church of our own for our first 21 years. From 1925-29 we usually rented, at a rate of \$5 per Sunday, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Glen Morris Street. When St. Paul's merged with First Lutheran on Bond Street in 1929 we tagged along and rented First Lutheran Church which



St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, Toronto, built in 1947-1948.

we rented for \$6 per Sunday although they first asked for \$10 per Sunday. (Our services were held in the afternoon except in the summer when we met early in the morning). We did attempt to buy the church on Glen Morris and considered buying the Bond Street church when these were put up for sale. There was disappointment in the fact that we didn't obtain the Glen Morris church and in the way we had been treated in the negotiations, but now we see God's leading in this, as the burden of a church mortgage

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may have proven unbearable during the Depression years. The congregation did buy a parsonage on Sherbourne Street in 1931, sold it and bought a larger one on Woodlawn Avenue in 1937. These investments were sound and even profitable. The houses were large and the congregation used the main floor for evening services, weekday meetings, and weddings, while the second floor was the parsonage for the Pastor Bondo family. In 1932, First Lutheran Church decided to remodel rather than re-locate and then also decided that the sanctuary would no longer be available to us. For a few months we crowded into the Sherbourne Street parsonage for our services until the pastor's son made a most providential discovery. The discovery was – The Church of the Deaf on Wellesley Street was available for rent, and on Sunday mornings, since they operated by choice an afternoon program. This spacious church served as our facility for worship and large meetings from 1932-48, a longer period than we have used either of the two buildings at Lawrence Avenue Road. The ever present desire to have an appropriate place of worship of our own, started to become a reality in 1943. A building fund started in the Spring reached \$8,500 by year's end and this in a congregation's whose annual budget had never exceeded \$4,000. In 1944 committees went to work. A study indicated that the majority of members lived north of Eglinton and West of Yonge and then our present property was discovered and put to the congregation for a decision to purchase. The vote was 53-12; a large majority in favor but also indicating some opposition to having the church located so far from the homes of some of the down-town members. The building committee worked hard fund-raising, with the sale of the old property, and working with the architect in designing the proposed first unit and parsonage. A monthly newsletter, "The Church Builder" was mailed out to 350 addresses during this time to keep all informed and enthusiastic.

Construction began in July 1947 with the cornerstone being laid in September. In April 1948, the new parsonage was occupied by our newly arrived Pastor Eric Christensen. September 12, 1948 was the memorable day of church dedication. Rev. K.M. Matthiessen, the synod's Home Mission director and our benefactor preached at an English service and Pastor Viggo Willie Bondo returned for the occasion and preached at a Danish Service.

Although the first unit was designed as a parish hall, it had a very churchly appearance, and with the chancel furnishings crafted by Aksel Jespersen, we felt we had a building that accommodated our Lutheran style of worship. The congregation was pleased with the design and the affordability of the plan to finance it. The building was debt free in seven years (1955).

Housing the Church 1948-1975

During the post-war era our congregation was growing rapidly and the new building was overcrowded for both worship and Sunday-School and it became evident, that the second unit, a larger church must be built. Shortly after Pastor Clarence Paulsen began his ministry, committees were again organized to proceed with plans for building. In 1959 an architect was engaged and a fund raising dinner resulted in three year pledges of \$45,000. This was a time of rapid church growth generally, and there were encouraging signs of growth at St. Ansgar and so it was decided to build a church to seat 400 worshippers and accommodate a Sunday-School of 300 and a choir of 40 voices. It was further proposed to build in a modern style of architecture reflecting the changes in church architecture that had taken place in only ten years. The whole matter of size, style, location and affordability became a divisive issue and the proposal was passed by only a 33-21 majority. The issue again sifted the congregation and made the building task harder

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as some of the pledges were canceled and some of the planners dropped out. Again the Church Women became very important to the new church, and raised large sums of money for it.

The day of church dedication, January 14, 1962, was a tremendous event with nearly 650 people attending the two services. Dr. William Larsen, the vice-president of the American Lutheran Church officiated and preached. The new building received architectural recognition for its successful blending of two styles and a Toronto newspaper, the *Daily Telegram*, later featured it as one of Toronto's noteworthy churches.

There have been times when we felt we had over-built and financially over-extended ourselves, especially when our congregation suffered from the general decline in church attendance and membership that came in the late 1960's. However, we were rescued from our financial difficulties, first by city expropriation of land that provided us with \$26,361 and then later by a determined fund-raising campaign which eliminated mortgage payments arrears and a sale of notes which made the mortgage more affordable. We were also forced into the good policy of making the building available for community use and much of this use provides welcome rental money.



St. Ansgar Lutheran Church: 1948 Avenue Road, North York.

Our congregation has come a long way from modest beginnings in a dance hall to the spacious building generously accommodating the congregation's activities and often serving as a "cathedral church" for Toronto Lutheran events.

The Post-War Growth Era 1946-1966

Pastor Eric Christensen began a ten year ministry at St. Ansgar on January 13, 1948. This was the great year of the completion and dedication of the new parsonage and church. The decade that Pastor Christensen served was a time of great growth and activity for the congregation. We

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received as many new members in this decade as we had in the first 22 years, although the transiency factor greatly reduced the net gain. This was the decade (1950-60) when the Lutheran Church became the fastest growing major denomination in Canada, largely due to the heavy post-war European immigration. Many of the European immigrants were Danes and this revived the need for Danish services and the interest and problems related to language marked the whole period.

It was a time of great liveliness for our Church. In the forefront was the Luther League which had a strong program of work, fellowship, and worship and even published its own newsletter, "The Friday Nighter" Many of the youth spent a year or two at Lutheran Bible Schools in Minnesota and New Jersey, and three young men set out on vocations as pastors and missionaries. Another important addition to church life was the English speaking Ladies Aid, the Mary and Martha group, which played a big supporting role in this era. Worship and Sunday-School attendance increased to the point that over-crowding was a problem and discussion was begun about building a larger church for the growing congregation.

When Pastor Clarence Paulsen began his ministry in May of 1958, he was met with this concern for a larger church and much of his time was occupied with realizing this goal. The highlight of the era was the dedication of the new church. It was a time of great optimism as we were growing as were most churches. St. Ansgar was achieving success in becoming a "community church" and more and more area people from a variety of Christian backgrounds were adding to our numbers and our character. In this time also the first few Lutheran immigrants arrived from the United States and these new members were usually dedicated and talented church people.

Although there were times when the congregation had trouble keeping up with the annual budgets, the optimism and confidence of the time led us to employ two seminary interns, first John Crilly and then Paul Winters who assisted in many areas of church work. Church and Sunday-School attendance continued to be strong and perhaps it was the Church Women who were in the forefront of activity at this time. They had as many as five circles and raised large amounts of money through a variety of church suppers and catering. Also at this time the Men of the Church organized themselves for fellowship and provided voluntary labour to maintain our church property.

Yet another feature of the period was the direction taken by our synod. In 1961 we became part of the merger of synods of Danish, Norwegian and German background to form the American Lutheran Church and we now found ourselves in a large Eastern District rather in the small fellowship of a dozen congregations that made up the old Atlantic District. No sooner had this merger been achieved than the congregations of this synod in Canada began to press to become an autonomous Lutheran synod in Canada with a view to speeding up the emergence of one Canadian Lutheran Church. St. Ansgar at first opposed the autonomy movement and the autonomy was delayed one year in the East, but in 1968 we became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and again found ourselves in a very small Eastern Conference.

New Directions and Commitment 1967-1972

Pastor Raymond Yauk, our first Canadian pastor, was already in Toronto doing graduate work in theology when he began to serve St. Ansgar as an interim pastor, and then accepted the pastoral call and was installed on April 23, 1967. This was a period when growth was halted and even

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reversed. The church as an institution was generally held in low regard and some radical theologians held that “God is dead.” Church membership and attendance declined as a new leisure life-style developed that did not accommodate church life. Our own church attendance and membership declined partly through these trends and partly as many geographically distant members transferred out to new Lutheran congregations in the Metro area. While it was a period in which the membership dropped, and it was easy to become discouraged, many were receiving an even stronger faith and deeper commitment as an emphasis on adult Christian education on Sunday mornings and week-night home study meetings provided Christian sharing.



The altar and the mosaics

St. Ansgar continued to gain a few strong new members from the community, and more Lutheran immigrants arrived from the United States and from many parts of the world. During Pastor Yauk’s ministry we also began to show greater concern for our community. We helped initiate an inter-church helping agency, Care-Ring, which became a model for many churches and communities. We also organized a group of senior citizens which

brought together both Church members and people from the community. Thirdly, we opened our building to an Alcoholics Anonymous group. Toward the close of this period, lay people assumed more responsibility for the work of the Church and its auxiliaries and this strengthened our total work.

The decline of church attendance and membership increased the financial pressures which had begun to be felt in the previous period. There were moments of discouragement about the future of the congregation and this burden weighed heavily on all and especially on Pastor Yauk whose health did not permit to continue as pastor after 1971. Despite the financial problems of the time, the congregation managed to fulfill a desire to obtain a good church organ and this was installed in a new balcony at a cost of \$12,700 in 1968.

Discouragement was not allowed to prevail as the leadership of St. Ansgar organized itself in a very determined and successful effort to get the financial problems straightened out. A visitation produced \$9,000 in gifts and \$21,000 in personal notes which enabled us to eliminate the arrears and work out an affordable debt retirement plan. This was followed up with a stewardship program led by Perry Olsen, the synod’s development counselor, which increased the congregation’s level of giving and enable us to meet current expenses.

Growing Strong 1978-1999 by Pastor Glen Nelson

By the time Pastor Phil Jorgensen resigned as pastor of St. Ansgar to serve as Director of Congregational Life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada in the summer of 1978, the congregation had recovered from the difficult years of declining membership and financial stress in the early seventies. The place was humming. In 1978 thirty adults were on the Sunday School staff for about 75 children; each summer there was a Vacation Church School day camp; the

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“Sunday College”, a learning opportunity for adults, offered six different classes each week; worship attendance was above 200 more often than not; Don Hooseinny had attended a two-week training program for the Bethel Bible Series and eight teacher-trainees were meeting with him weekly; every February there was a Winter Carnival with fun in the snow for children and adults; a Monday evening basketball free-for-all gathered in a local school gym; a Christmas program was prepared by the Sunday School for what was then called the Crippled Children’s Centre; and a strong Youth Group was developing led by the Randy Schramm family. This busy schedule of activities generated a need for additional help – a part time parish worker for a time, and then the services of the Ottos, Pastor Siegfried Otto as a pastoral assistant and Barbel Otto as choir director. At the time, Pastor Otto was the chaplain at the Seaman’s Mission, a program that was discontinued a few years later as Toronto’s port facilities declined.

Financially, the congregation was strong again, not only paying its operating costs, but paying down the mortgage for the 1961 building project and the promissory notes owed to members of the congregation who loaned money during the lean years. In addition the congregation completed some badly needed repairs to the building during its 50th Anniversary Year, 1976, and even raised funds for a special project – a stained glass window honoring St. Ansgar, which was installed early in 1979. Pastor Glen Nelson inherited this happy state of affairs when he arrived on the scene from the United States in August of 1978, and for the most part, this program continued.

The “Drop-in Centre for Visiting Academics”

St. Ansgar had often been a church home for clergy in Toronto for special studies, but in the eighties and nineties it became, as one of them put it, a drop-in centre for visiting academics. The first of these was Pastor Jim Nestingen, who with his wife Carolyn and two boys, began attending St. Ansgar in the fall of 1978, and were active for the next two years. When Pastor and Mrs. Otto resigned to take a position in Montreal, the congregation asked Pastor Nestingen to take some of Pastor Otto’s responsibilities. In 1980, Pastor Paul Rorem, a scholar in liturgy, made St. Ansgar his church home for a year while he did some post-doctoral work at the University. He was followed by Norman Lund from the U.S., Gordon Jensen from Alberta, Cam Harder from Saskatchewan, Tim Hegedus from B.C., and Hank Langknecht from the U.S. Both Gordon and Cam received the Governor General’s award when they achieved their PhD. Each of these scholars brought new and unique riches to the congregation. To take advantage of these riches, one of the initiatives during these years was the St. Ansgar Lenten Lecture Series.

A Growing Youth Program

The Youth Group, gathering momentum in the mid-seventies, became a vital program in the eighties, with about 20 young people meeting weekly on Friday evenings and often at other times as well. There were regular retreats, picnics, Tuesday evening volleyball games in the parking lot, skating parties, sports at the RCMP gym (courtesy of soon-to-be Assistant Commissioner Randy Schramm) and other activities, some of which, no doubt, no adult was ever aware!

The youth focus took a new direction with the development of a ministry for students at the University of Toronto. For a number of years, Lutheran students had been agitating for a campus chaplain, but funds were unavailable. A group of students and interested adults, based at St. Ansgar, formed a committee to develop this ministry. It was finally decided not to wait for synod

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funding, but to rent a house in the University neighborhood where Lutheran students might live and initiate activities for other students. So “Kate’s Place” was born, a beautiful large home in which seven students lived and invited others to programs of Bible Study, discussion and informal fun. This was the beginning of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University, leading to the call of Pastor Bob Shantz to be the full time Lutheran chaplain in 1984. The relationship with campus ministry has continued, with an annual banquet being held in the St. Ansgar parish hall.

A sign of the congregation’s health at this time was the burning of the mortgage in 1982, twenty years after the completion of the new building. By 1983, the congregation’s financial position allowed it to lend \$5,000 to its sister congregation, Meadowvale Lutheran Church in Mississauga, a mission congregation struggling to maintain itself in the face of reduced funding. Several years later, this loan was forgiven.



Inside: St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, Toronto

Turning Outward to Social Ministry

The robust health of the congregation enabled it to turn more outward in the 1980’s. A refugee project for the “boat people” of Viet Nam was initiated late in 1979 and the congregation sponsored a family, renting an apartment for several months, furnishing it, and providing them with appropriate clothing and other needed items. Happily, this energetic family became self sufficient in a short time. The congregation continued the sponsorship of refugees several times later in the decade, both on its own and in cooperation with other congregations. In 1981 a Service Committee was added to the Church Council and this committee helped organize a Sunday College course on world development needs which resulted in the financing of a grinding mill project in the Cameroon through Canadian Lutheran World Relief. A food pantry was started in 1982 in response to the growing number of people coming to the church office for assistance. This service soon grew from a few visitors a week to as many as a hundred a month. A large freezer was installed to hold frozen goods and members made regular trips to the Daily Bread Food Bank to supply the shelves of our food pantry. The volume of clients led to the formation of an inter-agency organization in North York and participation in a Provincial government initiative to meet the needs of families. Hundred of dollars of Provincial funds were used to purchase food vouchers from local grocery chains so that families in need could buy fresh foods as well as use the canned goods supplied by the pantry. By 1989 the volume of visitors to the food bank was demanding too much time from our limited staff, and the decision was made to terminate the program. Together with three other congregations, St. Ansgar helped to develop a local organization of tenants in the Lawrence Heights social housing development, the Lawrence Heights Area Alliance, an organization intended to help the residents of Lawrence Heights to define and address their own problems in their own way.

As the activities of the past were joined by this movement outward, it was obvious that the congregation needed more staff assistance. First to be added was an intern, Bill Benninghoff, in 1980 after Pastor Nestingen had left. Then, in 1982, a half-time secretary was added, Norma

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McKeown, who graced the office until 1994. In 1983 the congregation approved the addition of a full-time deaconess, but when an appropriate candidate could not be found, the congregation found a happy solution in one of its own members, Inger Allard, who served in the position of Lay Assistant with energy and commitment for sixteen years. Besides overseeing many practical details of the operation, Inger provided the impetus needed to keep the youth program going when it began to flag, and the healthy ministry to seniors through the Young at Heart. It was she who, during the almost two-year interim after Pastor Nelson retired, provided the cohesion to keep the congregation together.

Music at St. Ansgar was provided by a gifted musician (as well as several other gifted volunteers), Elsie Bondo Larson, who achieved the distinction of serving as organist (without pay) for a remarkable 64 years, from the time her family came to Toronto and her father became St. Ansgar's pastor, until her "retirement" in 1998. Subsequently, the congregation was fortunate to find another gifted musician in Bill Weldon, who was then hired as the congregation's organist. Choir leaders during these years were Barbel Otto, David Johnson, Tony Ciconne, Glen Nelson and, at the latter's retirement in 1998, Andrew Warren.

A Period of Transition

Like other mainline Christian churches, St. Ansgar experiences the mysterious ebbs and flows of cultural change. In the mid-eighties, many congregations found their membership shrinking and their worship attendance falling. Over about a decade, St. Ansgar's membership went from a high of over 400 baptized members to less than 300. The Sunday-School shrank from 75 to around 25. Church attendance, which had hit a year-round high of over 180, was reduced to about 115. This decline coincided with a general downturn in the country's economy, so that the congregation confronted the necessity for cutbacks. The Lay Assistant's position was cut from full time to four days a week for ten months of the year, and a few hours a month was pared from the secretary's position. After years of rapidly expanding support of the National and Synodical Church, this "benevolence" part of the budget was reduced and remained stagnant.

Another example of changing times was the decision to dissolve the historic women's auxiliary, then called Lutheran Church Women. Most of its members were now elderly. The organization had experienced reduced attendance and had difficulty finding people willing to take on leadership roles. Most of the younger women now worked outside the home and there was, among some, a question about the need for a separate women's organization. At the time the women's auxiliary was formed, generations before, only men held positions of leadership in the congregation, but now women were as likely to sit on Church Council as men. After much discussion, and some grief for many because the women's organization had such a remarkable history of vital support of the church, a vote was taken and the organization was dissolved in November 1984.

When an organization experiences loss, it is natural to turn inward, asking what could be wrong and what can be done to change matters. St. Ansgar established a Future Directions Committee in 1986 (as a 60th anniversary project) to ask such questions and recommend some action. The result was a proposal for a new way to organize the congregation. Instead of relying on elected officers to initiate and supervise programs, the congregation would establish five interest groups (called "families") to give all members an opportunity to join with those who shared their special concern and organize programs accordingly. This proposal was adopted in 1988. The families

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had some initial participation and success, but the lack of organizational structure and stability made this creative proposal vulnerable to the changing interests and priorities of individuals within each group, so this experiment gradually faded within a few years.

An Unexpected New Direction

St. Ansgar happens to share a neighbourhood in which many Jews live and work and worship. Nearby Bathurst Street is lined with large and small synagogues holding congregations that are Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed, Hasidic with their many variations. Led by Pastor Nelson's special interest in the subject of Christian Jewish relations, the congregation organized dialogues with members of a neighboring synagogue. It began to participate in the annual Holocaust Education Week by hosting a program each fall. Pastor Nelson became a member of the governing board of Christian/Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, representing the Eastern Synod.

In 1992 a shepherding program was initiated to provide informal occasions for members of the congregation to become better acquainted. A few years later, a new photo directory helped everyone to put a name to faces.

After a period of inactivity, the youth program took on new life, sparked by the energy of the Lay Assistant, Inger Allard. Youth began to meet regularly and the group's life was enriched by trips to the biennial national youth event – in such places as Winnipeg, Camrose, and Halifax - and the synodical youth events on alternate years. The two-year confirmation ministry was revitalized by attendance each year at a week-long confirmation camp at Edgewood, a time for teachers and students to get to know each other well and develop a healthy relationship.

Worship received a new spirit with the introduction of more lay participation, including lay meditations on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross on Good Friday, by including children in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and providing a special “time for the children” during each service, by the addition of extraordinarily colorful banners unfurled for the first time on Easter Sunday in 1996 (thanks to hundreds of hours of work by over 20 women, men and children), and by a new contemporary hymnbook.

Finally, in 1997, the congregation decided to take a step into the future with a building improvement program, “Access For All”, which included a long-awaited elevator, new offices, an enlarged narthex and choir loft, as well as increased space for day care. A successful fund-raising drive was held in late 1997, and construction began the following fall, with completion of the project in the spring of 1999.

With the retirement of Pastor Nelson in 1998, the congregation faced an extensive interim while searching for a replacement. Fortunately, there were gifted interim pastors available, Pastor Tim Hegedus, who then left to begin teaching at Waterloo Seminary, and Pastor Hank Langknecht, a visiting scholar from the U.S. who returned to begin teaching at Capitol Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. At just the right time, Pastor Ray Niebergall and family were ready to return to Canada from the mission field in Argentina. The congregation celebrated his installation in November 1999, and is now developing a new vision for the future of St. Ansgar in the new millennium.

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Pastors at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church Toronto

November 2018 to June 2023	Rev. Pamela Korman	Canada
September 2018 to Nov 2018	*Rev. Jennifer Weetman	Canada
December 2017 – Sept 2018	*Rev. Olavi Hepomaki	Canada
February 2007 to Dec 2017	Rev. Brian Wilker Frey	Canada
July 2006 to January 2007	* Rev. Sonja Free	Canada
October 2002 to July 2006	Rev. Lenise Francis	Canada
April 2002 to October 2002	*Rev. Stuart Schroeder	Canada
November 1999 to March 2002	Rev. Ray Neibergall	Canada
July 1998 to November 1999	*Rev. Hank Langknecht	USA
January 1998 to July 1998	*Rev. Tim Hegedus	B.C., Canada
August 1978 to January 1998	Rev Glen Nelson	Minnesota, USA
September 1972 to June 1978	Rev. Philip Jorgensen	Edmonton, Alberta
September 1966 to Oct 1971	Rev. Raymond Yauk	Winnipeg
May 1958 to September 1966	Rev. Clarence Paulsen	Kansas City, Kansas
11 January 1948 to June 1958	Rev. Eric Christensen	Colorado
12 October 1930 to 4 Jan 1948	Rev. Viggo Willie Bondo	Racine, Wisconsin
7 May 1930 to 1 October 1930	Rev. Chris Christensen	New York
9 Sept 1928 to 1 May 1930	Rev. Carsten Chr. Kloth	Portland, Maine
19 June 1927 to 24 August 1928	Rev. Laurits Pedersen	Blair, Nebraska
1925 to 19 June 1927	Rev. Anton Hansen	Blair, Nebraska
1925	Rev. John M. Jensen	St. Ansgar, Montreal

**Interim Pastor*

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DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY INC.

DANSK CANADISK SAMFUND MONTREAL

Danish Canadians in "La Belle
Province" send greetings to members
and friends of the Danish Federation



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Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church

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Phone: 780-422-8777
Service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Første søndag på dansk
Second to Fourth Sunday in English
Pastor Lasse Hultberg



St. Ansgar Lutheran Church

2000 – 2023

David Weind, Council Member, St. Ansgar, Toronto

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Toronto, a congregation which had been founded by Danish immigrants in 1926, began its gradual demise as we moved into the new century. Like many Judaeo-Christian communities St. Ansgar was not immune to changing and aging demographics. Financial support was weakening along with volunteer support. Youth education was contracted out because of a lack of member volunteers. However, a strong positive was our fifty year relationship with Avenue Road Daycare. As our main tenant this firm offered local neighbourhood families much needed access to affordable daycare services.

During this part of St. Ansgar's history, only three, of the regularly attending families lived within the immediate vicinity of the church facility. St. Ansgar had become a 'destination church' with many parishioners passing Lutheran Churches on their way to St. Ansgar. The congregation's Danish heritage had faded almost entirely. By the time of closing in June 2023, there was only one remaining member of Danish heritage and he was in a senior care home.

The Covid-19 Pandemic, which rapidly began spreading across Canada in March 2020, had a devastating impact on St. Ansgar. In her December 2020 financial report the Treasurer wrote:

We continue to be economically impacted by the pandemic and the temporary closure of our building. Our external income has decreased due to the loss of most of our Fellowship Hall renters, including Weight Watchers, the loss of numerous parking space renters and the expiry of the Joyful Korean Lease at the end of October.

Facing these realities along with a building needing substantial refurbishment a committee, called St. Ansgar 2.0, was established. Reporting to the Church Council the committee's mandate was to recommend to the congregation a future direction. This committee began its work just before COVID and it was decided to take no firm decision until the pandemic had passed.



Cover of the 36-page pamphlet produced on the 50th anniversary of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in 1976.

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The committee was augmented with professional resources from the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's office in Kitchener. A congregational survey was initiated with strong participation, but the results were far from directionally definitive. As we progressed it was clearly in the 2.0 mandate to keep the congregation in communication with its activities. The committee with the recommendation, approved by the congregation, investigated four possible future direction scenarios:

- Merge or join with one (or more) neighbouring Protestant congregation(s).
- Redevelop the property for multiple uses such as affordable housing along with commercial rental and the daycare.
- Sell the property and take back a very long term lease to continue the congregation.
- Sell the property and use the proceeds to fund good works in the wider community.

Implementing any of the last three options would mean that members of the congregation would disperse to other church communities. Professional real estate advice and community input was obtained to analyze these options. Specifically, the United Property Resources Corporation (UPRC), the real-estate arm to the United Church, was most helpful.

Regarding the first scenario, considerable effort to merge/join with another Protestant community in the North Toronto area was undertaken. We met in person, presented and extended invitations to four Lutheran Churches, two United churches and two Anglican Churches. After many presentations and meetings we were disappointed that we could not find a way forward going this route.

At the conclusion of these investigations, the recommendation to the Church Council and then to the congregation was the last scenario, that was to sell the property within the next five years and use the proceeds to fund good works. At this decisive meeting the vote was nearly 90% in favour of this scenario. The last worship service at St. Ansgar would be on June 4, 2023.



The parsonage at 53 Edgecombe Avenue, Toronto.

The 2.0 Committee presented a number of possibilities for good works after detailed discussion with possible candidates. This included congregational input with a survey as well as presentation and discussions groups. The end result of this was a recommendation for distribution of assets approved unanimously by the congregation. This was: 35% to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), 20% to the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCIC), 20% to the National Office of the ELCIC and 25% to local Toronto charities.

The congregation's final church service, led by Bishop Michael Pryce, was a joyous celebration of the nearly 100 years of St. Ansgar ministry and legacy ministry through the funding of good works.

New Denmark's 150th

Shelley Partanen, President, New Denmark Historical Society

In the heart of New Denmark, nestled within a picturesque New Brunswick landscape, lies a vibrant tapestry of Danish heritage and community spirit. The sky had hues of celebration, as the oldest Danish settlement in Canada embarked on a journey to commemorate its 150th Founder Day Celebration in grand style on June 16 to 18, 2023.

The celebration was delayed a year, due to Covid. Yet, the air crackled with anticipation as New Denmark adorned itself in a kaleidoscope of colours, proudly declaring to all passersby that a Danish celebration was underway. From the onset, it was evident that this was not merely an event, but a communal embrace of heritage and togetherness. In the weeks preceding our grand event, a Miss New Denmark Pageant was held and thus we have a new Miss New Denmark, Maci Butler. At the event our juniors and minis were also as cute as could be.



Maci Butler was crowned Miss New Denmark.

The weekend celebration commenced with a heartwarming Friday afternoon meet and greet where old acquaintances were renewed, and new friendship were forged amidst laughter and



The New Denmark Recreation Centre.

shared stories. Spirits soared even higher during the vibrant paint night, where creativity blossomed. The annual Torch Light Parade marked a dear tradition, with a great turn out. Later, fireworks adorned the night sky of New Denmark like never seen before. Very impressive! Saturday dawned with the promise of endless joy at the New Denmark Recreation Centre grounds. The air was fragrant with a plethora of delicious Danish

foods and sweets, provided by, a small grouping of remarkable local ladies. Children's laughter echoed as they bounced with unbridled glee in a huge bouncy castle, while music and games added to the merriment.

Despite the unwelcome rain that sought to dampen spirits, the resilient community persisted, with an estimated 300 souls braving the elements to savour Hansen's Meats famed Danish

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sausage, amidst the downpour. Undeterred, they stood in solidarity, a testament of their unwavering spirit.

As evening descended, the New Denmark Recreation Centre transformed into a vibrant dance hall, where feet tapped, and hearts swayed to the rhythm of the music.

Sunday heralded the pinnacle of the festivities, as the historic New Denmark Memorial Museum opened its doors after a three-year hiatus, due to Covid. Within the rustic confines of the barn, Danish traditions came alive, punctuated by several readings and heartfelt speeches of local luminaries and the soul-stirring harmonies of communal singing. Amidst the bountiful spread of traditional fare, there was a palpable sense of reverence for the journey that led to this celebration.



The participants gathered inside the barn for singing and speeches.

As the curtain fell on the 150th Founders Day celebrations, a poignant reflection swept through the gathering, transcending time to honour the indomitable spirit of the pioneers who carved a legacy of resilience and community. It was a moment of collective pride for the oldest Danish settlement in Canada, a testament to the enduring bonds of kinship and Danish heritage.



Despite a bit of rain, Jocelyn Rioux Green, Joyce Petersen and Diane Christensen Kelly, pose for a photo, in front of the New Denmark sign.

New Denmark celebrates 150th anniversary

New Denmark, New Brunswick, founded as a Danish colony in 1872, celebrated its 150th anniversary in June 2023, a year late due to Covid. Gert and Inge Andersen of Waterloo, Ontario, attended the celebration on behalf of the Danish Federation. Gert Andersen is the former Vice President of the Danish Federation and has previously served as President of the Ontario Region.

May 28, June 16, 17, 18, 2023
New Denmark, NB
 ND REC CENTRE/HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Museum)

NEW DENMARK'S 150TH FOUNDER'S DAY FESTIVAL

Sunday May 28, 2023
 2:00 p.m. – New Denmark Rec Centre
Miss New Denmark Crowning and 50/50 draw winner. Donations can be made at the door.

Friday June 16, 2023
 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – New Denmark Rec Centre
Meet & Greet – out of towners wish to share their family history and gain knowledge from area residents or others.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – New Denmark Rec Centre
*Wine/Beverage & Paint Night with Edith - \$40/person (includes all painting materials, canvass, 1 beverage and snacks)
 RSVP – Shelley – shelley1970@outlook.com by June 1, 2023*

9:30 p.m. – Walk - St. Peters Church – New Denmark Museum
Torchlight Parade – bring your own flashlight

10:00 p.m. – New Denmark Museum
Luminary Bags for sale at Museum - \$5.00 each


10:30 p.m. – New Denmark Museum
Fireworks

Saturday June 17, 2023
 8:00a.m – 1:30 p.m. – New Denmark Rec Centre
*Farmer's Market | Games, bouncy sports arena, Balloon Guy, ice cream, popcorn and more....
 Reserve tables at 553-6309 \$10 each*


11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – New Denmark Rec Centre
BBQ Lunch – donated by Hansen's Meats.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – New Denmark Museum – Rec Centre
New Denmark Parade – featuring antique car club, floats and much more...

The Sunday Church program mentions the first five families to arrive in New Denmark. They were:
 Anders Carlsen;
 Lars Clausen;
 Wilhelm Andreasen;
 Hans Peter Lysgaard Petersen; as well as Anders Hansen Toft.



New Denmark 150th Memorial Service



The Original Immigrant House
 Sunday, June 18th, 2023
 by:
 The New Denmark Historical Society



A good turnout out for the 150th Anniversary

The Sunday Memorial Service was conducted by Pastor Jonah Bruce of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. There were greetings from Heather Jensen, President of the New Denmark Historical Society; Maci Butler, the newly crowned Miss New Denmark; Chuck Chaisson, MLA, and Richard Bragdon, MP. Guest Speaker was Brian Perkins. Songs included *O Canada*, *Der er et yndigt land*, *Hils fra mig derhjemme*, *For the Danish Pioneers* and *Det er smukt i Ny Danmark*.

Pass Lake Historical Society celebrates 40th anniversary

Lena Moore, Secretary, Pass Lake Historical Society



The Pass Lake Historical Society celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2023. The founding meeting of the Society had been held on 25 January 1983, when a group of residents led by John Cooney had a vision to collect and preserve their local history by founding the Pass Lake Historical Society. John Cooney was elected president and he saw to it that the society was affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society and then incorporated on December 3, 1983. John served as President until 1992, when June Huston took over the leadership.

In the Danish Federation's 1993 Heritage Book, June Huston wrote about the Society joining the Danish Federation: "In May 1992, several members were invited to meet with Mr. Rolf Buschardt Christensen, president of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, at the home of Bente Sorensen. He had previously been in contact with Bente, who had supplied historical information to the Federation in the past, but this was his first official meeting with the Historical Society. He extended an invitation to the Society to join the Federation as a member and at the June meeting the motion to do so was passed. The idea of becoming part of a larger organization with shared goals and aspirations was appealing."

Pass Lake Country Fair

On Saturday, August 26, 2023 the community of Pass Lake hosted the Pass Lake Country Fair. The event required numerous volunteers to make it a success. Fortunately the weather was perfect and it was well attended, by local residents as well as visitors. It had poured the day before, but on Saturday the sun was shining. A bus was available for attendees to jump on and get off at the gate as parking was only available on the south side of the Pass Lake East Road to prevent traffic congestion. The 20 minute round trip took the attendees back to their vehicles after enjoying a scenic tour of the community by way of the Pass Lake Crossroad.

As you entered the fair, you were greeted by the big red fire truck from the Pass Lake Volunteer Fire Protection Team. Fire Chief Grant was there to demonstrate and let the kids have fun using the fire hose to push a ball across the yard. As well, the Shuniah Emergency vehicle, an Ontario Provincial Police vehicle and a military medical vehicle were present to provide information about their services. A major attraction was the display of about 30 antique and classic automobiles and their extremely proud owners who share an interest in restoration, preservation and the joy of showing their old vehicles. The participants were both locals and from the Lakehead Antique Car Club of Thunder Bay.

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Activities at the fair included: nail hammering and Swede sawing for all ages. The children were kept entertained by a large bouncy castle, face painting by the Clown ladies, a well attended sand pit with toys, toss games, apple bobbing from a string, animal pen of sheep and very popular pony rides. Entertainment on the main stage started with the Thunder Bay Pipe Band followed by a Tai Chi demonstration led by Master Peng You. Music was provided by local musicians Nicole Parisien, Greg Chomut and Becky Kapush with her two girls Autumn and August, which kept the guests entertained.



A few vendors from the area had set up outside, but the majority were inside the Dahl curling rink. Forest rangers from Sleeping Giant Provincial Park attended providing information about the area's wildlife and insect species. Local farm produce from Pass Lake and Hurket were extremely popular. Talented crafters had their wares for sale and social amenities were promoted. Moreover, samples of locally found amethysts were on display and for sale by knowledgeable vendors.



A friendly but very competitive Flea Market Flip was on display. Three teams were given the task of using personal items owned by one of their team members to restore and repurpose within a budget. The requirements were to present three pieces: 1. reinvent an item, 2. transform or refurbish an item, 3. present an industrial design. They were required to come up with a name for their group, create a sign, and document the before and after, with photos. All the items were amazing and very creative. One of great historical interest was a metal panel taken from the

shipping trunk of the Friberg family. The trunk had held their belongings when they moved from Denmark to Pass Lake in 1927. The panel had hung on the wall in their old barn for the past 95 years. The group had taken the panel and framed it in a rustic board from the barn.

The canteen was popular, complete with burgers, hotdogs, corndogs, fries, popcorn and assorted beverages, not to mention the cute lemonade stand. Coffee and bake sale items were enjoyed by guests in the main hall, with all the sweets sold out by the early afternoon. In the evening a food truck offered meals for people who returned for the After Party held in the curling rink. Thunder Bay's top country rock band, "Back Forty" entertained until the wee hours.

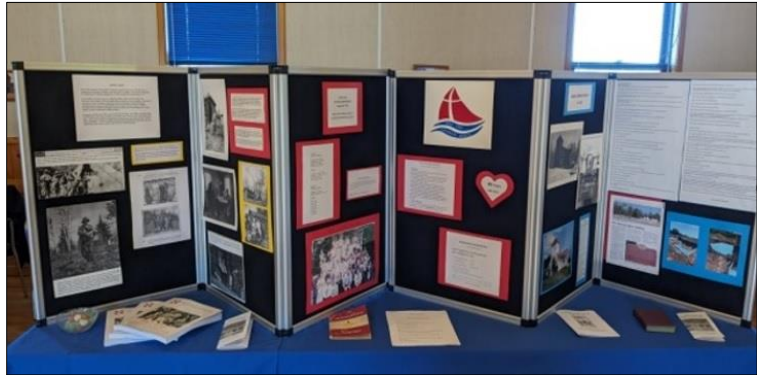


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The Pass Lake Historical Society display was located in the main hall with the Danish flag prominently displayed along with a Danish kranssekage. There were display boards with information and photos about the pioneers and their early years which included logging, the train and trestle, the church, schools and stores. Some books were available to view and purchase. Hanging on the wall was a woman's traditional Danish costume and an area map. A slideshow containing approximately 300 photos attracted a great deal of attention!

Pass Lake will be celebrating 100 years in 2024

At a general meeting of the Society in September 2023, long standing and founding member June Huston stepped down from the Historical Society along with Evelyn Huston and Elsie Burgoyne. Elections were held and elected president was Betty Ann Price, Kirsten Maki as treasurer and Lena Moore as secretary. Inge Grann stayed on as vice president. The first task for the new board was to prepare for the centennial celebration, Pass Lake having been founded as a Danish settlement in 1924. The 2024 Pass Lake Country Fair will be held on August 24 at the Pass Lake Community Hall. The Historical Society will be hosting a Danish celebration on August 25, starting with a special church service at the newly reconstructed Pass Lake Salem Lutheran Church followed by a luncheon at the community hall.



The Pass Lake Historical Society has been working on a 200-page book about the history of Pass Lake. It has been written and compiled by members of the community and commemorates the life of early Pass Lake pioneers as well as their many descendants. The book will be published in time for the centennial.

<p>Danish House Society Scandinavian Community Centre 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 4P9</p>  <p>Join the Members of Danish House the First Friday of Each Month</p>	<p>Club Night — “Kro Aften”</p> <p>“Kro Aften” is a popular social gathering, open to anyone, where we serve famous Danish open-faced sandwiches, dessert and coffee. Wash it down with Snaps & Carlsberg on tap!</p> <p>Starts at 18:30!</p> <p>To be guaranteed a table, please book in advance by e-mail danishhousesociety@gmail.com or phone: Tina Taylor 604-461-3358</p>
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Royal Danish Guards' Association, Eastern Canada

J. Birk Andersen and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Royal Danish Guards' Association of Eastern Canada was founded on March 11, 1958, by eight former guardsmen, who at some point had served with Den Kongelige Livgarde (The Royal Life Guards), a regiment dating back to 1658, when it was founded by King Frederik III. Thus the Royal Danish Guards' Association of Eastern Canada was formed exactly 300 years after the



Birds for bird shooting.

establishment of the regiment, when eight former guardsmen, seven of them living in Ontario, in addition to Wagnerian tenor Lauritz Melchior who lived in California, met to launch the Association. During the first three decades the Association could count as many as 40 members. However, with the decline in immigration from Denmark in the 1970s and the aging of the members, the membership of the Association has over the years severely dwindled.

In its heyday members of the Association would get together five or six times a year, for a Spring Stag, the Queen of Denmark's birthday, an Anniversary Dinner, an Annual Target Shoot, Bird Shooting and, not to forget, Sunset Villa's Danish Constitution Day Celebration, where for years the Association had the honour of carrying in the Danish and Canadian flags, prior to the ceremony on the outdoor stage. Another treasured tradition was to show up at his house when a member turned 65, and then every fifth year thereafter, bringing buns, cold cuts, cheese, beer and snaps.

The annual target shoot was held at Sunset Villa one week after Danish Constitution Day. Bird Shooting (Fugleskydning), organized by the late Herbert Jørgensen, was then held in September. The reason for the abrupt end to the shooting was because of an investigation in 2006 by Sunset Villa's insurance underwriters, due to a couple of fires,. They could not approve the shooting range unless the berms all around

**Fuglekonger
Captain of the Popinjay**

- 1995 Jørgen Kjærholm
- 1996 J. Birk Andersen
- 1997 Flemming M. Hansen
- 1998 Erling J. Nielsen
- 1999 Herbert Jørgensen
- 2000 Åge G. Jensen
- 2001 Erling J. Nielsen
- 2002 J. Birk Andersen
- 2003 John Sørensen
- 2004 Herbert Jørgensen
- 2005 Flemming M. Hansen
- 2006 No shoot
- 2007 J. Birk Andersen
- 2008 Bo Egholm

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were increased considerably, a project the association could not afford. For a couple of years Herbert Jørgensen was able to get another shooting range in Kitchener, but it eventually proved too far to drive for most members.



Target Shooting 2004 0613

Front row from left

Bo Egholm
Jørgen Skeel
Åge G. Jensen
Preben Hansen

Back row from left up & down

J. Birk Andersen
Flemming M. Hansen
Herbert Jørgensen
Frank Engelbrecht's daughter
Frank Engelbrecht low down
Tim Jørgensen, Herbert's son
Wayne Jørgensen, Herb's son
Hank Bangild
Bent Hansen
Jakob Nørgård

Fugleskydning 2005 0910

Front row from left

J. Birk Andersen
Gorm Larsen
Jørgen Skeel

Back row from left

Herbert Jørgensen
Ingo Andersen
Bent Hansen
Flemming M. Hansen



The Royal Danish Guards' Association of Eastern Canada is not the only such association in Canada - or in the world. In Canada there are the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada and the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest, founded in respectively 1944 and 1968. Nevertheless, the first Association formed outside Denmark was founded in New York in 1928 on the initiative of Johan Schmidt, who for several years had served as president of the Guards' Association in Copenhagen (Garderforeningen i København).

Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver

A history by Ib Nielsen and Pia Christensen

The first wave of Scandinavian immigrants to British Columbia came before the turn of the twentieth century. It was, however, the second wave, arriving in the 1920s and the third wave after the Second World War, that established many of the clubs and support organizations within the Scandinavian community in the Vancouver area: social clubs, churches, health benefit associations, credit unions etc. This was also the time when the Scandinavian communities began their individual folk dance clubs. Instruction was usually in the language of the club and few non-Scandinavians participated. There was generally little contact among the Scandinavian dance groups, except for the annual Scandinavian Midsummer



*Ambleside Park, West Vancouver, 1972
Front couple: Irja and Leif Svensson
Middle couple: Anna Eriksson and Tage Pedersen
Back couple: Alice Simard and Knut Walden*

festival held at the Swedish Park in North Vancouver as well as the less important Scandinavian Midwinter Festival. The Swedish Park was expropriated in the early 1970s to make room for the Second Narrows Bridge, which led to the demise of the Festival in North Vancouver.

By the late 1960s, the flow of Scandinavian immigrants became a trickle and membership in the Scandinavian clubs declined, including membership in the dance groups. Ib Nielsen was at that time president of the Danish Canadian Folk Dance Group, which danced in the basement of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver on the corner of East 19th Avenue and Prince Albert Street. Dwindling membership threatened the survival of the club, and Ib was mandated to contact the Swedish dance group with a proposal to amalgamate and create a Scandinavian dance club “like the one in Seattle”, a reference to Skandia Folkdance Club.

Leif and Irja Svensson were the driving forces behind the Swedish Folk Dance Club, Lekstugen, which danced at the Swedish Hall on Hastings Street. They were also experiencing a decline in membership and agreed to try a Scandinavian dance club.

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The new group began dancing in the Danish Church in the fall of 1971. Leif was to teach Swedish dances and Tage Pedersen was to teach Danish dances with instruction in English. In the spring of 1972 the first public performances were given at a trade fair at the PNE (Pacific National Exhibition) and at Ambleside Park in West Vancouver. Music was by Sven Aage Olsen and Ib Nielsen.



Men from left: Tage Pedersen, Knut Walden, Ole Sanders, Leif Svensson, Ib Nielsen and Sven Aage Olsen. Ladies: Irja Svensson, Alice Simard and ?.

Leif Svensson felt that the group would benefit by moving to Burnaby, so the first of many moves was made, to be stymied by renovations and rent increases, which proved to be a recurring theme.

During the early 1970s Anna Eriksson, a new arrival from Sweden, took over the instruction. During this period, dancing and teaching were done exclusively to live music. The dance leader decided on the program, as there was little formal structure to the club, and even the name Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver was more coincidental than made by any formal decision by the dancers. Most of the members were still mainly from the Danish and Swedish communities, with a few Norwegians, and a brief “Finnish phase”.



Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver at Seattle Midsummer Festival, early 1990s.

The 1970s saw in Sweden a shift away from pattern dances and toward traditional village dances: “bygdedans”. Gordon Tracie, the founder of Skandia in Seattle, led this revival movement on the West Coast. Anna Eriksson was so impressed with Gordon’s teaching that she arranged for him to come to Vancouver to give a polska workshop (most polskas are couple turning dances in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and it seems every Swedish village had one).

Laine Ruus took over as instructor in 1973, and the club entered a new era. More non-Scandinavians joined, and the club began using taped music, except for performances (Roland Wik was the first “tape librarian”), and there was a gradual shift –as in Seattle’s Skandia –away from set and pattern dances and towards bygdedances.

In the early 1980s, non-Scandinavian musicians too began to take an interest in the club. Eventually three dance bands evolved, Pickled Herring, a loose-knit group known as the Allspel as well as Gammel Dansk, which is still going strong. All these bands played for occasional regular dance sessions as well as for performances and parties, a pattern which Gammel Dansk continues to this day.

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Scandinavian Dancers at Folklife in Seattle, 1994

For about sixteen years, Laine Ruus's name was synonymous with Scandinavian dancing in Vancouver. Although the club did have an elected executive, it was in reality Laine who took on the lion's share of the work, planning the program, teaching, directing the performance group, looking after costumes, arranging parties and cooking for them. When Laine left, first to live in Sweden and later to take a new job in Toronto, many people wondered if the club would survive. Laine has created, and made available to all, an extensive database of detailed Scandinavian dance descriptions, written by her. The focus is on Danish and Finnish dances.

(<https://laine.artsci.utoronto.ca/folkdans/register.htm#fi>)

Entering Our Third Decade

The club did survive, and entered a new phase with responsibilities spread among many members. Various dancers took turns teaching, and other jobs were shared as well. The group started actively seeking new members in the larger community, and in the fall of 1988 president Bob Redlich and Lynda Burrough started a Friday night group for young people at Sunrise Hall. This group flourished for some years, but by 1994 marriage and children had made some too busy, and job moves took many away, so the remaining members joined the main group.

Club officers also grappled with the difficult question of where to dance. When the Danish Church on East 19th Avenue was sold and the congregation moved to their new church in Burnaby in 1984, the club moved to Douglas Park Community Centre, a facility that was able to provide two rooms for dancing, finally allowing separate instruction for beginners for an hour at the beginning of the evening. After a few years, this facility was renovated and increased their fees, prompting a move to Moberly Park Community Centre, a facility we left in 2000 when renovations and a fee



Musicians preparing in background, Tarja Yrjola and Jarl Christensen, far right Bob Redlich. Dance at Moberly Hall, Vancouver, 1994.

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increase meant yet another move, this time to the Scandinavian Community Centre on Thomas Street in Burnaby, where we are very happy, and close to the five Nordic communities whose clubs are located there.



Country Fair at Dania Home, Burnaby, June 13, 2004.

Front row: Pia Christensen, Judith Anderson, Inge Rasmussen, Lucille Bussey, Darla Hardman, Sandi Marshall, Hanne Andersen and Janet Gabites.

Back row: Raul Segas, Rikke Rytter, Niels Andersen, Clayne Conings, Ed Hidden, Nels Enderberg, Stig Andersen, Kosti Uusikartano and Peter Lozowski.

In 1987 the club held its first Spring Equinox Ball, and thus began an annual tradition which continues to this day, with a three-year break during Covid. It is a dinner-dance event, with three different bands, local and at least one from Seattle. Many people come from Seattle, some from Bellingham and Vancouver Island, and even a few from further afield.

The 1990s were a very active time for the club. The performance group, under the direction of Rikke Rytter, grew to about 20 people, and performed between 15 and 20 performances a year. Some were in care homes, recreation centres such as Century House in New Westminster, some at cultural events like Midsummer in Seattle and locally, at St. Lucia, various Scandinavian constitution days, and some were at large public venues such as the PNE, the Kitsilano Showboat, the European Festival, Folklife in Seattle, and in 2010 the Winter Olympics. We have been very fortunate to have had live music by Gammel Dansk for nearly every performance. Rikke Rytter led the dance group, (including sewing many of the costumes), until 1999, followed by Janet Gabites until 2013, and Pia Christensen from 2013 until Covid struck in March 2020. After Covid, we have substantially cut back on performances, largely due to attrition and age. Those of us who really love Scandinavian dancing are continuing into our 70s and even 80s. At our 50th anniversary party, in December 2021, 100 year old Peter Madsen couldn't resist defying the Covid pandemic restrictions and doing a couple of waltzes.

We have always enjoyed learning dances new to us, and there seems to be an almost unlimited number of Scandinavian dances. For example, there are about 1,000 Danish dances, hundreds of Swedish polskas, numerous Norwegian springars and pols dances, etc. Until Covid, we had a

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workshop every year, often with very knowledgeable teachers from Seattle; sometimes with teachers from other parts of North America; occasionally with teachers from overseas. Some of our members have regularly attended workshops in Alberta, Washington, California, the Eastern United States, and the Scandinavian countries. This has given us interesting challenges and kept us up to date.



*Vancouver Sammenspil:
Janet Gabites (leader), Nancy Giordano, Judith
Anderson, Lynn Erickson, Gunnar Olofsson, Jim Myers,
Rikke Rytter and Niels Andersen, at the Scandinavian
Community Centre, Burnaby, circa 2010.*

The club was kept alive during Covid by dedicated members hosting online Zoom sessions, with dances adapted for singles or couples, dancing in their living room or kitchen. An unforeseen benefit of these sessions was that people from all over North America joined in, and found the social connection with other dancers helpful.

For many years longtime member Lise Shearer, a travel agent, organized large groups to attend Nordlek, a folk music and dance festival that takes place in Norway, Sweden, Denmark or Finland every three years. The groups included many of our members, as well as dancers and musicians from Washington, Oregon, California, and even Hawaii. These exciting events enriched our group by giving us the opportunity to learn some new dances or tunes, to see inspiring performances, and to connect with many other dancers and musicians. Lise Shearer also used to organize ski trips.



*July 1 performance at Castle Park, Port Coquitlam, circa 2012
Back Row: Carolyn Thauberger, Riitta Huttunen, Jarl Christensen, Janet Gabites, Inge
Rasmussen, Ray Bakke, Pia Christensen, Raul Segas, Ron Stubbings, Paul Broste
Front row: Kostti Uusikartano, Judith Anderson, Ib Nielsen and Deborah Jones.*

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Some club members, notably Janet Gabites, have travelled to teach and conduct workshops. Formerly Ross Schipper, Soren Huber and others, have also travelled to give dance workshops.

We have also made two instructional DVDs, which are available via our website. The first, a video of beginner dances, is given to anyone attending our beginner class, and is also available for purchase. The second covers 32 mixer dances (mostly circle dances where partners are changed), and includes two CDs of the music played full length.

It is always special to be able to dance to live music. Bands currently include Gammel Dansk, Sammenspil, the Midsummer Spelmanslag and The Linneas.

For more information about our history and activities, please check our website, created and maintained by Wendy Cutler: <https://vcn.bc.ca/scandi/welcome.html>

For some years now, we have feared that the club's days are numbered, but then new people appear, and they are of course enthusiastically welcomed. A recent Wednesday evening dance in 2023 saw 25 in attendance, including four young people in their twenties. This gives us hope that the Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver will continue to exist for many years to come.



PACIFIC REGION
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Wishes:
THE DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, TORONTO
A successful Conference in 2024

Vancouver Island Danish-Canadian Club; Danish Social Club of Victoria;
Danish Brotherhood of America, Lodge 328; Danish House Society;
Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver; Royal Danish Guards Association;
Dania Society & Dania Home Society; Scandinavian Cultural Society

Uniting for Reconciliation

Samantha Wills-Wilson, Programming Assistant, Dickson Store



At the end of September 2023, the Dickson Store Museum in Dickson, Alberta, made a progressive move by creating and hosting an exhibition during Canada's National Truth and Reconciliation weekend. The exhibition was about Dickson's pioneer heritage and how it intersects with the long history of Indigenous Canadians and the land.

The Museum unveiled a land acknowledgement statement during the exhibition. It was made in the spirit of reconciliation and is now included in the Museum's online presence and communication materials. It reads:

"We at the Dickson Store Museum acknowledge that we learn, live and honour history, on Treaty Six land and the Métis ancestral land. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived in and cared for these lands for generations. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting. We are ALL Treaty People."

The Dickson Store Museum acknowledges its lack of authority on the subject but wanted to highlight the history of the land before the arrival of Danish settlers in 1903 and the naming of Dickson in 1905. Being in an agricultural area, our community understands the intrinsic value of the land, which is also a matter dear to the people of Treaty Six.

The exhibition focused on the area's ecology, the plants and animals that once and still do inhabit the area, alongside information about Treaty Six, its peoples and the early settlers. The Museum presented questions for contemplation throughout the exhibition, but one in particular that stood out was sourced from *Aspenland 1998* from author W. Bruce McGillivray and stated:

"Does it matter that there is little land left that is as our ancestors discovered it? Surely, as much as our museums and archives tell us our sense of place, so too does the character of the land. Do we teach our children to recognize their land and distinguish it from other places? How is a sense of place born? Perhaps our memories cheat, and modified landscapes can serve as our land. Can a golf course fill the bill? Once the last patch of native fescue grasses in the Parkland is ploughed or the last slough drained, we may find out." (p.100)

The first part of the Dickson Store Museum exhibition briefly featured the hamlet's history along with historical maps detailing the early explorers and surveyors' journey through what is now Alberta, as well as maps created during the 1800s by Blackfoot peoples that were given to these explorers. The exhibition then described the circumstances of the signing of Treaty Six and the details of the treaty were explained underneath their land acknowledgment statement.

ORGANIZATIONS

As visitors moved through the exhibition, they were greeted with an array of images, titles, and information about various plants and animals local to the area. The title of each item was rendered in English, the Blackfoot language and Danish; this provided the visitors a chance to see how interconnected the subject matter was with the Museum's Danish heritage. The information was sourced online from Blackfoot resources and featured the most prominent uses of each plant and animal in Blackfoot culture. This included but was not limited to information about the bison, beaver, chokecherry, birch tree, saskatoon berry, and wild rose. There were also two different petrified pemmican specimens on display. Pemmican has historically been a very important part of Indigenous cuisine and early explorer life. It was a calorie-rich food consisting of a mixture of tallow, dried meat, and sometimes dried berries.

The last part of the exhibition showed a painting by celebrated Canadian landscape artist Holly Dyrland. It depicted an open prairie featuring a herd of roaming bison amidst golden grassy plains between bunches of spruce, pine and birch trees. This painting acted as a powerful backdrop to the tool-like rocks on display that had been sourced and were on loan from farming families in the local community. The rocks had been found when the plows first hit the ground and turned the soil so many years ago. The rocks were placed beside a pioneer-aged plow and an advertisement from the Dickson General Stores' original owner. The advertisement was printed in the *Rocky Mountain House Echo* newspaper on October 1, 1910, and featured a particular phrase, "One Price To All". This statement, undoubtedly made by store owner Carl Christiansen over one hundred years ago, was powerful to see considering that the *Rocky Mountain House Echo* would have been accessed by many Indigenous peoples. This statement was made at a time when discrimination and animosity towards the Indigenous community were high, and Carl Christiansen was clearly stating that the Dickson General Store had no room for that kind of prejudice.



*Tool-like rocks and
'Foothill's Roaming Bison Herd'
by Holly Dyrland.*

As visitors completed the journey through the exhibition, they were reminded of our history's deep connection to the land, the relationship between our environment and community, even today, and just how intertwined our histories are.



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

Exciting Expansion Planned for the Danish Canadian National Museum

The Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta has been planning an expansion for the site for many years. Due to the extremely generous donation from Granly Church, an expansion is much closer to reality. The Building Committee has been hard at work for the past two years creating plans to best meet the needs of the Museum for many years to come.

Why do we need to expand the Museum? The Museum's collection is over 5000 items, many of which cannot be displayed at the present time due to lack of exhibit space. Additionally, the Museum is running out of archival storage space and is not able to accept many more items for the collection. New shelving was installed last year to stretch the space, but that will soon be full. Additionally, the Saga Café is a popular attraction, and the 1933 kitchen is stretched beyond its capacity. The Café generates important operating funds to keep the museum viable.

The expansion is planned in two stages. The first will be the construction of a new Saga Café and dining area. This 3200 square foot space will house a commercial kitchen, dining area for 80 guests and a stunning patio overlooking the pond, church, Naust and our Mermaid. The basement will contain much needed storage space and a meeting room which can be rented.

The second stage will convert the existing kitchen and café in the Verbena Dormitory to exhibit space. The basement administration offices and kitchen storage areas will be converted into additional archival storage areas.



View of main entrance to the Granly Hall which will face the north parking lot.

How Can You Help Expand the Museum?

The Museum is extremely grateful for the donation from the Granly Church, but we need your help to make this dream become a reality. Please consider giving generously to ensure the history of Danish Canadians is preserved for future generations.

Granly Hall Expansion Sponsorship

Donor names will be displayed on wall plaques in the new building.

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Oak	The tree of kings	\$2000
Teak	The tree of strength to last for decades	\$5000

Visit <https://www.danishcanadianmuseum.com/general-1> for updates and to donate.



View of the Granly Hall dining deck and deck connection to the Verbena Dormitory.

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A Taste of Denmark in Toronto

Knud Westergaard (1937 – 2018), Toronto, March 2012

Looking back there were a handful of Danish restaurants in the city of Toronto when I came to Canada in 1975 to take over the Danish Cheese Association's activities in Canada, which also included the operation of the Danish Food Centre and its Copenhagen Room Restaurant. At the time there were also about a dozen Danish bakeries in Toronto as well as a handful of Danish delicatessen and meat stores.

Immigration from Denmark had largely been in the 1950s and Danish immigrants would naturally seek out these Danish business establishments. But soon these Danish products were also in demand by the general public. In those days the importation of cheese was not regulated by the import quotas which later were introduced by the federal government to protect the Canadian dairy products supply management system. At that time most of the cheese imported into Canada came from Denmark, beating all other competitors. Holland, Italy, Switzerland, the United States and France all had a smaller share of the cheese market than Denmark. Danish dairy farmers had a keen interest in the lucrative North American market. So in about 1965 they stationed an export advisor in Toronto to be in charge of marketing and promotion activities for Danish dairy products and in general representing the Danish dairy industry. In 1974 cheese from Denmark totalled 16.1 per cent of total cheese imports into Canada and our market share was growing rapidly.

The primary activities to promote sales were at the point of sale in the stores through cheese demonstration activities by "Karoline girls" and through contacts with importers from coast to coast by representatives stationed in the main cities in Canada. As a part of the marketing strategy the Danish dairy farmers also decided to open a food centre and restaurant in Toronto, where the major market was concentrated.

The idea was very well thought out by the shrewd farmers, "If we get people to come and try our cheese in a restaurant owned by us, where we can control the quality and presentation, and pay for it themselves, we will get a promotion which does not cost us anything but even might give a profit and contribute to our other promotional activities, considering it is done right, and run well!"

They found an excellent entrepreneur to represent and manage their activities in Canada. His name was Svend Petersen. On February 22, 1971, actually on his birthday, he opened the Danish Food Centre and its Copenhagen Room Restaurant at 101 Bloor Street West, one of the best locations in Toronto. This thus became the bridgehead for Danish agricultural products into Canada.

I was employed by the Danish Dairy Board in Aarhus when I was asked to take over after Svend Petersen, upon his retirement in 1975. Prior to that, I had for ten years been the Far East Regional Manager of the Danish Agricultural Marketing Board stationed in Tokyo and Hong Kong. So in 1975 I came to Toronto with my Japanese wife, Yoneko, and our young first born son Peter.

The location was truly a choice spot on a main shopping street. The up-scale retail outlet of the firm Georg Jensen, owned by Mogens Styrup, selling Danish furniture, Danish design giftware and Royal Copenhagen porcelain, was located on the corner of Bloor Street West and St. Thomas Street, opposite to the Danish Food Centre. Next to Georg Jensen was one of the leading restaurants in town, “Le Provençal”, and next to the Copenhagen Room Restaurant was another of the leading restaurants in town, “The Three Small Rooms” of the Windsor Arms Hotel on St. Thomas Street.

From the start the Copenhagen Room Restaurant received a liquor license, which was quite unusual at the time. The quality and uniqueness of the establishment soon made it well known in Toronto. It became a very popular place to have lunch. Customers lined up for half an hour or more to get in, even though there were 126 seats in the downstairs restaurant and about half of that in the bistro type café upstairs in the Danish Food Centre. There were many prominent restaurant guests. In 1977, Danish Prime Minister Anker Jørgensen, on an official visit to Canada invited the Ontario Government to a Danish lunch at the restaurant. The guests also included Hans Tabor, the Danish ambassador to Canada.

After a few years of negotiations with the L.C.B.O., the first outside boulevard café liquor license in Toronto was received by the Danish Food Centre. The café became a very popular spot for people-watching in the summer time and with its outdoor liquor license blazed a new trail for the restaurant scene in Toronto.



Six chefs (kokke og smørrebrødsjomfruer), waiters and the restaurant management came over from Denmark and were assisted by a large local staff, working in shifts from early morning until often past midnight. Besides the restaurant and café, catering activities and food deliveries outside the establishment could also be provided. A street level delicatessen and food store with take-out were part of the operation. In total, we employed over 60 people. We only closed on Sundays, for cleaning and renovation of the operation.

The first executive chef and restaurant manager was a Dane by the name of Jørn Andersen, who returned to Denmark for a career in SAS (Scandinavian Airlines). He was followed by Rudolf Nielsen, who left to start his own Danish restaurant in Toronto. The restaurant was then managed by Bjørn Ivan Rasmussen, who became a lecturer, and later a professor in restaurant management at George Brown College. For many years, the managers were Kristian B. Overbye and Tom Abrahamsen. Unfortunately both have passed on.

Among the many outstanding executive chefs were Tom Abrahamsen and Jørgen Berlin, who died much too young, as well as Jakkup Mikkelsen and Torben Budde. The Danish pantry chefs (smørrebrøds-jomfruer) were all professional and hard-working, among them were Birthe Boulaich, Ulla Lind Rasmussen, Grethe Volpe and Erika Jensen Øer.

Gunnar Fuglsang was for many years the Danish Food Centre Manager, but he suffered a nasty car accident and his sweet and much liked second-in-command, Karen Corrigan, capably took over. The Food Centre has also been well managed by Jørgen Berlin's wife Sally Berlin and by Rudolf Nielsen's sister Eva Nielsen, who left to teach home economics and now operates a bed and breakfast in Niagara Falls. There were many other great ladies working there, such as Gunnar Fuglsang's wife Martha Fuglsang and Herdis Andersen, just to mention two.

"Upstairs", Erika McLeod, later Erika Overbye, was treasurer in charge of operations; Helene Olsen, who is now vice consul at the Danish Consulate General in Toronto, was assistant treasurer; and Eva Pickett was my helpful administrative assistant and secretary.

The aim was to bring a taste of Denmark to Toronto and to feature Danish cheeses, of which there were then more than 50 varieties of many brands and from many dairies. Deep-fried Danish Camembert with runny honey still hot from the fryer and served with black-current jam was introduced to Canada by the Copenhagen Room Restaurant, and became very popular and on the menu of many restaurants here.

"Steak Bleu Danois", a superbly grilled Filet Mignon stuffed with Danish Blue cheese and served with Bordelaise Sauce with a touch of Danablu, as well as "Pariserbøf" and the "Starburst" fish combination sandwich also were very popular.

Amongst the 59 open face sandwiches offered on a nearly one meter long sandwich list menu, the shrimp sandwiches, Danish style roast beef with remoulade sauce, gravlaks with dill and mustard sauce, Danish herrings, and roast chicken with cucumber salad – as well as of course the deep fried Danish camembert - were bestsellers. The combination plates were popular, and Danes coming to the restaurant often just wanted to have "Frikadeller" (Danish meat balls) and red cabbage or "Hakkebøf" (ground beef patty) with soft fried onions, if not "Pariserbøf" (slightly fried tartar).

To make the Danish tradition complete, cold Danish beer, Danish soft drinks (sodavand) and no less than ten different Danish bitters and akvavit with the bottles encased in ice were available. You could also indulge in a glass of "Peter Heering" and "Pirate – Black Current Rum" from Denmark with your deep fried camembert or dessert.

Outstanding Danish pastry, cakes and bread were supplied early every morning to the food centre and restaurant by Danish Style Bake Shop and Delicatessen on Kingston Road near Victoria Park, owned by Jennifer and Bjarne Hansen. Needless to say, Danish pastry, "wienerbrød" and "kransekage", were much in demand.

You ate on hand painted Royal Copenhagen porcelain plates and were served by waiters in tux and black tie. The formal restaurant featured Danish architect Poul Henningsen's famous "cone" lamps, Danish oil paintings as well as large photo murals from Copenhagen. In the small room typical Danish shop signs were displayed hanging from the ceiling. An indoor fountain with a full size replica of the Little Mermaid was another focal point of the restaurant.

The Danish lunch became very popular, with about 75 per cent of the guests coming for lunch. To increase the evening business, we started to feature "Det store kolde bord" (a traditional Danish buffet) each Tuesday evening. That night we also featured musical entertainment by a strolling accordionist and sing-along from a Copenhagen Room Songbook, inspired by the happenings at some Danish establishments like "De tre makreler" in Aabenraa and "Vin og Ølgod" in Copenhagen. The Danish buffet night was popular, so a reservation was necessary.

However, in 1973 Denmark became a member of the European Community, now European Union, together with Britain and Ireland, and throughout the years thereafter the Danish dairy industry developed, changed and amalgamated to such an extent that instead of more than a thousand dairies and about 30,000 dairy farmers, eventually the Danish dairy industry would consist of less than 30 dairies and 7,000 dairy farmers; at the same time producing more dairy products than ever.

One dairy operation, a co-op, Arla Foods as it is known today, came to control about 90 per cent of the Danish dairy industry. The Danish Dairy Board was reorganized and consequently all of its offices and activities outside Denmark were reduced at the beginning of the 1990s.

The operation in Canada was closed in 1991, at the same time as the second of the ten year leases of the premises for the Danish Food Centre and its Copenhagen Room Restaurant in Toronto expired. I was offered to take over the business, but the rent for the next ten years would more than quadruple, as Cole Haan, an American upscale shoe designer and leather business, wanted to take over the lease of this prime location on Bloor Street West. It would not be possible to operate a restaurant and store at this location with that level of rent, and it proved impossible to find another suitable location, so the Danish Food Centre and its Copenhagen Room Restaurant were closed.



Grethe Volpe, Danish Food Centre manager and Knud Westergaard, 1989

It was lamented when the Food Centre and Restaurant closed in January 1991 and bewailed in the newspapers as the death of a landmark in Toronto. For many years, people coming to town had gone to that address or phoned to find out where that special restaurant had relocated.

The Styrup family closed the Georg Jensen store less than three years later, as its number of customers and turnover had fallen dramatically. The two Danish businesses on the “Danish Corner” of Bloor Street West and St. Thomas Street had helped draw customers to each other. As it was mentioned at that time in an article in *The Globe and Mail*, it meant the end of an era.

There are many happy memories from the twenty years this establishment operated in Toronto. Many people have been introduced to Danish food and the pleasures of dining the Danish way in a friendly and relaxing atmosphere, that is, with *hygge*.

As mentioned above, there were other Danish restaurants in Toronto. Just to list a few of them:

1. There was the leading seafood house in town, ‘The Mermaid Seafood Restaurant’, which opened in 1964 and was located on Bay Street, where there was a special Friday lunch table for Danes, and ably run by John and Inge Lundager. It later relocated to Dundas Street West in front of the AGO.

FYI

2. There was the also very popular ‘Vikings Dining Room’ and its ‘Stable Bar’, located at No. 5 Nicolas Street with an entrance also on Yonge Street just north of Wellington Street, established in 1962 by Frank Hansen and serving a marvelous roast duckling with red cabbage.
3. Later the ‘Red Erik Restaurant’ at Bloor Street West and Spadina, was operated and established by Rudolf Nielsen.
4. You could also eat Danish and eat well at the “Holger Danske” on Yonge Street north of Sheppard in North York, established by Tom Abrahamsen.
5. Also, ‘Tastefully Done’ on Elm Street, owned and operated by Torben Budde, both previous executive chefs at the Copenhagen Room Restaurant;
6. And lastly, in Etobicoke Paul Hansen opened up the ‘Little Denmark Restaurant’ in Eringate, close to the airport.

Sadly, all of these fine establishments are now gone and sorely missed. But they are a part of the Danish history of Toronto. This article is in commemoration of them as well as a tribute to them.

Adapted from post of April 1, 2012 by Corey Mintz at,
[tps://porkosity.blogspot.com/2012/04/torontos-danish-cuisine.html](https://porkosity.blogspot.com/2012/04/torontos-danish-cuisine.html)

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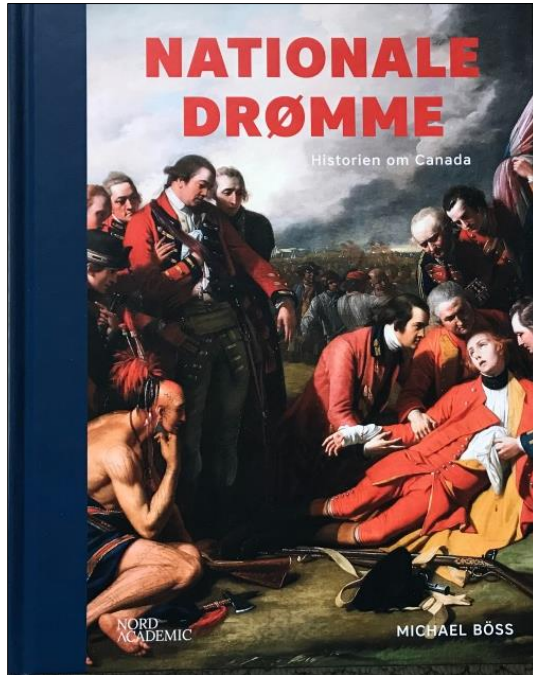
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Nationale Drømme

A history of Canada in Danish by Prof. Michael Böss, Aarhus

Since this book about the history of Canada is in Danish it will be read by more people in Denmark than in Canada. A first impression will be that Canada's history



is definitely not boring. This book is exciting and dramatic, indeed a page-turner. This is above all due to the approach taken by Michael Böss, Professor emeritus of History and Canadian Studies at Aarhus University.

The title of the book *Nationale Drømme* (National Dreams) gives away his approach, where he investigates and explores the visions, that is, the national dreams of the First Nations, the national dreams of French-speaking Canadians and not least the national dreams of English-speaking Canadians, as they have evolved over time. These dreams are not identical, and can therefore cause great tension and will sometimes forcefully collide, even bringing the future of Canada as a nation into question, such as in the second Quebec referendum on sovereignty in 1995, which was defeated by less than one percent (50.58% to 49.42%).

All the various dreams have changed over time. At one point English-speaking people wanted Canada to remain a part of the British Empire and were extremely proud to be British subjects.

In 1867 both Sir John A. Macdonald and George-Étienne Cartier feared annexation by the United States and argued that the various British colonies would be stronger and more resilient if they joined together, in the process gaining various political and economic benefits, including the ability and possibility to expand westward right to the Pacific Ocean. Confederation thus provided a new dream, Canada, which demanded citizens of the new entity to adjust their identity and nationality.

Michael Böss studied Canada because he is enormously interested in identity and nationalism. The book therefore focuses on numerous academic subjects, such as immigration, assimilation, multiculturalism, the repatriation of the Constitution, the Canadian Bill of Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Meech Lake Accord and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *Nationale Drømme* is also a frightening book as you cannot help wondering if Canada will remain, more or less, one united country, or will it at some point break up.

Review by Rolf Buschardt Christensen.

Eight Questions for Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen

Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen and his family returned to Denmark in the summer of 2023 after nearly five eventful years in Toronto, where he served at the Danish Lutheran Church. Before returning to Denmark, we asked him these questions:

1. Why did you apply to become the pastor at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto?

I became a pastor at the Danish Church in Toronto for several reasons. My family and I wanted an adventure and an everyday life together in an exciting country and city. I also wanted to try being a pastor in a different way than I had been in Denmark, and I did that in a very committed congregation that cares about their church and community. It has been some very educational years for all of us, where our hopes for our stay in Canada were fulfilled - and much more than that!

2. What did you learn about being a Lutheran in Canada? Compared to being a Lutheran in Denmark?

In Denmark, the Lutheran Church (Folkekirken) is the majority church. In Canada the Lutheran Church is a minority church - one of many churches. This means Lutheran identity and roots are perhaps more important in Canada than Denmark - especially in an immigrant church like the Danish Church. We have a rich tradition of singing hymns in Denmark, and it has been very educational both to sing Danish hymns in English and to learn English-language hymns I didn't know before. So what I learned was an awareness of my Lutheran roots, and it became clear to me that we, as Danish Lutherans, are very fortunate.

3. How are Danes in Canada different from Danes in Denmark?

There isn't much that separates Danes in Canada from Danes in Denmark. They are similar in many ways and want to be together because it's "hyggeligt." Danes in Canada are more aware of their Danish roots and the good things Denmark stands for and is known for worldwide.

4. How did your stay in Canada affect your children?

Our children had great experiences travelling to and living in Canada. All three of them went to school and received excellent educations. The two oldest graduated from High School in Toronto; our son managed to study for a year at a university. Today, our youngest is in an English-language school in Denmark because she is more fluent in English than Danish. So, our children have learned the English language, made lifelong Canadian friends with roots worldwide, and seen that the world is more extensive and diverse than we experience it in Denmark. They have become good skiers and sound drivers because they obtained a driver's license when they turned sixteen.

5. Has your stay in Canada changed you?

YES! Living almost five years in Canada leaves its marks, as a family, as a person and professionally. I have a new country and city to call home. I've made new friends and had experiences on a grand scale - in Toronto and the rest of Canada. And it's rewarding to travel and live in a new country and then look at Denmark and be reminded of how privileged Danes are.

6. What do you think you'll miss most about Canada when you leave?

I will miss many things about Canada: For example, the church and congregation in Toronto, my daily work there and celebrating services with the congregation. I will miss the clubs, preparing and executing the bazaars, and the family events. I will also miss being in the beautifully updated sanctuary we made with the new paintings, furniture and lamps. I am proud that the board made it so great in that room. My family and I will miss Toronto, our hometown's culture, concerts and many opportunities. We also miss nature and being able to ski every weekend and experience Ontario's vast wilderness and forests. I will miss my trips to Ottawa and our vacations around Canada (we didn't see all of it and will be back). I will miss my cooperation with the Danish Federation organizations, the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the people at the Embassy and Consulate. And I miss Tim Hortons on every corner and their black, cheap, great coffee. And, of course, all of us miss the good friends we made.



7. What is the future of the Danish Churches in Canada? What do they have to do to survive?

The church must not take itself for granted. If it does, it can quickly close in on itself, and new people will not come into the community – therefore, it's essential to reach out and make yourself visible in many contexts. The church must make an effort with its core tasks when celebrating services, baptisms, weddings and funerals; this is where the church is essential for people, during significant transitions in their lives. Teaching Danish and Danish traditions and values is crucial. As well, the Danish churches have – together with the embassy, consulate and Danish organizations in Canada – a particular task: to build bridges to Denmark for the Danes in Canada – but also to build bridges to Denmark for Canadians in general.

8. What will you be doing in Denmark?

In the long run, I would like to be a pastor again. But I've returned to Denmark for a job as project manager for the Danish Church Days: "Himmelske Dage - Kirkernes Folkemøde 2025". It's a big church event for 15,000 people in May 2025 in Silkeborg. Danes in Canada are welcome to participate – read more at: www.himmelskedage.dk

Queen Margrethe II of Denmark abdicates Crown Prince becomes King Frederik X

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

In her televised New Year's Eve speech to the nation Queen Margrethe II made an unexpected announcement, which took the people of Denmark by complete surprise. She announced that she would be abdicating on January 14, 2024. The Queen explained that after she had undergone major back surgery in February 2023 [she had been unable to resume her duties until April], she began to think about the future and when to pass on her responsibilities as monarch. She came to the conclusion that now was the right time, and without telling anyone she decided to abdicate. She chose the date January 14, as that was the date in 1972, 52 years earlier that she had been proclaimed Queen, after the death of her father, King Frederik IX.

The announcement came as a shock, but many Danes understood her decision, in spite of the fact that there is no tradition of abdicating in Denmark. A Danish monarch reigns until death.



*Queen Margrethe II of Denmark signing the abdication documents at Christiansborg Palace on January 14, 2024.
Photo by Mads Claus Rasmussen, Ritzau Scanpix.*

In her speech the Queen thanked everyone for the overwhelming warmth and support that she had received over the years, from changing governments, Parliament, and the many people she had met at special events, as well as in everyday life. She ended her speech by saying she hopes the new royal couple will be met with the same trust and affection that she had received.

The Queen formally signed her abdication papers on Sunday, January 14, at a meeting of the

Council of State, consisting of all cabinet ministers and the monarch, who chaired the meeting, held at Christiansborg Palace, which houses the Royal Reception Rooms, the Danish Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office and the Supreme Court.

The moment the Queen signed the declaration of her abdication, the popular Crown Prince became King Frederik X of Denmark. Queen Margrethe then asked the King to take the chair, symbolizing the change. The last thing she said was, "God save the King." The Queen then left the hall, walking slowly, supported by her cane.

Then at precisely 3 pm the new King stepped out on the balcony of Christiansborg Palace, and was greeted by a sea of happy Danes waving flags. The square in front of Christiansborg as well as the side streets and the bridges across the canal were packed with people and it was nearly impossible to move. The Ritzau news agency estimates that about 174,000 people jammed the square and nearby bridges and streets, while the total is close to 300,000 if the people along the parade route and Amalienborg Palace are included. The King was visibly moved by the massive show of support and affection, taking deep breaths and wiping tears from his eyes, while waving to the crowd.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen then stepped out on the balcony and announced that Queen Margrethe II had abdicated and then proclaimed that King Frederik X was Denmark's new monarch. The crowd cheered loudly, above all when the King was joined by Queen Mary and their four children. A highlight was certainly when just the King and Queen appeared alone on the balcony, looked into each other's eyes and then kissed.



*King Frederik X and Queen Mary on balcony of Christiansborg Palace, Copenhagen, Sunday, January 14, 2024.
Photo by Hanne Juul, Aller Foto, Copenhagen.*

After the proclamation King Frederik X and Queen Mary were driven home to Amalienborg Place through the streets of Copenhagen in a beautiful closed horse-drawn carriage, which dates back to 1892, pulled by six white horses. Lights had been installed inside the carriage so it was possible for people along the parade route to see the royal couple inside the carriage. After arriving at Amalienborg Palace the just-proclaimed King and his family then appeared on the balcony facing the Castle Square, waving to the joyous crowd of well-wishers below.

Immediately in the wake of Queen Margrethe announcing her abdication, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen had issued a statement in which she extended on behalf of the entire nation a heartfelt thank you to her Majesty the Queen for her lifelong dedication and tireless efforts for the Kingdom. Mette Frederiksen mentioned how the duty and position of regent had been passed down for more than 1,000 years, from one monarch to the next. She pointed out that many, including herself, had never known another regent. She ended by saying that Queen Margrethe is the epitome of Denmark, and throughout the years has put words and feelings into who we are as a people and as a nation.

2023 Nanaimo Conference

Vikings on the Island

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The 2023 Danish Canadian Conference was held at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island from Thursday, May 25 to Sunday, May 28. Over 50 delegates represented the various member organizations of the Danish Federation. The host of the conference was the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club which had chosen the theme: Vikings on the Island. They came. They saw. They stayed.



Group photo of the Conference delegates near the Bastion. Sitting holding the red bag is Tom Hedekar.

Due to the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, which arrived in Canada in March 2020, the Danish Federation had not been able to hold an in-person conference since 2019 in Winnipeg. During the pandemic Canadians would each day follow the daily update on the pandemic to learn how many Canadians were infected, how many were hospitalized and how many had died.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

A vast majority of Canadians quickly donned masks and were eager to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Restrictions were put in place, schools and businesses were closed, people avoided public spaces, as well as gatherings with family and friends. The pandemic was much more than a health crisis. The pandemic changed how we work and live. All Danish organizations across Canada had to adapt to the new reality and many did not have in-person gatherings for about two years. A good number of organizations held Zoom meetings on the internet. And three times the Nanaimo Club, in agreement with the Danish Federation, postponed the annual conference.

The concern regarding holding the conference in-person was, would the restaurant at the hotel be open, would airports and airlines be operating, and how many delegates were likely to attend. What would the conference cost? Yet, these concerns could not just continue and hold us back. So in the fall of 2022, with a steady easing of restrictions, it was decided to go ahead with the conference.



Group photo: In front of The Monarch of Cathedral Grove. Tom Hedekar, our guide, is on the far right.

The conference organizing committee was headed by Tom Hedekar, president of the Nanaimo Club. Finally on May 25, he bid all the delegates welcome to the conference at the Nanaimo Museum. The delegates all received a Conference Kit which included a Heritage Book and a beautiful, knitted Viking helmet, handmade by members of the Nanaimo Club. Welcome remarks were made by Tom Hedekar, Danish Ambassador Hanne Fugl Eskjær, the Hon. Lisa Marie Baron, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Ladysmith, and Federation President Rolf Christensen.

Friday morning the Danish Canadian National Museum held its Annual General Meeting. Museum President Connie Swarbrick presented her Annual Report, while Doreen Soderberg gave the Manager's Report, Cheri Vohs presented the Financial Statements, and Ellen Bonde the

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Secretary's Report. Vice-President Svend E. Nielsen discussed the plans for the Museum's expansion and handed out a pamphlet developed for fundraising.

Friday afternoon was spent on Newcastle Island, now renamed Saysutshun, where Bill Merilees spoke about the history of the island. In the evening the Danish Canadian Museum gave a presentation and held a live and a silent auction. Meanwhile, the Nanaimo Club had arranged prizes for the best Danish outfit or Viking costume, with the judges accepting bribes!

Saturday morning the Danish Federation held its Annual General Meeting, chaired by Ed Kuhlman, where each member organization gave an annual report. The elections to the executive were chaired by Svend E. Nielsen, and elected were Rolf Christensen, Ed Kuhlman, Lisa Olsen and Sune Overgaard, as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Sune Overgaard presented the Danish Federation's finances as well as the Reviewer's Report. After, Gerda Andersen was reappointed Reviewer for the coming year. In his Annual Report the president mentioned that Svend Berg of Montreal, one of the founders of the Danish Federation, had passed away, and that Granly, the Danish Church in Surrey, B.C., had closed. On a happier note he mentioned that last year New Denmark could celebrate its 150th anniversary, while The Danish Club of Montreal could commemorate its 100th anniversary, both celebrations, however, being postponed to this year.



Tom Hedekar hands Fane to Sune Overgaard.

At the Saturday lunch Rolf Christensen launched his book *Cape Scott Pioneer. The Life and Times of Carl Brinck Christensen*, about the attempt to establish a Danish colony on the tip of northern Vancouver Island. Tom Hedekar emphasized how the book fitted in with the conference theme.

Saturday evening the Nanaimo Club hosted Det Store Kolde Bord at Bowen Park, with over 100 people in attendance at the large community centre. Two former guardsmen from the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Kenneth Olsen and Knud Nielsen, carried in the Canadian and Danish flags and the two national anthems were sung. There were door prizes, a presentation by the Guards as well as the band The Doctors of Rock & Roll, who got everyone out on the dance floor.

Sunday morning there was a bus tour to Cathedral Grove where some of the largest and tallest trees in the world are found. A group photo was taken in front of The Monarch of Cathedral Grove. The bus also stopped at Little Qualicum Falls, a winding waterfall in the hilly forest. After the tour it was back to the hotel for the Farewell Lunch and Closing Ceremony. Tom Hedekar thanked all the delegates for coming. Rolf Christensen also thanked the delegates and pointed out that the Conference was held not just to conduct business, but to socialize, network and have fun. Tom Hedekar then handed the Danish Federation Fane and Mailbox over to Sune Overgaard, the president of the Danish Church of Toronto, the next Conference host. That concluded a busy and successful conference, and all the delegates left motivated and with renewed energy.



Reports from the Member Organizations

Submitted at the 2023 Nanaimo Conference or submitted by request

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

I am pleased to report that the New Denmark Historical Society/Museum is getting back on track after a bumpy few years steering our way through the pandemic. Because we weren't able to fundraise during that period, we are trying to get back on our feet. That being said, we are busy gearing up for our big celebration from June 16-18, 2023, celebrating our Founders Day. There will be a family dance, parade, many activities for children and of course the Memorial Service on the Museum grounds with guest speaker Brian Perkins. As you know, New Denmark is the oldest Danish Community in Canada and it is imperative that our little Museum remains robust in our community.

Sincerely, Heather Jensen, President

Report presented at the Conference:

Due to Covid the New Denmark Historical Society was not operational in 2022, the year we should have celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the founding of New Denmark. But we came alive at the beginning of 2023. Incidentally, some members of the Danish Pond Hockey Team, who were in New Brunswick for the World Championships, dropped by for a visit in February. I believe the Historical Society will enter a state of rebuilding and rebranding this year. There have been some issues, details of which we will skip at this point. However, what is important is that we have a group of people who are dedicated to reviving the historical society. Much community work to gain trust must take place to see this vision through with new members and volunteers, and getting old members back. After conversations with older residents of New Denmark, and the community being revived with our upcoming 150th celebration, I have no doubt that the New Denmark Historical Society will continue. Not only will it survive, but it will be better, and do better. I fully plan on being an integral part of that. I hope to connect with the community at our events to discuss my intentions, my commitment and thus attempt to gain the community's trust, as well as vote at the crucial July 2023 Meeting of the Society. I am the President of the 150th Founders Day committee. We are planning an event above and beyond what has been done in the past. Our focus is very much family oriented. As a community we face several challenges. First of all, our community is shrinking. Moreover, kids do not seem to get involved anymore. Finding a balance between maintaining our traditions and keeping it "cool", so to say, is a challenge. We

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want kids to come to our events. We want them to remember these events as fun in terms of their view of “fun”. To me, to that is how the next generation will pass the torch, operating the Historical Society and its Museum as well as organizing community events. We have opened our Society and our events to the surrounding communities. Not all residents of New Denmark are of Danish background, and people in the surrounding communities are not Danish. But that does not mean we cannot get together and share our common local heritages. We are proud to share our history and our Danish food and traditions with them!

Respectfully submitted, Shelley Partanen

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

There were substantial changes in the Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc. this past year. Ole Larsen stepped down as President at the April 20th AGM. In his place, Vice President Nis-Anker Weuge Jessen was elected unanimously. Ole agreed to continue to serve as the DCS representative to FDAC and he plans to attend the next FDAC conference in Toronto in May 2024. Another long-term Board member was replaced at the AGM as our Secretary Anne Jørgensen has moved to Halifax to be with her son and his family. Fortunately for the DCS, Sarah Christensen agreed to step into her place. Not only does Sarah have outstanding computer skills, but she is also a whiz in the kitchen having a great deal of practice under the tutelage of her *bedste*. Her father, Bob Christensen, will continue as Treasurer. Our new Board members, namely Katinka Rubin as Vice President and Rikke-Louise Baur as Director, agreed to help Sarah with the Danish elements of our newsletter. Christiane Eid and Bodil Jelhof Jensen complete the Board. Liette Chenier had decided to step down as Director after serving several terms, but agreed to continue to help as a very active volunteer in the DCS which was a relief considering her prowess as a cook that includes *kransekage* and a wicked *citronfromage*, not to forget that she speaks fluent Danish. The Board seems well positioned to repeat its successes of the last year and to expand its horizons. Our social calendar last year started with a very festive Skt. Hans Aften. We had a potluck dinner, music and Danish folk dancing led by Simone Jensen on keyboard, a dry land canoe lesson in Danish led by Bodil Jelhof Jensen, with making and burning, all in our traditional hangout at Dutch Greenhouses. It was a very festive evening despite the downpour which ended at 5 pm and the power outage which started at 5 pm. Not to mention the seemingly endless traffic jam on the new Champlain Bridge; designed by a Danish architect! This year the event will be moved to June 24, because while we can't control the weather, we can at least try to avoid the traffic. We had major success with our traditional Christmas dinner served on December 10. Nis made the crackling pork roasts and the Christensen family, including Board members Sarah and Bob, did a great job in the kitchen, and Anne Jørgensen contributed many of the finer touches notably the *ris-à-l'amande* and prizes. Just before Christmas, Anne Jørgensen led us in the Danish traditional church service in St. Ansgar Lutheran Church under the direction of Pastor Samuel King-Kabu. Fastelavn came quickly, and while only Bodil and Liette were present from the Board, there was a host of capable volunteers to help out with the potluck lunch including the custodian from the Royal Canadian Legion. It is amazing how much effort went into breaking the butter barrel even though it was just cardboard. The children made fastelavnsris and most remembered to take them home. There was also the Viking Exhibit at the Pointe la Callière Museum in Montreal, featuring hundreds of exhibit pieces from the Danish National Museum. There was free admission on May 17, the Norwegian National Day. The exhibit ran well into the fall. Finally a gala dinner marking

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the 100th Anniversary of Den Danske Klub was held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal on May 6. Ole Larsen as his final duty as our President brought greetings from the DCS. All credit goes to the organizing committee and its sponsor CanforNav, for putting on an event worthy of any King or Queen.

Respectfully submitted, Nis-Anker Weuge Jessen, President

3. Danish Club of Montreal, Quebec

In January 2022 The Danish Club of Montreal marked its 100th Anniversary, making it one of the oldest Danish clubs in Canada. Due to a number of circumstances, including the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the celebration was postponed. Finally on Saturday evening, May 16, 2023, The Danish Club of Montreal could celebrate its 100th Anniversary in grand style, not least due to the very generous sponsorship by Knud Jensen, President and CEO of CanForNav, a large modern shipping company based out of Montreal. Knud Jensen's backing was instrumental in organizing and supporting the club's 100th Celebration. Over 160 members and guests attended the grand celebration at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel. It began with a reception on the second level with a view of the street, the nearby park and church, where guests were served champagne and oysters. The guests were then invited to a plated sit down dinner on the 21st floor with a stunning view of the city. There was great food, white and red wine, door prizes and speeches. The key note speech was given by Danish Ambassador Hanne Fugl Eskjær. Her speech was well received and she was given a standing ovation. After dinner there was dancing to a live band. As well, the guests could go upstairs on the roof and enjoy the view of the city, it being a balmy night with a full moon. Everyone had a good time. It was a party that will be keenly remembered for a long time.

Submitted by Kren Clausen, President

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa, Ontario

The Danish Club of Ottawa returned more or less to normal in 2023, after the Covid Pandemic had more or less shut down Club activities. At the AGM in October 2022, Lene Kelly was reelected President. The rest of the board was also reelected, with Mylene Poulsen as Vice President, Maxine Evans as Secretary and Ernst Jacobsen as Treasurer. Elected as directors were Erik Poulsen and Jess Jessen. One big change in 2023 was that no Queen's Birthday Party was held, due to the hefty increase in price of room rental and food. But a successful Seniors Luncheon was held, as well as an even more successful Bazaar. The Club has a new website and sends out a Newsletter. The club was pleased to be able to make donations to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson and to the New Denmark Historical Society.



Submitted by: Lene Kelly, President, and presented by Rolf Buschardt Christensen

5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto, Ontario

Greetings: to all of you from Toronto. During Covid we were able to complete many renovations for our church - chairs replaced pews, new lamps from Denmark and artwork were added by Simon Aaen, a Danish artist, as well as new floors were installed. In June new sound panels will be installed to complete our renovations. As most groups, after Covid, we are working hard on improving our



participant level both at Sunday services and at our weekly events. A meeting was held to brainstorm relevant ideas in order to do just this. We try to celebrate both Danish and Canadian traditions so you will read about Halloween, bazaars, 60th Anniversary celebrations for Lucia, New Year Services, Fastelavn and the Danish Queen's Dinner in our colourful and well written Kirke Hilsen. We realize that in order to survive the church has to be relevant to all using it. Services are provided both in English and Danish with some services sent out by live-stream as well as in person services with coffee and a light lunch provided after the service. During long weekends over the summer, services were not provided. Several guests from Denmark increased the interest shown by our congregation. A men and boys choir from Thisted entertained. Contributions were matched by the Board and enabled us to send over \$6,000 to CLWR to help in war torn Ukraine and money was also sent to the Scott's Mission in Toronto at a later date. Simon Aaen, the Danish artist who was responsible for our altar paintings came to Toronto at the end of October and made a presentation to the congregation. People can now pay by etransfer or credit cards when they want to donate. We were pleased to have Michael Böss attend the Ontario Region Meeting and our Thanksgiving Dinner in October. He made presentations about his newly published book *Nationale Drømme* (National Dreams: A History of Canadian Identities). The back page of our Kirke Hilsen now contains ten pictures about church events. These are appreciated by people and spike interest in our events. Most successful has been our offer of Danish lessons. A full class of 30 plus met under the direction of Susanne Truelsen, assisted by Pastor Simon. Interest in the Danish language bodes well for the future. Confirmation of four young people took place on a sunny Sunday. One of the confirmands participated in lessons on zoom and flew in from PEI for the ceremony! The Welcome Back Fest was celebrated with a BBQ in our park this year. Although Pastor Simon had broken his ankle he was able to fulfill most of his duties on crutches. We sadly announce that Pastor Simon and family are returning to Denmark at the beginning of July 2023 and we are once again looking for a new pastor in Toronto. We are now looking forward to hosting the 2024 Danish Canadian Conference in Toronto. We hope to see many of you in Toronto for the 2024 Conference.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Liselotte Ostergaard

6. Danish Women's Cultural Association (DWA), Toronto

DWA meets monthly, typically on the third Thursday of the month and have done so for many years. We currently have 31 members mostly from the Greater Toronto Area. For the past year our activities have included a visit to the Gardner Museum seeing the special exhibit by Katherine Giboulo: Housewarming, and to the Royal Ontario Museum seeing their Canadian Modern exhibit. We have also had a visit to Sunset Mindepark to pay respect to the members we have lost, followed by lunch at the restaurant. We have met at various restaurants in Toronto for

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lunch or dinner, but most frequently, and not least important, we have met at one of our members' homes for potluck to speak Danish and enjoy real Danish Hygge!

Submitted by Inger Simonsen, President

8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch, Ontario

In 2022 about 800 adults and 250 children attended our annual Constitution Day, the first Sunday in June. The Vikings created a Village with tents, artefacts, fire pits and did some combat demonstrations for the crowd. The Danish Folk Dancers performed. Kids engaged in games on the large field, got Danish flags painted on their faces or went on pony rides. Families dressed up as Vikings for selfies. We had an æbleskiver eating contest which is always fun to watch. Kids brought their Lego creations from home for the Lego Contest. All ages enjoyed the market vendors and the variety of Danish collectibles for sale. The Royal Danish Guards did their procession before speeches which is a yearly tradition and Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen from the Danish Church conducted an open air ceremony at the cemetery. Danish hotdogs and Danish waffle ice cream cones were for sale and of course you could buy open face sandwiches from the restaurant. The Danish Baker came to sell pastries and treats. And the Danish Church sold imported Danish goodies as well. It was a wonderful sunny day. We still have our monthly Bakers Day where hundreds of Danes come to get their Danish rye, pastry, herring, liver pate, licorice and so much more. This year saw the departure of Kim Hansen representing Hansen's Bakery, after three decades coming to Sunset Villa. Replacing them is The Danish Pastry House, an independently owned business started by Anita Lauritsen, with multiple locations in the Greater Toronto Area. We held St. Hans in June 2022 as well, attended by 500 people. A huge 10 foot wide bonfire was lit with a witch that magically flew above and into the roaring fire. This was followed by an incredible 15 minute fireworks display after sunset. We had some live music and a DJ, as well as Danish hotdogs. In December 2022, we held the now annual Nordic Market. This was attended by approximately 700 adults and 200 kids. The Vikings came and set up a winter village with tents and firepits. Families roasted snobrød on the fire or went on buggy rides. The Nisse trail had super-sized replicas of cartoonist Frederik Bramming's famous Nisser hung on the trees. The restaurant served their 15 varieties of open faced sandwiches. The Danish Baker came to sell everything needed for a Danish Christmas with hygge. The Butik sold Nisser and Danish Christmas decorations. Market Vendors also sold gifts. And most recently we held Fastelavn attended by 40 kids who batted the barrels for candy and a chance to win the crown. And the kids did crafts to decorate twigs. As you can see there are many good reasons to visit Sunset Villa and to support the property by becoming a member. Whether you live near or far we need you as a member so that we can continue the Danish traditions and we can only do this with your support.

Respectfully submitted, Monica Jensen, President

9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario

Sunset Mindepark, incorporated in 1990, is situated on a lovely country hectare in Puslinch, Ontario, between Guelph and Hamilton. In our 33rd year we are serving not only the local Danish communities in southern Ontario, but also from across Canada and occasionally even from the US. With over 1,100 urns already interred in our cemetery, we are pleased to be able to offer this form of burial for Danes looking for this type of final resting place. We are a registered Not-for-

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Profit organization and rely heavily on volunteer support – especially the physical part - to help keep the cemetery in its current great condition. With Covid mostly behind us now, interments and sales have slowly increased to keep pace with the current demand to get caught up. With that in mind, this fall we were finally able to begin the construction of a new columbarium wall. When this new wall is completed this coming summer, we hope to add approximately 170 new niches to our available list of plots and niches. Although we are a very small cemetery with limited space, once the new wall is ready, we are hoping to have capacity for about another 8 years. Our cemetery is 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. Arrangements can be made with the Danish pastor to assist at the cemetery as well. Our goal is to maintain the cemetery to the high standards we currently have, and keep it as a memorable final resting place for Danish immigrants and their families. We receive many accolades on how beautiful and inviting this 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, please check our website: www.mindepark.ca

Submitted by Sune Overgaard, President

10. Pass Lake Historical Society, Ontario

After serving on the board of directors of the Pass Lake Historical Society for many years June Huston, Evelyn Huston and Elsie Burgoyne stepped down in September 2023 with Vice President Inge Grann remaining. Elected in their place were Betty Ann Price, Lena Moore and Kirsten Maki as respectively President, Secretary and Treasurer. Pass Lake will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a Danish settlement in 2024. To commemorate the Centennial the Historical Society will publish a book about Pass Lake and will be hosting a celebration in August.

Submitted by Betty Ann Price, President

11. Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Manitoba

It is wonderful to see restrictions lifted and a return to hosting events, promoting Danish heritage and culture, and enjoying each others company. On April 6, 2022, we had the distinct pleasure of hosting Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, the Danish Ambassador to Canada in our Centre, for an elegant dinner, where all our members attended at no charge. At the same dinner, our own Helle Wilson, Danish Consul, was presented with “The Order of the Danebrog” presented 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. Congratulations to Dani and Juan Gomez on their engagement. We have seen a recent spike in our membership as younger people are joining our club to learn and share all things Danish. Sara Siggelkow and Bjorn Kragh-Hansen have been added to our Board and serve in the capacity of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Through Covid, we managed to hold monthly board meetings via ZOOM, and are happy to be back to our in-person meetings at the

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Scandinavian Centre. Still the Danes have been active in several events these past Covid years, such as: (1) Konge spil (KUB) match against the Manitoba Swedes, followed by outdoor picnics; (2) Mid summer events; (3) The Danish Christmas dinners; (4) Smørrebrødsaften (dinners); (5) Participating in Folklorama, Winnipeg's multicultural event; (6) Juleklip evening; (7) Viking School program; (8) Hosting numerous brunches; (9) Speaker Friday dinner on Knud Rasmussen; and (10) the Viking School program. Otherwise, our club continues to thrive, thanks to our many volunteers, our Board and to the other four Nordic countries for sharing the Scandinavian Centre with us. Together, we work to build fantastic programs, collectively share our cultures, and support each other. Thank you to the Danish Federation and the Dickson Museum for their support and promoting our shared heritage.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted, Susan Person, President

12. Danish Canadian Club, Calgary, Alberta

First we would like to thank the Danish Federation volunteers for their efforts in keeping the association going. The Calgary Danish Canadian Club is in the process of selling the land and building which we currently own. We are in a great location, close to downtown Calgary, but the building is more than 100 years old and although it has been well maintained over the years, it is in need of major mechanical equipment renovations. A successful sale of the property would still see the club stay in the current location until the end of 2024. After that we are not sure where we will be located, only that it should be in a suitable facility that would meet the requirements of the Club. We are honoured that the Danish Federation has asked the Calgary Club to host the annual event and we will do our best to accommodate the Danish Canadian Conference in 2025, perhaps with the assistance of outside facilities.



Sincerely, Per Andersen, President

13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary, Alberta

Another year has passed and it is time to reflect on what has happened in our congregation and share that with you. We are very blessed in having Charlotte Berg as our Pastor. She is an inspiring and hardworking leader of our Congregation. She and her husband, Peter, are also both very involved in all aspects of the Danish community in Calgary and area. With the end of concerns about the Covid pandemic, our Church has not resumed all of our pre-pandemic activities. This was a gradual process that took place over the past three years. Our worship services are our core activity and in-person services only stopped for about 2.5 months in 2020. In June of 2020 we resumed our live services, carefully meeting all of the requirements of the Alberta Government. Since then we have slowly and thoughtfully resumed virtually all of our congregational activities. We continue to have Danish and English services at the Church, with English every Sunday at 10 am and Danish services at 11:15 am every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. There is also a small Sunday School that meets the first and third Sundays of the month. In months when there are 5 Sundays, the 5th Sunday is a more informal family service which is followed by a potluck lunch. Attendance numbers at both the Danish and English are stable. In August 2020 we broke ground for a new parsonage in an empty lot next to the Church we already owned. The parsonage was completed in February of 2021 and Pastor Charlotte and

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Peter moved into the parsonage in March of 2021. This construction project also involved building a small rental suite over the garage. We also own an old personage on the other side of the Church building and both the rental suite and this old parsonage have been rented out since early 2021. We continue to have a lot of functions throughout the year, such as movie lunches, speaker nights, sing-alongs, and Danish language classes. There are also various Church groups who meet regularly, such as a study group, a Ladies Auxiliary, a Crafter's Group, a Viking Girls ladies group, and a contemporary music group. And there are special events like a Christmas program and party, Fastelavn celebration, and Stampede breakfast. At times outings for our congregation are organized such as to a sculpture studio last year, and this year we will go out of town to Custom Woolen Mills and the Drumheller Badlands Passion Play. As well, two AA groups rent our hall every week, a women's music group rents our sanctuary once a month for their concerts, a Cantonese language Lutheran Congregation has rented the Church every Sunday afternoon for many years, and the Merry Kitchen Boys cooking club meets two evenings a month. In addition to these regular activities we also reach out to the larger community with special events. So far this year we have had a concert by Danish classical guitarist, Mikkel Andersen. Again this summer we will have a week-long summer day camp for children from the Congregation and some of their friends as well. We never seem to have any problems getting members of our Congregation to volunteer to help out with this day camp. As a Congregation we are also in the process of sponsoring a Christian Afghan refugee family of four. They should arrive in Calgary this year from a refugee camp in the Middle East. We have had two fundraising meals in connection with this: a St Patrick's Day Irish dinner in March, and an Afghan lunch in April. A Mexican-themed taco lunch is also being planned. So far we have raised about \$14,500 dollars for this project and there were also pledges of many household items to help the refugee family out when they arrive. This year is also the 110th Anniversary of the founding of Sharon Lutheran Church, which merged with the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary in 2010. Sharon Church was started by Danish immigrants in 1913. It was this group that built the building that is now our joint Church home. We are having a special dinner to mark the 110th Anniversary of Sharon Congregation on June 24th, with former Pastors as special guests, as well as a presentation on the history of that Church. Our two main fundraising events, the Christmas Bazaar in November and the Dinner and Auction in April still contribute a sizeable amount of money toward the general operation of our Church. As well, these events help bring the Danish community in Calgary together. In addition, starting in 2022, we have been bringing in items from Denmark through a wholesaler so that Danes in Calgary and Alberta can enjoy treats that they cannot buy here. So far orders have been placed twice a year and groups like Alpine Sausage (a Calgary delicatessen), the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson and Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton have gone together with us in this. The Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary also received a large and generous gift from the former Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey in the fall of 2022. This has enabled us to replace the very old carpet in our sanctuary, to do upgrades to our audio-visual system, and to replace a furnace that suddenly failed. We are now carefully considering other capital projects to enhance our Church facility in hope of continuing to serve the Danish community in Calgary as well. This will be both exciting and a lot of work. We appreciate your encouragement and support in our endeavours. By God's grace we continue to move forward.

Submitted by Karen Falkenberg-Andersen, President

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14. Naver Club, Calgary, Alberta

The Calgary Naver Club is still going strong with 44 members, which we have had for several years now. Our monthly meetings are well attended with about 18-26 members. In March we host a Spring Brunch at the Calgary Danish Club, with family and friends. In April we hold our AGM with Gule Ærter (Yellow Pea Soup), and members not keen on Pea Soup can order from the menu. In July we host a Stampede Breakfast again with family and friends, last year with about 85 people. In August we host a BBQ for the members and their wives at a member's home. Our Julefrokost in December is very popular. Several Naver members are keen to volunteer at the Danish Club, helping at kids functions or making repairs in the Club. Members also help the Danish Church with smaller things.

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

16. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada

Currently we have 15 members in our Association and 13 Associate members (friends/families of current or past Guards). Saturday July 23rd we had beautiful summer weather at the picnic in Rimbey, hosted by Steffen Olsen. What a gorgeous day at a beautiful farm. Thanks again for hosting Steffen! Tomorrow is the birthday of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. She is turning 83 on April 23, 2023. To conclude, let us focus on some of our own great milestones. Please celebrate with me the following Guards and their birthdays: Svend Nielsen 70th (Feb 25), Svend Storm 85th (Sept 25), Peter Bertelsen 85th (Nov 25) and Morten Pedersen 95th (Jan 24). Congratulations and Happy Birthday to you all! Once again, thanks to my fellow Board members Jan and Svend for all your hard work. That concludes this years President's report.

Sincerely, Jens Lind, President.

17. Dickson Store Museum Society, Dickson, Alberta

2022 has been a year of finishing things and a year of starting entirely new projects. For example, we finished repairs on the building that had been ongoing for several years and we have hired two new full-time staff. Now that we have settled into the "New Normal" that we got used to last year we are all a little more comfortable with online meetings and with the great strides museums have taken to embrace a digital world. Not only are we providing more and more digital content in social media and in programming, but our communication with funders in grant applications and evaluations is only digital now. Our new manager, Candice Vikse, and our Digital Engagement Administrator, Myah McBride, are successfully meeting these challenges. We have a very hard-working Board of Directors. In the past year, we have revised our whole policy book. Many policies had to be rewritten completely and new policies had to be written to accommodate new circumstances. At every board meeting, we tackled a few until we had been through the whole book. We have included new policies in the financial section to include the legal responsibilities of board members. This year we are looking at our bylaws and may be making changes. In the aftermath of Covid, we have changed our Annual Meeting to spring and not winter. We are allowed to have an annual meeting up to 6 months after the financial review. This was done in January so we can have our annual meeting in June. We are



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going to combine this with a Volunteer Appreciation lunch. Watch your mail for more details on this. Also, any changes to bylaws will be sent well in advance of the meeting. Last year the membership voted on changes to our strategic plan at the Annual Meeting. They were very supportive of all the work that the staff had put into it. The society put on successful fundraisers again with the Dueling Pianos in April and a Fall Supper in October. We had great support from our volunteers and made significant contributions to our budget. I am satisfied that we are achieving our objectives. We are planning for succession. With the help of the Thompson estate we are in a sound financial position, we have excellent long-term staff in place and committed board members and volunteers. We have support from local, municipal, provincial, and federal levels. We continue to be a place to showcase our pioneer background and provide the hospitality that the Christiansen General Store represented for over 100 years now. It has been a privilege to serve on this Board in the last years and I would like to thank the other board members, volunteers, and the staff for their enthusiastic support for all of our projects.

Submitted by Antonia Nissen, President, Dickson Store Museum Society

18. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson, Alberta

2023 was a busy and eventful year at the Museum. The year started with the exciting prospect of a visit from the Danish television program “Anne og Anders.” Producers scouted our location and enjoyed a taste of home in the Saga Café. The whole crew returned in May and spent a lovely morning filming, and we fed them lunch before they headed in separate directions to continue work on the Alberta episode. It was exciting to see the finished segment in August and the series did a beautiful job of showcasing Canada. The season opened in May and we unveiled a new permanent exhibit on the Danish Churches of Canada featuring items from Granly Church. The Museum was fortunate to have four returning seasonal staff and two new additions who kept things running smoothly while the manager and board attended the Federation Conference in Nanaimo. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to network with other Danish organizations. A special Museum night was held, and we raised money through a silent and live auction. Thank you to the Nanaimo Danish Club donating items and for hosting a fantastic conference. The Museum started the year with a St. Hans Fest co-hosted by the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club and featured a day with the Ravens Vikings. A dinner of Danish hotdogs, potato salad and cucumber salad was enjoyed by all and a roaring fire sent all the bad spirits away over the water. The next event was Æbleskiver ‘n’ Jam Day held on July 1. This fun event filled many bellies as they enjoyed musical entertainment by Pastor Russ Howard. Also in July, The Garden Party featured fashion through Canadian history presented by Anna Lenters, the curator of Historical Village in Innisfail. The guests enjoyed a high tea luncheon while they enjoyed the fashion show. The highlight of the summer is always Viking Days and this year was bigger and better than ever, hosting the largest annual gathering of Viking re-enactors in North America. The weekend began with the Stew and Brew dinner sponsored by Field and Forge. A Steinholding Championship was held with many Vikings joining in the fun. Saturday was a busy day with the Viking Village, demonstrations, and battles. The Viking Feast on Saturday evening was sold-out, the food was fantastic and the storytelling was mesmerizing. Sunday began with a free pancake breakfast sponsored by the Co-op and family pricing enticed many to enjoy the day. The Museum hosted Movie Nights at the Museum in August sponsored by the Red Deer County Recreation Board. Three nights of outdoor movies featured: “Night at the Museum,” “How to Train Your Dragon,” and “Gnomeo and Juliet.” The Haunted Forest spooked at the end of

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October. This fun, annual event is co-hosted by the Spruce View grad class and is a highlight for area families. With much consideration, the Museum and the Dickson Store decided not to host Julestue this year. The logistics of moving everything to the community hall requires more volunteer resources than we have available. Instead, shopping days and special exhibitions were coordinated between the two museums. Hopefully this event can make a return when the Museum expansion is completed. Thank you: to all who visited us, in person or online. See you in 2024!



Submitted by Connie Swarbrick, President

19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, Alberta

The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club membership consists of about sixty members. We exist primarily as 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 also provide three \$1,000 annual Bursaries to graduating high school students in our area. Our 2022 Executive Board consists of: Joanne Nielsen, President; Hanna Giles, Vice President; Birgitte Jensen, Secretary; Larry Kjearsgaard, Treasurer (until he passed away on March 31, 2023); Other Board Members are: Dorothy Stone, Ester Ouder Kirk and Mona Fossen. The year started with the existing Board members extending their positions for another year and planning upcoming events at zoom meetings. We had success with our campouts with very good attendance. St. Hans Fest was held at the Danish Museum in Dickson with twenty-nine people attending. Despite a little rain, we had a small bonfire by the lake and the lovely witch dispersed all the bad spirits away. Our hopes are to continue having the event at the museum adding more fun activities for families. Unfortunately, our Golf tournament and Harvest Party were cancelled due to lack of attendance. It was disheartening and hope it was just a Covid hangover and members will come out again to enjoy club events. In February, Larry and I went to the museum to talk to the President, Connie Swarbrick, and Manager Doreen to explore the possibilities of working together on ways to boost membership and brainstorm ideas on hosting our club events to make them more family oriented, exciting and in line with our clubs' Danish traditions. We had our AGM on February 26th. We voted to continue with the existing Board again for 2023, with Board members Ester Ouder Kirk and Mona Fossen retiring. Sadly, Larry passed away in March, but we continue to make progress with the concept of working with the museum. Again, hosting our St. Hans Fest at the museum with Viking entertainment. We are also looking at the possibilities of forming an associate membership. All our activities are described in detail on our website at: www.rddcc.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Nielsen, President

20. Danish Canadian Society DANIA, Edmonton, Alberta



Dania celebrated its 100th Anniversary by holding a dinner and dance at the Dutch Canadian Centre – “Home of the Scandinavians” on October 22, 2022, with traditional smørrebrød, a warm fiskefillet and of course pickled herring, snaps and beer. The catering was provided by Three Vikings, a local restaurant in Edmonton. Attendance was 154 which was a pretty good turnout as it was the first event we held since the start of the Covid pandemic. Our next function was the Family Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4th, which was attended by 43 adults and 30 children.

We served æbleskiver with gløgg for the adults and other refreshments for the children. The children made crafts, danced around the Christmas tree, and performed a Christmas pageant, followed by a visit from Santa Claus, rounding out the afternoon. We had planned a Fastelavn dance for March 4, 2023 with Three Vikings catering the usual smørrebrød menu. However, due to low response to this dance, we had to cancel it. We believe that many of our regular attendees were travelling south during that time and were therefore not able to make it. Currently, we are planning a pig roast for a Saturday afternoon family picnic which will be held on July 22nd. This will be held at the Nordic Centre at the Dutch Canadian Centre outside on the grassed area where we will have games for everyone to play, followed by the pig roast. This is the first time we are having such an event and hopefully it will draw some interest. We decided not to hold a campout this year as attendance has been a problem. We’re not sure how much longer we will have a home at the Dutch Canadian Centre as the land and building have been put up for sale. The Dutch are having similar difficulties with an aging population and are simply not able to continue running and maintaining the building. Dania is a member of the Edmonton Scandinavian Centre Association or ESCA along with the Norwegian, Swedish, Finish and Icelandic societies. There is currently an agreement in place between the Dutch Canadian Society and ESCA which allows the member societies of ESCA to hold their functions at the Dutch Canadian Centre on certain terms in accordance with the agreement. Once the building is sold, the Scandinavians will have to find other locations to hold their functions. Lastly, in June of 2022 we lost our Vice President, Konrad Christensen, much too soon. Jakob Lauridsen, one of the Substitutes, stepped in as Acting Vice President for the remainder of Konrad’s term. The current board was elected at our AGM on November 15, 2022.

Sincerely, Lis Walker, President

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

Lodge 328 is now 92 old and still going (strong). We have 80 members and still get new members on a regular basis. No Lodge members have passed away the last several years. We continue to have monthly meetings that are attended by about half of the membership. A big draw continues to be the delicious Danish Open Faced sandwiches following the formal meeting. Hopefully Tina Prægel will continue to do her magic with the sandwiches for some time to come. A formal dinner at a very marginal cost of \$ 25 is being planned for April 27th, by the social chair person, Vice President Erik Bladt. It will be an open dinner, and guests are welcome. Again we lean on Tine Prægel to do the catering. Lodge 328 continues to financially support Surrey and Vancouver food banks and the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. In the past cheques were also sent to two Danish Churches; Granly and Burnaby. Granly has since been sold for many millions of dollars and the Vancouver Church and the other three Danish churches

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in Canada received handsome sums from Granly so they are financially much better off now than before. We are a number of Brotherhood members going to the Yearly Convention. This year it is hosted by Lodge 29, in Seattle on the 28-29-30 of April. The convention is a three day affair, starting Friday evening and ending Sunday at noon. The Lodges have, over the years, taken turns hosting the Conventions. However, it is getting harder as the membership ages to find a Lodge prepared to take on the task of hosting the three day affair. We will be at least four Brothers venturing south to the Double Tree Suites in Seattle for the event.

Respectfully submitted by Kjeld Christensen, Secretary

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

This report covers the period July 2022 to May 2023. We were fortunate to have Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen and her husband Soren Sondergaard with us for the past five years and sent them off in July to Stallkirken, Sylt, Germany, with a fantastic concert of classical music by our very own local musicians. In the months without a Pastor, we have been grateful to have the participation of Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen (Granly), Pastor Clifford Reinhardt (local), and a visit from Pastor Marianne Gyldenkærne (Denmark). Pastor Svend Faarvang, our Pastor from 1986-1992, arrived with his wife Birgit to cover the months of September and October and he stepped into the job as if he had never left. We began our Pastor search as soon as we knew when Pastor Susanne would be leaving, and received four applications and chose to interview Pastor Carsten Molgaard Hansen, a Pastor of five years. We were impressed with his sweet personality and youth – at 32 years of age – and decided to invite him over for a try-out sermon on August 14. Pastor Carsten's English was flawless and he was well received. The Board met with Pastor Carsten immediately after the service, and he said that he had previously checked into working in Hong Kong or Singapore, but found out the Danes there were on short work contracts from Denmark, and he was looking for a community. Well, here we are, we are a community. We offered Pastor Carsten the job (through DSUK). He gave his required 90 days notice to his Church in Solrød, and Pastor Carsten, Camilla and little Bjorn arrived on December 1. On Sunday Dec 4th DSUK's Dean, Selma Ravn, arrived to install Pastor Carsten who went to work immediately with a busy Christmas season, and conducted services in Nanaimo, Seattle and, as well, the Norwegian service in our church along with the two Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day service. As you may know, Granly Church closed their doors, and sold their acreage in Surrey. The Danish Church in Burnaby (along with other Danish Churches in Canada and various organizations) has been the recipient of terrific windfall profits. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Granly's Board. We know, however, that we cannot stop having fundraising events because that is what keeps the life at the Church humming. In conclusion, a word from Pastor Carsten, "During the first two months of the year, we have had wonderful concerts – a Christmas concert, an organ concert and a Valentine's concert. And besides this, we have also had all our usual activities – services, bible study, Komsammen, and Knit2gether. I am amazed by the number of activities going on in the Church, and I am proud of being part of such a living and vibrant community as the one we have".

Submitted by Ebba Grey, May 22, 2023

25. Dania Home Society, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby, B.C.

Both Dania Home Society and Dania Society continue to be frontline leaders in providing quality housing and residential healthcare for seniors in our community, while reflecting our Danish heritage. We continue to demonstrate Dania's commitment to improving the quality of life for our seniors and being at the top in this healthcare field. The New Year started strong. On January 6, the contract with VanMar was let and it was officially shovels in the ground, building our six storey, 155 unit seniors affordable complex. After nearly five years of planning, we were finally able to celebrate a traditional groundbreaking ceremony with all involved. Some months later, the building reached its full height, with the rafters having been raised. Dania held the traditional 'rejsegilde' ceremony, the Danish celebration for the workmen which occurs when the building has reached this milestone. To mark this achievement, the Danish, Canadian and BC flags were placed atop of the building along with wreaths for all to appreciate and applaud. The tradition is to pause a building project and give thanks to the workers and all involved in the project, while



observing a Danish flag and wreaths, that symbolizes the offering of blessings, safety and luck for the workers, a solid building structure and the best for the residents who will reside in this home. Along with the dignitaries marking the occasion, all enjoyed refreshments with the workers being served Danish sausages and beverages. The colours of the Canadian and Danish flags are the same, red and white. The red and white streamers coming off the wreaths reflects this and now we can say this tradition and what it means is passed on to all Canadians. With the new building project, we can state that the work is going smoothly. Dania Society

thanks all for their work, input and support of this important housing venture for our seniors. As the focus has been on the new building, we have three existing buildings at the Dania campus. With these, there are ongoing renovations and upgrades to the buildings. Dania has received funding in 2022 for the installation of air conditioning units for each room at Dania Home with 102 suites. Carl Mortensen Manor is due for a new roof in the spring with air conditioning for each suite already installed. Dania Manor, with assisted living, is being upgraded along the way. Our mandate is for all Dania buildings to be at a level expected from Dania Society for the well-being of our residents. Dania can also now proudly speak of building the new seniors affordable housing project and the other projects that are in place for the betterment of our Dania residents and what Dania offers at its Campus of Care. With the passing of the pandemic, we are able to connect with the other Scandinavian affordable housing and resident care communities in the Greater Vancouver area to exchange ideas, discuss common issues, funding, staffing and how we can improve what is needed for seniors. This is topped with a Nordic Dinner, which we take

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turns hosting. After more than five years, including time lost due to Covid, Dania finally had a chance to host the Nordic Dinner. It was held on April 26th at the Carl Mortensen Manor auditorium with a reception and social gathering prior to the main dinner being served. With Directors and spouses, Executive Directors and General Managers from all the Scandinavian Homes in attendance, the dinner, social gathering, some lighthearted speeches and a visual presentation of Dania were well received. Then on May 5 the Danish Lutheran Church held the annual Flag/Liberation Day ceremony with representatives of Dania Home also taking part. We consider the Danish Church, located next to the Dania campus, an integral part of our Dania community. It is important for all Danes to remember and to recognize our history and be represented by the various Danish communities and organizations in support of this event at the Danish Church. In short, Dania Society has a solid foundation heading into the future. Moving forward we must recognize and adapt to the changing environment around us. We have a solid Dania leadership team that works together with our in-home personnel in person-centred care, providing all necessities for our residents. The Dania Board of Directors thrives to enhance our standing in the health care community. This will be measured by our partners, residents and families and the Society membership. As we walk down the hall towards the auditorium at Carl Mortensen Manor, we always reflect on the vision that many previous Presidents of Dania had as we look at their pictures with their names and dates going back to the early 1940s. We do not think they would have thought that the Dania Home campus would be where it is today. It may be summed up by the statement in a recent news release, “How a tired old Dane from Alberta who had a wish to live in comfort in a farmhouse could ever have envisioned 80 years later that more than 350 Canadians would be residing at the Dania Home campus, truly a remarkable journey.”

Submitted by Paul Christensen, President, Dania Home Society

DANIA’S HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL–SEPTEMBER, 2023

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 continue to work hard to meet these objectives with great success. Here are the highlights of the last six months, which demonstrate Dania’s commitment to improving the quality of life for our seniors. Residents and staff at Dania Home and Dania Manor continue to remain safe, as the number of COVID-19 cases have been minimal to non-existent on a monthly basis. Dania has been vigilant in following the best practices of our Fraser Health Authority and the BC Government. Dania’s excellent leadership and staff can take credit for providing this great result along with the quality residential healthcare services provided to our seniors. On Canada’s National Centenarian Day, September 22, 2023, Dania Home Society hosted a Centenarian Celebration event for the Lower Mainland in which 24 centenarians attended with family members and friends along with important dignitaries, Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, Burnaby Councillor Richard Lee, and BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie. We received letters of congratulations and best wishes from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and BC Premier David Eby, that were read to the attending centenarians. There was extensive media coverage following the event, which highlighted the great work that Dania does for seniors. Dania Society’s construction of the new ‘Dania Gardens’ continues with great success. This affordable housing project is a six-storey, wood-framed complex containing 155 units for seniors located on the Dania Campus and scheduled to open February 2025. The

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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. The Society's hired developer, VanMar Constructors finished framing to the roof and a *rejsegilde* ceremony took place on October 4, 2023. About 90 people attended, including Dania Society Members, the Board, the Leadership Team, Staff, and the following political representatives: Doris Mah for MP Peter Julian; Hon. Katrina Chen, BC MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed; and City of Burnaby Councillors Pietro Calendino and Richard Lee. We had a post-ceremony reception with Danish hot dogs and root beer for VanMar workers at the worksite as well as food and music for the guests at the front entrance and lobby of Dania Society's other complex, Carl Mortensen Manor. The grand opening is planned for March 2025. Dania remains a centre of excellence for providing outstanding housing and residential care. The dedication and hard work of our Board, Leadership Team and staff have made these achievements possible.

Submitted by Lui Franciosi, Executive Director Dania Home

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

Surprisingly, 2022 was a successful year for the Danish House Society. No one really knew what to expect after the Covid pandemic. Would members come back? Would they still be interested in participating in Kro Aften, the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, the Grundlovsdag Fest, the Danish House BBQ etc. Thankfully, the members did come back, along with new members! Presently the membership in the Danish House Society is around 250 with a steady stream of new members signing up. Sadly, long time member and Past President Jorgen Lyth and his sister, Director Inge Lyth, passed away in 2022. They were an integral part of the Danish House Society and will be truly missed. The monthly Kro Aften continues to be very successful. Kro Aften is the main revenue source for the DHS Scholarship Awards. The revenue comes from the sale of raffle tickets that are sold for prizes which have been generously donated by members. All the proceeds from the raffle go directly to the Scholarship Fund. In 2022 the Danish House Society gave out \$10,800 in Scholarships. The Danish Language Classes have been very popular with full enrolment in the spring and fall semester. Ann-Kathrine Havemose, the Danish teacher, has a way of bringing Denmark to Canada. During the fall semester Ann-Kathrine conducted a cooking class with her students and made a typical Danish meal "Stegt Flæsk". The recipes were in Danish and only Danish was spoken. The students loved it! All DHS events are back on track, including our monthly Kro Aften, the summer BBQ, the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Christmas Kro Aften Platte and the Christmas by the Fireside, that last year included lovely music from the Lucia and Nisse children. The Danish House Society received a very generous donation of \$20,000 from the former Granly Church. That \$20,000 has been earmarked to help fund the new Scandinavian Centre Playground that is scheduled to be built in the summer and fall of 2023. Thank you to all the continuing efforts of the DHS membership, volunteers and Board, the future of the Danish House Society continues to be strong.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Praegel, President

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

During the pandemic our usual events could not be held, so we did what we could from home by Zoom. First we gave our current members free memberships, but we still lost a few members due

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to relative inactivity. We moved some programs online. Our genealogy group working with our partner, BC Genealogy Society, held its research support meetings on Zoom with personal advice available by email. In the summer we now appear at various BC festivals offering advice. When our Nordic Spirit Heritage Images show, Scandinavian Immigrant Women, was canceled in 2020, our committee prepared further material from home, so we presented an expanded show last spring with hundreds of heritage photos and stories. We are considering a focus on the trades and crafts for our next show, the 15th in this series. It pulls the entire Nordic Community into its production. You are invited to contribute your stories and pictures as well, and of course, come to the show. Last October, Leif Erikson Day focused on polar explorers and their connection with Indigenous people. We featured Danish Explorer Knud Rasmussen, who documented the culture of Canada's Northern people. We were selling the Knud Rasmussen book. Our annual newsletter went out in February. We have 60 members, but we print 250 newsletters and often do reprints to meet further demand. Thanks to Bent Østergaard and Rolf Christensen (President, Danish Federation), we were able to include articles on Danish WWII history and on the Danish settlement at Cape Scott on Vancouver Island. There was also a note on the Federation Conference. This past winter we honoured Saami Celebration Day, with a slide show prepared on Saami Culture and History. We set it on our website, and advertised the link. Next October our Leif Erikson Day will explore recent Norse and Viking archaeology with an emphasis on current finds and newer techniques of archaeological analysis. We will see how this information fits together to reveal Norse culture through the work of Swedish archaeologist Neil Price, perhaps the most prominent Norse archaeologist of today. We appreciate the varied support our society receives from both the Danish Federation and our local Danish community. Danish House Society gives us a membership to the Scandinavian Community Centre. Before they closed, we received a large financial donation from the Danish Canadian Community Centre enabling us to operate without additional fundraising. Members of Danish heritage are very active in our society. We are grateful for this support from the Danish community.

Respectfully submitted, Steen Larsen, President

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

The past year has been slower than years gone by in terms of activities for our club but we did get started. It seems that it was basically a "Covid recovery" year. We did manage to have our AGM in March via Zoom on the internet. Besides that, we hosted a very successful "Pub Lunch" at a local pub in October. Members reserved a seat, ordered from the pub menu and had a great time connecting with old friends over lunch and beverages. The Pub Lunch was the first time we have tried this type of event and due to its success, our Board is planning to host more of these in the days to come. In late November, we hosted a great Christmas Party that was also well attended. The Christmas Party was a bit of a departure from our usual Christmas Party. Instead of doing all the set-up, take-down, catering etc., we enlisted the local Lantzville Legion, Branch 257. Legion staff looked after all the details including the hall, catering, food service, bar service, set-up and clean-up. We had music provided by a small band and a very enjoyable evening of dinner and dance was had by all. The success of these events signaled to the Board that our Members are ready to gather again after a long dry spell. Our membership currently stands around the 150 mark. The past few years has been hard on our membership count as we have lost a number of members to the vagaries of old age and perhaps some as well to the Covid virus. This year, 2023 will see our Club hosting the annual Conference and AGM for the Federation of

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Danish Associations in Canada. This event will take place in Nanaimo on May 25 through 28. We had all the arrangements in place to host this event in 2020, but then the Covid pandemic was upon us and the event got postponed three times until this year. All of the conference arrangements and plans are now back in place. The conference information package with registration forms has been mailed out and we are starting to receive registrations. We are excited about all of this and looking forward to hosting delegates from across our great nation in Nanaimo! We held our Club AGM recently via Zoom and elected a few Directors to our Board. President: Tom Hedekar; Vice President: Carsten Krogh; Treasurer: Rebecca Taylor; Directors: John Jensen, Darlene O'Neill, Louise Krogh and Inge Yost.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Hedekar, President

29. The Danish Social Club of Victoria

We started the year with a very successful Fastelavn Party. In the months of March and May, we hosted two tasty Danish Open Face Sandwich events, The turnout was great. During the summer Rosemary and Hans Fredriksen hosted the AGM and the annual BBQ in their gorgeous backyard. At the moment we are running a waiting list for the final party of the year: Julebord on December 16, 2023. The 90 plus tickets are now prepaid and we hold our breath to be able to complete this very popular gathering. Our membership is in good shape. We hope to offer an appreciation dinner or a Men's Dinner (the men cook and serve) for all the ladies at the beginning of 2024. Please join "Danes in Victoria" on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted by Grethe Russell, Treasurer

30. CANUSA – Danish Canadian American Friendship Association, Strib, Middelfart

Like other similar groups and associations, we live in world where many things have been turned upside down. Most of our members are older, and it remains difficult to attract new and younger members, but we continue to meet with joy and commitment. The 2022-23 season began with the traditional Mad & Film (Food & Film) evening October 7. This year's movie was an absolute success. We had chosen *The Emigrants* (2021). The cinema was filled with people who enjoyed seeing it, as most of our members still remember the first movie depicting the books written by Wilhelm Moberg more than 70 years ago. November 24 was again an opportunity to meet for Thanksgiving. This year the globetrotter Nikolaj Witte talked about travelling with kids in a mobile home through British Columbia and on Vancouver Island. At our January meeting former major Bjarne Løgstrup Pedersen talked about his eight visits to Alaska which was different and so quiet from the places where he had served while in the army. At our annual general meeting in March, it was our secretary Anders Friis Knudsen who talked about 49 years with American Football from the schoolyard in 8th grade to recent attendance at an NFL game. Our magazine *Curious* still struggles, but it was possible to send out three issues, each with three or four articles. Our foundation DCV's Venskabsfond has provided grants to Mollie Etlar Rasmussen who is studying at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Submitted by Anton Petersen, Chairman, and Anders Friis Knudsen, Secretary and Editor

31. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen, Denmark

For Danes Worldwide 2022 was a year of change. After 12 years as Secretary General, Anne Marie Dalgaard stepped down and Michael Bach Petersen took over as the new Secretary General. As well, Danes Worldwide adopted a new strategy for 2023-2025, so the direction of the organization has been set for the coming years. In 2022 the Covid pandemic finally eased, and in the spring Denmark gradually returned to normal. It meant that in-person member-events and travel to the major destinations for Danes, including the US East Coast, Bangkok, Singapore and London, could resume. During the pandemic the in-person meetings were replaced by webinars, and they continued for the rest of 2022. With the webinars it was possible to reach out more widely and give more Danes abroad the opportunity to participate. Recurring topics were family reunification, the preservation of Danish citizenship and tax matters. As well, information about online Danish lessons also attracted people. As something new, Danes Worldwide also held a "country webinar" with relevant topics for Danes in Vietnam. During the past year matters regarding the reunification of families took up much time and lobbying, and also led to the newly elected Danish SVM coalition government considering the easing of these regulations. Measured by the number of inquiries, the demand for the association's various advisory services, including legal advice, increased. Last year, almost 3,600 inquiries were answered, the vast majority of which were issues related to family reunification. During the October 2022 national election campaign, Danes Worldwide helped initiate a public debate about the lack of voting rights for Danish citizens living abroad, not least for those working for the European Union in Brussels. Voting rights, which is a priority for Danes Worldwide, ended up being included in the new coalition government's joint platform. In December 2022, Danes Worldwide received three million Danish Kroner from the Laurits Andersen's foundation, money which will be used in the coming years to improve the technical and content-related user experience when people are in contact with the secretariat. In 2022, Danes Worldwide also decided to cease publishing its magazine DANES. It had been launched in 1920 as *Danmarksposten*, and was then renamed DANES in 2010. The magazine had also started to carry articles in English. For me it was a first class magazine, and it will be missed both for its timely world-wide content and as a vehicle for promoting the organization. In 2022, Danes Worldwide also decided to move the secretariat from its current premises on Kultorget to Nørre Voldgade 21, right by Nørreport Train Station in Copenhagen. Members of Danes Worldwide are welcome to drop by after the move on July 1, 2023. In short, with its new strategy, Danes Worldwide is well equipped to continue to strengthen its work on behalf of the association's members, not only with the political priorities, but also with advice and help in concrete situations – online as well as in person.

Submitted by Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Danes Worldwide Representative for Ottawa, and partly based on the Annual Report given by Susanne Rumohr Hækkerup, Chairman of the Board, and Michael Bach Petersen, Secretary General.

Exploring Danish Identity

2023 Heritage Seminar

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The 2023 Heritage Seminar was held at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo from Monday, May 29 to Friday morning, June 2. The Headmasters were Pastor Lasse Hultberg and his wife Frederikke, who had chosen the theme Exploring Danish Identity. The eighteen participants met in the Malaspina Room Monday afternoon, where the long tables had been set up in a large U shape so everyone could see the other participants. The meeting began with each participant introducing himself, or herself, followed by a game of Bingo Mingle.



The Meeting Room: Danish Heritage Seminar, Nanaimo, 2023.

After dinner Pastor Lasse Hultberg spoke about Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerød, which is now the home of the Danish Museum of National History. Having worked at the museum, Lasse was able to give various insights to the history of the castle as well as the many artifacts displayed throughout the castle, including the collection of coat of arms of Danish nobles as well as persons who had distinguished themselves, such as the recipients of the Order of the Elephant.

Tuesday morning Pastor Lasse presented an overview of Danish festivals and celebrations, which are traditional, religious, national and popular, and recur each year. For several of the celebrations he recounted their history as well as how nearly all of them had changed over the years. Later Tuesday morning the participants visited the Nanaimo Museum, with the exhibits focusing on the history of the First Nations people in the area. The museum also told the story of the establishment of the British Hudson's Bay Company settlement in 1852, which it named

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Colvile after its governor. In 1858 the settlement was renamed Nanaimo, after the local indigenous people. The museum had also built a replica of a coal mine, one of the town's early and profitable industries. Moreover, the museum recounted the story of the first Chinatown in Nanaimo, founded during the goldrush in the 1860s.

Tuesday afternoon Frederikke took the participants on a virtual stroll in Assistens Cemetery in Copenhagen, recounting the development of the cemetery and noting many of the well-known people buried there, including Hans Christian Andersen. The cemetery also functions as a large public park, which was clearly seen on the photos shown on the big screen in the classroom. The cemetery was originally located outside the ramparts of the city, but is now located in urban Nørrebro. She ended her presentation by showing how an entrance to the new Copenhagen Metro station had been built below a corner of the Nørrebro Roundabout, on a site formerly part of the cemetery, which had meant relocating some burial plots and grave markers.

In the evening Rolf Christensen spoke about the attempt to establish a Danish colony at Cape Scott on the northern tip of Vancouver Island in the late 1890s, with focus on Carl Brinck Christensen, who later became very active in the Danish community in Vancouver.



Pastor Lasse Hultberg with Frederikke Hultberg and their son Thaddæus

Wednesday morning Pastor Lasse spoke about Danish poets who through song celebrated the four seasons. As a reference Lasse used *Folkehøjskolens Sangbog*, perhaps the most popular song book in Denmark. Lasse led the class in singing several of the songs, including a moving and melancholy, but popular, winter song by Steen Steensen Blicher.

This was followed by a short account of Knud Rasmussen and his Fifth Thule Expedition across Arctic North America from 1921 to 1924. Rolf pointed out the significance of this particular expedition and how it had contributed to the understanding of the way and life of the Inuit. Afterwards the participants had the rest of the day to themselves.

Thursday morning Pastor Lasse briefly recounted the history of the Danish Lutheran congregation in Edmonton. He started by mentioning Peter Erasmus, partly of Danish descent, who was a buffalo hunter, fur trader and interpreter for Treaty Six, and then Pete Anderson (Peter Andersen), who developed a brick yard in Edmonton in the 1890s. But it was members of the Danish Canadian Society DANIA, formed in 1921, who provided the basis for the first Danish Church Service in Edmonton in 1923, that is, one hundred years ago this year. Lasse then distributed the book *60 Years Old*, about the Ansgar congregation in Edmonton, pointing out some of the congregation's highlights over the past century. A celebration to mark the anniversary was held in September.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Before lunch the seminar participants were divided into three groups, forming workshops to discuss topics related to each seminar presentation. After lunch each group gave its report or assessment on each presentation.



The Seminar participants, Thursday evening, ready to party!

Thursday evening the participants held a goodbye party with dinner, entertainment and a lottery. Already on the first day of the Seminar three committees had been established, each tasked to look after decorations, alcoholic beverages and entertainment for the Thursday night event. The entertainment for the party was provided by the participants themselves. It was impressive what talent was revealed among the assembled participants. Some recited poems, others sang, some danced, some made a presentation or a skit, and three people had brought something for Show and Tell. For the lottery many people had brought beautiful items, which were displayed on a long table. Lottery tickets were sold, and tickets were drawn, with many winning two or three items. The proceeds from the lottery went to partly offset the deficit of holding the seminar.



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.



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OBITUARIES

Carlo Dalgas, Mississauga

1931 – 2024

Carlo Richardt Dalgas passed away on January 7, 2024. He was predeceased by Ann (1933-2017) his beloved wife of 58 years; and his siblings, Christian, Louis and Ellen. He will be lovingly remembered by his children, Jane, Bruce (Gini) and Steve (Michelle) and his grandchildren, Dylan and Marae.



Carlo was a quiet, easy going, gentleman who was fondly referred to as 'The Great Dane'. He was born on August 1, 1931, in Ilskov, Denmark where he spent his childhood. After he graduated from Niels Brock Business College in Copenhagen, his life adventure began when he decided to immigrate to Canada in 1956. While working nights at a sawmill in Vancouver, he spent his days developing an import business which flourished for over 50 years. It was also at this time that he met Ann at a YMCA dance, who he would lovingly dance with throughout most of his life. Carlo was an original work-from-home entrepreneur for almost six decades. He also traveled extensively throughout the North and Central Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and South East Asia. At last count, he had been to 72 countries. In the 1960's, he introduced Havarti cheese to

North America, earning him another fond nickname, 'The Big Cheese'. Dad always reminded us that he couldn't have built his business without mum, as she steered the ship while he was away traveling. Carlo felt that Canada had been very good to him and as a proud Canadian believed community service was very important. He was a Rotarian for decades receiving the Paul Harris Fellow Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award for his service. Although Carlo spent most of his life in Canada, he was a Dane at heart. Growing up at our house meant eating open face sandwiches, great cheese, saying skål and acquiring a taste for aquavit. Dad ate herring for lunch most days until he was 91. A few of his favourite Danish traditions were the annual gatherings at the Dalgas family estate in Denmark, *julefrokost* at the Copenhagen Room in Toronto, and the annual Niels Brock Canadian Association weekend. Once Carlo retired, he became an avid golfer and spent as much time as possible with his beloved Ann. For 25 years, they spent winters in Fort Myers, Florida. Carlo was a member at the Weston Golf and Country Club for over three decades and golfed there until he was 91 with Jane as his caddy by his side. He always said, "I love the game, but mostly I love the camaraderie". Family was everything to Carlo. He cherished every opportunity, especially in his later years, for a visit or chat with his children and grandkids and his support for them was unwavering. He was generous with his hugs and was lovingly referred to as 'The Hug Monster'. Dad lived a good long life filled with love, family, friendship and purpose. Although he will be greatly missed, we are comforted in knowing he is now dancing with Mum once again. A celebration of life will take place at the Weston Golf and Country Club in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rotary Club of Mississauga Foundation.

Jørgen Dam, Schomberg, Ont.

1939 – 2022

Jørgen (John) Dam passed away in Newmarket after a short illness on May 20, 2022, surrounded by his wife, Inge, two daughters and two granddaughters. Jørgen was born into a farming family in Hald by Randers in Jutland on February 22, 1939. After agricultural school, Jørgen served for two years in the Guard Hussar Regiment, a calvary regiment in the Danish army. Then in April 1967, Jørgen immigrated to Canada.

He thought Canada would be an interesting country, and planned to stay for a couple of years before returning to Denmark. However, he stayed and saw big changes and rapid development. To keep up within the work force he would take courses in his spare time to upgrade his skills. For 37 years he worked for Canadian Tire, doing different things, including security. Canadian Tire Corporation was founded in Toronto in 1922 and grew into a major and recognized retail chain with well over 1,000 stores and gas bars across Canada.

In 1973, Jørgen married Inge, with whom he shared his life for over 48 years. Inge, born in Bedsted, Thy, immigrated to Canada in August 1972. Within months of her arrival in Toronto they met in the Danish Church's youth group. They were married in the Danish Lutheran Church on Finch Avenue by Pastor Christian Dickmeiss in 1973. They were blessed with two daughters, Rikke and Amanda (see photo from the 1980s).



Inge, Jørgen, Rikke and Amanda

Jørgen remembers with fondness a camping trip the family made to Prince Edward Island in 1987. PEI reminded Jørgen and Inge so much of the western part of Jutland. The roads, the farms and the landscape looked much like Denmark. On the way back they drove through New Denmark, N.B., where they saw Danish names on the roads and visited the churches and the museum. In the museum they saw artifacts that reminded them of their youth in Denmark.

Jørgen enjoyed attending the Ontario Region Meetings of the Danish Federation, driving either to the Church on Finch or to Sunset Villa in Puslinch for the two annual meetings.

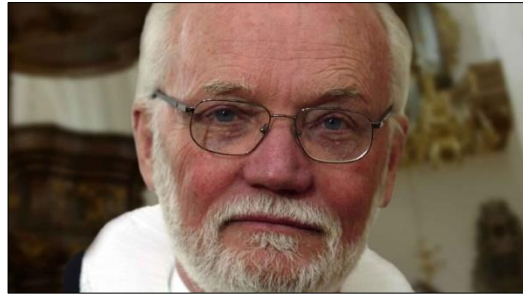
Inge is a weaver. In 1992 she completed an in-depth study for the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners to become a Master Weaver. She is also a textile designer and instructor. She has made luxurious handwoven scarves, cowls, jackets, bags and shawls with tablet woven bands. She has her own successful business and also conducts workshops.

Inge and her two daughters are grateful for all Jørgen has done to raise them as strong women. Jørgen loved living in Schomberg, Ontario, being close to the farms and rolling hills.

Provost Christian Dickmeiss

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Provost Christian Dickmeiss was Assistant Pastor at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto from 1971 to 1975. He was thirty years old when he arrived in Toronto with his wife and children. When he returned to Denmark after 4 years the family settled in Odense, where he served until he retired.



Christian Dickmeiss was born during the War, on February 27, 1941, in Vesterborg, on the island of Lolland, where his father, Pastor Vilhelm Gustav Dickmeiss, was provost. The family then moved to Hørsholm, north of Copenhagen, and the young Christian graduated from Rungsted Statsskole in 1959. He had wanted to be a pastor since he was a boy, and thus he attended the University of Copenhagen receiving his degree in 1966. In 1967 he became pastor at the parish of Arninge-Tillitze on Lolland as well as a part-time high school teacher in the town of Nakskov, teaching religion. At the same time he was appointed chaplain at Stormarkskirken, a brand new church in Nakskov. In 1964 he had married Karen Kjer, and they would eventually have four children.

In 1971 Dickmeiss eagerly embraced the opportunity to become Assistant Pastor at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto for a four-year period. He arrived with his wife and children in September 1971, and immediately got to work, emerging himself in the congregation and Danish community. He was a perceptive observer and made a note of all his observations regarding the role of the congregation and the Danish Church Abroad (DKU). His keen observations became an article in the *Diocese of Lolland-Falster 1972 Yearbook* entitled “Folke- og Frikirke – en lykkelige blanding”. The article is reproduced elsewhere in the present Heritage Book under the title “DKU – the extended arm” and deals specifically with the role of DKU among Danes abroad.

Pastor Dickmeiss returned to Denmark in the summer of 1975, where he became the residing chaplain at Thomas Kingo Church in Odense, inaugurated in 1924. In 1980 he became Pastor (Sognepræst) at Thomas Kingo. In Denmark Dickmeiss would attend the annual meetings of DKU at Nyborg Strand and in 1978 he was elected to the board of directors. Then in 1981 Dickmeiss was elected president of DKU. During his fourteen years as president he travelled to many DKU churches around the world. He was in Burnaby in October 1984 when the new Vancouver Church next to DANIA was inaugurated, and Granly became a separate and independent DKU congregation. He stepped down as DKU president in 1994 when he was appointed Provost of the Diocese of Funen. Dickmeiss wrote three books and from 1994 to 2000 he edited *Fyns Stiftsbog*, the diocese’s annual publication. Christian Dickmeiss died at the age of 82 on April 15, 2022.

Bedstemor Zucie Sian Hansen

Christine Hansen-Gealon

Bedstemor, my grandma Azucena (Zucie) Sian Hansen, was born in Guimbal, Iloilo, in the Philippines on July 9, 1939. The eldest daughter of six children, she was a motherly older sister to her younger siblings, helping look after them, the



Papa and Bedstemor were married at the Danish Church in 1975.

house and the farm. Starting work at a young age as a governess in order to finish college, Bedstemor then moved to the Netherlands along with many other Filipino young women to work as a seamstress. Several dresses I wore as a child were made by her. After spending some time in Holland, Bedstemor moved to Toronto, where she obtained work in the accounting department at Sears Canada Inc.

Bedstefar or Papa, my grandpa Henry William Hansen, was born in Esbjerg, Denmark, on February 16, 1925. The third eldest brother to six siblings, he helped with the family store. In search of a better future, Papa immigrated to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and worked there as a butcher. He learned English by reading comics and watching cartoons like Peanuts and Charlie Brown. Later he moved to Toronto and became a merchandiser for Sears Canada Inc. He was the first owner of the house he bought in Toronto, and it has been in our family's

possession ever since. Being a handyman and a jack of all trades, Papa fixed and customized the house, giving it a Danish flare with the wooden panels in the basement. He built a small backyard tool shed, a picnic area, some birdhouses, as well as a sandbox for my brother and I when we were small. The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto was the first church where Papa felt at home, and he was a member for the rest of his life.

Auntie Vicky, our dear and old family friend, who also worked at Sears, introduced my grandparents to each other. Auntie Vicky encouraged Bedstemor to go to a party that Papa was attending, so she could meet the handsome bachelor. While Bedstemor wasn't interested, she went anyway. Papa didn't really pay attention to the other guests. But when he saw Bedstemor he went up to her, took her hand and kissed it, as if she were a princess and he were a prince. After the party they would often talk on the phone. A couple of months later Papa proposed to Bedstemor. They were married at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto on June 30, 1975. Papa and Bedstemor spent many years at church functions, later joining the Golden Age Club, making

OBITUARIES

beloved friends like Bedstemor Rita and Bedstefar Orla Andersen. One Christmas they were Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Papa and Bedstemor never had any children of their own, but decided to adopt their oldest niece, my mom, Eva Hansen Gealon, the daughter of Bedstemor's younger sister Araceli, so she could have a better life here in Canada. My mom arrived in Toronto in 1982 when she was 18, and the Danish Church was one of the first places where she made new friends. Like her adoptive

parents, my mom also ended up working at Sears Canada Inc. As well, mom learned how to bake and become a 'jill' of all trades from watching Papa fix things around the house. Years later my brother Andrew Hansen-Gealon and I were baptized and eventually were confirmed at the Danish Church. We spent large chunks of our childhood and teen years attending Children's Hour with Liselotte Ostergaard, helping with special events like the Royal Dinner, Thanksgiving Dinner, and the Spring and Fall/Christmas



Bedstemor, Papa, my brother Andrew, and me, Christine

Bazaars, and participating in or watching the Nativity Play and Lucia Pageant. The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto is full of history for my family, many lovely memories took place there, and it's my first church or "home" that I always love visiting. It's always a joy seeing many members that I have crossed paths with over the years, chatting over delicious food, learning about and practicing Danish traditions.

Although the only Danish thing about me is the first half of my last name, my love for Danish food begs to differ. I love ris-à-l'amande, æblekage, æbleskiver, fastelavnsboller, lemon fromage, smørrebrød, frikadeller, liver paté, etc. Actually, Papa's liver paté was the best, especially with the cucumber salad he used to make. Plus, Papa's and Bedstemor's love for making baked goods and caring for plants got me into baking and gardening. And despite not being blood-related to Papa, I've inherited his artistic ability. I've been inspired by him to write poems and stories, and to sing, dance, draw and paint. Bedstemor also inspired me with her singing and dancing, which she was brilliant at. Every year, Bedstemor would call people she knew on their birthday to sing a special birthday song, a tradition that she carried on from our late dear family friend Tita (Auntie) Candida. Bedstemor and Papa had the ability to make many connections and let people feel special, loved, cared for and appreciated. Wherever they went, they formed new bonds and brightened people's lives.

Papa passed away at Sunnybrook Hospital on April 4, 2008, from open heart surgery complications at the age of 83. Losing the love of her life hit Bedstemor hard. She couldn't bring herself to go to the Danish Church for a long time after Papa's death. Even I avoided going to the Danish Church for quite some time. When I finally went for the Nativity Play some years later, I ended up crying and breaking down because I was just so overwhelmed with reminders about Papa. But as more time passed, happy moments took over sad memories, and I went back to

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enjoying going to church again. Eventually, Bedstemor too was able to visit for the bazaars, and was joyful seeing familiar faces. In April 2023, Bedstemor was diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia and her health deteriorated. Then on October 27, 2023, Bedstemor passed away from severe pneumonia and other health complications at North York General Hospital at the age of 84. Thankfully, before and after being hospitalized, Bedstemor was still able to remember and recognize us. We were comforted by the thought that Bedstemor is no longer in pain and that she is reunited with Papa and the rest of our loved ones who have gone ahead.



Although my grandparents are gone, their legacy remains. They have blessed us with a better life, a multitude of loved ones near and far, precious memories, and much love, joy, inspiration and more. We miss them terribly, but we carry their love with us, and we live on for them.

Mahal kita. Jeg elsker dig. I love you Bedstemor and Papa. We love you. Thank you for everything. Keep painting the skies with your wings and singing songs to the Lord. Until we too go to our forever home, see you later. We'll live and love for you, and because of you. With much love and prayer: Your "little princess," Christine Hansen-Gealon.

Denmark's Forgotten Holocaust: My Family History in Letters

edited by Bodil Jelhof Jensen

"almost like reading a top-rated novel . . . !" CR, Westmount

Expected release: September 2024; 300 pages with 88 historical documents and 110 family photos.

Synopsis: In October 1943, Max and Rose Hartwig walked into Theresienstadt along with 200 other Jewish Danes. Billed in Nazi propaganda as a model ghetto to resettle European Jews, Theresienstadt was in fact a transit stop for the death camps and was itself a death camp housing a crematorium with four ovens.

While Max and Rose languished in the camp, their seven children and their families found refuge in Sweden. From there, they did everything possible to free Max and Rose, sending letters, money and care packages. When Max left the camp on a Red Cross bus in April 1945, he smuggled out these letters of love and, against all odds, most survived the intervening years. The actual letters are reproduced in this book in their entirety as originally handwritten in German with translations to Danish and English.

The history is completed with family letters written between 1920 and 1959, family photos and official documents. Created as events unfolded by the people who were there, this historical record gives a unique insight into the Holocaust. The book presents a story of love and hope, and for most, survival. A touching story of courage about one family in World War II Denmark. The editor, Bodil Jelhof Jensen, is a granddaughter of Max and Rose Hartwig.

Google Denmark's Forgotten Holocaust to read excerpts from the book.

Glenna Hitchcock

1932 – 2023

Director, Atlantic Region, Danish Federation

It was with sadness that we received the news that Glenna Hitchcock had passed away in Saint John, N.B. She was Director of the Atlantic Region for the Danish Federation. In 1997 Glenna had attended the Danish Canadian Conference in New Denmark and the following year she joined the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation. She became a regular participant at the annual Danish Canadian Conferences and would each year give a report from New Denmark, where she had been born on April 23, 1932. Glenna really enjoyed the Heritage Seminars, which she always attended immediately following the Conference. Glenna was kind and gentle and had a great sense of humor. She was dedicated and conscientious.

Glenna Shirley Hitchcock, née Christensen, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at Carleton-Kirk Nursing Home in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Sylvester Hitchcock. She will be dearly missed by her children Deborah (Richard) Stewart, Monica (Claude Moore) Hitchcock, Dean (Debbie) Hitchcock and the late Leah Dawn Hitchcock. She was the proud grandmother of Jay and Scott Stewart and great-grandmother of Cameron, Ben and Carly Stewart. Glenna has gone to be reunited with her brothers Gerald (Evelyn) Christensen, Ivan (Edna) Christensen, her sisters Sylvia Taun, Thelma (Darrold) Toner, Joanne (Ian) McDonald and her parents Margaret and Vinal Christensen. Glenna, having been a daughter, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-grandmother, was very proud of her roots in New Denmark, prior to moving to Saint John in the mid 1960's. She worked for Sears for 27 years leading up to her retirement, a Past Atlantic Director of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, a member of Christ the King Anglican congregation, member of the Ladies Guild and 50 year member of the Altar Guild. Being the last in her family, she has had her share of adversity, but she maintained a life full of appreciation for her family's accomplishments, her love of cooking, skiing, skating and travel. Throughout her life she maintained her faith in her church which we believe was returned to her in spades. She was an amazing role model for her family and friends, a joy to be around, she will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care and direction of the Fundy Funeral Home, 230 Westmorland Road, Saint John. Friends will be received on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 12 noon. A Celebration of Life will follow in the chapel at 2:00 p.m. Cremation to follow.



Karen Rebecca Jensen

1978 – 2022

Karen was born on February 16, 1978 to an English mum (Avril) and a Danish dad (Johannes). She got the adventure bug from both of her parents, mum who boarded a ship bound for Canada in 1967 at the age of 25 and dad who boarded a ship in 1955 at the age of 23 also bound for Canada. Avril and Johannes were married in 1971 and Karen came along in 1978, after Rachael in 1973.

After she finished High School, Karen's desire for adventure first took her to Connecticut to work as a nanny for a family with two boys. She lived with them for a couple of years and really developed close relationships with the children. Her next adventure took her to London, England, to be a teacher. Teaching jobs were hard to find in Canada at the time and through mum she obtained British citizenship which let her easily work in London without the usual paperwork. Mum's two brothers live in England with their families, six first cousins and more than nine second cousins in England, some of whom were born while she was working over there. She spent holidays with them and really became part of their families.



Her love for travel continued while she was living in London, she travelled to many places across Europe discovering new countries and meeting new people. She travelled to Denmark to meet her aunts and uncles and her 17 first cousins as well as her many second and possibly third cousins. Dad was one of nine children so there is lots of family. She wanted to learn about her Danish heritage and did her best to learn the language.

She missed home and combined with a five year limit on working as a teacher before she would need to obtain a UK teaching certificate, she decided to move back to Toronto. She worked hard to get herself a full-time job with the Toronto District School Board teaching elementary school. The children loved her, and she excelled at creating a fun learning experience for her students.

Karen had a spark about her. A bright smile and a sense of adventure. She had a mischievous streak as a child which would always bring a hidden smile to her parent's faces. She cared so much for her family and through social media reached out to her 23 first cousins. She would check in and share pictures and news from Canada to maintain the connections.

Karen became a member of the Danish Lutheran Church. Attending the church from a young age, she was confirmed, was Lucia, and always helped out with the children as she got older. In more recent years, she would participate in the Church Café group and enjoyed a game of cards or dice. She easily made friends and always with a smile on her face. We lost Karen too soon on December 31, 2022 at the age of 44. She took a piece of our hearts with her. Written by Rachael, her sister.

Larry Kjearsgaard

Markerville, Alberta

It is with profound sadness that the family of Larry Andrew Kjearsgaard announces his sudden passing on Friday, March 31, 2023, at the age of 73. He was a beloved husband, father, papa, brother, uncle, colleague, and friend; Larry's zest for life was expressed in the form of numerous musical performances, extensive community involvement, officiating many levels of volleyball, playing old-timers hockey, travelling, exploring his Danish heritage, watching his beloved Edmonton Oilers, and of course revelling in every family activity and milestone. His positive outlook and engaging personality will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved Larry.



Larry was predeceased by his father Anders Kjearsgaard, mother Betty Kjearsgaard, brother-in-law Bill Kure, as well as several beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins on both the Kjearsgaard and Nielsen sides of the family. The memory of Larry will be cherished by his wife and life-long partner Faye; sons Ian, and Joel (Rachel); daughter Dana

(Andrew); grandchildren Zachary (Miranda), Maeghan, Carson, Lydia, Remy, Sage and Anders; sisters Linda (Larry), Sonja, and Sharon (Perry); nieces Deanna (Jarett), and Karina (David), nephews Jess (Christiane), Landon, and Mitchell (Amber); great nieces and nephews; many cousins, relatives, and an immeasurable number of friends and colleagues.

Larry was born on May 30, 1949, in Edmonton, the first of four children to Andy and Betty Kjearsgaard. He was raised and attended all levels of his schooling in Edmonton, culminating in his graduation from the University of Alberta with his Bachelor of Education and teaching certificate. The first stretch of his professional career began at Consort School in Consort, Alberta, where he eventually rose to position of school principal before moving in 1997 to assume the principalship of Spruce View School in Spruce View, Alberta, where he remained until his retirement in 2004. Education was more than a career to Larry; it was a passion that stayed with him long after his full-time career ended, prompting him to remain a ready and eager substitute up until the time of his passing.

However, it was in amidst the backdrop of the turbulence and societal changes of the late 1960's, that Larry found the two greatest loves of his life – music and his life-long partner Faye Anne Taylor. The varied sounds and impassioned messages of the '60's music inspired Larry to join five close friends in forming the Edmonton-based band St. James Infirmary, contributing to a

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thriving local music scene, and cementing a life-long relationship with music and performing. Concurrent with his growing passion for music was the growing relationship with Faye that would result in the greatest accomplishments of Larry's life, his marriage and his children.

It was during their time in Consort that Larry and Faye welcomed their three children: Ian, Dana, and Joel. It was also during this time that many of the other interests that came to define Larry took root. He undertook the role of coaching the Consort Stingers Senior Girls volleyball team, starting a relationship with the sport as a coach and official that stayed with Larry for life. He also took to community service, joining the local Kinsmen and volunteering with many projects and community events. Larry also started playing golf, and eventually men's recreational hockey by working on his skating and quickly realizing that his key to ice time was honing his goalkeeping skills.



Faye and Larry: at 2019 Winnipeg Conference



Jens Woller, Faye and the Kjearsgaard family, at the Museum's Memorial Wall plaque unveiling.

A few years following the graduation of Larry and Faye's two oldest children, the opportunity to work in Spruce View near the site of the Kjearsgaard family homestead in the Dickson area, prompted the family to move and settle in the rural community of Markerville. It was here that Larry and Faye began the earnest journey of exploring the family's Danish heritage and the impact of Scandinavian culture on the region to which they moved. It was in Markerville that Larry made some of the closest friendships that would endure for the remainder of his life.

Following his retirement, Larry embraced many community activities and committees, volunteering and serving with organizations including the Danish Canadian Museum, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society, the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and many more. It was also post retirement in 2007 that Larry and Faye immersed themselves, at the Kalø Højskole near Rønne, Denmark. This time exploring his ancestral homeland resonated deeply with Larry who incorporated many Danish customs and traditions into his life and rejuvenated his connection with his family tree. It also provided several meaningful friendships from around the world for Larry and Faye that they continued to foster to this day.

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A celebration of Larry's life was held later followed by the placement of his ashes at the Tindastoll Cemetery near the community of Markerville. The family is grateful to the many first responders that attended and provided compassionate care and support. Thank you also to the Red Deer Funeral Home for their guidance during this difficult time. Memorial donations may be made in Larry's name to the Danish Canadian Museum or the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society.

For Larry, attending Kalø Højskole in Jutland in 2007 was a highlight in his life. About a dozen years later he finished writing his book *Faye and Larry's Danish Adventure Aug-Dec 2007* about their stay at this Danish Folk High School. The 191-page book was distributed to a small group of family and friends. On the back cover of the book Larry wrote, "There is a basic philosophy which underlies everything done there.... This was the package, along with the small, practical dose of formal 'schooling' that made this the experience of a lifetime for Faye and Larry. It really was so much more than just learning a language!"



The guitar Larry used to teach his children and grandchildren to play. The guitar was crafted into an urn for Larry by his eldest son.

Larry was the grandson of Thorvald Nielsen and Vera Nielsen, née Lohmann, who had immigrated to Canada in the 1920s. They were major movers within the Danish community in Edmonton, where Vera was known as Mor Danmark (Mother Denmark). Moreover, Larry's father, Andy, served as president of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, and his mother, Betty, served as secretary of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

In 2011 Larry was elected President of the Alberta Region of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, taking over from Karsten Dalberg of Calgary. At the time Larry was serving on the board of directors of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. Larry wanted to do more than just meet a couple of times a year, generally to network, socialize and exchange ideas and experiences. He wanted the Alberta Region to incorporate, which it did. And he wanted to raise money for scholarships. In 2018 he headed and organized the Danish Federation's Conference in Halifax. While being on the board of directors of the Danish Federation he served on the board of the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, including being editor of the TeleDane newsletter and being president.

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With Larry's passing the Danish Federation, the Foundation in Calgary, the Red Deer Club as well as the Museum wanted to somehow commemorate Larry. As a tribute to Larry it was decided to place a plaque on one of the pillars of the Memorial Wall at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. The unveiling ceremony took place on Sunday, June 11, 2023, with Faye and their children and grandchildren in attendance. About another thirty people attended. The plaque was unveiled by Faye and Jens Woller. Many of the participants spoke about Larry, including Jens Woller (Alberta Region), Hans J. Jorgensen (Foundation, Calgary), Connie Swarbrick (Museum), Joanne Nielsen (Red Deer Club) and Steve Morck (former Museum president). After the unveiling there was coffee and fellowship, and time to share memories of Larry.

Larry's guitar headstone in the Tindastoll Cemetery was designed and made by a local Markerville artisan.



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Ann-Merethe Larsen

Ole Larsen, Chilliwack

Ann-Merethe Larsen, née Rasmussen, passed away on May 20, 2023, at Chilliwack Hospital after a brief battle with cancer. She was predeceased by her brothers Chris and Steen. She will be deeply missed by her husband Ole, children



*Ann-Merethe Larsen (née Rasmussen)
January 9, 1938 – May 20, 2023*

Ken (Lori) and Lynette (Michael) and her grandchildren Anneka and Charlie, as well as her sisters Ulla, Ebba, Dana and their families. Ann was born on January 9, 1938, in Ebberup, Fyn, Denmark, the first-born child of Kaj and Edith Rasmussen - Ulla, Ebba and Steen followed. They lived in Odense for four years prior to immigrating to Vancouver, arriving May 5, 1952, where her youngest brother, Chris, was born June 2, 1952.

Life in Denmark was never boring in small town Ebberup. Her father's forays into mink farming and growing tobacco during the war, and then owning a small summer resort, "Marielyst", Falster, for two years, where summers were spent on the wonderful beach. Ann also participated in Scouts in Denmark, camping and enjoying the freedom of youth.

Once in Canada Ann attended Kitsilano High School and graduated in 1957. She enthusiastically participated in many school activities and started to show the leadership qualities that she would be known for, for the rest of her life. It was in her last years of high school that her mother became sick and died in April 1957. The three sisters now took on the mantle of housekeepers and mothers to their younger brothers, 5 and 10 years old, while trying to navigate being high school students.

As high school was ending Ann had to decide on her future career. In the 1950s Canada wasn't quite ready for a female forest ranger (her first choice), and there wasn't quite enough money to pursue being a doctor or nurse. But her interests and budget were well matched to training as a laboratory technologist and after training at UBC and Shaughnessy Hospital she was ready to see what the world would offer. During this time her father met and married Margaret in 1959, and a sixth child, Dana, was both in 1961.

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In the 1950's the Danish community in Vancouver was a lively one, and Ann participated in the young people group at the Danish Church on East 19th Avenue & Prince Albert, and danced with the Danish Folk Dancers. But it was a gathering of Danes at Peace Arch Park to celebrate the Danish Constitution Day on June 5, 1960, that led her to meet her future husband, Ole. They had very little time together as a couple before Ann was to move to Kamloops to work at the hospital for a year. This did not deter them, and their relationship continued with Ole making the long trip to see her every two weeks.

At the end of her contract Ann surprised Ole by telling him that she had planned a six month trip to Europe with two girl-friends and they toured Europe from Denmark to Italy on Vélosolex mopeds. This did not stop Ole from proposing, and Ann accepting, and they were married December 31, 1961 not long after her return.

After living for a few months in Vancouver the couple settled in Port Kells, Surrey. Children would have to wait a few years as Ann worked while Ole was finishing his schooling to become an accountant. In 1967 their son Ken was born with Lynette arriving three years later. Ann had continued to work after Ken was born, but with the arrival of Lynette she quit work to raise her two lively children.

Her children were not all that was keeping her busy. For several years she was a Sunday school teacher at the Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, and when Ken was old enough, she became a Beaver leader. Scouts and Guides would become a passion for her and over the decades she would be involved in many capacities, rising to hold senior positions in the Fraser Valley. During this time Ann and Ole also took on the mammoth task of building a new house in Port Kells. It took many years and a lot of hard work, but eventually they had the joy of living in the house of their dreams.

By the time Ken and Lynette were in their teens there became an urgent need for more laboratory technologists in British Columbia, and so Ann attended a "refresher" course at BCIT for former lab technicians. This led to her job at Eagle Ridge Hospital in Port Moody, where she worked until her retirement.

In 2006 Ann and Ole decided to move to Ryder Lake in Chilliwack. The large house on 16 acres of beautiful property, with a pool, made it an ideal place to host guests and family gatherings and people visited from Canada and abroad. Ann and Ole also did their own share of visiting and traveling. Throughout the years they explored the Yukon, many Canadian provinces, the western United States, Costa Rica and most of South America. There were also trips to Denmark to visit family and friends.

Unfortunately life has challenges as well, and a few years after retirement Ann developed rheumatoid arthritis. This did what nothing else could do: it slowed her down. But it did not stop her - she would still spend hours a day picking blueberries before cooling off in the pool. She was enormously involved in the running of Granly Danish Lutheran Church on 152nd Street in Surrey, and singing with the Tivoli Singers. The rheumatoid arthritis eventually started to attack her lungs causing her to need oxygen, but this didn't keep her from attending Granly for church services, board meetings and the book club (Studiekreds).

Ann touched many people throughout her life - from high school, from working at the hospitals, from her involvement in Scouts Canada, the Danish community, the Tivoli Singers, and not least the Granly Church, while the rest of us were blessed to be her family.

Poul Erik Olsen, Pass Lake

1931 – 2023

Poul Erik (Paul) Olsen passed away at St. Joseph's Hospice on July 19, 2023. He was born on the family farm in Vollerup, Als, Denmark, on May 1, 1931 to parents Johannes and Magda Olsen.

As a young man, he joined the Royal Danish Navy to fulfill his military duties, and once completed packed his bags and hit the road on his motorcycle where he travelled extensively throughout Europe. After returning to Denmark, his sense of adventure continued when he decided to pack his bags once again and take the long boat trip across the pond to Canada. Once in Canada, he worked on a farm in Southern Ontario before heading north stopping first in Pass Lake and eventually made his way to Port Arthur. In 1958, at the House of Denmark on Lakeshore Drive, a Danish girl caught his eye. He married Inge on May 23, 1959 and celebrated 61 years of marriage before her passing in 2021. Poul had a great work ethic. He worked on various farms and bush camps, home delivery of bread for Shaw's, and became an insurance salesman for Prudential. The majority of his working career was dedicated to employment at Brink's Canada where he was promoted to Branch Manager and retired in 1996 after 27 years of service. In retirement he was an



Poul Olsen, Coordinator of the Danish Canadian Conference in Pass Lake, Ontario, in June 2003.

active member of the community. He was a member of the Thunder Bay Kiwanis Club, participating in various fundraisers, and volunteered for the Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Pass Lake Historical Society. The past few years he loved the simple things in life such as being in the presence of family and friends, relaxing and sunbathing on his backyard deck from dawn to dusk, attending concerts in the park, shows at the Auditorium and enjoying a good meal (preferably Danish cuisine) or a Tim's coffee with a 'moofin'. Poul and Inge also enjoyed frequent travel to Cuba, the USA, across Canada and numerous trips back to Denmark. His greatest joy was his family and many friends who will remember him for his kindness and big heart. There was nothing he wouldn't do for his family especially his children and grandchildren.

Poul will be lovingly remembered and dearly missed by his two children, son Dennis (Bernadette) and daughter Elsa (David Hainrich), granddaughter Dayna, his sister Inge Gunhild (Denmark), sister-in-law Anna Gillis, niece Koren and nephew Douglas and their families. He will also be missed by his grand-dogs Sophie, Tilley and Gunther, who will miss stealing his socks. Predeceased by his wife Inge, grandson Derek, parents Johannes and Magda, sister Else Marie, mother and father-in-law Theodor and Karen Bang and brother-in-law Rudy Gillis, as well as other relatives in Denmark. As per Poul's wishes, no service was held.

Gunnar Dyrlund Pedersen

September 3, 1922 – December 23, 2023

Gunnar Dyrlund Pedersen of New Denmark, who had been President of the Atlantic Region of the Danish Federation for the past thirty years, passed away at the Falls Villa (Grand Falls Manor) on December 23, 2023, at the age of 101.



Gunnar Pedersen was born in Rorup, a parish southwest of Roskilde, on September 3, 1922, to Victor Pedersen and Ellen Pedersen, née Andersen. Victor Pedersen was a smallholder who owned a ‘husmandssted’ – that is, a small homestead. In March 1928 Victor and Ellen immigrated to Canada, sailing on the SS *Frederik VIII* and landing in Halifax. They settled in Drummond, close to New Denmark. Gunnar was placed in a French-speaking school and had his schooling in French from grade 1 to 5. Thus he eventually became fluent in Danish, French and English.

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



While Gunnar would make his living by being a farmer in New Denmark, he also became a talented musician, entertaining well into his late nineties. He married Lillian Laursen (1927-2013) of New Denmark and they had four children. Gunnar is survived by his children: Peter Pedersen (Francine) of New Denmark; Inga (Maurice Morin) of Drummond; Asta (Ray Christensen) of New Denmark; Ingrid (late LeRoy Webb) of Roscoe, Illinois; and his sister Ruth Hill (late Clair) of New Denmark. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren plus one great-great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Willie, Ove, Knud, Elly and Erna.

At his home and later at the New Denmark Seniors' Complex, which he moved into in 1997, he built a miniature village replicating all the buildings in New Denmark as he remembered them from his early years. The miniature village is his legacy. His funeral service was held on January 6, 2024 at Bethany Lutheran Church, New Denmark, with Pastor Jonah Bruce officiating.

Our sincere condolences on the passing of your father; he lived a good long life, and his gift of music lives on through his grandchildren, and his talent for making replicas of buildings in the settlement are a gift that will live on for generations to come. Hold onto the memories and those memories will help you through the difficult times ahead.

Heather and Randy Jensen, New Denmark

Erik Victor Terp, Toronto

1924 – 2023



Erik Victor Terp passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones, on February 5, 2023. Erik leaves behind Eva, his beloved wife of 68 years, his children Peter (Melora), Suzanne and Alison (Ray) and five grandchildren Max, Anna, Casper, Erik and Hannah.

Born on June 19, 1924 in Vejle, Denmark, Erik was the third youngest of ten children and the last of them to pass away. He grew up in Vejle and later moved to Copenhagen where he studied Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. During his studies he met the love of his life Eva while they both were taking French courses. Eva and Erik were married in 1955 and soon thereafter immigrated to Canada; where they spent the rest of their lives together. They were frequent visitors to their beloved home country, and it was very important for them to keep the Danish traditions and language alive in their daily lives in Canada. Consequently, all three children are bilingual.

Shortly after arriving in Toronto, Erik started working for the Canadian British Engineering Consultants, where he later became a partner and remained during his entire career. Erik specialized in water filtration and incineration. He was happiest though when he was in his garden or working in his workshop, being creative. Many close friends and family members have his creations throughout their homes (Muskoka chairs, shut-the-box, bird feeders and so much more). Erik was a true handyman; hiring tradespeople was a last resort.

Erik's positive attitude and easygoing personality was contagious and he had a very special bond with children, and animals, that naturally gravitated towards him - we called him the dog whisperer. Erik had a natural ear for music, playing any requested tune or song without notes. Piano music, singing and dancing were always a part of a good party at the Terp house. Erik and Eva took up golf together later in life, and enjoyed the sport up until Covid-19 put an end to it. Since 1961, the Terp family spent every summer at Lake Kagawong on Manitoulin Island, where Erik loved to fish, a love which he passed on to his children and grandchildren, who continue this tradition with a passion.

Always ready with a big smile and encouraging words, Erik loved to entertain and especially loved to make his children and grandchildren smile. He was famous for his Caesar salad recipe, which he loved to share with friends and family everywhere. Erik was able to do a front flip until his 68th year (thanks to years of gymnastics in his youth). At his 95th birthday celebration, he said:

“When someone asks me how I obtained the high age of 95 - reversed – I always tell them: listen to your body and listen to its signals, do as it tells you; have some interests

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and hobbies to keep you active; do something – all the time; don't just sit down in front of the TV – be active. Not just your body, but also your brain; be modest; be yourself - but think of others; and have fun – have a drink, Skål!.”

Erik will be remembered for his sense of humor, quick wit, being a loving husband, father, grandfather and his overall joy of life. A memorial and celebration of Life for Erik was held at the Danish Lutheran Church on March 25, 2023 at 12 pm, followed by a reception in The Royal Hall in the church.

Short Obituaries

Lizzi Irene Aakerlindh, North York **1924 – 2011**

Lizzi Irene Aakerlindh was born on July 22, 1924, in Copenhagen. She passed away at North York General Hospital after a lengthy illness on June 9, 2011. Loving and dearly missed mother to Eileen and son-in-law Charles and sadly missed Mother to Putte (Monika) and Sasse (Chuck). The funeral service took place at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto. Private interment: at Sunset Mindepark.

Karen Margarete Ahlefeldt, Edmonton **1928 – 2023**

Karen Margarete Ahlefeldt passed away on April 8, 2023, after a long battle with dementia. She was born in Thisted on April 18, 1928, and came to Canada in 1955. She leaves to mourn: her two sons Henrik (Niomi), Claus (Brenda), five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling, playing cards and entertaining. She was predeceased by her husband Helge Ahlefeldt who died on June 25, 2005 at the age of 84. A memorial service was held for Helge at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

Arne Dreier Andersen, Surrey **1934 – 2023**

Arne Dreier Andersen passed away at Surrey Memorial Hospital on April 25, 2023. He was born January 23, 1934, in Gilleleje, Denmark, the third of six children. He was predeceased by his wife Ulla Elisabeth Andersen of 43 years. 23 years old he immigrated with Ulla to Canada, where he devoted his life to his family and built a masonry business with his partner Lorenzo. A memorial service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby, followed by a reception.

Finn Andersen, Pass Lake **1939 – 2023**

Finn Andersen of Thunder Bay (formerly of Pass Lake), passed away on May 23, 2023 at St. Joseph's Hospital. Finn was born in Glenstrup, Denmark, on December 31, 1939 to Kai and Nanna Andersen. In 1957, Finn immigrated to Canada with his parents and seven siblings, where they resided in rural Manitoba for several years before moving to Red Lake, Ontario. Finn held a variety of jobs before being employed at Campbell Gold Mines in Red Lake. In 1966, he married Lesley Thompson and they resided in Balmertown, Ontario. The couple welcomed their daughter Kirsten in 1972, and the family moved to Thunder Bay in 1973 where their son Christopher was born. Finn built his family a beautiful home in Pass Lake and was employed as a carpenter with Provincial Papers until his retirement in 1994. Despite being "officially retired" Finn was busier than ever. His exceptional carpentry skills were in high demand. He built several houses, camps, saunas, cupboards and furniture items in the area. In 1990 his son, Chris, was tragically killed in a car accident, and his wife, Lesley, passed the following year after succumbing to cancer. In 1999 he was remarried to Donna Hardy and moved to her home on Lakeshore Drive in Shuniah. Following Donna's death in 2018, Finn moved to Chartwell Retirement Residence, where he made many friends. Always the gardener, he would start seeds in plastic cups in his suite, and transplant

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them into the garden beds outside once it was warm enough. He delighted the residents with his rhubarb pie and Danish Rice Pudding, as well as holding fish fries after spending the weekend at camp fishing with his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. Finn was the epitome of a true gentleman. He possessed a warm heart, gentle demeanour, and a genuine interest in the well-being of those around him. Despite his increasing mobility issues due to Parkinson's disease, Finn took every opportunity to spend time at his camp on Black Bay in Pass Lake, and to go fishing. He is survived by his daughter and granddaughters; three brothers and two sisters, as well as by Donna's children and grandchildren, and other relatives. Funeral services were held in Pass Lake Community Hall and interment was at Pass Lake Cemetery.

Karl J Andersen, Grand Prairie 1920 – 2023

Karl J Andersen, Grande Prairie, Alberta, passed away on December 23, 2022, at the Grande Prairie Care Centre at the age of 102 years. Karl was born in Randers, Denmark, on April 4, 1920. His family immigrated to Ontario in the early 1930's. After his initial training as an aircraft mechanic in the RCAF he was transferred to Alberta where he later met and later married Audrey. During his long life he worked in Calgary, as a photographer, small press operator and music teacher. After moving to Grande Prairie in the 1970's he worked with County #1 as a courier until his retirement. His hobbies during his lifetime included being a glider pilot, building and flying radio controlled airplanes, building HO-scale train layouts, and golf - a lot of golf. Karl was a regular face at the Golf & Country Club where he occasionally assisted the pro shop. He kept in "golfing-shape" at Winston's Gym up to around age 90, where he often served as a role model for 'younger' people. In later years he kept young at heart through regular participation in art classes at the Creative Arts Centre. Karl is survived by his son Wayne. Karl was predeceased by his younger sister Ruth and his wife Audrey. After cremation, his ashes were buried beside those of his parents and wife Audrey in Sunset Mindepark, the Danish urn cemetery in Puslinch, Ontario.

Ulla Irene Andersen, Parksville 1932 – 2018

Ulla Irene Andersen, a long-time resident of Parksville, passed away peacefully on August 8, 2018. Ulla was born in Esbjerg, Denmark, on July 10, 1932. She married Andy Andersen (deceased 2007) in 1956, immigrated to Canada in 1957, and moved to the Parksville area in 1969. Ulla was a loving and dedicated mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a founding, charter, and life member of the Parksville Lioness Club and was an active member for over 30 years. Since 1975 she had been an active volunteer and she cherished the long standing friendships with Lions and Lioness members. Ulla was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Parksville Legion. Ulla loved her family, extended family, and friends and dedicated her life to them. She was always willing to help in any way she could.

Karl Borup, Winnipeg 1923 – 2010

Karl Borup passed away at the Victoria General Hospital in Winnipeg on October 3, 2010. He leaves his wife, two daughters, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Karl is survived by his twin sister, as well as his twin sisters and brother who live in Denmark. Karl was born in Nysum, Denmark, on October 22, 1923. He came to Canada in 1950 to become a farmhand in Western Manitoba. Within three years he had moved into Winnipeg where he met Betty. Karl became a plumber in 1953 and joined the United Association Local Union 254. He was a member for over 57 years. Karl was an active member of the Odd

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Fellows and Rebekahs of Manitoba for over 50 years. During this time he filled many offices including District Deputy Grand Master. He was a member of Alpha Lodge #92, St. James Rebekah Lodge #47, Eureka Encampment and Fort Garry Canton #1. Karl was also a member of the Scandinavian Centre, and a member of the Danish Canadian Club. Until recently, he bowled with the Transcona Seniors bowling league enjoying a sport that started his relationship with Betty so many years ago. Karl was an avid fisherman and enjoyed nothing better than when he had a fishing line in the water either alone but even more so when he was with family members. Karl and Betty loved travelling and spent many years camping in Canada and the United States. Several trips were made to Denmark to spend time with Karl's family including special birthday celebrations. In 2008 Karl and Betty moved into an assisted living apartment thus making new friends while taking part in various activities their new place had to offer. Karl was married to Elizabeth (Betty) Borup for 55 years. She passed away in Winnipeg on September 29, 2023.

Allan Christensen, Guelph **1923 – 2014**

Allan Christensen passed away at the Guelph General Hospital on May 6, 2014. Beloved husband and best friend of 50 years to: Elizabeth Betty. He leaves five children, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife Aase Andersen (1962). Allan was born in Denmark on September 3, 1923, immigrated to Canada in March 1951 and has been a proud Canadian ever since. He was a long time employee of Canadian General Electric in Guelph. He will be sadly missed by his many friends at the Guelph Royal Canadian Legion. He enjoyed traveling, especially cruises, and keeping up-to-date on current world events. He was laid to rest at Woodlawn Memorial Park, Guelph.

Bente Christensen, Ajax **1930 – 2023**

Bente Christensen passed away on April 3, 2023, at Lakeridge Heights Retirement Residence. She was born in Copenhagen on February 22, 1930, and trained as a Registered Nurse. She did a 1-year placement at Toronto General Hospital where she met Orla Christensen through the Danish Church social club. She was predeceased by her parents as well as by her husband, Orla, in 1994. She is survived by her siblings-in-law, her two sons and her five grandchildren. She will be missed by her family with whom she cherished spending time at the cottage on West Lake. She will be fondly remembered for her adventurous spirit, love of travel, her Danish cooking skills, and her unwavering love of family. Bente's last few years were challenging, battling dementia. A Celebration of Life was held at the Danish Church of Toronto.

Gordon Alfred Christensen, Ottawa and Brockville **1932 – 2010**

Gordon Alfred Christensen, a marine engineer who served in the British merchant marine, and later worked for Transport Canada in Ottawa, served as treasurer of The Danish Club of Ottawa in the early 1980s. He was born in Newcastle, England, on February 6, 1932, and died at Brockville General Hospital on September 7, 2010. Beloved husband of Christine (née Mackay) and loving father and father-in-law of Rachel Christensen and her husband Stefan Gieselmann of Ottawa. He is survived by his sister in Brussels, Belgium, and his sister-in-law in Newcastle.

Howard Svend Christensen, Olds 1935 – 2023

Howard Svend Christensen died on July 6, 2023 in Calgary. Howard was born in Olds, Alberta, on September 14, 1935 to Holger and Ruby Christensen. After his father served in WWII Howard, his parents and younger sister Irene moved to the farm near Harmattan, Alberta. Howard passionately grew grain and raised cattle for over 70 years, being one of the first to import the Limousin cattle breed from France in the late 1960s. He loved his farm, the people he worked with and the nature that surrounded him. Howard is survived by his beloved wife Lioba and their children Elizabeth and Jonathan, his two sons Randy and Colin, and his sister and brother-in-law Rita and Robert Weir, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his parents Holger and Ruby, his previous wife Eileen and his sister Irene Hookes.

Pauline Christensen, Fredericton 1923 – 2004

Pauline Christensen, wife of Norman Christensen of Fredericton, died on June 12, 2004. Born in New Denmark in 1923, she was the daughter of the late Fred and Christina (Michaud) Peterson. Pauline was a member of the Christ Church Parish, Fredericton. She is survived by three sons, three daughters, three brothers, six sisters, twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Russell Christensen, New Denmark 1959 – 2023

Russell Christensen, owner and operator of Almenara en al Rio Marina and Campground, Spanish Ontario, (west of Sudbury) and long time property owner in New Denmark, New Brunswick, passed away suddenly at Grand Falls, New Brunswick, on March 20, 2023. Russell Christensen was the beloved spouse of the late Jean Kirkland for 38 years. He was predeceased by his parents, Leonard and Wanda Christensen.

Mogens Riis Christoffersen, Toronto 1939 – 2023

Mogens Riis Christoffersen passed away on December 12, 2023, at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Toronto after a struggle with cancer. Mogens will be missed by his sons, Hans and Klaus; and his partner of 20 years, Margaret Grant, as well as by his granddaughters, Anna, Ingrid and Reese; his former partner, Lise, with whom he remained close; and his cousin Gertrud. Born in Kolding in 1939, Mogens overcame a difficult childhood to become first a pipe fitter's apprentice and eventually a mechanical engineer. After immigrating to Canada in 1973 and securing his Canadian credentials, he went on to work on many interesting projects, notably designing key parts of the Canadian embassy in Tokyo and the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. In recent years, Mogens loved reading, classical music, ballroom dancing, playing bridge, and solving Sudokus. He was a deeply practical man, not to mention a terrible cook and an occasionally frightening driver, but above all a fundamentally kind and generous soul who will be in our hearts forever.

**John Cooney, Pass Lake
1939 – 2022**

Patrick John Joseph Cooney passed away on May 9, 2022. He was born in Beardmore, Ontario, on March 2, 1939, but raised in Pass Lake, where he built his life surrounded by family and friends. As a young man John was a Longshoreman riding the Lakers through the Great Lakes. Later he became a partner in Dewhurst Insurance, while developing his family's acreage into the Bayview Golf Course, also known as the Pass Lake Golf Course, situated on the shore of Lake Superior with stunning views of the lake and shoreline. The course consists of a challenging 18-hole layout that spans 6,647 yards and features a variety of hazards. The Bayview Golf Course includes a clubhouse with a pro shop, a restaurant, and other amenities. In 2008, the Bayview Golf Course was bought by Sandstone Treasures Inc. In 1983 John was a founding member and elected the first president of the Pass Lake Historical Society. He will be missed.

**Eric Clyde Fisker, Edmonton
1957 – 2022**

Eric Clyde Fisker passed away on July 14, 2022. He was born in Edmonton on June 3, 1957. He is survived by his mother, sister and his daughter, Cierra and predeceased by his father Paul in 2019. From a young age Eric and Lisa, his sister, were taught the family furniture business, learning how to carry out the tradition of excellence in the industry and with time, took over Scandia Furniture together. Their father had opened Scandia Furniture in November 1968. Building on his generational skills, Eric poured his time and energy into his own store, Mobler Furniture which is still a successful business today.

**Gunnar Mikkelsen Fuglsang, West Luther, Ontario
1933 – 2022**

Gunnar Mikkelsen Fuglsang died at his home in West Luther (north of Fergus, Ontario) on May 4, 2022. He was a loved husband, father, grandpa, Opa and friend. Despite constant pain for many years he stayed strong until the end. Gunnar was born in Denmark on December 31, 1933, and came to Canada at the age of 24 where he met the love of his life, Martha Hoge. They married a short time later and celebrated 63 wonderful years together following their dreams and raising a family.

**Eigil Albech Glinum, Langley
1943 – 2023**

Eigil Albech Glinum passed away on February 16, 2023. He was born in Denmark on December 1, 1943 and immigrated to Canada with his wife and children in 1967. He was an adventurer, traveling the world with his wife enjoying all the new experiences. He always had a story to tell. He also loved spending time with his family, inspiring those around him. He is survived by his wife, Maja, of 60 years and his 5 children, May-Britt (Lau), Annette (Glenn), Peter (Alison), Poul (Paul) (Marika) and Kim (Lora), 14 grandchildren (1 predeceased) and 8 (and 1 on the way) great grandchildren.

**Lisbet Gorrie, née Svendsen, Collingwood
1938 – 2022**

Lisbet Gorrie, née Svendsen, passed away on October 24, 2022. She was born on June 2, 1938, in Copenhagen. Lisbet and her parents, Kai and Gerda (Christoffersen) Svendsen immigrated to Canada when Lisbet was in her mid-teens, and she quickly became emersed in her new life. Graduating from

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North Toronto Collegiate Institute and then Ontario College of Art & Design, Lisbet began a long, industrious, and successful career as an interior designer working for several large Commercial Design firms in the City of Toronto. With a keen desire to live her life to the fullest, Lisbet loved to travel visiting many destinations throughout Europe and North America. Following her marriage to George Gorrie in 1972 she enjoyed weekends skiing at Osler Bluff Ski Club and ski adventures in the Rocky Mountains and the Alps. She became an avid golfer. In the early 1990's, Lisbet retired to Collingwood and following her love of the arts, became involved in the Blue Mountain Foundation of the Arts, supporting local visual artists; a member of the local Probus Club and cherished her time with family and friends. After the death of George in 2012, Lisbet married Carl Wiuff, moved to Windsor, California, enjoying several years of the California warmth and returning to Collingwood in 2020 after Carl's death in 2019. Lisbet leaves her daughter and two grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held on December 7 at Fawcett Funeral Home in Collingwood.

Ellen Marie Halvorsen, née Jensen, Toronto 1919 – 2020

It is with sadness that the Halvorsen family announces the death of our mother, Ellen Marie Halvorsen, on September 30, 2020. She was 100 years old and about three months from her 101st birthday. She was born on the small farm named Dalsgaard, in Aars, Denmark, half way between Aalborg and Viborg, on December 10, 1919, as Ellen Marie Jensen, and was married to Oemar Halvorsen on July 29, 1944. They lived in Denmark until 1947 at which time they moved to Bombay, India, and subsequently to Germany where they lived until 1952, when they immigrated to Canada. Consequently, we children, Mette, Peter and Axel were born in respectively Denmark, India and Germany. Mum braved the trips to India and Canada alone with the children, as Dad had travelled ahead to establish work and prepare a place for us. Besides being a busy housewife and mother, Mum attended Toronto Teachers' College, University of Toronto, graduating with a Bachelor of Education and subsequently a Master of Education Degree. She enjoyed a long and successful career as an elementary school teacher and later as a Special Education Teacher helping children who struggled with learning disabilities. Many of her students, some of whom even struggled to write their own name, later graduated university into successful careers because of Mum's amazing gift to restore their self confidence and help them work past their disability. She retired as a Special Ed. Consultant in 1985, though she ran a private clinic from home for several years afterward. Since then, Mum and Dad enjoyed long daily walks and world travel. With Dad's death on October 17, 2017, Mum lost her lifelong partner, who went to be with God and now she had to do this final stretch alone. She went to be with the Lord in the early hours of September 30th with family at her side. Mum is predeceased by her husband Oemar, her youngest son Axel, and her son-in-law Melvin Griffin. She is survived by Mette, Peter (Marlies), her daughter-in-law Leona. She is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great grand-children. A Memorial and Interment Service took place on October 14, 2020, at Sunset Mindepark.

Oemar Halvorsen, Etobicoke 1919 – 2017

Oemar Halvorsen passed away in Etobicoke, Ontario, on October 17, 2017. He had been born in Saxkjøbing (now Sakskøbing) on December 5, 1919, son of Dr. Axel Christian Halvorsen and his second wife, Karen Bodil Jespersen. In 1944 in Aars, Aalborg County, Oemar married Ellen Marie Jensen, daughter of farmer Hans Peter Jensen and Margrethe. In 1945 Oemar graduated from Denmark's Technical College (now University) in Copenhagen. In early 1947 Oemar left Denmark to work in India as an engineer for the next two years. Next Oemar worked in Jever, north of Bremen, Germany. He was the chief engineer, wearing a Danish uniform, in the Danish workshop in Jever, which was in the British Zone of occupation. The position involved constant contact with the REME (Royal Electrical and

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Mechanical Engineers) people in Bremen. In 1952, Oemar and his family immigrated to Canada. In 2009 Oemar and Ellen attended the Danish Federation Heritage Seminar in Canmore where Oemar met Dyveke Christensen, née Buschardt, who he had gone to school with in Saxkjøbing. In 1993 Oemar published a 414-page genealogy of his family entitled *Et stamtræ og en samling af genealogiske oplysninger og notater over familien Halvorsen*. A fitting memorial service was held for Oemar Halvorsen at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto.

Elin Hansen, Brampton **1932 – 2022**

Elin Hansen passed away on April 7, 2022. She was born in Denmark on March 17, 1932. She was married to Borge Christian Hansen, who died on March 16, 2009. They were married 57 years and had five children and ten grandchildren. Borge worked for Pre-Con St. Mary's Cement for 31 years. A celebration of life was held for Elin at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto. Interment was at Sunset Mindepark.

Henry Hansen, Kelowna **1931 – 2022**

Henry Hansen passed away on December 4, 2022, at Kelowna General Hospital. Henry is survived by his wife, Agnes, and six children: Steve (Ruth), Ken (Karen), Bruce (Jenny), Paul (Karen), Cindy (Mark) Friesen, and Les Hansen. Henry had 12 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. Henry was born in Denmark in 1931 and immigrated to Canada in 1953. Henry worked in the construction industry until his retirement. Henry was greatly involved with the Mission Creek Alliance Church on Springfield Road.

Birthe (Betty) Hermansen, Toronto **1935 – 2022**

Birthe (Betty) Hermansen passed away on December 30, 2022, napping in her favourite chair, days after spending Christmas with her son, Ian; daughter, Helen; and son-in-law, Brad. She is also survived by her sister, Tove; and granddaughter, Sarah. Those who knew her will reflect fondly on Betty's straightforwardness, characteristically Danish sense of humour, her love of animals, and charitable nature. She was born on October 29, 1935. Her connection with animals started at a young age, having grown up on Tornhøj farm in Denmark during World War II. She had to earn her pocket money by raising rabbits, but she was particularly fond of horses, and even thought of becoming a farm veterinarian. With an adventurous spirit, she moved to England for a year, and then travelled to Canada, where she worked in the Rocky Mountains and eventually settled in Toronto. It was here that she married her equally fun-loving and hardworking sweetheart, Leo. They saved up to buy their first house in Bloor West Village and started their family together. Betty worked as a payroll manager for companies in Toronto, all of which had the utmost respect for her dedication and abilities. She was so skilled with finances that she even did taxes for people as a hobby and enjoyed proving Revenue Canada wrong anytime she could. In retirement, she took up woodworking, often refinishing furniture she would find at thrift shops that she felt warranted her time and effort. She had an eye for quality and had the skills to do the piece justice. She crafted ornate bird feeders and cutting boards. Betty also had a passion for gardening. Surrounded by cedars, shrubs and willow trees, from her front porch, you could hear passers-by admiring the garden. She made her home a little oasis.

Knud Erik Hjelholt, Port Alberni 1946 – 2023

Knud Erik Hjelholt passed away in Port Alberni on August 22, 2023. He was born in Asferg, east of Fårup, Jutland, on April 22, 1946, to Karen and Johannes Jensen. Erik was raised in Odense and spent summers on his grandparents' farm. As a youth, he worked at a marzipan factory and at a Ford dealership selling tractor parts. He also ran a music booking business, and booked bands such as The Rolling Stones and The Animals. As a photographer Erik once filled in for a friend taking concert photos and ended up on stage playing drums with Eric Clapton. With his father Erik worked as a cattle driver transporting livestock across Europe by train to places like Serbia and Turkey. In 1969 Erik immigrated to Canada; he arrived with two suitcases to visit his mom's uncle, Martin, and never left, apart from going back home to visit family. Upon coming to Canada, Erik worked on a dude ranch in the Nanaimo area and then worked in the Port Alberni sawmill for many years as a first aid attendant. On April 15, 1976 Erik married Linda Webster, and they had two daughters, Melinda and Lucinda. During his life Erik owned and operated eleven successful businesses, including Tandem Radio, Tandem Leasing, Tandem Security, Excel Message Centre and Alberni-dot-Net. He also sold and installed outdoor radio towers on Vancouver Island, and he was proud of having provided the Alberni Valley with its very first high-speed wireless internet access. Throughout his life Erik was a member of various clubs and organizations, including the Port Alberni 4-Wheel Drive Club and the Ham Radio Club. He was a member of the Rotary Club for 25 years during which time he served as President, Treasurer, and participated in many charitable fundraisers and community functions. He also volunteered for the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue for 14 years and, during that time, held the record for most hours served on the West Coast for active time spent on rescue missions. Erik was highly intelligent, excelled in matters of business, and loved to read spy novels in his spare time. His favourite books were "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy", "The Honourable Schoolboy", and "Smiley's People", all by John le Carré. He also enjoyed music and was an avid blues fan; he was a walking encyclopedia of blues history and trivia, and some of his greatest memories were seeing BB King, John Lee Hooker, and Etta James in concert. Erik was a steadfast, solid foundation for his family, and will be greatly missed. He was predeceased by his parents and wife. He leaves his two daughters, a brother, grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held at Char's Landing, Port Alberni.

Karen Gerda Nygaard Hnatyshyn, née Andreassen, Ottawa 1935 – 2023

Karen Gerda Nygaard Hnatyshyn, née Andreassen, passed away in Ottawa on July 14, 2023. She was born in Winnipeg on August 14, 1935, to Georg Andreassen and Ingrid, née Sorensen; Married to Ramon John Hnatyshyn in 1960. Graduate in Dietetics and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan and Royal Victoria Hospital School of Dietetics, Montreal; Predeceased by her parents and by her husband. Survived by sons, John (Marisa) of Ottawa, and their daughter, Katie; and Carl (Svitlana) of Sarnia, and their sons, Andy, Alexander and Daniel; by her brother, Peter Andreassen (Sandra); brother-in-law, David of Saskatoon; sister-in-law, Elizabeth of Portland, Oregon; and relatives in Denmark. Since Ray passed away, Gerda has been the driving force to complete the project he began: the Hnatyshyn Foundation. During Ray's tenure as the 24th Governor General of Canada, Gerda served as the Chatelaine of Rideau Hall and represented Canada in welcoming foreign dignitaries and Canadians to Rideau Hall. Later in her life, Gerda authored a book about Rideau Hall, with a focus on bringing the stories of the Governor General's house and in particular, the staff who serve at Rideau Hall, to the public. Following the conclusion of Ray's term as Governor General, Gerda began to raise funds for the completion of the Canadian Heritage Garden, located on the grounds of Rideau Hall. This installation, open to the public, serves as both a horticultural exhibit, filled with countless varieties of roses, and marks the development of the Canadian nation and democracy, with flowers and monuments dedicated to Canada's First Nations

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and the successive waves of immigrants that have built this country. Gerda brought the same energy to her family and friends as she did to her public service. She personified grace, compassion and dedication. To assist young Canadians studying and coaching in the arts, memorial donations may be made to the Hnatyshyn Foundation. It is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their schooling, training and career development, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Foundation began awarding grants to developing artists in the performing arts in 2005 and has since expanded its programming to include awards and residencies for emerging and mid career artists and curators working in the visual arts.

Jorgen Andkjaer Iversen, Hamilton 1944 – 2021

Jorgen Andkjaer Iversen passed away on January 11, 2021 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton. He leaves his wife Camille Iversen, children Debbie (Steven), Gaynor, Sarah (Alex) and Denise, as well as six grandchildren and family in Denmark, Canada and Guyana. John was born in Fredericia on February 6, 1944, the second child of Annalise Schjødt and Erik Iversen. He moved to Canada as a young man, but also lived in Guyana and Belgium. John was a skilled bricklayer who enjoyed his work. As a young man he was a member of the rowing club and played cricket for many years. He was an adventurous man with a passion for travelling, good food and conversation. John was a family man proud of his children and grandchildren. He thoroughly enjoyed all family gatherings, big and small, in Hamilton or Toronto, as well as taking his children and grandchildren to Sunset Villa to share in his Danish heritage. John was a believer in Christ and faithfully attended Victory International Church. His faith and fighting spirit helped him overcome various illnesses. COVID would be his last fight. A family Funeral Service was held on January 16.

Kirsten Iversen, née Dyhrberg, Hudson, Quebec 1952 – 2023

Kirsten Dyhrberg Iversen of Hudson, Quebec, passed away on October 8, 2023, from complications following surgery to treat stage IV peritoneal cancer. Kirsten was born in Padborg, Denmark, on March 8, 1952, to Jens and Marie Dyhrberg, and was the youngest of three children. She always spoke fondly of her early years growing up in Denmark, from playing outside with her friends, going to school, enjoying her parents' summer house by the ocean to spending any free time she could with family. She married the love of her life Ejgil Iversen in 1975 and moved to Canada shortly after. In 1976, she welcomed her son Mark and in 1980 her daughter Tammy. In 1983, Kirsten, together with her husband, started a successful wholesale company importing giftware from Denmark and selling it to retailers across Canada. Eventually she retired, passing the baton to her son in 2014. In 1999, the family moved into her dream house in Hudson with its beautiful grounds filled with trees, flowers, and wildlife. Her home was her absolute favorite place to be, and everyone was welcome. Her retirement years were filled with countless cruises, and trips to Europe, Australia, and North America. However, coming home to family was the most important to her. Visits from her daughter, dinners with her son, breakfasts with her sister and countless meals with friends and family were what she loved more than anything. She was the most incredible mom, always patient, loving, empathetic, understanding, and was always there to listen, validate and offer her wisdom and advice. Spending time with her three grandchildren was a top priority. She was an excellent Mormor and Farmor; playing board games, tobogganing, basketball, walking, swimming, talking, and just sitting on the floor doing whatever her grandchildren wanted was what she treasured most. Kirsten had an incredible knack for entertaining and setting a table. She always made everything feel incredibly "hyggeligt" with lit candles, coffee, sweets, napkins, and flowers. Kirsten was a

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kind, compassionate, selfless, positive, and strong person. She and Ejgil had so many friends here, in the US and Denmark. Her social calendar was always full. In the past years she discovered her love of water colour painting and thoroughly enjoyed attending painting classes with her special painting group. Throughout all the years living in Canada she traveled to Denmark visiting family and friends almost every year. The annual cousin parties held in Denmark were always the highlight of her trip. A celebration of her life was held at the Whitlock Golf and Country Club.

Cai Jensen, Markerville **1934 – 2011**

Cai Jensen of Markerville passed away at the Innisfail Health Care Centre on January 9, 2011. Cai was born on December 12, 1934 to Jacob and Martha Jensen. He will be missed by his sons Kelly (Charlene) and Shaun (Kathy) and granddaughter Charlotte. Cai is also survived by his sisters Ruth, Esther, Dagny, Astrid, Inga, Sigrid, Ingrid, and his brother Ben. Cai was predeceased by his wife Jackie in March of 2006 and his sisters Carla and Eva. A Funeral service was held at Bethany Lutheran Church on January 14, 2011.

Hans Jensen, Kamloops **1934 – 2017**

Hans Jensen passed away in Kamloops on August 21, 2017. He is survived by his daughters Donna (Rick) and Diane, grandchildren Ashley, Leanne, Matthew and Ryan, as well as his brother Erik (Hilda). He is predeceased by his loving wife Elizabeth of 56 years, parents Hansine and Kristian and brother Poul. Hans was born in Skovby, west of Aarhus on November 20, 1934. At age 15 he started his four-year apprenticeship as a mason. Upon graduation with top honours he joined the army for 12 months, after which he worked as a mason in Norway. Thereafter, he visited London and in 1954 immigrated to Canada by ship. Although he did not speak English upon arrival in Calgary, he quickly learned the language. Four years later, Hans met the love of his life, Betty (born in Coatbridge, Scotland on May 8, 1935; died February 9, 2015). They were married April 18, 1959. Their first child was Donna, born on October 22, 1960 and their second, Diane, on September 27, 1964. Hans built his first home in Calgary in 1961; however, a job opportunity moved the family to Kamloops in 1964. Three years Hans completed building their family home, which they lived in for 50 years. Hans was well-known and highly respected in the community for his masonry skills and expertise. He co-owned two companies Bilt-Rite Masonry and Bettnel Masonry - before retiring in 2002. During retirement he dedicated more time pursuing other passions such as fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, golfing and bowling. His greatest passion, however, was his family and friends. Prayers were held on August 27, 2017 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by the Funeral Mass on August 28, 2017 at 11 am with reception to follow in the Parish Centre.

Hansine Albine Jensen, Pass Lake **1930 – 2023**

Hansine Albine Jensen passed away on August, 27, 2023. Born on December 11, 1930, she grew up on the Baltic island of Bornholm with her five brothers and one sister. It was also there where she met Peter Jensen. In August 1955, Peter and Hansine with their daughter, Jonna, left Denmark with only the things they could carry and immigrated to Canada, settling in the small Danish community of Pass Lake. At first life was difficult because of the physical hardships and language barrier. But Peter and Hansine persevered and grew strong and then welcomed their son, Jimmy (Debby) into the world. Hansine was well known for her beautiful garden, her red current bushes, strawberries and preserves. She loved

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spending time in the kitchen creating excellent meals and baking delicious treats. The five grandchildren were the apple of her eye and she became lovingly known as the "Cookie Gramma". She was absolutely thrilled when great grandchildren started arriving. Hansine was predeceased by Peter, her siblings and great granddaughter Kezia. An informal Celebration of Life was held September 24, 2023 at Pass Lake Community Hall. A private interment was held at the Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations to the Salem Lutheran Church building fund or a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Inga Gertige Jensen, née Nielsen, Mount Forest 1941 – 2013

Inga Gertige Jensen, née Nielsen, passed away on January 16, 2013 at her home in Mount Forest after a courageous struggle with cancer. Inga Jensen, beloved wife of Ole Nygaard Jensen, was in her 72nd year. In addition to her immediate family, including two great grandchildren, she leaves her sister Irma Campos of Hamilton, Ontario, and her two brothers and four sisters in Denmark. She was predeceased by her parents Gunnar and Lilly Nielsen (née Schacht), her brother Vagn Nielsen and three sisters in Denmark. A private family gathering took place at Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario.

Karen Rebecca Jensen, Toronto 1978 – 2022

Karen Rebecca Jensen passed away on December 31, 2022. She was born on February 16, 1978. She was the beloved daughter of Johannes and Avril, and dear sister to Rachael and her partner Geoff. She will be remembered by her aunts, uncles and many cousins in England and Denmark. Karen was a teacher with the Toronto District School Board, who loved working with children. She had a great sense of humour and was a very kind and thoughtful friend to many. She kept track of the special occasions of everyone she knew and always sent a card or message to acknowledge it. She dealt with difficult medical issues but always tried to smile her way through it and never complained. We will remember, with much love, the happy times we spent together. A memorial service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto. In Karen's memory, donations to the Lymphedema Association of Ontario would be appreciated.

Ole Henrik Busk Jensen, Vancouver 1923 – 2016

Ole Henrik Busk Jensen passed away at the Purdy Pavilion of the Vancouver General Hospital after a lengthy illness on August 3, 2016. He was born in Fredericia on March 30, 1923. Ole fought in the Danish Resistance during the Second World War. He immigrated to Canada in 1951 and settled in Vancouver, where he soon found career employment with BC Electric (now BC Hydro) in their Internal Audit Department, retiring 33 years later. Ole was a fun-loving free spirit, who lived life to the fullest. More than anything, he enjoyed travelling, good company and Danish lunches. He is survived by his wife, Maria, children, stepchildren, grandchildren and their families.

Ole Nygaard Jensen, Mount Forest, Ontario 1938 – 2022

Ole Nygaard Jensen passed away on March 16, 2022 in his 84th year at Caressant Care Arthur. He was the beloved husband of the late Inga Jensen (2013); Cherished father of Karen Carter and her husband Dave of Mount Forest, Peter Jensen of Mount Forest, and Carl Jensen and his wife Donna of Kitchener. In total, Ole had three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is survived by his siblings Birgit, Arne and

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Gunner, all of Denmark; as well as many nieces and nephews. Ole was the eldest son of Oluf and Ella, both born in Denmark. He came to Canada at the age of 19 to work for a few years on a 27,000-acre ranch in Alberta. He then moved to Ontario to work for entrepreneur E.P. Taylor as a racehorse groomer. E.P. Taylor was a breeder of thoroughbred race horses, and a major force behind the evolution of the Canadian horse-racing industry. Ole then settled with his wife and children in Proton Township as a pork producer for 28 years. He became a Director for the Grey County Pork Producers, served on the Farm Safety Committee, and was involved with "Grown in Grey". Ole retired to Mount Forest where both he and Inga could often be seen around town. They also travelled across Canada and in Europe. The last few years were spent at the Caressant Care Arthur. A private family gathering took place at Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch.

Shaun Jensen, Markerville **1965 – 2020**

Shaun Edward Jensen of Carstairs, Alberta, formerly of Markerville, passed away on July 2, 2020 at the age of 55 years. Shaun will be lovingly remembered by his wife of twenty-five years, Kathy, his daughter, Charlotte (Nathan), his brother, Kelly (Charlene) and his dear friend, Jay (Mel). Shaun was predeceased by his parents, Cai and Jackie Jensen. A Graveside Service was held at the Bethany Lutheran Cemetery, Dickson, Alberta, on July 4, 2020.

Svend Jensen, Scarborough **1933 – 2011**

Svend Jensen passed away unexpectedly on July 1, 2011, at Toronto East General Hospital. Loving husband of Donna; Devoted father of Sherry Jensen and Katherine (David Methot). He leaves four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Svend Jensen, born on October 14, 1933, immigrated to Canada from Denmark in 1957 and was a proud Canadian.

Kjeld Bruno Jorgensen, Carleton Place, Ontario **1954 – 2023**

After a long battle with cancer Kjeld Bruno Jorgensen passed away at home in Carleton Place on July 10, 2023. Kjeld was born on August 24, 1954. He retired from C.P. Rail in 2015. Kjeld leaves behind his loving partner and best friend Cheryl St. Pierre (Desarmia). As well as his loving children: Peter (Moe), Jr (Deanna), Ryan and Amanda. He also leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; As well as his brothers Bent, Poul (Angie) and sisters Wanda, Maja (Shawn), Linda (Paul). He will be remembered lovingly by Cheryl's brother Marty Desarmia and Cheryl's sister Deborah Taylor Menard and families as well as by many nieces, nephews and extended family. Kjeld is predeceased by his parents Poul and Anna, his sister Karin and brother Henning. As per Kjeld's wishes there was no service.

Kurt Jens Jorgensen, Sault Ste. Marie **1934 – 2021**

Kurt Jens Jorgensen of Sault Ste. Marie passed away on May 25, 2021. He was born in Copenhagen on May 13, 1934 to the late Elly Molin and the late Helmer Jorgensen. Kurt came to Sault Ste. Marie in 1960, following his much-loved sister, Brita. He was a Registered Dental Technician and owner of Jorgensen Dental Laboratory for over 35 years. A highly rated chess player, he loved painting wildlife and special portraits. Kurt was an avid kayaker, a jazz pianist and had a love for all jazz music. He loved nothing more than to spend his time with his family; Beloved husband of Joan Preston for 38 years; Proud

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and loving father of Pia Jorgensen (George Nixon), Jens Jorgensen of Toronto, Lise Jorgensen (Joe Peters) of Ottawa and Peter Jorgensen of Ottawa.

Erling Peter Justesen, Langley **1930 – 2005**

Erling Peter Justesen was born on September 14, 1930, in Skælskør, Denmark, and passed away in Langley Memorial Hospital on June 8, 2005. Predeceased by his wife Pat (in 1995) and survived by his companion of many years Evelyn; step-son Gary; step-daughter Shelley; brothers Bent and Henning and niece Anne-Marie, all in Denmark. Peter was the proprietor of Just Rite Bike Racks and Justesen Industries.

Jens Kaastrup, Red Deer **1930 – 2023**

Jens Kaastrup was a lifetime member and in 1959 one of the founding members of the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club. He served on the board of the club numerous times. Jens Kaastrup, of Red Deer County, passed away at the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre on November 30, 2023, at age 93. Jens was born on November 17, 1930, at Selde, Denmark, the second youngest of twelve children to Søren and Johanne (née Assersen) Kaastrup. Jens married Anna Sørensen-Orum and in 1957 they immigrated to Canada. He received his Journeyman Butter Maker Education in Denmark, and was employed at Alpha Dairies in Red Deer from 1957 to 1993. He won multiple First in Class Awards for Canada and Alberta. He was a member of the Red Deer Chess Club. Jens enjoyed numerous sports and hobbies including camping, fishing, soccer, chess, handball, curling, table tennis, horseshoes, card playing, gardening, building houses, fixing and inventing machines, and he was a world traveller with Anna. He was a participant in Senior Games in both chess and table tennis and was a member player at the Lakewood Golf Course, where he got his Hole-In-One. Jens was a strong presence and a very proud family man. He always enjoyed a good "discussion" and was also fondly known as "Dad Bedstefar". He will be remembered by his wife, Anna; his children, Connie (Roger) Craig, Susan (Rocky) Jones, Fleming (Diana) Kaastrup, and Mona (Dave) Pearson; his grandchildren, Ian Craig, Dylan (Edith) Jones, Scott Pearson, Chelsey Jones, Nichole (Amar) Chahal, Kristen Kaastrup, Sarah Kaastrup and Erika Pearson; and his three great-grandchildren.

Alice Kristensen, née Andersen, Leduc **1931 – 2023**

Alice Karla Marie Kristensen of Leduc died peacefully on April 20, 2023 at Extendicare in Leduc. She was born on May 24, 1931 to Søren and Kirstine Andersen, growing up on their farm southeast of Calmar. Won the Laudie Adamic scholarship when she graduated from Calmar High in 1950 and then attended the University of Alberta where she earned her Bachelor of Education degree. Married Kris on February 21, 1970 and they had 3 children, Ellen, Linda, and Martin. Teaching elementary school children was something Alice loved dearly. Alice's 37 year long teaching career began in 1951 at a one-room schoolhouse in Maple Hill. Aside from twelve memorable months teaching in London, England, when she was 30, she resided, taught and left her mark on the families in the area around Leduc. Intelligent, strong, stylish, and fun, she traveled the world, from Tuktoyaktuk to Israel, because she was genuinely interested in and curious about people and places: A conversationalist who enjoyed meeting friends new and old. On epic trips to Safeway there was always a former student to bump into or someone local to get caught up with. Alice is survived by Kris, her husband of 53 years, children: Ellen (Morten), Linda (Helge), and Martin (Krista), brother Nels (Hilde), and 8 grandchildren: Cecilie, Mattias, Jens,

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Malena, Helene, Emilie, Elise, and Aidan. A memorial service was held on May 20th, 2023 at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton with Pastor Lasse Hultberg officiating; Interment at Conjuring Creek Cemetery.

Ellen Kristensen, Ramara 1937 – 2023

Ellen Kristensen of Ramara, Ontario, passed away at the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital on June 9, 2023. Born in Ebeltoft on October 26, 1937, she was the beloved wife of Jens Kristensen, and the loving mother of Anita (Leonard) Couperthwaite and Jeff Kristensen; Loved grandmother of Logan Kristensen, Callum Kristensen, Laura (Alex) Black, Emily Couperthwaite and Michelle Couperthwaite, and great grandmother of Aletta Black. Cremation has taken place. There will be no service at this time.

Karl Kristensen, Richmond 1932 – 2023

Karl Kristensen passed away on July 1, 2023 in Richmond, B.C. He was born on September 19, 1932 in Bording, Denmark. He was the ninth child of eleven born to Elsa and Niels Kristensen. Times were difficult for the family during World War II and the children left home at an early age. Karl was eleven years old when he went to work on a farm. He would go home on occasion for a warm meal. Farm work continued until Karl was 18 years old when he went to Sweden to work in logging. Karl then spent 1½ years in the Danish army before returning to Sweden. In 1957, Karl's adventurous spirit drew him to Ontario, Canada, for a short time. Not liking it much he returned to Sweden in 1958. This is where he met his soulmate and future wife Bertha. In 1959 Karl returned to Canada again, this time on the west coast where he worked in logging camps on Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands before moving to Vancouver. In late summer of 1960, Bertha arrived from Sweden and the two married on December 17th of that year. In Vancouver, Karl found camaraderie and life long friendships in the Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328 of which he became the longest serving member, having joined in 1961. He also served as President of the Lodge. As well, he was an active member of Dania Home and Dania House Society. For many years, Karl worked in various factories. In 1970 he joined a new company called Pioneer Plastics in North Vancouver, manufacturing products such as bottles and toys. With little formal education but a keen mind for creative problem solving, Karl eventually became Production Manager of New Development. The team built their own equipment in the machine shop and they soon became internationally renowned for their unique products such as bailer twine for prairie farmers and ropes for cargo ships and tugboats. Eventually, Imperial Oil and Exxon expressed interest and purchased the machinery and patents. Karl continued on setting up production for them in New York and Chicago. Karl later got involved with wood manufacturing working for Finishing Touch where he became manager. For several years he had his own wood product company which he eventually sold, returning to Finishing Touch until he retired in 1998. In retirement, Karl continued with his passion for wood by converting the garage into a wood shop. Here he enjoyed many hours building all sorts of beautiful things. Later, after selling the home, Karl continued his woodworking at the Minoru Senior's Centre where he honed his skills in wood turning creating beautiful, intricately patterned wooden bowls which many people have received as gifts or as prizes in the Danish Church and Brotherhood fund raisers. In 2019 Karl's health started to decline with the onset of dementia and by 2022 he was in the kind care of Fraserview Retirement Home where family and friends visited daily. On July 1st Karl peacefully passed away. He is survived by his wife Bertha, his brother Bent (Lynn), son Niels, daughter Christina (Roderick) and grandchildren Kai and Rowan. A service was held at the Danish Church.

Birthe Kristiansen, Winnipeg 1927 – 2021

Birthe Kristiansen passed away on February 23, 2021. She immigrated to Canada in 1951 from Denmark, with her husband, John and son, Jan. There were many adventures in the 70 years she lived in Canada. First living in Eastern Canada before moving to Churchill where they lived for 24 years. In Churchill, they built a family business and made lifelong friends. Retirement years were spent in southern Manitoba where they had many fun years with their Danish Canadian friends. They were fortunate to be able to travel the world during their retirement. Birthe was predeceased by her husband, John Ib Kristiansen (1925 - February 1, 2013). She is survived by her children, Jan (Betty), Ann Marie (Joe), Linda (Niels); grandchildren, Melanie, Andrew (Jennifer), Kristian (Melanie), Michael (Ellen), great-grandchildren, Morgan, Jordan and Logan, sister-in-law Emma and family in Denmark. Cremation has taken place.

Torben Kristiansen, Vancouver 1930 – 2023

On August 12, 2023, *The Globe and Mail* reported that Torben Kristiansen, a remarkable man whose spirit soared high above the clouds and who made the impossible happen, has taken his final flight. Born on November 4, 1930, in Denmark, Torben lived a life that was as colourful and vibrant as the masterpieces he cherished. As a young man, Torben's dreams took flight as he pursued his love for aviation. He dedicated his talents and skills to the Danish Air Force and later, the US Air Force, where he piloted the iconic Mustang aircraft. After his distinguished career in the Air Force, Torben ventured into a new horizon - the world of art. Upon moving to Vancouver, he built the legacy of The Art Emporium, the city's oldest and one of Canada's top art galleries. With an astute eye and an innate understanding of the art world, Torben curated one of the top collections in the country, earning him a reputation as an exceptional art dealer and businessman from coast to coast. Beyond his legacy in the Canadian art business, Torben was a legendary character, known for his charm, charisma, and infamous punchlines that echoed through every room he entered. Torben's wit and zest for life was contagious, and those who knew him agree he can only be described as legendary. At the center of Torben's universe was his beloved wife, Patricia, who stood by his side for 12 years as they weathered the storms of life together. Torben was a proud father to his children, Sara, Merete (Tyler), Sonja (Olivia) and Patrick; his granddaughters, Anteia and Vya; and his stepsons, Hector and Fabian – all of whom he loved dearly, always offering support and wisdom as each pursued their individual life adventures around the world. His remarkable journey as a pilot, art dealer, masterful entrepreneur, loving husband and father leaves an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to have known him. Though he may have taken his final flight, his spirit will continue to soar through his family, his business and his legacy. You are truly one-of-a-kind.

Henny Else "Bitten" Krohn, née Mikkelsen, Frankford 1929 – 2020

Henny Else Krohn passed away on July 10, 2020. She leaves behind Preben, her loving husband of 64 years, and daughters Hanne (David) and Karen (Brian). She was “Mormor” to five grandchildren and loving sister to Gudrun. Henny was born on August 14, 1929 in Holstebro, where she grew up on a small dairy farm with her parents, Mikkell and Laura, and her older sister Gudrun. She spent her childhood and teenage years in her home town; and also endured the hardships of the occupation of Denmark during WWII. Upon reaching adulthood she ventured to Copenhagen to work, and while there she met and later married Preben in May 1956. In July 1956 they set sail to Canada and settled in Toronto, where they raised their two daughters. She had many varied interests and talents: needlepoint and tapestry embroidery, sewing, travel, flower arranging, gardening, cooking up wonderful food for the many dinner

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parties that she and Preben hosted, and cottage life on Crystal Lake, to name a few. She had a wonderful flair for traditional interior design/decorating and this was evident in the homes that she lived in over the years. She was an active member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto for over 60 years, involved in the Ladies group, bazaars, and later the Golden Age Club. Her greatest joy was her family. As snowbirds, Henny and Preben enjoyed eighteen wonderful winters in Palmetto, Florida, where they were often visited by friends and family. During the warmer months they would spend up at the cottage on Crystal Lake in the Kawarthas. Later years were spent on Oak Street in Ajax and most recently residing in the town of Frankford. Ever proud of her Danish origins, a memorial service took place at Sunset Mindepark.

Colin James Kure, Moose Mountain 1945 – 2023

Colin Kure of Moose Mountain, Alberta, passed away on May 9, 2023. Colin was born on February 2, 1945, to Elmer and Helga Kure in Innisfail, Alberta, followed by sisters Janie and Michele. He grew up on the farm, scouting and enjoying the great outdoors with his cousins. He had many jobs following high school, such as a seismograph rod man, driller, and sawmill operator. Colin married Diana Hart in 1967 and got into the cattle feeding and sheep raising business. A son, Kurt, was born in 1971, and Colin did a stint in Whitehorse, Yukon, as a housing officer. In 1973, another son, Kelsey, was born and Colin assumed responsibility for the family farm, which was his pride and joy. Family life was upended when Diana died from cancer in 2001. But Colin was blessed to marry again in 2003 to Gerty Fokkens, enjoying their life at Moose Mountain until his passing. Colin was a farmer first, working alongside his sons and grandkids until his last day. Colin filled his other time with a wide range of interests. As an avid outdoorsman and conservationist, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, collecting arrowheads, hiking and serving on many conservation boards. After his diabetes diagnosis in 1994, he added marathon running to the list. Colin loved rodeos, flying with his pilot's license, coaching hockey, photography, reading history and enjoying music. He was also an attentive and supportive grandfather, always with peppermints in his pocket and stories to tell. He is survived by his loving wife, Gerty Kure, his son Kurt (Elaine); his son Kelsey (Tanya); fourteen grandchildren, one great-grandchild; sisters Janie and Michele (Ike), three nephews and one niece, and Gerty's children, Jessica (James), Jonathon (Kayla) and Nathan (Kirsten), and their children. Colin was predeceased by his wife Diana Kure, and his parents, Elmer and Helga Kure. A Celebration of Life was held at King of King's Lutheran Church, Dickson, Alberta, on May 16.

Elmer Arthur Kure, Dickson 1921 – 2012

Elmer Arthur Kure of Spruce View/Dickson passed away at Sunset Manor, Innisfail, on May 24, 2012. He leaves his loving wife of 69 years, Helga, son Colin Kure (Gerty), daughters Janie Loney, Michele Johannson (Ike) and grandchildren Kurt Kure (Elaine), Kelsey Kure (Tanya), Jed Loney, Luke Loney, Justin Johannson (Tannis) and Jill Johannson and 13 great grandchildren and brother Gordon Kure and sister Shirley Kure, both of Innisfail. Elmer was predeceased by his parents, Arthur and Mamie Kure of Dickson, and his brother Russell Kure of Calgary and daughter-in-law Diana Kure of Spruce View. Elmer was born in Henry, Illinois, November 30, 1921 of Danish parents. He moved to the Dickson area at the age of three with his brother and parents settling on the farm where he and his brother Russ worked along side their dad to clear and break land. He and Helga Hindbo, were married in 1943, raised their family on a farm only a few miles from where he got his schooling and went to church. Elmer's life was filled with adventure and the outdoors. This love of nature led him to a distinguished life in conservation circles. In 1958, he was elected as president to the 20,000 member Alberta Fish and Game Association. In 1959, he was involved in a bison outfitting business north of Fort Smith, NWT. During the following years he devoted much of his time to local civic affairs (the common good) and the Fish and Game organization

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and Habitat Canada. He was instrumental in many local initiatives such as keeping the high school in Spruce View (1959), chairman of the Bethany Lutheran Church building committee (1967) and many other worthy efforts. In 1973 Elmer started working full time for the Alberta Fish and Game Association where he garnered a high respect from his peers and government officials for his integrity and unfailing dedication to conservation and the outdoor hunting and fishing fraternity. During his 60+ years involvement he was presented many of Canada's most prestigious conservation awards (including Emerald Award, Order of the Big Horn, Fulton trophy and Canadian Wildlife Federation Award). These honours were recognition for his over riding concern for God's creation habitat retention; water shed protection and strong social conscience. He was a valued speaker across Canada for the wildlife habitat cause. Elmer will be fondly remembered for his quiet Christian faith and his altruistic nature. Over the years he was a strong mentor and inspiration to all who were in his circle of influence. With his work, he and Helga traveled, enjoying their many friends. Their family river place held a special place in their hearts watching family and friends share their love for the great outdoors. In the later years of life his greatest delight was his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was, by all accounts, a successful man and the consummate gentleman. A celebration of Elmer's productive life was held at the Bethany Lutheran Church, Dickson, Alberta, on May 31, 2012.

Gudrun 'Goodie' Elizabeth Kure, née Jorgensen, Dickson 1933 – 2022

Gudrun 'Goodie' Elizabeth Kure passed away on February 2, 2022 (02/02/2022) at the age of 88 years. Goodie was born in Innisfail, Alberta, on November 6, 1933. She was the younger of two daughters born to Danish immigrant parents, Bertha and Thorvald Jorgensen. Goodie and her family were involved in mixed farming and purebred Suffolk Sheep production, which took them nationally, as well as Internationally. In addition to helping with farmyard chores, raking and bailing hay, and hauling grain, painting buildings, mowing grass, and gardening, she also enjoyed sports and the outdoors; participating notably in slow-pitch, fishing, swimming, snowmobiling and curling. For over fifteen years, she was a Scouts Canada Cub Leader; where she was involved in canoeing, nature hikes, cub garden inspections, crafting, camping, and of course, campfires. One of Goodie's fondest and proudest memories was working for Joyce McCart and starting up Sheep Canada Magazine. Along the way, she also worked for Shell Canada out of Caroline, as a Security Officer during spring shutdowns and repairs. For many years, she also worked for and represented PaSu Farms in their Clothing Department at such events and venues as: Spruce Meadows, Bower Mall, Agri-Trade, Calgary Stampede, Edmonton and other Trade Shows in many Central Alberta towns throughout the year. As busy as she was, she always made time to drive the boys to and from hockey and other sporting events they were involved in. Later when grandchildren arrived, she could often be seen cheering at hockey games and school sports in which they participated. In both of her houses in Dickson and Spruce View, she took tremendous pride and delight in working on developing and keeping a nice house and tidy yard, constantly feeding the birds and squirrels. Volunteerism was also important in being involved in the Dickson Store Museum, Danish Canadian National Museum, Church, and Cemetery Committees. Knitting was a favorite pastime. Goodie will be remembered by her sons, Ken (Shelley) Kure and Brian Kure, her four grandchildren, Ryan (Jackie) Kure, Jade (Jared) Brookes, Taylor Kure, and Trent Kure and her four beloved great grandchildren, Hadley and Presley Brookes and Nash and Pryce Kure. As well, in her small family were her nieces, Janet and Gail Hindbo, her nephew, Don Hindbo and her two cousins, Orla and Phillip Nielsen. She was predeceased by her parents, a sister and a son.

Shirley Anne Kure, Innisfail
1931 – 2020

Shirley Anne Kure passed away at Sunset Manor, Innisfail, on November 7, 2020, during the Covid pandemic. She was born on October 14, 1931. Shirley never forgot anyone's birthday or other celebration. Her passion was to knit and crochet. She enjoyed donating her time and handiwork to the Innisfail Hospital Auxiliary; from which she received a long-standing service award. Shirley and her dad lived and farmed in the Dickson area, then in 1978 retired and bought a home in Innisfail. After her dad passed away in 1988, Shirley downsized and lived at Poplar Grove, until 2011, when she broke her hip and moved to Sunset Manor – thankful that she could knit to pass the time. Shirley was thankful for her friends and to be able to attend Peace Lutheran Church, via the Innisfail Handibus. Shirley was an amazing example, grateful for every day. She was predeceased by her parents, Art and Mayme Kure and her brothers, Russell, Elmer and Gordon. Donations in her memory may be sent to the Danish Canadian Museum.

Franz Langmann, Langley
1958 – 2020

Franz Bernhard Langmann passed away on November 5, 2020. He leaves his loving parents Rudi and Inge Langmann, two brothers Kurt and Mark, his sons Nathaniel Byrne (Joe) and Kilby, many uncles and aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews. He was born August 13, 1958 in Dawson Creek Hospital. Graduating from Aldergrove High School in 1976, he worked as a HVAC engineer after graduating from college. He later worked as a computer technician as well as for the Agassiz News and the Aldergrove Star. Due to Covid 19 it was not possible to hold a funeral service for Franz, but there will be a Memorial Service held in the Danish Church at 6010 Kincaid Street in Burnaby. The public is cordially invited to attend the service on November 20, at 1 pm, with a social afterwards in the church basement. Please be advised that proof of Covid vaccinations will be required for admission to the Danish Church.

Rudi Langmann, Langley
1930 – 2020

Rudi Langmann passed away on November 20, 2020, in Langley Memorial Hospital. Rudi was born in Copenhagen on September 15, 1930. He was predeceased by his son Franz Bernhard, and leaves behind his loving wife Inge, two sons Kurt and Mark, his brother Uno, sister Pia (Tofini), nine grandchildren, Caillin, Natalie, Liona, Claralana, Aleisha, Natasha, Mark Jr., Kilby and Nathaniel, five great grandchildren Emma, Elise, Christian, Cydney and Sofia, nieces, nephews and extended family. From the time of his arrival in Canada in 1957 Rudi has been active in construction projects from Vancouver to Dawson Creek to Vancouver Island, working as a union carpenter and a construction manager on a wide variety of buildings and infrastructure projects. Rudi and Inge then purchased The Aldergrove Star community newspaper in 1966 and Rudi was owner and publisher till retirement in 2001. He spent his retirement years researching the Langmann family tree and managed to trace the Langmann roots back to year 1200 in Nuremberg, Germany. He also wrote a book about an episode in his forefather's life in the service of the Holy Roman Emperor, titled *Travel to the end of the World* and taking place in the year 1452. Due to Covid 19 it was not possible to hold a funeral service for Rudi, but there will be a Memorial Service held in the Danish Church, 6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby. The public is cordially invited to attend the service on November 20. Please be advised that proof of Covid vaccinations will be required for admission.

Borge Larsen, Naicam, Saskatchewan 1931 – 2020

Borge Larsen, Naicam, Saskatchewan, passed away on November 21, 2020. He was born in Sandby Lundemarken, Denmark, on March 27, 1931 to parents Helga and Albert Larsen. After completing Co-op College and an apprenticeship, he immigrated to Canada in October 1953 to find work in a co-op in Saskatchewan. Borge started out in Saskatoon, then Craik and eventually transferred to Broadview. In Broadview he met Patricia Hester and they were married on August 7, 1956. They moved to Naicam where Borge became the manager of the Naicam Co-op Grocery Store for a number of years before leaving to pursue other options. Borge and Pat went on to have seven children - 6 boys and 1 girl. Borge started Naicam Greenhouses around 1963 and started Borge's Floorcovering some time after that. He also at one point sold appliances and sold and installed oil furnaces before settling into the floorcovering business that 5 of his 6 sons would take up as a trade; his other son Terry eventually took over Naicam Greenhouses. Borge continued working in the floorcovering business for a number of years and also started building houses when he was in his 50's. This became his primary focus for the remainder of his working years and he built over 80 houses, not retiring from that until he was 77. In his retirement he continued to build sheds for sale into his early 80's. Borge was an extremely hard worker and continued to work as long as he could as he found a lot of enjoyment in it. He was proud of the fact he had 14 grandchildren and 9 great grand children and was very happy to see them when they would come for visits. He was also very proud of his Danish heritage and would often talk about "the old country". One of his favorite things to do in his later years was his daily trips for coffee at the Naicam Co-op Lumberyard. They gave him his own chair and brought him his coffee when he stopped by. He was predeceased by his parents Albert and Helga Larsen.

Borge Larsen, Port McNeill 1934 – 2018

Borge Larsen passed away in Port McNeill, Vancouver Island, on July 21, 2018. Borge was predeceased by his wife Gunna, and is survived by son, Jim (Darla) and daughter Berit (Richard) and grandchildren, Amanda, Travis, Jessica and Jeremy. Borge, born in Denmark on December 30, 1934, immigrated to Canada in 1969 and became a Canadian citizen. He worked in construction and was an equipment operator for the Village/Town of Port McNeill for over 20 years until his retirement. Family and friends are welcome to a Celebration of Life on August 18 at his residence at 2261 Haddington Crescent.

Dora Elfrida Larsen, White Rock 1924 – 2023

Dora Elfrida Larsen of White Rock, BC, passed away on August 25, 2023. Dora was born in Rostrup, Mariagerfjord, Denmark, on November 13, 1924. She is predeceased by her husband, Svend, in April 2011. Dora is survived and will be greatly missed by her daughter Inge (Dave), sons Hans (Cathie), Peter, and Steven (Neena), 3 cherished grandchildren Lena (Jason), Nicola, Devan and step-grandson, Dylan, extended family in BC, Denmark and USA. Dora was a founding member and very active participant at Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey for over 60 years, receiving comfort in her faith and enjoying her friends. She will be remembered for her faith in God, her kindness, her quiet strength, her love of a good gathering, delicious baking, and home-made marzipan chocolates. A service was held at White Rock Lutheran Church. She asked that donations be made to the Terry Fox Foundation or Families for Children.

**Jens Helge Larsen, Winnipeg
1956 – 2018**

Jens Helge Larsen passed away on July 10, 2018. He was born in Copenhagen on August 6, 1956, but lived the majority of his life in Winnipeg. Left to mourn Jens' passing are his brothers, Peter, Norman and Adam, as well as a host of friends and colleagues. Of special note are Jim, Casey, Randy and Beth, Serge and Chrissy and the Hendersons. He was predeceased by his mother and father, Esther and Helge. Jens' special passion was cadets; First as a Sea Cadet in RCSCC Crusader, then as a Navy League Officer in both Winnipeg and Selkirk. He also loved to hunt and fish. A private memorial service has been held.

**Jens Kjær Larsen, Victoria,
1923 – 2005**

Jens Kjær Larsen passed away on September 23, 2005. Jens was born in Føvling, west of Vejen, on March 6, 1923. Predeceased: by his parents, Magnus and Laura Larsen. Jens was a loving brother, uncle and friend, always with a winning smile and kindness. He leaves his sisters Maria Larsen of Roskilde, Denmark, Kirsten (Torben) Lindstrom of Reno, Nevada; nephew Michael (Annette) Lindstrom; nieces Annette (Christopher) Oggerino, Marianne (Steve) Koch, and Helen (Matt) McFadden. A memorial service was held on October 5, 2005 at First Memorial, followed by tea.

**Jytte Jorgensen Larsen, née Neess, Brampton
1938 – 2022**

Jytte Jorgensen Larsen passed away 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, married 64 years. Left to mourn are her sons John (Cathleen Adams) and Allan (Sandra). Farmor: to Jenna (Cam Emmott) Larsen, Jason (Melissa) Larsen, Will and James Toynton. Predeceased by her parents and brother Palle (Alex) Neess, Jytte will be missed by family including Ove and Betty Neess, Helle Neess, Preben Neess and extended family. Following immigration to Canada, Jytte and Willy became involved with a group of Danish immigrants who were active at Sunset Villa 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. A fabulous baker, like her father, Jytte made quick friends in 2021 at Chartwell Bankside Apartments with her cookies and cakes as well as her quick and sometimes mischievous humour. In this past year since relocating from Brampton, her favourite phrase with this group was, "we only have the fun we make." Cremation has taken place with a memorial and internment at Sunset Mindepark later.

**Otto Larsen, Pass Lake
1931 – 2012**

Otto Larsen passed away at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre on December 31, 2012. Otto was born on December 9, 1931 and was the youngest son of Kris and Christina Larsen. Raised in the rural area of Pass Lake, Ontario, Otto was a dedicated and loyal employee of Ontario Hydro for 41 years. He lived in Geraldton, Ontario, with his loving wife Euphemia Larsen for 39 years until they moved to Thunder Bay in 1998. Otto is survived by his brother Kris Larsen and his sister Lillian Jacobson, his daughter Gina Lynn Larsen and his granddaughters Kathryn Brooke Shields, Cynthia Lynn Shields and

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Shelli Ann Shields, his great grandson Christopher Therriault and step-children Greta Barr, John Berg (Roberta) and their families. Otto is predeceased by his parents, his loving wife Euphemia Larsen, brother-in-law Herb Jacobsen and sister-in-law Betty Larsen and step-son-in-law Jim Barr, step-son Howard Berg (Arleen) and other family members. A Memorial Service was held in January in the Sargent & Son Funeral Chapel with Pastor Arleen Berg of Hilldale Lutheran Church presiding; Interment at Pass Lake.

Tage Borge Christian Larsen, Victoria 1927 – 2016

Tage Borge Christian Larsen passed away in Victoria on May 20, 2016. He was predeceased by his best friend and beloved wife of 52 years, Anne, and his brothers, Paul, Knud and Helge. He leaves behind his brother Kurt, sister Bente, son Kurt, daughters Darcee, Michelle (Cam), Brigitte, Elisa, Renee (Todd), Christine (Craig), grandchildren Kyle, Keith, Kevin, Ayleen, Samantha, Alexandra, Tage, Brianna, Rochelle, Calen, Haillee, Payton, and his dearest friend Ruth. Borge had a large extended family and leaves many loving nieces, nephews, in-laws and other relatives in BC, Alberta and Denmark. Borge was born in Gørlev, Denmark, on May 18, 1927 and along with his brothers, spent part of his formative years in an orphanage. At the age of 15, he apprenticed as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter, eventually joining the Danish Merchant Marines as a journeyman carpenter, where he travelled the eastern seaboard of South America and the United States. When asked why he joined, he said "for the adventure". Borge emigrated from Denmark in 1951. Landing in Quebec, he worked briefly in the eastern United States before boarding a train west, travelling to the last stop his ticket money could take him, Lethbridge, Alberta. There he met his wife Anne. Borge became a well-respected general contractor and built many schools, hospitals and other public buildings in Lethbridge, Edmonton and Rocky Mountain House. Eventually Borge and Anne moved to Victoria, where they settled to raise their seven children. Their busy home was always open to family and friends. In Victoria, Borge developed apartment complexes, commercial properties and built three of his family homes. He was an entrepreneur at heart, a forward thinker, articulate, intelligent and well read. He took pleasure in journaling his thoughts, ideas, and business plans. Borge loved business and continued working well into his 80's. He was a passionate golfer and during his 35 years as a member of the Uplands Golf Club, he played frequently never missing his regular Sunday group. Borge was an extraordinary man, eternally optimistic and deeply devoted to his family. At Borge's request there will be no service, instead his family will hold a private celebration of life.

Elsie Elizabeth Larson, née Bondo, Toronto 1914 – 2010

Elsie Elizabeth Larson passed away peacefully on September 18, 2010, at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. She will be missed by her son Richard Larson and by her daughters Ann Larson Smith, Margaret Schroeder, Carole Vaillancourt, Helen Mikkelsen and Mary Johnson; her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Elsie was born on March 28, 1914, in Davenport, Iowa, the daughter of Anna and Viggo Willie Bondo. She was raised in Racine, Wisconsin, and moved with her parents to Toronto in 1930. Elsie graduated from Victoria College (U of T) in 1938 with an honours degree in History and English and subsequently from the Royal Conservatory of music. Her father, Pastor V W Bondo, was minister at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Toronto from 1930 to 1948. In September 1938 she married Carl J Larson and dedicated her life to raising her children as well as service to St. Ansgar Church, where she was the organist for more than 60 years. Music was her life and she was active as church choir director, choir director, choir member, Sunday-School teacher and piano teacher. Her funeral was held at St. Ansgar Church.

Jørgen Berg Lassen, Cambridge 1936 – 2022

Jørgen Berg Lassen passed away at Riverside Glen in Guelph, Ontario, on November 8, 2022. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife, Jonna, (Olesen) of over 65 years. He was the proud father of Susanne (Gary Coolen) of Fall River, Stig (Jayne Lassen) of Port Elgin and Janet (Andrew Johnson) of Puslinch. He will be fondly remembered by grandchildren Kurt, Kaitlin, Kristian, Liam and Aodhan and great-grandchildren Brinley and Luke. He was predeceased by his parents Ellen Cecilie and Mogens Børge Lassen and his sister Inger Rasmussen and survived by his brother Mogens Lassen. Jorgen was born in Rønne, Bornholm, on March 30, 1936, where he apprenticed to be a machinist. He immigrated to Chateauguy, Quebec, in July 1966 with Jonna, Susanne and Stig - where Janet was born. Over the years he worked for Canadian Vickers, McGill University and Inco Mining Corp. in Sudbury. In 1970 he joined Ontario Hydro, Nuclear Division, and the family moved to Ontario. Jorgen worked there as a mechanical maintainer until he retired in November 1993. Jorgen was an active member of the Port Elgin Masonic Lodge and the legion and in his retirement loved to play golf, travelling south in the winter and spending time with family.

Frank Lidemark, Thunder Bay 1927 – 2019

Frank Lidemark passed away on October 5, 2019. He was born in Denmark on February 1, 1927. In 1928 his family immigrated to Saskatchewan. The family operated dairy farms in Manitoba and Ontario, finally settling in Port Arthur in 1941. Frank's family owned and operated the House of Denmark on Lakeshore Drive from 1946 to the 1970's, where Frank was integral to operations. The House of Denmark was an important part of Scandinavian history in the region. On October 5, 1948, Frank married Frances (née Zwina). They enjoyed 55 years of love and adventure before she passed away on March 4, 2004. Frank was a long-time employee of Mediacom, retiring in 1992. Frank was a member of Our Saviours Lutheran Church. Frank was a Life Member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Port Arthur Lodge #947. Over 71 years Frank held all the chairs in the Lodge, Legion and the Ontario Moose Association. He received his Pilgrim degree (1982), served as District President, President of the Ontario Moose Association, Deputy Supreme Governor, and Deputy Grand North Moose, to name a few of the more prominent roles. In addition to the administrative and ritual roles within the LOOM, Frank was actively involved in the Lodge Ritual Team, community volunteerism, and the Tommy Moose Program. One of his proudest achievements was in 1961 when he assisted the Fowler family to relocate to Mooseheart from Nipigon following the tragic loss of their father. He was predeceased by parents John and Sigrid Lidemark; his siblings Gunnvor, Leo and Bent; his wife and granddaughter Patti; and survived by his sister; his children Eric, Paul, Bonnie, Gerry, Dale; eight grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held at the Moose Home.

Laurie Ernest Lonneberg, Mission, B.C. 1925 – 2019

Laurie Ernest Lonneberg passed away on October 12, 2019. He was born on February 23, 1925. Laurie leaves his children, Laurel (Evan) Penner and Terry (Cindy) Lonneberg, as well as his grandchildren, Stephanie (Aaron), Cassandra, Aaron (Carissa), Diane (Brandon) and Joshua (Will); great grandchildren, Simone, Caroline, Celina, John-Paul, Roland and Ryan; his brother, Al (Norma), as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Ruth Lonneberg; his spouse, Vera Agneta Lonneberg (née Jensen); brothers and sisters in law, Lyle (Charlotte) and Russ

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(Eileen) and his sister, Clarine (Gord). A Funeral Service was held at the King of Kings Lutheran Church in Dickson.

Vera Agneta Lonneberg, née Jensen, Mission, B.C. 1927 – 2003

Vera Agneta Lonneberg, née Jensen, born in ca. 1927, passed away on July 10, 2003 at age of 76. She was predeceased by her father, Aage Jensen, her mother Gerda and brother Harry. She leaves her husband Laurie, daughter Laurel (Evan) Penner, their children Diane and Joshua, and her brother Robert (Barbara) Jensen. Vera will also be remembered by Laurie's family, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as family and friends in Denmark. Vera will be missed by the many friends she made wherever she went. She could talk to everybody and had a concern for everyone's well being. A Memorial Service was held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 7th Avenue, Mission.

Inge Lundager, Toronto d. 2007

Inge Lundager passed away on April 4, 2007 at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Loving wife of John for 53 years; Cherished mother of Tom and Mugsy. Inge, John and Tom immigrated to Canada in 1957. Inge worked as a bookkeeper for Pittman Publishing on Church Street. Then when John opened Mermaid Seafood House at 724 Bay Street in 1964, Inge joined as his partner and they worked together for 25 years, until they retired. Their son Tom also joined the team. The small cozy establishment featured Danish and Canadian cuisine. Inside there was a replica of The Little Mermaid. From the late 1960s until the 1980s, the name of the Maitre d' was Tage Christensen. During the Nazi occupation Inge was part of a group of young people who published a paper called 'Kronjyden'. Later Inge became an active volunteer for several city organizations, such as the Schizophrenic Society, until her illness prevented her to do so. John and Tom would like to thank everyone for their continuing support at this difficult time.

Jørgen Arvid Madsen, Saint-Lambert, Quebec 1918 – 2015

Jørgen Arvid Madsen passed away on October 27, 2015. He is survived by Ketty, his wife of 68 years, and their five children: Kirsten (Glen), Remo (JoAnn), Eric (Kirsten), Glenn (Cindy) and Andrew. Also left to mourn are fourteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren as well as four nieces and nephews. The fourth (and last survivor) of five children, Jørgen was born in Rønne, Denmark, on November 17, 1918 at the height of the Spanish Flu. He lived through the tumultuous changes of the 20th Century: the upheavals of the Depression and World War II, the prosperity and social evolution of the postwar era and, throughout his life, unprecedented technological progress. Following in his father's footsteps, he became a watchmaker in Denmark, later perfecting his skills in Switzerland before coming to Montreal with his new bride in 1948. In the 1950's and 60's he worked in fine mechanics building gyroscopes and navigational instruments for aerospace, aviation and the navy at Sperry Rand Corporation. Then he joined Heinemann Electric Canada - D.T Shaw Company as production manager until his retirement in 1993. He loved this job. More than twenty years later he was still remembered daily at Heinemann Electric with respect and gratitude. Throughout Jørgen held true to his values and strived to make life better for himself as well as, for others. During the war he resisted the Nazi occupiers of his homeland and helped Jews escape to Sweden. He created beauty wherever he could, especially in his gardening, jewelry making and photography. Listening to music, traveling, reading and story telling were among his favorite activities.

**Ketty Reithmeier Madsen, née Andersen, Saint-Lambert
1924 – 2023**

Ketty Reithmeier Madsen, née Andersen, of Saint-Lambert, Quebec, passed away on January 12, 2023. She was predeceased by her husband Jørgen of Rønne, Denmark, and one grandchild, Angela. Ketty is survived by her sister Hanne (Henning) of Roskilde, Denmark, and by five children, Kirsten, Remo, Eric, Glenn and Andrew, 15 grandchildren; Tina, Tammy, Jens, Anne, Paul, Sara, Lenny, Emmanuel, Isaac, Jacob, Elsa, Adam, Eliana, Joshua and Eva and 8 great grandchildren, Mya, Josie, Leisel, Lailah, Adaline, Malia, Samson and Miles. Ketty was born in Copenhagen on January 1, 1924, and grew up in the Enghave Plads area of Copenhagen as the only child of Klara and Svend Andersen. She was given opportunities for a musical education (mandolin and violin) which is a passion she held throughout her years, culminating with teaching music for 20 years. Her many students and their parents kept in touch with her long after the teaching years concluded. As a teenager, she also excelled as an elite competitive swimmer; a member of the Danish National Women's Swim Team ('Svømpiger') in the late 1930's. Any Olympic dreams were dashed by the outbreak of World War II. During the war, in 1944, she met Jørgen Madsen, a young watchmaker and they married on March 22, 1947 in Copenhagen. In 1948 they sailed on the SS *Batory* to New York City; subsequently coming up to Canada where their children were born between 1950 and 1966. In May 1950 they made Longueuil their home; living there for the rest of their lives. They loved their home and property; attending to it with exquisite detail, giving their children a wonderful environment to grow and flourish. A celebration of Ketty's life was held on January 17 at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church.

**Violet Alexandra Manhart, née Gundersen, Ottawa
1904 – 2005**

Violet Alexandra Manhart, née Gundersen, passed away in Ottawa on June 10, 2005 at the Glebe Centre. Daughter of Georg Johan Gundersen and Anna Margarethe Nielsen of Denmark; Sister of Anna, Peter, Hilda, Ted, Lilly, Gwen and George, all deceased and survived by dear sister-in-law Sylvia in Calgary; Loving mother of Clifford Spicer (Barbara), Peterborough; Erik Spicer (Helen), Ottawa; Linda/Samantha Manhart, Wallace (Keith), Fairfield, Iowa, and proud grandmother of Robert Spicer (Cathy), Olds, Alberta; Joyce, Edmonton; Erika Scott (Andrew), Vancouver; John Spicer (Patricia), Toronto; Eden Christov Danaher (Tony), California; Lila Wallace, Fairfield, Iowa; Loving great-grandmother of Kevin Spicer, Olds; Elizabeth, Katherine and Caroline Scott, Vancouver; Gabriella Spicer, Toronto; Collin and Aidan Danaher, California. Caring aunt of Marguerite Davis, Cleveland, Ohio; Fern Richmond, Rochester, Michigan; Barbara Bateman, Almonte; Joan Moffat, Burlington; Derek Lunn, Toronto; Anina Gundersen, Ottawa; Chris Gundersen, Bath; Abigail Gundersen, Calgary; and their families. Private family memorial service and interment, held at Beechwood Cemetery. At her request: no flowers or visitation. Memorial donations may be made to the Erik and Helen Spicer Legacy Endowment Fund, Emergency Department, the Ottawa Hospital, or the Glebe Centre. She took great joy in her home in Manor Park, her cottage at Long Lake, gardening, bridge, painting in oils, Chalmers Church, her family, friends and, especially, little children.

**Rigmor McRoberts, née Andersen, Ottawa
1919 – 2006**

Rigmor (Ray) McRoberts, née Andersen, passed away on March 2, 2006 in her 88th year. She was predeceased by her parents Gerhard and Petrine Andersen. Her father was an interior decorator, who had come to Ottawa from Odense in 1913. Rigmor was the loving mother of Robert (Carmen) and Heather Hill (Ted); Cherished grandmother of Steven (Rachel), Brent, Debbie (Dean) and Elizabeth and 3 great-

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grandchildren. Survived by her sister-in-law Doris, niece Judy and nephew Jeff (Sandy) Andersen and predeceased by her brother John Andersen and Kay Andersen; Interment Pinecrest Cemetery.

Inger Kirstine Mogensen, Edmonton 1928 – 2020

Inger Kirstine Mogensen passed away on February 18, 2020 at the age of 91. This charming, amazing person was born on May 2, 1928, in Helsingør, Denmark, the fifth of seven children. Inge was lured to Canada by a brother and she immigrated in 1957 when she met Frode Mogensen. They soon married and made a long and happy life together. They celebrated their 60th anniversary in October 2019. Together they raised two children, Laila (Steve) and Brian (Kathy). Inger's husband, Frode Mogensen, was born on February 15, 1928, and died in Edmonton two years after her, on February 20, 2022.

Paul Killendahl Mogensen, Scarborough 1928 – 2019

Paul Killendahl Mogensen passed away on April 26, 2019. He was born in Ølstrup, Denmark, on May 19, 1928. He came to Canada in 1956. He worked for The T. Eaton Co. Ltd. in Toronto for over 30 years, until his retirement as a delivery driver. He married Joyce F. Heil, née Dodge, in 1976. Internment: at Sunset Mindepark in Puslinch.

Harry Nielsen, Brooks and Salt Spring Island 1926 – 2023

Harry Nielsen passed away on Salt Spring Island on April 11, 2023. He was born in February 1926 in Odense to Mads Nielsen and Laura (Poulsen) Nielsen. He became an apprentice, then journeyman and finally master carpenter. After World War II he travelled to Sweden and Norway to find work. In Bergen, Norway, he met Anna-Margrethe. They moved to Denmark and married in 1948. They had a daughter followed by a son. In 1957 the family immigrated to Canada, settling in Brooks, Alberta, where Harry had several relatives, and where their youngest daughter was born. Harry was well known in Brooks and throughout the county for his excellent craftsmanship, witty humour, and humility. He was constantly complimented for the beautiful kitchens, custom cabinets, and quality furniture. In his early years in Brooks he focused full-time on house building, and worked part-time as Building Inspector for the Town of Brooks Low-Cost Housing division. He spent some years building and finishing houses with Oscar Jacobsen and then started his own business, Nielsen's Cabinets. After his beloved Grethe died in 2006, his daughter and grandson became Harry's constant companions. In 2015, the three of them moved to Salt Spring Island. Harry kept himself mentally sharp: he did sudokus and avidly read newspapers, biographies and novels.

Karen Mobjerg Nordgaard, Bragg Creek, Alberta 1930 – 2023

Karen Mobjerg Nordgaard passed away at her home in Bragg Creek, west of Calgary, on April 28, 2023. Born in Denmark on September 11, 1930, Karen and her large family survived the German occupation during WWII. In 1950, responding to a local newspaper ad for au pair jobs, Karen immigrated to Canada. Travelling alone by boat, speaking no English, she landed at Ellis Island, New York. Karen travelled west via train across the US, ultimately arriving in Victoria. After several years working for a wealthy family and many English lessons, she made her way to Calgary and became a passionate advocate for the disadvantaged. She devoted countless hours to the following organizations: Calgary Welcome and

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Recreation Center (Founding member), Calgary Drop In and Rehab Center (President, retiring after 50 years), Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Board member and Chair), Lutheran Church of America (Executive Council), InterFaith Youth Services Society (Director), Discovery House (Founder), Calgary InterFaith Food Bank (founder), Bragg Creek Senior's Housing Society (Director), and Bragg Creek Snowbirds (Board). Her service to others was formally recognized many times, culminated by her proud acceptance of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2017. Karen was the ultimate speechmaker, with a keen ability to capture the attention of audiences and politicians. Always up for a game of cards or a shot of Akvavit, she hosted legendary gatherings and created loving memories for friends and family. The last years tested her resiliency but many friends assisted her. The young ones who regularly visited Grandma Karen at the Forest House for a few years lifted her spirits and provided much excitement - those were her favorite days! She is survived by her daughter Johanne, son-in-law Terry, son Bill, grandson Erik and his wife Kristine; Pre-deceased by ex-husband Olav Pedersen Norgaard as well as her son Jens in 1993.

Poul Aksel Olesen, Markham **1931 – 2020**

Poul Aksel Olesen passed away at home on February 5, 2020. He was born in Denmark in 1931 and arriving in Canada in 1957. Poul worked for many years in the manufacturing industry. He will be greatly missed by Magda, his wife of 55 years and his children Margit Frechette (William), Allan (Nichole), and Erik (Nancy). He had seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto, followed by interment at Sunset Mindepark.

Inge Olsen, née Bang, Pass Lake **1933 – 2021**

Inge Olsen, née Bang, passed away on March 29, 2021, at the TBRHSC in Thunder Bay. Inge was born on the family farm in Segalt, north of Aarhus, on December 7, 1933. Once her School of Nursing was complete in Denmark, she immigrated to Canada in April 1957 to join her parents and sister who had immigrated earlier to Port Arthur. In 1958, at the House of Denmark on Lakeshore Drive, a handsome fellow Dane caught her eye. She married Poul Erik (Paul) Olsen on May 23, 1959 and celebrated 61 years of marriage. The majority of her working career was dedicated to employment at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital where she worked for many years as a Registered Practical Nurse retiring in 1996. In retirement, never to sit idle, she simply enjoyed putting around her home although her main interest was that of cooking and baking, especially Danish cuisine and desserts. Her traditional Danish luncheons were nothing short of amazing and absolutely delicious. She excelled at being beyond organized, was an amazing knitter and enjoyed doing Danish crossword puzzles, feeding her feathered and furry friends in her backyard, volunteering for the Pass Lake Historical Society, attending concerts in the park, shows at the Auditorium and enjoying a Tim's coffee. Inge and Paul enjoyed frequent travel to Cuba, the USA, Canada and trips to Denmark. Inge will be remembered and missed by her husband, her children, son Dennis (Bernadette) and daughter Elsa (David), granddaughter Dayna, her sister Anna Gillis, sister-in-law Inge Gunhild (Denmark), niece Koren and nephew Douglas and their families; Predeceased by her parents, Theodor and Karen Bang, grandson Derek, mother and father-in-law Johannes and Magda, sister-in-law Else Marie, and brother-in-law Rudy Gillis. Internment was held at Our Lady of Charity Mausoleum.

Bent Kristian Pedersen, Spruce Grove, Alberta 1937 – 2023

Bent Kristian Pedersen of Spruce Grove, Alberta, passed away on March 25, 2023, after a short battle with cancer. Bent was born in Denmark on March 12, 1937. He immigrated to Canada in 1960 with dreams of becoming a cowboy, but his dreams took a different shape when he met the love of his life, Merry, in Edmonton in 1963. They were married for nearly 60 years and shared a beautiful life together. Bent was a talented bricklayer and worked hard for many years in construction. In his free time, he enjoyed many parties and family gatherings with those he loved. Bent (don't call him crooked!) always made a lasting impression, and was the most entertaining host. He would often be found taking photos, sharing his love of music, and giving treats to the kids or dogs. In the summer, he would spend hours putting around the yard. He was also very handy and always willing to lend a helping hand or some tools to get the job done. Bent was a big personality with so much love to give, and he will be dearly missed. Bent is survived by his loving wife Merry; daughters Anita (Bob) and Christina; honorary son Don; grandchildren Chad (Dana), Haley (Spencer), Garret, Connor (Teylor), Colton, and Dallas; three great-grandchildren; sister Valborg (Viggo); and extended family. He is predeceased by his son Paul, and his parents Ejner and Sophie.

Esther Garde Pedersen, née Mortensen, Waterloo 1923 – 2022

Esther Garde Pedersen, née Mortensen, passed away on December 28, 2022, at Sunnyside Home in Kitchener, at the age of 99. Esther was born in Hillerød on November 7, 1923, to Jørgen and Ella Mortensen. She was the beloved wife of Kristian, who died in 2004. Esther and Kristian were married in Idun, Denmark, on April 7, 1946. She was a long-standing member of Sunset Villa going back to the late fifties. For decades Esther was committed to Danish church services at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo. This Danish church community was a source of great purpose and love for both her and Kristian. Esther was a founding member of Sunset Mindepark and truly loved its beauty and peacefulness. Along with her dear friend Inge Andersen, Esther participated with the sewing girls at Sunset Villa, making many Danish Christmas stars and volunteering at Christmas Bazaars and many Grundlovsdag celebrations. She was the cherished mother of Alice Olsen, Bente (Tim) Willis, and Brian (Laurel) Pedersen; Loving grandmother of Rene Olsen, Tanja Coghill, Ryan Willis, Jodie Merson, Matthew Pedersen, and Cory Pedersen. Proud great grandmother of Jenna Olsen, Claire Willis, Kason Olsen, Chris Willis, Alex Coghill, Will Coghill, Olivia Merson, and Audrey Merson. Predeceased by her brother, Helge and by her sisters Grethe and Eva, Esther will be dearly missed by her friends and her extended family. A Celebration of Life was held at The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto in April 2023.

Karl Jørn Sole Pedersen, Mississauga 1930 – 2023

Karl Jørn Sole Pedersen of Mississauga, Ontario, passed away on January 22, 2023, after a week long battle with Covid. He was born in Klovborg, Jutland, on October 2, 1930. He was predeceased by his cherished wife of 54 years, Ellen Andersen. He is survived by his sons, David (Francine), Eric (Stephanie) and John (Carolyn); his grandchildren, Jessica and Benjamin; and his friend Sheila. A private funeral service was held on February 3, followed by burial alongside Ellen at Springcreek Cemetery, Mississauga.

Edith Rasmussen, Edmonton
1932 – 2023

Edith Rasmussen of Edmonton passed away on September 5, 2023. Throughout her long and fulfilling life, Edith touched the hearts of many with her care and compassion. She is survived by her two children Mark and Joyce, four grandchildren Alexandra, Danika, Marissa, and Carter, as well as her great-granddaughter Jayne. Edith also leaves behind numerous relatives in Denmark and England. Born in Denmark on April 25, 1932, to a minister and a midwife, Edith's upbringing instilled in her a strong faith and a passion for nursing. Her adventurous spirit led her to work as a surgical nurse in Egypt, an experience she held dear. After returning to Denmark, she married Hans Rasmussen and fearlessly relocated to Canada. She embraced new challenges, learning a new language and becoming a nurse at the University Hospital. She cherished her close friendships and found solace in her "little church," Ansgar Lutheran. Edith derived joy from participating in the Danish Ladies League, singing in the choir, and engaging with the Danish community. A funeral service was held on September 22, 2023, at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Hans Lindholdt Rasmussen, Edmonton
1925 – 2009

Hans Lindholdt Rasmussen of Edmonton passed away on October 26, 2009. He is survived by his devoted wife Edith; his two children, Joyce and Mark (Amanda); and his treasured grandchildren: Alexandra, Danika, Marissa and Carter. Hans was born on March 7, 1925 and grew up in Denmark during the Depression and the Nazi occupation. Later he became a corporal in the Danish army, and immigrated to Canada in 1951 where he built the home he loved, the family he adored and two successful companies: Eagle Steel and Hans' Yard and Repair Service. He worked conscientiously in the service of others and deeply enjoyed life. A service was held November 2, 2009 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Lilian Rose Ravnsgaard, Carleton Place, Ontario
1928 – 2022

With great sorrow we share the news of the passing of Lilian Rose Ravnsgaard (née Trick), who passed away comfortably and peacefully at the Carleton Place Hospital on November 27, 2022. She was born in Bridgewater, Somerset, United Kingdom, on March 20, 1928. She was mother to Audrey (Ron, Sune Overgaard), Blenda (Fred), Deanna (Andy) and Eleasa (Jim); grandmother to Anya (Sean), Anita (James), Andrew (Liz), Tyler and Raine; great grandmother to Lochlan and sister-in-law to Harry (Else); Predeceased by her beloved husband Chris (Christian), her twin sister Louie (John) and her other siblings and their spouses in England. An intimate bedside service was held with immediate family before Lilian's passing. A Celebration of Life/Love was held in the spring. She was a character who was loved by all who knew her. Lilian's (and Chris's) home was always open to all and no one ever left hungry nor thirsty. Lilian was famous for her great sense of humour and for epic dinner parties either at home or at the ski chalet. Her heart was big enough to hold us all. She will be greatly missed, but we all take great solace in knowing you are reunited with Dad and are now sharing glass of "oh be joyful" with him. Skaal!

Lars Rhiger, Toronto
1946 – 2015

Lars Rhiger, Toronto, passed away on March 26, 2015. He was born on July 19, 1946 to Maren and Ejgild Rhiger in Aarhus. He had two older sisters Inge and Elly, and a happy childhood. Lars came from a long line of bakers most of whom had their own pastry shops. The only trouble with marrying a baker's

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son is, when you have a sweet tooth; they normally don't. Moving ahead 21 years, one day on March 15, 1968, a young lady at the ripe old age of 19 and a young man of 21, were married. Was it happily ever after....well that took a lot of hard work, but as we were in it for the long haul, we eventually found the melody, thank the Good Lord. We celebrated our 47th anniversary eleven days prior to Lars's death. I can go on in glorious detail, but say: Lars, my heart, we loved each other with everything we had; you were a good and gentle man with a kind heart. You will be a part of me till we meet again. As the song says, 'there will never be anyone else but you for me.' Thank you for 48 wonderful years (I'm including the dating year). I'll love you always....Your Karin.

Aksel Silberbauer, Abbotsford 1954 – 2004

Aksel Silberbauer, born on April 27, 1954, in Denmark, passed away on April 4, 2004 at Abbotsford Hospital after a short illness. He is survived by his parents, Einer and Gudrun Silberbauer, twin brother Henning Silberbauer (1954-2023), sisters Bente Wallace (John) and Karen Johnstone (John) and their families. A Memorial Service was held on April 27, 2004, at Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey.

Betty Anette Sorensen, née Hansen, Edmonton 1960 – 2023

Betty Anette Sorensen, née Hansen, passed away suddenly on April 30, 2023. Betty was born in Edmonton on July 12, 1960, to Konrad and Inger Hansen. Betty was a passionate cook, gardener and baker which she excelled at and passed on to others. She loved to laugh and joke around bringing joy to those around her. She enjoyed her family and spending quality time with her grandchildren especially her grandson Xavier. Betty is survived by her parents Konrad and Merilee Hansen, her partner Nick Algeo, her children Christine Sorensen, Connie and Shaun Dianocky, and by Thomas and Mei Sorensen. Betty was predeceased by her mother Inger Hansen and son Niels Sorensen. A memorial service was held May 27 at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton, followed by refreshments.

Johannes Kjeld Bakdal Sorensen, Hamilton 1928 – 2023

Johannes Kjeld Bakdal Sørensen was born on November 7, 1928, in Nakskov, Denmark, to Krista Frederikke Bakdal Sørensen and Karl Albert Sørensen. He was the youngest of four boys: Borge, Hans and Erik. Krista adopted Heinrich from Germany who died on the Russian front and Annemarie who was Jewish and who they hid during the war. He grew up poor, without a father. In 1949 he was called up for military duty and served in the Royal Danish Guards. He was a member of the Guards Association, Eastern Canada, and in 2003 he was the Association's shooting champion at Sunset Villa. From 1952 to 1954 he was a farm supervisor near Odense. In 1954 he immigrated to Canada, working outside in the winter on a farm near Port Perry before moving to St. Catharines for the fruit picking season. He met Ann Dybkar at a church social and they were married in 1958. Their daughter, Lise, was born in 1959 and Mark followed in 1964. John worked as a supervisor at Silverwood Dairy from 1958 to 1971, and then as a supervisor at Jordan Wines until retiring in 1986. His life partner, Ann, passed away from cancer in 1983 and John kept busy with tennis, hiking, cottaging, history (particularly Danish history), politics and his new tennis friends. In 2021 John moved to Shalom Village, Hamilton, where he passed away in his sleep on July 15, 2023.

**Laura Amalie Sorensen, Bracebridge, Ontario
1925 – 2020**

Laura Amalie Sorensen, born in Denmark on October 9, 1925, passed away on December 19, 2020. Beloved wife: of the late Gudmund. In 1953 Laura left Denmark for Toronto, where she raised her three children, before moving to Bracebridge, Ontario, where she worked for the Salvation Army for many years. Predeceased by her daughter Inge Hansen (Eddy), she leaves five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She recently moved to Whitby to be closer to her family.

**Bent Åge Striegler, Lindsay, Ontario
1927 – 2022**

Bent Åge Striegler was born in Aarhus on March 21, 1927, and died on December 26, 2022, at the Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay, Ontario. Left behind to mourn him are his good friend Marilyn Thompson, children Susanne (Larry Morpaw), Mats, and Liz (Randy Gilchrist) as well as grandchildren Zachary, Jesse, Dana, Kristi, Aiden and Shelbi. He also leaves behind relatives in Denmark and the US. Predeceased: by his parents, sisters, and his wife Elsa (née Hallberg) Striegler (d. 1983). Bent loved his family, his model trains and his sailboat. He always enjoyed an adventure, whether it was moving to Canada, or sailing between Ottawa and Florida. He had many great stories to tell of Denmark during World War II, his marine work after the war, moving to Canada as well as sailing along the Eastern seaboard.

**Asger Grønhoj Thomsen, St. Catharines
1934 – 2023**

Asger Grønhoj Thomsen passed away in St. Catharines, Ontario, on April 25, 2023. He was born in Denmark on February 19, 1934. Much loved husband to Grete; Father to David, Doris (Mike) and Grant; Morfar to Emma and Madison and Farfar to Rhys; Stepfather to Lisa (Tim) and Karin; Grandfather to Max, Jake and Erika. No visitation or funeral by Asger's request. Cremation has taken place. Donations can be made to Lewy Body Dementia Research.

**Karen Margrethe Wagner, née Adelholm, Bobcaygeon
1928 – 2023**

Karen Margrethe Wagner, née Adelholm, passed away at Case Manor in Bobcaygeon, Ontario, on May 18, 2023. She was born in Gladsaxe outside Copenhagen on October 10, 1928. Leaving her family and eleven siblings in Denmark, (and brother Sven in Australia), Karen immigrated to Canada. In Toronto she met her husband Tibor Wagner, who had emigrated from Hungary. Karen was a very creative and talented dressmaker, making all of her children's clothing and later many dresses for her grandchildren. In her later years she began quilting, creating landscapes and many other projects. Predeceased: by her husband Tibor, and son William (Bill) Wagner, and daughter Susan Wagner. Karen leaves behind daughters Barbara and Catherine along with grandchildren Kirsten, Alyssa, Meredith, William (Billy), Alex and Frances; Beloved great-grandmother to Emily, Ian and Madelyn (Roach), Chloe and Jenna (Slack) and Ainsley and Emmersyn (Furlong) and William and Nolan (Wagner). Karen will always be remembered fondly as "Mama" as she was known to all. Karen leaves behind a nephew Kjell and his wife Natalie and their children in Australia. She also leaves her remaining siblings in Denmark, Ulla, Annette, Lilli and Lisa along with many nieces and nephews. A service was held at Sunset Mindepark in Puslinch, Ontario, on June 10, 2023.

INVITATION



The Danes of Calgary invite you to

The Danish Federation's 44th Annual AGM & Conference

May 22-25, 2025.

Members of the various Danish organizations in Calgary, including the Danish Canadian Club, Naver Klubben, and Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, invite all Danish Federation members to join us in Calgary next spring. The committee is busy planning for your arrival.

Our theme for the Conference is "Danish Immigration to the Canadian Prairies". There were several areas of Alberta settled by groups of Danish immigrants. They took up farming, founded communities and churches, and contributed to the prosperity of Alberta.

We will use Calgary as our base, where the Rocky Mountains sparkle on the western horizon. Excursions to sites of interest from the UNESCO World Heritage site in the badlands, the Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller, the Danish Museum in Dickson, and other sites of historical interest are being planned. We want to pique your curiosity and entice you to come to this conference. Maybe you can stay a bit longer and explore more of what Calgary and Alberta have to offer visitors who come here from all over the world.

We look forward to being your hosts in 2025!

On behalf of the Danish community in Calgary, and the planning committee, we invite you to come for this conference and a memorable visit to Alberta!

Karen Falkenberg-Andersen, president of the Council of Sharon Danish Lutheran Church





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